



Analysis: Hacking fears spurred by Anthropic's AI overstated

BUSINESS, 5A

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THE LIMITS OF LOCKDOWNS



Research shows mixed results as schools practice for shootings

People are brought out of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School after a shooting on Feb. 14, 2018, in Parkland, Florida. More schools nationwide began practicing lockdown drills after the Parkland shooting. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

James Densley
Metropolitan State University | THE CONVERSATION

There have been 63 school shootings – meaning any time there is gunfire on a school campus – so far in 2026. • They happen so often that preparing for one has become normal. Students as young as 4 years old routinely practice for the possibility of a school shooting with lockdown drills – typically, hiding in the corner of a dark classroom, behind a locked door.

Pauls Valley High School in Pauls, Oklahoma, went into lockdown on April 7, after an armed gunman fired shots inside the building. Kirk Moore, the school's principal, tackled the gunman and got shot in the leg.

The lockdown and Moore's heroism clearly prevented any further violence in this rare school shooting situation with a positive ending. But by and large, do lockdowns typically work to keep students safe?

See SHOOTINGS, Page 2A



Volunteer students wearing makeup to simulate injuries participate in a school shooting and mass evacuation drill at Lincoln Middle School in 2007 in Alameda, California. So far, the available research shows mixed evidence on whether shooting drills help students feel more prepared or scare them.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Booker says Dems need new leaders 'desperately'

Drew Pittock
USA TODAY

The midterm elections are less than six months away, and one Democratic senator is sounding the alarm on the party's leadership and vision for the future.

Speaking to Jake Tapper on CNN's "State of the Union" on May 24, Sen. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, said the party "desperately needs new leadership," days after the Democratic National Committee released its autopsy of the 2024 election.

"We need to focus on the people, and the Democratic Party desperately needs new leadership, and that's what's exciting me about this cycle," Booker said. "It's not only new leaders emerging, but a new vision for our party."

Booker pointed to three Democrats who he thinks represent the future of the party – Sen. Jon Ossoff of Georgia, Texas Senate hopeful James Talarico and Roy Cooper, the former governor of North Carolina and current Senate candidate.

"People are suffering, people are hurting, and they're going to support the leaders," Booker said. "And I'm seeing this in Talarico, in Ossoff, in Cooper in North Carolina, that those leaders are stepping up and saying, 'I don't give a damn about parties. I care about people.' You cannot lead the people if they don't trust you, and that's what's lacking right now with the party apparatus."

Asked whether he still has "faith" in Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Booker demurred.

"I am telling people left and right we are five months out from the election. What is going to make the Republicans gleeful is if we're talking about each other in the Democratic Party and not talking about the realities that Americans are facing," Booker said. "I am tired of all this machination about party politics."

Booker's comments on May 24 echo statements he made back in March during an appearance on "Meet the Press" while promoting his new book, "Stand."

At the time, Booker argued that the party needs "generational renewal" if it is to bridge the increasingly partisan divide in the United States.

"I'm proud of so many things that my Democratic colleagues are doing,

See BOOKER, Page 2A

Some Fed officials fret about state of markets

Michael S. Derby
REUTERS

NEW YORK – When Kevin Warsh takes command of the Federal Reserve, he will do so as some central bank officials and staff have become increasingly anxious about the state of the financial markets and the risk that presents to the economy.

Meeting minutes for the central bank's late-April Federal Open Market Committee showed that staff as well as a

number of policy makers are showing some anxiety about the state of finances as they wonder how they can shore up the already expansive suite of tools the Fed has in place to deal with market woes.

Even as the war in the Middle East has darkened the outlook, stock markets have booked strong gains that many struggle to square with economic fundamentals. Bond markets around the world have seen big rises in yields as investors fret about inflation and the gov-

ernment financing outlook. There's also increasing concern about how artificial intelligence investment is financed by debt, which increases the risk of market trouble should problems arise.

That conversation, which transpired at the Fed's April 28-29 meeting, took place under the shadow of a looming changing of the guard at the central bank: Warsh was sworn in as Fed chair on May 22, succeeding Jerome Powell,

See MARKETS, Page 2A



Incoming Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh arrives for his swearing-in ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S., May 22.

JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

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