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Subject: Read: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - BWC Fed policies and notice of LEO's recording
To: [REDACTED] (USMS)
Sent: July 6, 2021 5:13 PM (UTC-04:00)

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From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Thursday, July 08, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 8, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: FBIDirBriefing210708.doc

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This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021 5:00 AM EDT

In Appearance In Suburban Chicago, President Biden Pitches Expansive Agenda. The AP (7/7, Jaffe) reports that President Biden “pitched his proposed investments in families and education” at the McHenry County College in a suburb of Chicago on Wednesday, “telling residents of the swing district that what’s good for families is also good for the economy.” His message “is one designed to resonate with suburban parents, college graduates and the working poor — a coalition that was key to Biden’s election win last year.” Reuters (7/7, Hunnicutt) reports that Biden “made the case for spending trillions of dollars on U.S. infrastructure, paid for by higher taxes on corporations.” In his speech, Biden “focused on what he called ‘human infrastructure’ priorities that did not make it into” the bipartisan infrastructure deal, such as “tax rebates for parents, free preschool and community college, healthcare and clean energy subsidies as well as 12 weeks of paid medical leave.”

The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Restuccia, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the President said, “To truly win the 21st century and once again lead the world, to truly build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, to truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people.” The New York Times (7/7, Montague, 20.6M) reports that Biden added, “I’m here to make the case for the second, critical part of my domestic agenda,” saying that “it’s about a country once again that inspires” the world.

WLS-TV Chicago (7/7, 189K) reported Biden “was here to promote the second part of his Build Back Better plan, which he called the human infrastructure side of things, something he said is essential.” Biden: “My plan will also do more to invest in high-quality job-training and apprenticeships in fast-growing sectors like public health, childcare, manufacturing, information technology, clean energy.” WLS said Biden “promis[ed] to pay for his plan by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthiest Americans.” Biden: “If we put in place a minimum 15% tax on the profits of corporations, the ones that didn’t pay any tax, that would raise a quarter of a trillion dollars.” KHQA-TV Quincy, IL (7/7, 3K) reports Biden “told the crowd at McHenry County College that investing in education, child care and senior care is critical for providing good paying jobs, competing against other countries and building back better from the pandemic. He addressed providing preschool and two years of community college for free and pushed for an extension of the child tax credit.” WIFR-TV Rockford, IL (7/7, 8K) showed Biden saying, “To truly win the 21st Century and once again lead the world, to truly build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, to truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people. We need to invest in our people.” WIFR reported, “The agenda also includes creating a national paid family and medical leave program and tax cuts for low to middle-income families and workers.”

The Los Angeles Times (7/7, Stokols, 3.37M) reports that in Crystal Lake, “a conservative enclave in the blue state, Biden toured a lab and day-care facility at McHenry County College and spoke to a couple hundred people about his proposed federal investments in workforce training, community college costs, and preschool and child-care subsidies. He also put in a plug for the area’s congresswoman, a top Republican target.” Speaking about Rep. Lauren Underwood, Biden said, “This woman here, hang on to her.”

Politico (7/7, Korecki, Sfondeles, 6.73M) that with the speech, the Administration “is making clear that even after landing a deal with Republicans on traditional infrastructure, it hasn’t dropped priorities important to his party’s base. In that sense, his visit Wednesday was as much about the audience watching back in Washington as it was for the small crowd, which included a host of local political luminaries, gathered at McHenry Community College to hear his remarks.” The Washington Post (7/7, Wootson, 10.52M) reports that White House officials “signaled that Biden’s trip was an effort to allay concerns that the administration was too focused on the bipartisan agreement instead of the transformational changes he and other Democrats vowed to enact if given control of the White House and Congress.”

The Hill (7/7, Samuels, 5.69M) reports that Biden also “swiped” at Senate Minority Leader McConnell “for pointing out the local benefits of an economic relief law that the GOP leader and other Republicans opposed.” Biden told reporters during his Illinois swing, “Mitch McConnell loves our programs... Look it up, man. He’s bragging about it in Kentucky.”

Local Gun Violence, Shooting Of ATF Agents, Police Officer, Overshadow Visit. While the gun violence plaguing Chicago was mentioned in most coverage, it was the focus of the coverage in some news outlets, including the two major city papers. The Chicago Tribune (7/7, Ruthhart, 2.03M) reports that Biden “made his first visit to the Chicago region since taking office to discuss his plan to help working and middle class families but, as is often the case, the city’s rampant gun violence emerged as a theme of the day.” Hours before the President touched down at O’Hare, “two federal agents and a Chicago police officer were shot while in a vehicle near the Chicago Police Department’s Morgan Park District station on the Far South Side. On

the flight to Chicago, White House officials told reporters that Biden had been in touch with Mayor Lori Lightfoot about the shootings and offered condolences to the families of the victims.”

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (7/7, Sweet, 970K) reports that Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle greeted the President when he landed at O’Hare airport, and he talked to each individually. While “the huddles were quick, the few minutes was probably enough for Lightfoot to press the plea she said she would make for Biden to send in more federal aid to Chicago to combat ongoing gun violence.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/7, 6:44 p.m. ET, story 5, Muir, 6.04M) ran a segment on the shooting of the law enforcement personnel. At the end of the piece, ABC’s Alex Perez addressed the meeting with Lightfoot, saying, “We’re told the two talked about that federal help that’s expected to arrive soon. Special teams that will be dispatched to tackle gun violence here in this city and cities across the country. And David, the three officers that were shot today have been released from the hospital.”

[Fox News](#) (7/7, Steinhauer, 23.99M) reports that following the event, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement that “during a greet with Mayor Lightfoot on the airport tarmac, President Biden expressed his personal support for the two ATF officials and the Chicago police officer who were shot earlier today. He reiterated his commitment to working with the Mayor and leaders in Chicago in the fight against gun violence and conveyed that the Department of Justice would soon be in touch about the strike force announced just a few weeks ago that will be working with cities like Chicago.”

[WCIA-TV](#) Champaign, IL (7/7, 16K) reported, “In the end, it was violent crime that overshadowed President Biden’s visit to Illinois. The White House says it is closely monitoring the case of two federal agents and one Chicago police officer shot the morning before President Biden would touch down here at O’Hare. The White House also pledging federal resources to kickstart a gun trafficking strike force in Chicago and four other major American cities.”

Meanwhile, in another piece, the [Chicago Tribune](#) (7/7, Rosenberg-Douglas, Prosser, 2.03M) reports that a “person of interest” was “being questioned by Chicago police hours after a police officer and two federal agents were shot while on duty early Wednesday on the Far South Side, officials said.” The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (7/7, Main, 970K) reports that “at least two people are in custody Wednesday evening in connection with the shooting.” Police spokesman Tom Ahern “said in a tweet that one person was being interviewed by detectives but gave no other details. A source told the Chicago Sun-Times that at least one other person is also in custody.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/7, 6:50 p.m. ET, story 8, Garrett, 3.48M) reported, “Those officers are expected to be ok.”

FBI Probing Fatal Ambush Of Indiana Police Officer. The [AP](#) (7/7) reports from Terre Haute, Indiana, “A western Indiana police officer was fatally shot Wednesday when he was ambushed near FBI offices in Terre Haute, according to federal officials.” The AP adds, “Sgt. Ryan Adamson of the Terre Haute Police Department identified the officer as 30-year veteran Detective Greg Ferency. Ferency had been a federal task force officer since 2010, the FBI said in a statement. ‘An FBI agent shot and wounded the suspect who is currently in custody receiving medical attention at a local hospital,’ the FBI said in a statement late Wednesday that also indicated Ferency was ‘ambushed’ at the FBI Indianapolis Resident Agency. The shooting incident is under investigation by the FBI’s Inspection Division, according to authorities.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, Paybarah, 20.6M) reports, “Officials provided few details Wednesday evening about what had taken place. Christine Bavender, the F.B.I. spokeswoman, said the shooting had occurred near the federal building in downtown Terre Haute around 2:15 p.m. An F.B.I. agent wounded a man who was suspected in the shooting. The man was in custody and receiving medical attention for his injury, Ms. Bavender said. Sgt. Ryan Adamson of the Terre Haute Police Department wrote on Twitter that Detective Ferency ‘was killed in the line of duty today.’”

[Fox News](#) (7/7, Casiano, 23.99M) reports that the shooting occurred “hours after a Chicago police officer and agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) working undercover were shot around 5:50 a.m., authorities in Chicago said. The three officers were riding in the same unmarked, undercover vehicle attempting to enter the freeway when they were fired upon from the street, Brown said. A person of interest was being interviewed in connection with the shooting, police said. One ATF agent injured is a male, the other is a female. The police officer is a male.” The [New York Post](#) (7/7, Lungariello, 7.45M) also reports.

Biden Meets With Administration Officials About Recent Cyberattacks. The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, 10.52M) reports President Biden “met Wednesday morning with Vice President Harris, national security adviser Jake Sullivan and other advisers to discuss the latest cyberattacks on U.S. businesses.” White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters, “In this meeting, they provided an update on their ongoing work, search capacity and resilience and reporting, addressing payment systems and our ongoing efforts to combat ransomware. ... [What] they did discuss is the fact that the president reserves the right to respond against any ransomware networks and those that harbor them. That continues to be his policy.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/6, 10.52M) also reports that the briefing “include[d] top officials from the departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security and the intelligence community.” The White House “hopes to build a multifaceted strategy focused on hardening

cyberdefenses, diplomatic outreach to American allies and potentially targeted offensive responses, including the disruption of computer infrastructure used by hackers.”

Reuters (7/7) reports, “The FBI and other federal authorities are in touch with the U.S. Republican National Committee following a cyberattack related to an RNC outside contractor, the White House said on Wednesday. White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters traveling with President Joe Biden on a visit to Illinois that Biden was briefed by his national security team on Wednesday about a rash of ransomware attacks and efforts to fight them.”

Bloomberg (7/7, Fabian, Jacobs, Sink, 3.57M) reports that Psaki said the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) “are in touch with the RNC, but that the government has not officially determined who is behind the hack. ‘We will determine attribution and make a decision accordingly,’ Psaki told reporters aboard Air Force One while traveling with President Joe Biden to Illinois. She noted that the RNC issued a statement saying none of its data was accessed.”

The New York Times (7/7, Perloth, Sanger, 20.6M) reports that there have been “several recent attacks test the red lines set by President Biden during his high-stakes summit with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia last month.” The Times adds, “At the meeting, Mr. Biden said later, he presented Mr. Putin with a list of 16 critical sectors of the American economy that, if attacked, would provoke a response – though he was cagey about what that response would be.”

Bloomberg (7/7, Meyer, 3.57M) reports that, according to Russian experts, Russian cyber weapons “are just one of the tools used in the increasingly fierce standoff with the U.S., and warm words at a presidential summit aren’t enough to change that.” However Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov “said Wednesday that Moscow wasn’t involved in hacks against U.S. infrastructure and that cybersecurity issues are likely to be a topic of discussion when U.S. and Russian officials meet as soon as next week for another round of dialogue.”

WSJournal: Biden Must Match His Words With Actions Following Hacks. The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) argues that while President Biden “hasn’t been afraid to talk tough and set expectations with” Russia President Vladimir Putin, he must match his rhetoric with actions after a series of cyberattacks have roiled the economy.

WPost: Putin Has Proved His Willingness To Support Cyberattacks On The US. The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) criticizes Russian President Vladimir Putin, who “has not heeded Mr. Biden’s exhortation to stop the cybercriminals who currently operate in his country from wreaking havoc worldwide.” It adds that Biden must prepare for an offensive response to Russian actions because a defense-focused response will not end the long-term destabilizing impact of Russian hacking incidents.

With 86 Still Missing, Surfside Responders Halt Rescue Mission, Transition To Recovery Efforts.

The Wall Street Journal (7/7, McWhirter, Bauerlein, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that at the end of Wednesday, crews concluded the search-and-rescue mission at the site of the Champlain Towers South collapse and transition to recovery efforts. The AP (7/7, Spencer, Licon) explains that the “emergency workers gave up...on any hope of finding survivors in the collapsed Florida condo building, telling sobbing families that there was ‘no chance of life’ in the rubble as crews shifted their efforts to recovering more remains.” ABC World News Tonight (7/7, 6:39 p.m. ET, story 3, Muir, 6.04M) reported that Daniella Levine Cava, the mayor of Miami-Dade County, was “overcome with emotion” as she announced the decision. The Hill (7/7, Vakil, 5.69M) reports that Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett also spoke about the transition, saying the decision “comes as a result of a consensus by those closest to the rescue efforts that the possibility of someone still alive is near zero. ... They are probably right. But in the end, God is still in charge. And while there seems to be no chance of finding life in the rubble, a miracle is still possible.”

Reuters (7/7) reports the decision comes as “the remains of 18 more victims were removed from the pile of debris on Wednesday,” bring the count of confirmed dead to 54, but leaving 86 people still missing. NBC Nightly News (7/7, 6:33 p.m. ET, story 2, Snow, 4.57M) reported that number of victims recovered on Wednesday represented the “highest increase in the death toll” since the tower collapsed 14 days ago. The CBS Evening News (7/7, 6:36 p.m. ET, story 2, Garrett, 3.48M) reported that “among the newly identified victims is 80 year old Simon Segal, a structural engineer who devoted his life to reviewing building safety.”

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) reports, “The recovery of victims has quickened since the weekend demolition of a still-standing part of the condo building that gave crews access to new areas of a sprawling rubble pile. But the tone at a Wednesday news conference was decisively grim: ‘Today after all the facts and all the factors, we’ve decided based on everything that’s been given to us, that there are no live victims,’ Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah said.” The Post adds, “Inquiries into what went wrong in Surfside are still in the early stages. Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said Wednesday that, at her request, a county grand jury had voted to conduct an investigation into ‘how we can prevent such a disaster from occurring again, not just in Surfside, and not just in condominiums, but in all buildings and structures in the coastal, intercoastal and surrounding areas of our county, state and nation.’”

The New York Times (7/7, Mazzei, Robertson, Fausset, 20.6M) reports, "As impatience and frustration grew among family members of the missing, the teams on the pile continued looking for weeks, moving seven million pounds of concrete. The work was grueling and dangerous, with fires that burned in the rubble and the constant possibility of mounds of debris giving way. One rescuer fell 25 feet off the wreckage right in front of people who had been invited to watch the search." CNN (7/7, Holcombe, Levenson, 89.21M) also provides coverage of the decision to switch to a recovery mission.

Reporters Get Access To Surfside Site For First Time Since Collapse. In a separate article, the New York Times (7/7, Murphy, Heyward, 20.6M) reports that "on Tuesday evening, officials offered reporters a limited glimpse of the building site for the first time." The Times describes the ruins, saying, "What had once been part of the roof of the residential tower at 8777 Collins Avenue was almost at street level, a dark splintered slab identifiable by a ventilation or exhaust fixture still in one piece, slanted atop the pile like a top hat. Debris poked out at every possible angle. Twisted metal knotted together like tree branches."

FBI Continues To Identify Capitol Riot Suspects. CBS News (7/7, McDonald, 5.39M) reports, "Six months after a mob attacked the U.S. Capitol, authorities are still searching for hundreds of suspects accused of violent acts that day." The FBI "released new videos Tuesday that they say show 11 people assaulting officers during fighting outside the Capitol. The suspects have yet to be identified, and the FBI is seeking the public's help. The videos show the suspects lunging toward officers, grabbing at their tactical batons and squaring up to fight, and provide a stark reminder of the size of the crowd and the challenge law enforcement has faced in identifying rioters." The Justice Department "said Tuesday that more than 535 people have been arrested so far in connection with the attack on the Capitol. Many of those arrests were made with help from tipsters, including internet sleuths, friends, ex-lovers and family members."

WXYZ-TV Detroit (7/7, Kiertzner, 201K) reports, "For 6 months, we've been watching the number of criminal cases grow from the U.S. Capitol riot on January 6. More than 500 people have been charged across the U.S. for participating, and they face up to 10 years in prison. Eleven people have been charged so far from Michigan." WXYZ-TV adds, "Federal court documents show this investigation is now moving into a new phase with deeper investigations and confidential informants, including family members." According to WXYZ-TV, "If people who were involved think that since they haven't been caught and charged, they've gotten away with this. Think again. The feds so far have charged the low hanging fruit. The cases made with social media posts, cell phone videos, made by the people themselves at the Capitol. 'Their stupidity usually aids law enforcement bringing them to justice,' said Andy Arena, former FBI Special Agent in Charge in Detroit."

DC Circuit Rules January 6 Defendants Can Be Held In Pretrial Detention Regardless Of Charges. Politico (7/7, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports that the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit "ruled that even defendants not accused of violence against others or destruction of property could be kept behind bars pending trial because of other indications that they pose a danger to the community." The decision "upheld the detention of Timothy Hale-Cusanelli, an Army reservist from New Jersey arrested about a week and a half after the storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6." DC Circuit Judge Wilkins "said there was no clear error by the trial court judge who concluded that Hale-Cusanelli's past history, his expressed bias against African Americans and Jews, and his use of violent rhetoric in connection with the Jan. 6 events made him unsuitable for release."

Pennsylvania Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe. The AP (7/7, Kunzelman) reports, "A Pennsylvania man was arrested Wednesday on charges that he assaulted an Associated Press photographer and police officers during the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol." Alan William Byerly, 54, "was armed with what appeared to be a stun gun when he charged at officers guarding the Capitol, an FBI agent wrote in an affidavit. After police apparently removed the device from his hand, Byerly continued to charge at the officers, punching or pushing at least three of them, and tried to grab an officer's baton, the agent wrote. Officers managed to restrain Byerly, but a fellow rioter helped him escape, the FBI said. Police recovered the stun gun that he apparently wielded."

The Hill (7/7, 5.69M) reports, "According to an FBI indictment, Byerly was seen on video 'assaulting a credentialed member of the news media (MONM), specifically a photographer assigned to the Associated Press.' The indictment didn't name the photographer, but a 90-second video that went viral in January showed AP photographer John Minchillo getting shoved and pushed over a wall outside of the Capitol. The affidavit says that the photographer, who was near the Lower West Terrace of the Capitol, was pulled backward down a set of stairs by a group of rioters. Byerly was seen in video standing behind the group that was pulling the photographer down."

The New York Post (7/7, Feuerherd, 7.45M) reports, "Byerly then grabbed him with both near his shoulders and upper neck and shoved him backwards, according to the court docs. Minchillo was rescued by a good Samaritan who escorted him through the crowd as rioters attempted to storm the building. Byerly also allegedly charged at officers during the melee while holding what appeared to be a Taser that he activated near the cops."

Newsweek (7/7, Hutzler, 2.67M) reports, "The FBI received a tip helping to identify Byerly after posting photographs of him online. The riot footage revealed a white male with shoulder-length graying black hair, wearing a 'Kutztown'

beanie and neon yellow 'safety' long sleeve shirt under a black jacket. On April 5, a witness called the FBI Threat Operations Center and identified Byerly as the man in the photographs. The witness said he lived in the Blandon or Fleetwood area of Pennsylvania and frequented the business where they worked. After the call, investigators found phone records revealing Byerly's cellular device was present in Washington D.C. on January 6."

Judge Denies Release For Arizona Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe. [USA Today](#) (7/7, 12.7M) reports, "A federal judge denied a request Monday to release from custody Jake Angeli, the Phoenix man whose elaborate tattoos, face paint and horned fur hat made him one of the signature figures of the Jan. 6 raid on the U.S. Capitol." US District Judge Royce Lamberth "said in his ruling that he heard no new information in a hearing last week that would compel him to revisit his March order that Angeli be held while awaiting trial on six federal charges relating to the incursion on the Capitol." Angeli, "in footage captured by a journalist with The New Yorker, strutted into the U.S. Senate chamber, posed for pictures on the dais and left a note for Pence. 'It's only a matter of time,' the note said. 'Justice is coming!'"

FBI Infiltrates "Bible Study" Group Whose Members Discussed Surveilling US Capitol. [CNN](#) (7/7, Rabinowitz, Polantz, 89.21M) reports, "The FBI has infiltrated a 'Bible study' group in Virginia that after the January 6 riot had members discussing surveilling the US Capitol and their wish for secession from the US, and investigators closely followed one member's plans to build and test Molotov cocktails, according to recently unsealed court records." CNN adds, "The new case highlights one group member's apparent interest in a second American civil war. The newly disclosed criminal case against Virginia man Fi Duong...arose after Duong interacted with undercover law enforcement officers several times on January 6 and into recent months, when the FBI ultimately gained access to his group in Virginia then accompanied him to an old jail as Duong allegedly pursued bomb-building."

[The Hill](#) (7/7, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports, "According to court records unsealed this week, an undercover Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officer on Jan. 6 met Fi Duong, who allegedly climbed a wall of the U.S. Capitol before entering the building. The MPD officer then introduced Duong to an undercover FBI agent, who on Feb. 12 attended a meeting with Duong at a house in Alexandria, Va." The Hill adds, "The court documents in Duong's case said that the group called itself a Bible study, noting that after 'two Bible verses were discussed,' the individuals 'spent the rest of the meeting discussing details of the group and planning future group activities. The future activities included Bible studies, but also included activities such as firearms and other training events.' During the meeting, the FBI agent also noted that Duong and others 'discussed a Virginia secession movement called 'the State of Appalachia.'""

Florida High School Teacher Charged In Capitol Siege Probe. [Newsweek](#) (7/7, Crump, 2.67M) reports, "A high school teacher from Florida was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the U.S. Capitol riots on January 6." Kenneth John Reda, 54, "was taken into custody by FBI agents and has been charged with disorderly conduct and illegally entering Capitol grounds, according to a criminal complaint provided by the U.S. Department of Justice. Reda had his first court appearance on Tuesday and was released on a \$25,000 bond. Court papers state that Reda works at Viera High School in Florida. Brevard Public Schools confirmed to Click Orlando that the 54-year-old is a physical education teacher." Reda "has been accused of storming the Capitol alongside a group of Donald Trump supporters as Congress attempted to certify Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election."

Trump Calls For Probe Into Killing Of Capitol Protester. [The Washington Post](#) (7/7, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, former President Donald Trump "declared that a police officer defending lawmakers and the Capitol on Jan. 6 had 'no reason' to shoot an individual involved in the attack and echoed calls from the far right for the officer to be publicly named." According to the Post, in April, a US Capitol Police officer was "cleared of criminal wrongdoing for fatally shooting Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt as she attempted to breach a set of doors deep in the Capitol during the January siege." But Trump "declared that Babbitt did not pose a danger to lawmakers or others and argued that the unnamed officer's actions were unwarranted." Trump is quoted as saying: "There was no reason for that. And why isn't that person being opened up, and why isn't that being studied? They've already written it off. They said that case is closed."

Federal Judge Says 60% Of Blame For 2017 Mass Shooting In Texas Falls On USAF. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/7, 6:46 p.m. ET, story 7, Muir, 6.04M) reported that a federal judge has found "the Air Force is mostly responsible for a church massacre in Southerland Springs, Texas" as part of a lawsuit brought by the victims' families. [Reuters](#) (7/7) continues that US District Judge Xavier Rodriguez "found the U.S. government was 60% responsible for a 2017 mass shooting in which" Devin Patrick Kelley, a former Air Force airman, "used firearms he should not have been allowed to purchase to kill 26 people" at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

[The Washington Post](#) (7/7, 10.52M) explains that Kelley's conviction for "domestic assault years before he opened fire during Sunday morning services" should have "prevented him from passing the background check for buying guns." However, the Air Force "never submitted his criminal record or fingerprints to the FBI" despite having a duty – and multiple chances – to do

so. The New York Times (7/7, Lukpat, 20.6M) quotes the judge's decision as saying, "Had the government done its job,' ... it is more likely than not that the gunman 'would have been deterred from carrying out the church shooting.'" The Times adds that the parties to the case now have 15 days "to present a plan to the court...for bringing the individual damages cases to trial."

Defendants Linked To Massachusetts Standoff Appear In Court. The AP (7/6) reports from Medford, Massachusetts, "Some of the 11 people charged in connection with an armed standoff along a Massachusetts highway last weekend, including the purported leader of the group, refused to cooperate with court authorities during their arraignments Tuesday." Jamhal Tavon Sanders Latimer, 29, "also known as Jamhal Talib Abdullah Bey, told the judge 'I don't understand how these charges can be brought against me.' Latimer, a former U.S. Marine from Providence, Rhode Island, waived his right to an attorney, but the judge said she would have a lawyer speak to him about this rights before the next hearing in the case." The AP adds, "Not guilty pleas were entered on behalf of all the defendants, who were held without bail pending a hearing Friday to determine whether they are dangerous."

WBTS-TV Boston (7/7, 83K) reports, "Nearly all of the 11 men who are charged say they are members of a group called the Rise of the Moors refused to speak with their court-appointed lawyers, delaying their arraignments. One of the men charged did agree to have a court appointed lawyer during Wednesday's arraignment. Seven of the suspects appeared in Malden District Court on Tuesday for their arraignments, which took a nearly an entire day due to numerous outbursts in court. The men from Rhode Island, New York and Michigan are being arraigned on various gun-related charges."

Prosecutors: Massachusetts Gunman Expressed Racist Beliefs. WBTS-TV Boston (7/7, Klein, Russom, 83K) reports, "The man who killed two people in a shooting rampage in Winthrop, Massachusetts, last month wrote less than two days earlier that 'Racism is healthy and natural' in a bigoted, hateful screed revealed by officials Wednesday." WBTS-TV adds, "The information comes from journals kept by the gunman and found at his apartment, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins said. 'This man had fooled so many, outwardly appearing stable and upstanding while internally filled with extremist ideologies and hatred,' she said in a statement." According to WTBS-TV, "On Saturday, June 26, the man – identified as Nathan Allen – crashed a plumbing truck he stole into a building, then got out and gunned down two Black people before being killed by police. Authorities have been investigating the shooting as a possible hate crime."

Carlson Says NSA Surveillance Was Due To Potential Putin Interview. The Hill (7/7, Schnell, 5.69M) reports Fox News host Tucker Carlson said Wednesday that "he had been attempting to schedule an interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin before he publicly claimed last week that the National Security Agency (NSA) was spying on him." Carlson's comments came "just after Axios published a report, citing sources familiar with the conversations, that Carlson had been communicating with Kremlin intermediaries in the U.S. about scheduling an interview with Putin when the Fox News host began accusing the NSA of spying on him." Carlson, during his show on Wednesday, confirmed that he "contacted a couple of people I thought could help get us an interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin."

Axios (7/7, Swan, 1.26M) reports that sources "said US government officials learned about Carlson's efforts to secure the Putin interview," and that Carlson "learned that the government was aware of his outreach – and that's the basis of his extraordinary accusation, followed by a rare public denial by the NSA that he had been targeted." Axios has not confirmed "whether any communications from Carlson have been intercepted, and if so, why." Axios submitted a request for "comment to the NSA on Wednesday, asking whether the agency would also be willing to categorically deny that the NSA intercepted any of Carlson's communications in the context of monitoring somebody he was talking to in his efforts to set up an interview with Putin." An NSA spokesperson "declined to comment" and referred to the agency's previous statemnt that Carlson had not been targeted. Axios adds that a "plausible scenario is that one of the people Carlson was talking to as an intermediary to help him get the Putin interview was under surveillance as a foreign agent," in which case his emails or texts "could have been incidentally collected as part of monitoring this person, but Carlson's identity would have been masked in any intelligence reports."

The Hill (7/7, 5.69M) reports Carlson said Wednesday morning on Fox Business's "Mornings with Maria" that, "Yesterday, I learned that – and this is going to come out soon – that the NSA leaked the contents of my emails to journalists in an effort to discredit me. I know because I got a call from one of them saying 'oh, this is what your email was about.'"

BuzzFeed News (7/7, Leopold, Mack) reports Alex Pfeiffer, investigative producer for Tucker Carlson Tonight, sent an "extremely broad Freedom of Information Act request" last week in which he wrote he is "requesting any call records, texts, or emails the NSA has obtained from journalist Tucker Carlson's cell phone or email. I am requesting any memos or documents related to surveilling journalist Tucker Carlson. I am requesting any communication between NSA officials regarding journalist Tucker Carlson."

Newsweek (7/8, Ellington, 2.67M) reports on his show Wednesday night, “Carlson stated that the NSA wanted to attack his loyalty to America and embarrass him.” Carlson alleged, “They want to paint me as a disloyal American, a Russian operative – been called that before – a stooge of the Kremlin, a traitor doing the bidding of a foreign adversary.” He also alleged that he had been unmasked, and asked that NSA Director Gen. Paul Nakasone “should explain who asked for that unmasking.”

The Washington Examiner (7/7, Chaitin, 888K), reports Carlson “told his audience on Wednesday that the day before he learned that ‘sources in the so-called intelligence community’ told at least one reporter in Washington about the contents of his emails.”

Among outlets also reporting are The Week (7/7, Garcia, 2.17M), National Review (7/7, Downey, 798K), and The Washington Times (7/7, Blake, 626K).

Former Corning Fiber Laser Expert Charged With Stealing DOD Technology. Behind a paywall, Law360 (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9K) reports, “A New York federal grand jury has indicted a former Corning Inc. fiber laser expert on charges of stealing technology from a \$16 million U.S. Department of Defense project to launch his own competing venture in China, the Justice Department announced Wednesday.” Ji Wang, 59, “has been charged with economic espionage, theft of trade secrets and violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, according to the indictment, which was returned last month and unsealed Wednesday. Prosecutors allege that Wang worked on a fiber laser research and development project for the DOD’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.”

UK High Court Allows US To Appeal Assange Extradition Ruling. The AP (7/7) reports that Britain’s High Court has “granted the U.S. government permission to appeal a decision that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange cannot be sent to the United States to face espionage charges.” The AP says that in January, “a lower court judge refused an American request to send Assange to the U.S. to face spying charges over WikiLeaks’ publication of secret military documents a decade ago. District Judge Vanessa Baraitser denied extradition on health grounds, saying Assange was likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions.”

The New York Times (7/7, Goldmacher, 20.6M) reports that “if a British court permits the extradition of...Assange to face criminal charges in the United States, the Biden administration has pledged that it will not hold him under the most austere conditions reserved for high-security prisoners and that, if he is convicted, it will let him serve his sentence in his native Australia.” According to the Times, “Those assurances were disclosed on Wednesday as part of a British High Court ruling in London. The court accepted the United States government’s appeal of a ruling that had denied its extradition request for Mr. Assange – who was indicted during the Trump administration – on the grounds that American prison conditions for the highest-security inmates were inhumane.”

Body Cam Footage Prompts New Examination Of Ronald Greene Autopsy. The AP (7/7, Mustian) reports that the FBI “is taking the unusual step of ordering a new look at the autopsy of Black motorist Ronald Greene to consider evidence not provided after his 2019 death, including graphic body camera video of Louisiana state troopers stunning, punching and dragging him after a high-speed chase.” The re-examination of the “autopsy is part of a federal civil rights investigation that has taken on new urgency in the nearly two months since” video of Greene’s violent arrest circulated among the press. The AP explains, “the autopsy...listed Greene’s cause of death as ‘cocaine induced agitated delirium complicated by motor vehicle collision, physical struggle, inflicted head injury and restraint.’ But it notably left unanswered whether the crash or excessive police force caused his most severe injuries, including a fractured breastbone and lacerated aorta.”

Teenage Gunman Surrenders To NYPD For Times Square Shooting That Injured Tourist. The New York Post (7/7, Celona, Marino, McCarthy, 7.45M) reports that a 16-year-old boy, Avon Darden, “has surrendered to police in Manhattan in connection to the Times Square shooting last week” that injured Samuel Poulin, a 21-year-old Marine tourist. The Post explains that Darden had come to Times Square to confront a break-dancer. An argument ensued and Darden allegedly drew a gun and opened fire. “But the slug ricocheted, striking...Poulin...in the upper back just as he and his family were walking past the Marriott Hotel on West 45th Street and Broadway.”

Former JHL Biotech Executives Charged In Wire Fraud Scheme. Behind a paywall, Law360 (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9K) reports, “A California federal grand jury has indicted JHL Biotech’s former CEO and former chief operating officer, slapping the Taiwanese biological drug development company’s co-founders with charges stemming from an allegedly sprawling \$101 million trade secrets and wire fraud conspiracy.” Law360 adds, “JHL’s ex-CEO Raco Ivanov Jordanov

and former COO Rose Lin are also accused of committing wire fraud, international money laundering and obstruction of justice, among other related charges, according to an indictment unsealed Wednesday. JHL Biotech changed its name to Eden Biologics in February. Both appeared in California federal court Wednesday and pled not guilty to all the charges.”

Cybersecurity Firm Reportedly Warned Kaseya Of Security Flaw In April. The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that, according to the Dutch Institute for Vulnerability Disclosure, its security analysts warned Kaseya Ltd of a cybersecurity vulnerability on April 6, 2021. Institute Chairman Victor Gevers wrote in a blogpost, “When we discovered the vulnerabilities in early April, it was evident to us that we could not let these vulnerabilities fall into the wrong hands.” He added, “After some deliberation, we decided that informing the vendor and awaiting the delivery of a patch was the right thing to do.”

DOJ IG: Depleted US Prison Chaplain Corps Jeopardizes Safety. USA Today (7/7, Johnson, 12.7M) reports, “The chaplain corps serving the vast federal prison system is so badly depleted that officials have allowed inmates convicted of terror-related offenses or with links to terrorist organizations to lead religious services, an internal Justice Department review found.” Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz’s report “found that the chaplain ranks, with 236 serving more than 150,000 inmates, is down by 30% and represents just eight of 24 faith groups recognized by the federal prison system. ‘We found that a significant shortage in the number of chaplains and other chaplaincy services staff impairs the BOP’s ability to implement a safe and effective religious services program,’ the report concluded, noting that officials relied on alternate inmate-led programs ‘without ensuring adequate supervision and oversight...’ ‘For example, we found that some institutions permitted inmates with a known nexus to international or domestic terrorism to lead religious services,’ according to the report.”

FAA: 75% Of Unruly Passenger Complaints Stem From Mask Compliance. The Hill (7/7, Lonas, 5.69M) reports that the FAA said “three out of every four unruly passenger complaints on airlines stem from mask compliance issues.” According to the FAA, “there have been 3,271 complaints of unruly passenger behavior since the beginning of the year, with about 2,475 of them concerning passengers who did not want to wear a mask.” Meanwhile, “out of the thousands of complaints of unruly passengers, the FAA said it has moved forward with 540 cases that showed ‘potential violations’ and was already taking action against passengers in 83 of those cases.”

Insider (7/7, 2.74M) reports “in June, several airline groups expressed their concerns in a letter to the Department of Justice, asking Attorney General Merrick Garland to prosecute unruly passengers.” They “also wrote to FAA chief Steve Dickson seeking a larger crackdown on escalating passenger violence.”

CNBC (7/7, 7.34M) also has a video report.

FAA Issues Fines Totaling \$119,000 As It Crackdowns On Unruly Passengers. USA Today (7/7, 12.7M) reports that “in its continued effort to crack down on unruly air travelers, the Federal Aviation Administration announced a new round of proposed fines Tuesday.” The FAA said “one passenger called in fake hijacking and bomb threats and another punched a woman who was carrying a baby.” Meanwhile, “the proposed fines against nine passengers totaled \$119,000, and many centered around passenger opposition to mask wearing.” USA Today says “the FAA has proposed more than \$682,000 against unruly passengers since Jan. 1 as the agency seeks to enforce a ‘zero-tolerance policy’ for dangerous behavior by passengers.”

KING-TV Seattle (7/7, 417K) reports that “an unruly passenger on a flight from Sea-Tac Airport to Ketchikan is being fined after falsely reporting his flight was being hijacked.” KING says “the Alaska Airlines passenger is being fined \$10,500 following the Jan. 23 incident, during which he called 911 and the FBI.”

Also reporting are The Hill (7/7, 5.69M) and Fox Business (7/7, Genovese, 3.06M).

NYTimes Analysis: Jails May Undercount Inmate Deaths From COVID. The New York Times (7/7, A1, Turcotte, Sherman, Griesbach, Klein, Derr, Williams, 20.6M) reports that “more than 2,700 people are reported to have died of Covid-19 in connection to U.S. prisons, jails and immigration detention centers, but...additional cases raise the prospect that the known toll on incarcerated people falls far short of providing the full picture.” The Times explains that it “identified dozens of people around the country” who died from COVID while incarcerated or shortly after being released but were not included “in official Covid-19 mortality tolls of the jails where” they were detained. “Public health officials say the prospect of overlooked virus deaths tied to the nation’s prisons, jails and immigration detention centers carries particular risks. It is challenging, the experts say, to prepare prisons for future epidemics without knowing the full toll.”

FBI Agent Alleges Sexual Harassment At Las Vegas Office. The [New York Post](#) (7/7, Feuerherd, 7.45M) reports, "An FBI agent claims in a new lawsuit that she was subjected to repeated sexual harassment at the Bureau's Las Vegas office, including by a supervisor who once allegedly texted her a photo of a rainbow-colored sex toy." The Post adds, "In the suit filed last week against US Attorney General Merrick Garland as head of the agency, FBI Supervisory Special Agent Karen Veltri alleges she was sexually harassed by two supervisors – then retaliated against for reporting the abuse to several oversight bodies. Veltri eventually reported the harassment in an email to FBI Director Christopher Wray, states the suit in Las Vegas federal court, which seeks unspecified damages."

WSJournal Lauds Judge For Restraining FBI In California Raid Lawsuits. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes about raids by the FBI in March of US Private Vaults in Beverly Hills, California. The business had been indicted for several crimes, including money laundering and selling drugs. The FBI seized \$86 million in cash and valuables agents found in safe deposit boxes belonging to individuals who have not been charged with crimes. In response to lawsuits, a federal judge two weeks ago granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting the FBI from taking permanent legal title to the seized contents. The Journal argues that the burden of depriving a US citizen of property rightfully falls on the government to prove guilt, not on those targeted to prove their innocence, and it applauds the judge for his action.

Haitian President Assassinated, Raising Fears Of Further Chaos. [Reuters](#) (7/7, Paultre) reports that Haitian President Jovenel Moïse "was shot dead by unidentified attackers in his private residence overnight in a 'barbaric act', the government said on Wednesday, stirring fears of escalating turmoil in the impoverished Caribbean nation." Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph said in a broadcast that the government had declared a state of emergency. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/7, 6:36 p.m. ET, story 4, Snow, 4.57M) reported, "International outrage is growing tonight after the President of Haiti was assassinated in his own home." NBC (Gutierrez) added that the gunmen, "speaking English and Spanish, reportedly yelled they were DEA agents. The Haitian government says they were instead mercenaries, highly trained killers." NBC (Gutierrez) added, "Tonight the airport in Port-au-Prince is shut down. The Dominican Republic has closed its border with Haiti, and the US embassy there is telling its staff to shelter in place." Ben Tracey reports for the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/7, 6:43 p.m. ET, story 5, Garrett, 3.48M) that Haiti "has been in turmoil for months as President Moïse became increasingly unpopular for clinging to power after his term expired. There are now fears of more violence."

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, A1, Porter, Crowley, Méheut, 20.6M) reports in an interview, Joseph "told The New York Times that he was now in control of the country, but it was unclear how much legitimacy he had, or how long it might last. A new prime minister had been scheduled to replace Mr. Joseph this week — he would have been the sixth to hold the job in Mr. Moïse's term. The head of the nation's highest court, who might have helped establish order, died of Covid-19 in June."

[CNN](#) (7/7, 89.21M) reports, "Haitian first lady Martine Moïse was shot and injured in the attack, and has been taken to Miami for treatment. Her condition is described as stable but critical." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/7, 6:36 p.m. ET, story 2, Muir, 6.04M) reported, "The first lady was shot and critically wounded. And late today, the images coming in, she's now been flown to Florida for treatment, in stable but critical condition at this hour. They're hoping American doctors can save her."

Haitian Security Forces Report Killing Of Four Assassins, Capture Of Two More. [Reuters](#) (7/7, Paultre) reports that Haiti's "security forces were locked in a fierce gun battle on Wednesday with assailants who assassinated" Moïse, and had killed four and captured two more. The [AP](#) (7/7, Sanon, Coto) reports that Haiti's police chief, Léon Charles, said late Wednesday that four suspected killers "have been fatally shot by police and two others arrested in an apparent hostage-taking situation." Charles "said late Wednesday that three police officers held hostage were freed."

Biden Condemns "Heinous" Assassination. [Reuters](#) (7/7, Zengerle, Psaledakis) reports that on Wednesday, President Biden said he was shocked by the "heinous" assassination, "calling it worrisome and saying his administration needed more information." Biden said in a statement, "We condemn this heinous attack and I am sending my sincere wishes for First Lady Moïse's recovery. The United States offers condolences to the people of Haiti and we stand ready to assist as we continue to work for a safe and secure Haiti." Haiti's ambassador to the US, Bocchit Edmond, "said the gunmen falsely identified themselves as agents" of the US DEA, but "No way they were DEA agents."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, DeYoung, 10.52M) reports that officials "across the administration offered condolences and said the United States stood ready to help in investigating the killing. The United States provides Haiti a steady flow of humanitarian and development aid." However, "for many who closely follow events in Haiti as well as and U.S.-Haiti relations, the assassination was far from a shock. While devastating, it was further proof 'of the extent to which the security situation in Haiti has unraveled,' said Rep. Andy Levin (D-Mich), who co-chairs the House Haiti Caucus."

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, Porter, Santora, Robles, 20.6M) reports that before his assassination, Moïse "had been struggling to quell growing public anger over his attempt to hold onto power despite the opposition's insistence that his term had

expired.” He “had been ruling by decree for more than a year. Many, including prominent jurists, contend that his term ended in February. Haiti has been rocked by protests against his rule, and also has suffered a surge in gang activity.”

The Washington Post (7/7, A1, Merancourt, Faiola, Berger, 10.52M) reports on the general chaos engulfing the nation as a backdrop to the assassination: “Gang violence and the coronavirus outbreak are both worsening. A shooting rampage in the streets of Port-au-Prince last week left at least 15 people dead. At least 278 Haitians have been killed this year in attacks that have led some citizens to flee the capital, traveling by boat and plane to avoid dangerous, gang-controlled roads.” The New York Times (7/7, Kitroeff, Kurmanaev, 20.6M) similarly runs a background on the chaos in Haiti.

The New York Times (7/7, Robles, 20.6M) profiles Moïse, who “even before he took office,” had to “fight off accusations that, as a virtually unknown banana exporter, he was nothing but a handpicked puppet of the previous president, Michel J. Martelly.” During his time in office, Moïse “was widely accused of behaving like a strongman who tried to consolidate power” and “was also accused of having used powerful violent gangs to suppress political opposition.”

In another piece, the New York Times (7/7, Bilefsky, 20.6M) reports that on the reaction of members of the Haitian “diaspora” to the assassination, “an act of violence viewed by many as a potent symbol of the impoverished Caribbean nation’s descent into mayhem in recent months.”

Also running reports on a story that continued to evolve during the latest news cycle are Axios (7/7, Doherty, 1.26M), Politico (7/7, 6.73M), the Wall Street Journal (7/7, A1, de Cordoba, Meichtry, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), among many others.

WPost Calls For International Peacekeeping Force. In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) says that the assassination of Moïse “puts one of the Western Hemisphere’s most impoverished countries at risk of anarchy. ... To prevent a meltdown that could have dire consequences, the United States and other influential parties — including France, Canada and the Organization of American States — should push for an international peacekeeping force, probably organized by the United Nations, that could provide the security necessary for presidential and parliamentary elections to go forward this year, as planned.”

Meanwhile, Mary Anastasia O’Grady, in her column for the Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), says that the assassination of Moïse marks the failure of another effort in an attempt to build up institution in the country.

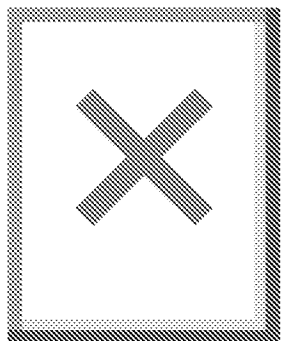
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TO : THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
DATE : THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021 6:30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS

In Appearance In Suburban Chicago, President Biden Pitches Expansive Agenda.

The AP (7/7, Jaffe) reports that President Biden "pitched his proposed investments in families and education" at the McHenry County College in a suburb of Chicago on Wednesday, "telling residents of the swing district that what's good for families is also good for the economy." His message "is one designed to resonate with suburban parents, college graduates and the working poor — a coalition that was key to Biden's election win last year." Reuters (7/7, Hunnicutt) reports that Biden "made the case for spending trillions of dollars on U.S. infrastructure, paid for by higher taxes on corporations." In his speech, Biden "focused on what he called 'human infrastructure' priorities that did not make it into" the bipartisan infrastructure deal, such as "tax rebates for parents, free preschool and community college, healthcare and clean energy subsidies as well as 12 weeks of paid medical leave."

The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Restuccia, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the President said, "To truly win the 21st century and once again lead the world, to truly build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, to truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people." The New York Times (7/7, Montague, 20.6M) reports that Biden added, "I'm here to make the case for the second, critical part of my domestic agenda," saying that "it's about a country once again that inspires" the world.

WLS-TV Chicago (7/7, 189K) reported Biden "was here to promote the second part of his Build Back Better plan, which he called the human infrastructure side of things, something he said is essential." Biden: "My plan will also do more to invest in high-quality job-training and apprenticeships in fast-growing sectors like public health, childcare, manufacturing, information technology, clean energy." WLS said Biden "promis[ed] to pay for his plan by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthiest Americans." Biden: "If we put in place a minimum 15% tax on the profits of corporations, the ones that didn't pay any tax, that would raise a quarter of a trillion dollars." KHQA-TV Quincy, IL (7/7, 3K) reports Biden "told the crowd at McHenry County College that investing in education, child care and senior care is critical for providing good paying jobs, competing against other countries and building back better from the pandemic. He addressed providing preschool and two years of community college for free and pushed for an extension of the child tax credit." WIFR-TV Rockford, IL (7/7, 8K) showed Biden saying, "To truly win the 21st Century and once again lead the world, to truly build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, to truly deal everybody in this time, we need to invest in our people. We need to invest in our people." WIFR reported, "The agenda also includes creating a national paid family and medical leave program and tax cuts for low to middle-income families and workers."

The Los Angeles Times (7/7, Stokols, 3.37M) reports that in Crystal Lake, "a conservative enclave in the blue state, Biden toured a lab and day-care facility at McHenry County College and spoke to a couple hundred people about his proposed federal investments in workforce training, community college costs, and preschool and child-care subsidies. He also put in a plug for the area's congresswoman, a top Republican target." Speaking about Rep. Lauren Underwood, Biden said, "This woman here, hang on to her."

Politico (7/7, Korecki, Sfondeles, 6.73M) that with the speech, the Administration "is making clear that even after landing a deal with Republicans on traditional infrastructure, it hasn't dropped priorities important to his party's base. In that sense, his visit Wednesday was as much about the

audience watching back in Washington as it was for the small crowd, which included a host of local political luminaries, gathered at McHenry Community College to hear his remarks." The Washington Post (7/7, Wootson, 10.52M) reports that White House officials "signaled that Biden's trip was an effort to allay concerns that the administration was too focused on the bipartisan agreement instead of the transformational changes he and other Democrats vowed to enact if given control of the White House and Congress."

The Hill (7/7, Samuels, 5.69M) reports that Biden also "swiped" at Senate Minority Leader McConnell "for pointing out the local benefits of an economic relief law that the GOP leader and other Republicans opposed." Biden told reporters during his Illinois swing, "Mitch McConnell loves our programs... Look it up, man. He's bragging about it in Kentucky."

Local Gun Violence, Shooting Of ATF Agents, Police Officer, Overshadow Visit.

While the gun violence plaguing Chicago was mentioned in most coverage, it was the focus of the coverage in some news outlets, including the two major city papers. The Chicago Tribune (7/7, Ruthhart, 2.03M) reports that Biden "made his first visit to the Chicago region since taking office to discuss his plan to help working and middle class families but, as is often the case, the city's rampant gun violence emerged as a theme of the day." Hours before the President touched down at O'Hare, "two federal agents and a Chicago police officer were shot while in a vehicle near the Chicago Police Department's Morgan Park District station on the Far South Side. On the flight to Chicago, White House officials told reporters that Biden had been in touch with Mayor Lori Lightfoot about the shootings and offered condolences to the families of the victims."

The Chicago Sun-Times (7/7, Sweet, 970K) reports that Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle greeted the President when he landed at O'Hare airport, and he talked to each individually. While "the huddles were quick, the few minutes was probably enough for Lightfoot to press the plea she said she would make for Biden to send in more federal aid to Chicago to combat ongoing gun violence." ABC World News Tonight (7/7, 6:44 p.m. ET, story 5, Muir, 6.04M) ran a segment on the shooting of the law enforcement personnel. At the end of the piece, ABC's Alex Perez addressed the meeting with Lightfoot, saying, "We're told the two talked about that federal help that's expected to arrive soon. Special teams that will be dispatched to tackle gun violence here in this city and cities across the country. And David, the three officers that were shot today have been released from the hospital."

Fox News (7/7, Steinhauser, 23.99M) reports that following the event, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement that "during a greet with Mayor Lightfoot on the airport tarmac, President Biden expressed his personal support for the two ATF officials and the Chicago police officer who were shot earlier today. He reiterated his commitment to working with the Mayor and leaders in Chicago in the fight against gun violence and conveyed that the Department of Justice would soon be in touch about the strike force announced just a few weeks ago that will be working with cities like Chicago."

WCIA-TV Champaign, IL (7/7, 16K) reported, "In the end, it was violent crime that overshadowed President Biden's visit to Illinois. The White House says it is closely monitoring the case of two federal agents and one Chicago police officer shot the morning before President Biden would touch down here at O'Hare. The White House also pledging federal resources to kickstart a gun trafficking strike force in Chicago and four other major American cities."

Meanwhile, in another piece, the Chicago Tribune (7/7, Rosenberg-Douglas, Prosser, 2.03M) reports that a "person of interest" was "being questioned by Chicago police hours after a police officer and two federal agents were shot while on duty early Wednesday on the Far South Side, officials said." The Chicago Sun-Times (7/7, Main, 970K) reports that "at least two people are in custody Wednesday evening in connection with the shooting." Police spokesman Tom Ahern "said in a tweet that one person was being interviewed by detectives but gave no other details. A source told the Chicago Sun-Times that at least one other person is also in custody." The CBS Evening News (7/7, 6:50 p.m. ET, story 8, Garrett, 3.48M) reported, "Those officers are expected to be ok."

FBI Probing Fatal Ambush Of Indiana Police Officer. The AP (7/7) reports from Terre Haute, Indiana, "A western Indiana police officer was fatally shot Wednesday when he was ambushed near FBI offices in Terre Haute, according to federal officials." The AP adds, "Sgt. Ryan

Adamson of the Terre Haute Police Department identified the officer as 30-year veteran Detective Greg Ferency. Ferency had been a federal task force officer since 2010, the FBI said in a statement. 'An FBI agent shot and wounded the suspect who is currently in custody receiving medical attention at a local hospital,' the FBI said in a statement late Wednesday that also indicated Ferency was 'ambushed' at the FBI Indianapolis Resident Agency. The shooting incident is under investigation by the FBI's Inspection Division, according to authorities."

The New York Times (7/7, Paybarah, 20.6M) reports, "Officials provided few details Wednesday evening about what had taken place. Christine Bavender, the F.B.I. spokeswoman, said the shooting had occurred near the federal building in downtown Terre Haute around 2:15 p.m. An F.B.I. agent wounded a man who was suspected in the shooting. The man was in custody and receiving medical attention for his injury, Ms. Bavender said. Sgt. Ryan Adamson of the Terre Haute Police Department wrote on Twitter that Detective Ferency 'was killed in the line of duty today.'"

Fox News (7/7, Casiano, 23.99M) reports that the shooting occurred "hours after a Chicago police officer and agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) working undercover were shot around 5:50 a.m., authorities in Chicago said. The three officers were riding in the same unmarked, undercover vehicle attempting to enter the freeway when they were fired upon from the street, Brown said. A person of interest was being interviewed in connection with the shooting, police said. One ATF agent injured is a male, the other is a female. The police officer is a male." The New York Post (7/7, Lungariello, 7.45M) also reports.

Biden Meets With Administration Officials About Recent Cyberattacks.

The Washington Post (7/7, Scott, Sonmez, Wagner, 10.52M) reports President Biden "met Wednesday morning with Vice President Harris, national security adviser Jake Sullivan and other advisers to discuss the latest cyberattacks on U.S. businesses." White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters, "In this meeting, they provided an update on their ongoing work, search capacity and resilience and reporting, addressing payment systems and our ongoing efforts to combat ransomware. ... [What] they did discuss is the fact that the president reserves the right to respond against any ransomware networks and those that harbor them. That continues to be his policy." The Washington Post (7/6, Nakashima, 10.52M) also reports that the briefing "include[d] top officials from the departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security and the intelligence community." The White House "hopes to build a multifaceted strategy focused on hardening cyberdefenses, diplomatic outreach to American allies and potentially targeted offensive responses, including the disruption of computer infrastructure used by hackers."

Reuters (7/7) reports, "The FBI and other federal authorities are in touch with the U.S. Republican National Committee following a cyberattack related to an RNC outside contractor, the White House said on Wednesday. White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters traveling with President Joe Biden on a visit to Illinois that Biden was briefed by his national security team on Wednesday about a rash of ransomware attacks and efforts to fight them."

Bloomberg (7/7, Fabian, Jacobs, Sink, 3.57M) reports that Psaki said the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) "are in touch with the RNC, but that the government has not officially determined who is behind the hack. 'We will determine attribution and make a decision accordingly,' Psaki told reporters aboard Air Force One while traveling with President Joe Biden to Illinois. She noted that the RNC issued a statement saying none of its data was accessed."

The New York Times (7/7, Perloth, Sanger, 20.6M) reports that there have been "several recent attacks test the red lines set by President Biden during his high-stakes summit with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia last month." The Times adds, "At the meeting, Mr. Biden said later, he presented Mr. Putin with a list of 16 critical sectors of the American economy that, if attacked, would provoke a response – though he was cagey about what that response would be."

Bloomberg (7/7, Meyer, 3.57M) reports that, according to Russian experts, Russian cyber weapons "are just one of the tools used in the increasingly fierce standoff with the U.S., and warm words at a presidential summit aren't enough to change that." However Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov "said Wednesday that Moscow wasn't involved in hacks against U.S. infrastructure

and that cybersecurity issues are likely to be a topic of discussion when U.S. and Russian officials meet as soon as next week for another round of dialogue."

WSJournal: Biden Must Match His Words With Actions Following Hacks. The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) argues that while President Biden "hasn't been afraid to talk tough and set expectations with" Russia President Vladimir Putin, he must match his rhetoric with actions after a series of cyberattacks have roiled the economy.

WPost: Putin Has Proved His Willingness To Support Cyberattacks On The US. The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) criticizes Russian President Vladimir Putin, who "has not heeded Mr. Biden's exhortation to stop the cybercriminals who currently operate in his country from wreaking havoc worldwide." It adds that Biden must prepare for an offensive response to Russian actions because a defense-focused response will not end the long-term destabilizing impact of Russian hacking incidents.

With 86 Still Missing, Surfside Responders Halt Rescue Mission, Transition To Recovery Efforts.

The Wall Street Journal (7/7, McWhirter, Bauerlein, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that at the end of Wednesday, crews concluded the search-and-rescue mission at the site of the Champlain Towers South collapse and transition to recovery efforts. The AP (7/7, Spencer, Licon) explains that the "emergency workers gave up...on any hope of finding survivors in the collapsed Florida condo building, telling sobbing families that there was 'no chance of life' in the rubble as crews shifted their efforts to recovering more remains." ABC World News Tonight (7/7, 6:39 p.m. ET, story 3, Muir, 6.04M) reported that Daniella Levine Cava, the mayor of Miami-Dade County, was "overcome with emotion" as she announced the decision. The Hill (7/7, Vakil, 5.69M) reports that Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett also spoke about the transition, saying the decision "comes as a result of a consensus by those closest to the rescue efforts that the possibility of someone still alive is near zero. ... They are probably right. But in the end, God is still in charge. And while there seems to be no chance of finding life in the rubble, a miracle is still possible."

Reuters (7/7) reports the decision comes as "the remains of 18 more victims were removed from the pile of debris on Wednesday," bring the count of confirmed dead to 54, but leaving 86 people still missing. NBC Nightly News (7/7, 6:33 p.m. ET, story 2, Snow, 4.57M) reported that number of victims recovered on Wednesday represented the "highest increase in the death toll" since the tower collapsed 14 days ago. The CBS Evening News (7/7, 6:36 p.m. ET, story 2, Garrett, 3.48M) reported that "among the newly identified victims is 80 year old Simon Segal, a structural engineer who devoted his life to reviewing building safety."

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) reports, "The recovery of victims has quickened since the weekend demolition of a still-standing part of the condo building that gave crews access to new areas of a sprawling rubble pile. But the tone at a Wednesday news conference was decisively grim: 'Today after all the facts and all the factors, we've decided based on everything that's been given to us, that there are no live victims,' Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah said." The Post adds, "Inquiries into what went wrong in Surfside are still in the early stages. Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said Wednesday that, at her request, a county grand jury had voted to conduct an investigation into 'how we can prevent such a disaster from occurring again, not just in Surfside, and not just in condominiums, but in all buildings and structures in the coastal, intercoastal and surrounding areas of our county, state and nation.'"

The New York Times (7/7, Mazzei, Robertson, Fausset, 20.6M) reports, "As impatience and frustration grew among family members of the missing, the teams on the pile continued looking for weeks, moving seven million pounds of concrete. The work was grueling and dangerous, with fires that burned in the rubble and the constant possibility of mounds of debris giving way. One rescuer fell 25 feet off the wreckage right in front of people who had been invited to watch the search." CNN (7/7, Holcombe, Levenson, 89.21M) also provides coverage of the decision to switch to a recovery mission.

Reporters Get Access To Surfside Site For First Time Since Collapse. In a separate article, the New York Times (7/7, Murphy, Heyward, 20.6M) reports that "on Tuesday evening, officials offered reporters a limited glimpse of the building site for the first time." The Times

describes the ruins, saying, "What had once been part of the roof of the residential tower at 8777 Collins Avenue was almost at street level, a dark splintered slab identifiable by a ventilation or exhaust fixture still in one piece, slanted atop the pile like a top hat. Debris poked out at every possible angle. Twisted metal knotted together like tree branches."

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

FBI Continues To Identify Capitol Riot Suspects.

CBS News (7/7, McDonald, 5.39M) reports, "Six months after a mob attacked the U.S. Capitol, authorities are still searching for hundreds of suspects accused of violent acts that day." The FBI "released new videos Tuesday that they say show 11 people assaulting officers during fighting outside the Capitol. The suspects have yet to be identified, and the FBI is seeking the public's help. The videos show the suspects lunging toward officers, grabbing at their tactical batons and squaring up to fight, and provide a stark reminder of the size of the crowd and the challenge law enforcement has faced in identifying rioters." The Justice Department "said Tuesday that more than 535 people have been arrested so far in connection with the attack on the Capitol. Many of those arrests were made with help from tipsters, including internet sleuths, friends, ex-lovers and family members."

WXYZ-TV Detroit (7/7, Kiertzner, 201K) reports, "For 6 months, we've been watching the number of criminal cases grow from the U.S. Capitol riot on January 6. More than 500 people have been charged across the U.S. for participating, and they face up to 10 years in prison. Eleven people have been charged so far from Michigan." WXYZ-TV adds, "Federal court documents show this investigation is now moving into a new phase with deeper investigations and confidential informants, including family members." According to WXYZ-TV, "If people who were involved think that since they haven't been caught and charged, they've gotten away with this. Think again. The feds so far have charged the low hanging fruit. The cases made with social media posts, cell phone videos, made by the people themselves at the Capitol. 'Their stupidity usually aids law enforcement bringing them to justice,' said Andy Arena, former FBI Special Agent in Charge in Detroit."

DC Circuit Rules January 6 Defendants Can Be Held In Pretrial Detention Regardless Of Charges.

Politico (7/7, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports that the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit "ruled that even defendants not accused of violence against others or destruction of property could be kept behind bars pending trial because of other indications that they pose a danger to the community." The decision "upheld the detention of Timothy Hale-Cusanelli, an Army reservist from New Jersey arrested about a week and a half after the storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6." DC Circuit Judge Wilkins "said there was no clear error by the trial court judge who concluded that Hale-Cusanelli's past history, his expressed bias against African Americans and Jews, and his use of violent rhetoric in connection with the Jan. 6 events made him unsuitable for release."

Pennsylvania Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe.

The AP (7/7, Kunzelman) reports, "A Pennsylvania man was arrested Wednesday on charges that he assaulted an Associated Press photographer and police officers during the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol." Alan William Byerly, 54, "was armed with what appeared to be a stun gun when he charged at officers guarding the Capitol, an FBI agent wrote in an affidavit. After police apparently removed the device from his hand, Byerly continued to charge at the officers, punching or pushing at least three of them, and tried to grab an officer's baton, the agent wrote. Officers managed to restrain Byerly, but a fellow rioter helped him escape, the FBI said. Police recovered the stun gun that he apparently wielded."

The Hill (7/7, 5.69M) reports, "According to an FBI indictment, Byerly was seen on video 'assaulting a credentialed member of the news media (MONM), specifically a photographer assigned to the Associated Press.' The indictment didn't name the photographer, but a 90-second

video that went viral in January showed AP photographer John Minchillo getting shoved and pushed over a wall outside of the Capitol. The affidavit says that the photographer, who was near the Lower West Terrace of the Capitol, was pulled backward down a set of stairs by a group of rioters. Byerly was seen in video standing behind the group that was pulling the photographer down."

The New York Post (7/7, Feuerherd, 7.45M) reports, "Byerly then grabbed him with both near his shoulders and upper neck and shoved him backwards, according to the court docs. Minchillo was rescued by a good Samaritan who escorted him through the crowd as rioters attempted to storm the building. Byerly also allegedly charged at officers during the melee while holding what appeared to be a Taser that he activated near the cops."

Newsweek (7/7, Hutzler, 2.67M) reports, "The FBI received a tip helping to identify Byerly after posting photographs of him online. The riot footage revealed a white male with shoulder-length graying black hair, wearing a 'Kutztown' beanie and neon yellow 'safety' long sleeve shirt under a black jacket. On April 5, a witness called the FBI Threat Operations Center and identified Byerly as the man in the photographs. The witness said he lived in the Blandon or Fleetwood area of Pennsylvania and frequented the business where they worked. After the call, investigators found phone records revealing Byerly's cellular device was present in Washington D.C. on January 6."

Judge Denies Release For Arizona Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe.

USA Today (7/7, 12.7M) reports, "A federal judge denied a request Monday to release from custody Jake Angeli, the Phoenix man whose elaborate tattoos, face paint and horned fur hat made him one of the signature figures of the Jan. 6 raid on the U.S. Capitol." US District Judge Royce Lamberth "said in his ruling that he heard no new information in a hearing last week that would compel him to revisit his March order that Angeli be held while awaiting trial on six federal charges relating to the incursion on the Capitol." Angeli, "in footage captured by a journalist with The New Yorker, strutted into the U.S. Senate chamber, posed for pictures on the dais and left a note for Pence. 'It's only a matter of time,' the note said. 'Justice is coming!'"

FBI Infiltrates "Bible Study" Group Whose Members Discussed Surveilling US Capitol.

CNN (7/7, Rabinowitz, Polantz, 89.21M) reports, "The FBI has infiltrated a 'Bible study' group in Virginia that after the January 6 riot had members discussing surveilling the US Capitol and their wish for secession from the US, and investigators closely followed one member's plans to build and test Molotov cocktails, according to recently unsealed court records." CNN adds, "The new case highlights one group member's apparent interest in a second American civil war. The newly disclosed criminal case against Virginia man Fi Duong...arose after Duong interacted with undercover law enforcement officers several times on January 6 and into recent months, when the FBI ultimately gained access to his group in Virginia then accompanied him to an old jail as Duong allegedly pursued bomb-building."

The Hill (7/7, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports, "According to court records unsealed this week, an undercover Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officer on Jan. 6 met Fi Duong, who allegedly climbed a wall of the U.S. Capitol before entering the building. The MPD officer then introduced Duong to an undercover FBI agent, who on Feb. 12 attended a meeting with Duong at a house in Alexandria, Va." The Hill adds, "The court documents in Duong's case said that the group called itself a Bible study, noting that after 'two Bible verses were discussed,' the individuals 'spent the rest of the meeting discussing details of the group and planning future group activities. The future activities included Bible studies, but also included activities such as firearms and other training events.' During the meeting, the FBI agent also noted that Duong and others 'discussed a Virginia secession movement called 'the State of Appalachia.'""

Florida High School Teacher Charged In Capitol Siege Probe.

Newsweek (7/7, Crump, 2.67M) reports, "A high school teacher from Florida was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the U.S. Capitol riots on January 6." Kenneth John Reda, 54, "was taken into custody by FBI agents and has been charged with disorderly conduct and illegally entering Capitol grounds, according to a criminal complaint provided by the U.S. Department of Justice. Reda had his first court appearance on Tuesday and was released on a \$25,000 bond.

Court papers state that Reda works at Viera High School in Florida. Brevard Public Schools confirmed to Click Orlando that the 54-year-old is a physical education teacher." Reda "has been accused of storming the Capitol alongside a group of Donald Trump supporters as Congress attempted to certify Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election."

Trump Calls For Probe Into Killing Of Capitol Protester.

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, former President Donald Trump "declared that a police officer defending lawmakers and the Capitol on Jan. 6 had 'no reason' to shoot an individual involved in the attack and echoed calls from the far right for the officer to be publicly named." According to the Post, in April, a US Capitol Police officer was "cleared of criminal wrongdoing for fatally shooting Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt as she attempted to breach a set of doors deep in the Capitol during the January siege." But Trump "declared that Babbitt did not pose a danger to lawmakers or others and argued that the unnamed officer's actions were unwarranted." Trump is quoted as saying: "There was no reason for that. And why isn't that person being opened up, and why isn't that being studied? They've already written it off. They said that case is closed."

Analysis: McCarthy Facing Forked Path On January 6 Select Committee.

Politico (7/7, Beavers, 6.73M) examines House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy's potential responses to House Speaker Pelosi's January 6 select committee, and while his official reactions "aren't necessarily binary," his decision "could shape his political future as he eyes the speaker's gavel in 2023." McCarthy is faced with the challenge of "tapping the right mix of select committee appointments — and the Republicans he picks must be prepared to go toe to toe with one of their own in Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), a critic of the minority leader who'll be sitting on the Democratic side of the dais as House members dig into the insurrection."

House Sergeant-At-Arms Announces Remaining Capitol Fencing To Come Down On Friday.

Roll Call (7/7, Cioffi, 130K) reports House Sergeant-at-Arms William J. Walker announced Wednesday that the remaining temporary security fencing will "likely be dismantled starting Friday." The Capitol Police Board "has 'concurred' with the Capitol Police recommendation 'to make incremental modifications to the security posture of the Capitol Campus.'"

The Hill (7/7, Beitsch, 5.69M) reports that the removal "would mark one of the last physical security measures to be lifted following the attack, though lawmakers are still required to go through metal detectors before going to vote and the building remains closed to the general public."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Federal Judge Says 60% Of Blame For 2017 Mass Shooting In Texas Falls On USAF.

ABC World News Tonight (7/7, 6:46 p.m. ET, story 7, Muir, 6.04M) reported that a federal judge has found "the Air Force is mostly responsible for a church massacre in Sutherland Springs, Texas" as part of a lawsuit brought by the victims' families. Reuters (7/7) continues that US District Judge Xavier Rodriguez "found the U.S. government was 60% responsible for a 2017 mass shooting in which" Devin Patrick Kelley, a former Air Force airman, "used firearms he should not have been allowed to purchase to kill 26 people" at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) explains that Kelley's conviction for "domestic assault years before he opened fire during Sunday morning services" should have "prevented him from passing the background check for buying guns." However, the Air Force "never submitted his criminal record or fingerprints to the FBI" despite having a duty — and multiple chances — to do so. The New York Times (7/7, Lukpat, 20.6M) quotes the judge's decision as saying, "'Had the government done its job,' ... it is more likely than not that the gunman 'would have been deterred

from carrying out the church shooting.” The Times adds that the parties to the case now have 15 days “to present a plan to the court...for bringing the individual damages cases to trial.”

Defendants Linked To Massachusetts Standoff Appear In Court.

The AP (7/6) reports from Medford, Massachusetts, “Some of the 11 people charged in connection with an armed standoff along a Massachusetts highway last weekend, including the purported leader of the group, refused to cooperate with court authorities during their arraignments Tuesday.” Jamhal Tavon Sanders Latimer, 29, “also known as Jamhal Talib Abdullah Bey, told the judge ‘I don’t understand how these charges can be brought against me.’ Latimer, a former U.S. Marine from Providence, Rhode Island, waived his right to an attorney, but the judge said she would have a lawyer speak to him about this rights before the next hearing in the case.” The AP adds, “Not guilty pleas were entered on behalf of all the defendants, who were held without bail pending a hearing Friday to determine whether they are dangerous.”

WBTS-TV Boston (7/7, 83K) reports, “Nearly all of the 11 men who are charged say they are members of a group called the Rise of the Moors refused to speak with their court-appointed lawyers, delaying their arraignments. One of the men charged did agree to have a court appointed lawyer during Wednesday’s arraignment. Seven of the suspects appeared in Malden District Court on Tuesday for their arraignments, which took a nearly an entire day due to numerous outbursts in court. The men from Rhode Island, New York and Michigan are being arraigned on various gun-related charges.”

Prosecutors: Massachusetts Gunman Expressed Racist Beliefs.

WBTS-TV Boston (7/7, Klein, Russom, 83K) reports, “The man who killed two people in a shooting rampage in Winthrop, Massachusetts, last month wrote less than two days earlier that ‘Racism is healthy and natural’ in a bigoted, hateful screed revealed by officials Wednesday.” WBTS-TV adds, “The information comes from journals kept by the gunman and found at his apartment, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins said. ‘This man had fooled so many, outwardly appearing stable and upstanding while internally filled with extremist ideologies and hatred,’ she said in a statement.” According to WTBS-TV, “On Saturday, June 26, the man – identified as Nathan Allen – crashed a plumbing truck he stole into a building, then got out and gunned down two Black people before being killed by police. Authorities have been investigating the shooting as a possible hate crime.”

Durbin Urges DOJ To End Legal Defense Of Guantanamo Detention.

The Hill (7/7, Neidig, 5.69M) reports Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Durbin “called on the Justice Department to end its legal defense of the indefinite detention of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.” Durbin sent a letter “on Wednesday to Attorney General Merrick Garland urging him to reconsider the department’s positions defending the practice of holding terrorism suspects at the military prison without due process rights.” In the letter, Durbin wrote, “The Department’s legal positions should reflect our nation’s commitment to liberty and the rule of law, recognizing that our nation is strongest when it adheres to its core values.”

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Carlson Says NSA Surveillance Was Due To Potential Putin Interview.

The Hill (7/7, Schnell, 5.69M) reports Fox News host Tucker Carlson said Wednesday that “he had been attempting to schedule an interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin before he publicly claimed last week that the National Security Agency (NSA) was spying on him.” Carlson’s comments came “just after Axios published a report, citing sources familiar with the conversations, that Carlson had been communicating with Kremlin intermediaries in the U.S. about scheduling an interview with Putin when the Fox News host began accusing the NSA of spying on him.” Carlson, during his show on Wednesday, confirmed that he “contacted a couple of people I thought could help get us an interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin.”

Axios (7/7, Swan, 1.26M) reports that sources "said US government officials learned about Carlson's efforts to secure the Putin interview," and that Carlson "learned that the government was aware of his outreach – and that's the basis of his extraordinary accusation, followed by a rare public denial by the NSA that he had been targeted." Axios has not confirmed "whether any communications from Carlson have been intercepted, and if so, why." Axios submitted a request for "comment to the NSA on Wednesday, asking whether the agency would also be willing to categorically deny that the NSA intercepted any of Carlson's communications in the context of monitoring somebody he was talking to in his efforts to set up an interview with Putin." An NSA spokesperson "declined to comment" and referred to the agency's previous statement that Carlson had not been targeted. Axios adds that a "plausible scenario is that one of the people Carlson was talking to as an intermediary to help him get the Putin interview was under surveillance as a foreign agent," in which case his emails or texts "could have been incidentally collected as part of monitoring this person, but Carlson's identity would have been masked in any intelligence reports."

The Hill (7/7, 5.69M) reports Carlson said Wednesday morning on Fox Business's "Mornings with Maria" that, "Yesterday, I learned that – and this is going to come out soon – that the NSA leaked the contents of my emails to journalists in an effort to discredit me. I know because I got a call from one of them saying 'oh, this is what your email was about.'"

BuzzFeed News (7/7, Leopold, Mack) reports Alex Pfeiffer, investigative producer for Tucker Carlson Tonight, sent an "extremely broad Freedom of Information Act request" last week in which he wrote he is "requesting any call records, texts, or emails the NSA has obtained from journalist Tucker Carlson's cell phone or email. I am requesting any memos or documents related to surveilling journalist Tucker Carlson. I am requesting any communication between NSA officials regarding journalist Tucker Carlson."

Newsweek (7/8, Ellington, 2.67M) reports on his show Wednesday night, "Carlson stated that the NSA wanted to attack his loyalty to America and embarrass him." Carlson alleged, "They want to paint me as a disloyal American, a Russian operative – been called that before – a stooge of the Kremlin, a traitor doing the bidding of a foreign adversary." He also alleged that he had been unmasked, and asked that NSA Director Gen. Paul Nakasone "should explain who asked for that unmasking."

The Washington Examiner (7/7, Chaitin, 888K), reports Carlson "told his audience on Wednesday that the day before he learned that 'sources in the so-called intelligence community' told at least one reporter in Washington about the contents of his emails."

Among outlets also reporting are The Week (7/7, Garcia, 2.17M), National Review (7/7, Downey, 798K), and The Washington Times (7/7, Blake, 626K).

Former Corning Fiber Laser Expert Charged With Stealing DOD Technology.

Behind a paywall, Law360 (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9K) reports, "A New York federal grand jury has indicted a former Corning Inc. fiber laser expert on charges of stealing technology from a \$16 million U.S. Department of Defense project to launch his own competing venture in China, the Justice Department announced Wednesday." Ji Wang, 59, "has been charged with economic espionage, theft of trade secrets and violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, according to the indictment, which was returned last month and unsealed Wednesday. Prosecutors allege that Wang worked on a fiber laser research and development project for the DOD's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency."

UK High Court Allows US To Appeal Assange Extradition Ruling.

The AP (7/7) reports that Britain's High Court has "granted the U.S. government permission to appeal a decision that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange cannot be sent to the United States to face espionage charges." The AP says that in January, "a lower court judge refused an American request to send Assange to the U.S. to face spying charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret military documents a decade ago. District Judge Vanessa Baraitser denied extradition on health grounds, saying Assange was likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions."

The New York Times (7/7, Goldmacher, 20.6M) reports that "if a British court permits the

extradition of...Assange to face criminal charges in the United States, the Biden administration has pledged that it will not hold him under the most austere conditions reserved for high-security prisoners and that, if he is convicted, it will let him serve his sentence in his native Australia." According to the Times, "Those assurances were disclosed on Wednesday as part of a British High Court ruling in London. The court accepted the United States government's appeal of a ruling that had denied its extradition request for Mr. Assange – who was indicted during the Trump administration – on the grounds that American prison conditions for the highest-security inmates were inhumane."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Body Cam Footage Prompts New Examination Of Ronald Greene Autopsy.

The AP (7/7, Mustian) reports that the FBI "is taking the unusual step of ordering a new look at the autopsy of Black motorist Ronald Greene to consider evidence not provided after his 2019 death, including graphic body camera video of Louisiana state troopers stunning, punching and dragging him after a high-speed chase." The re-examination of the "autopsy is part of a federal civil rights investigation that has taken on new urgency in the nearly two months since" video of Greene's violent arrest circulated among the press. The AP explains, "the autopsy...listed Greene's cause of death as 'cocaine induced agitated delirium complicated by motor vehicle collision, physical struggle, inflicted head injury and restraint.' But it notably left unanswered whether the crash or excessive police force caused his most severe injuries, including a fractured breastbone and lacerated aorta."

Teenage Gunman Surrenders To NYPD For Times Square Shooting That Injured Tourist.

The New York Post (7/7, Celona, Marino, McCarthy, 7.45M) reports that a 16-year-old boy, Avon Darden, "has surrendered to police in Manhattan in connection to the Times Square shooting last week" that injured Samuel Poulin, a 21-year-old Marine tourist. The Post explains that Darden had come to Times Square to confront a break-dancer. An argument ensued and Darden allegedly drew a gun and opened fire. "But the slug ricocheted, striking...Poulin...in the upper back just as he and his family were walking past the Marriott Hotel on West 45th Street and Broadway."

Sheriff And DA Offer Immunity For Info On Fugitive.

The AP (7/7) reports that southwest Louisiana authorities are engaging in a manhunt for Joe M. Constance, accused of killing his estranged wife a decade ago. Constance was charged with "first-degree murder, two counts of aggravated assault and one of aggravated burglary."

KLEY-TV Lafayette, LA (7/7, Rigsby, 110K) reports that the Calcasieu Parish district attorney has offered immunity in exchange for information on Constance's location.

KALB-TV Alexandria, LA (7/7, Manning, Lott, 21K) reports that Calcasieu sheriff Tony Mancuso and former Lake Charles Police Chief and FBI agent Don Dixon said Tuesday morning that they believe Constance had assistance in escaping the law, but will offer immunity in exchange for information. District Attorney Stephen Dwight said, "If someone assisted Joe Constance in leaving the area or hiding him, if they have information, we are willing to offer immunity to them for testimony for bringing this fugitive to justice."

Oakland Official States City Experiencing "Safety Emergency."

Fox News (7/7, Pagonis, 23.99M) reports that Oakland Police Chief LeRonne Armstrong told reporters that Oakland is experiencing a "safety emergency" after a spate of shootings over the night of July 4th. "Our city has not seen this level of violence in many years," stated Armstrong in a press release. City Council Member Noel Gallo said, "I grew up here in Oakland and East Oakland, and it is the worst I've ever seen...And not only dealing with the side shows, dealing with the fireworks, but also the violence on the streets. But the reality is that we need greater enforcement."

Crime Stoppers Increases Reward For Walmart Arsonists.

The [AP](#) (7/7) reports that Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers has increased the reward for the arsonists of several Gulf Coast Wal-Marts to \$10,000, in addition to the \$2,500 FBI reward.

Radioactive Device Stolen From Truck In Sacramento.

[KSTE-AM](#) Rancho Cordova, CA (7/7, Gonzalez, 4K) reports that last weekend in Sacramento a work truck belonging to the Wallace-Kuhl engineering firm was broken into and a nuclear gauge was stolen.

Washington State Patrol Arrests Two On Sex Crime Charges.

The [University Place \(WA\) Patch](#) (7/7, Shalin, 1.44M) reports that the Washington State Patrol has arrested two men, one on child trafficking charges, the other for promoting prostitution. The arrests came about from a collaborative effort with the WSP, Seattle Police, Tacoma Police, FBI, and DHS.

Multi-Agency Investigation Nabs Two Washington-State Men For Sex Crimes.

[KIRO-TV](#) Seattle (7/7, 151K) reports that "a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional investigation in Pierce County led to the arrest of two men for alleged crimes against children and promoting prostitution." KIRO says the first arrest "came when the man arrived at a location where he arranged to meet and allegedly attempted to have sex with two underage children, ages 10 and 12." The second came "when a man brought an 18-year-old woman to a location to allegedly pay her for sexual favors." KIRO notes that the FBI participated in the investigation along with the Seattle police, Tacoma police, Washington State Patrol, and Homeland Security.

Pennsylvania Detective Overpaid For Heroin Buys.

The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (7/7, 567K) reports that on Wednesday in the trial of Christopher Collare, a former detective for the Carlisle Police Department in Pennsylvania, Kenneth Hassinger, Chief of the Cumberland County Drug Task Force, testified that Collare was having confidential informants overpay for heroin. The Patriot-News says that "according to Hassinger, a 10-bag bundle of heroin should normally cost around \$100. Yet, he said, a review of task force records show Collare filed reports indicating his informants paid \$200 for a bundle of heroin, \$330 for two bundles and so on." The Patriot-News explains that Collare "is accused by the FBI of having sex with female informants, allowing confidential informants to keep some of the heroin from controlled drug buys and then lying when confronted by the FBI."

In a second article, the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (7/7, 567K) reports that "a confidential drug informant" also testified in Collare trial on Wednesday. She "told a federal jury...that she performed a sex act...Collare in March 2018 in a bid to get her boyfriend out of prison."

FBI Investigating Colorado Bank Robbery.

The [Denver Gazette](#) (7/7, Mullen) reports that the FBI and local police "are seeking any information about a...bank robbery" that took place in Broomfield, Colorado on Tuesday afternoon. The Gazette says "officials said a man entered a Wells Fargo branch...just before 1:30 p.m." and "demanded cash from the teller before fleeing with an undisclosed amount of cash." The Gazette added, "The man did not display a weapon during the incident." [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (7/7, 738K) also reports on the robbery.

FBI Investigating Illinois Bank Robbery.

The [Rochelle \(IL\) News-Leader](#) (7/7, 14K) reports that in Illinois on Tuesday, Rochelle Police charged Rodney Beese with aggravated robbery after he entered Central Bank "and presented a note to a teller demanding money and implied he had a weapon and that others may be involved." A police officer later located Beese at nearby motel and arrested him. The News-Leader notes that the FBI will be handling the investigation of the case.

FBI Investigating Texas Bank Robbery.

The [North Austin \(TX\) Patch](#) (7/7, 1.44M) reports that the Austin Police Department as well as the FBI Central Texas Violent Crime Task Force is investigating a bank robbery that occurred in North Austin on Friday. "Police said the man entered United Heritage Credit Union...and presented a bank teller a note demanding money as well as threatening he had a weapon. He then fled the scene in a black sedan."

Florida Man Faces Charges For Filming Sex With Teen.

The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (7/7, 197K) reports Dewey Hampton Brown Jr., a Tallahassee resident, "faces multiple sex-related charges linked to numerous activities he had with a 16-year-old male in 2019 and 2020." Brown's charges "include eight counts of unlawful sexual activity, eight counts of use of a child in a sexual performance, and one count of delivering or distributing drugs to someone younger than 18." The case against him began "with the report of a missing Fort Myers minor in January made to the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the subsequent retrieval of the 17-year-old victim in Philadelphia." The victim "told investigators Brown would provide him with drugs and they would engage in sexual activity with multiple adult men at the same time with Brown photographing and videoing the assaults." The News-Press notes that the FBI, Lee County Sheriff's Office, and US Marshals Service investigated the case.

Illegal Marijuana Bust In California Highlighted.

The [AP](#) (7/7, Dazio) reports, "The largest illegal marijuana bust in Los Angeles County history...netted 373,000 plants that would ultimately have been worth" one billion dollars on the street. The bust comes as the marijuana black market in California "is thriving, in part because hefty legal marijuana taxes send consumers looking for better deals."

Nearly 80 People Charged In Connection With Central New York Drug Investigation.

The [AP](#) (7/7) reports 78 people have been charged in connection with a "two-year investigation into two drug rings that distributed cocaine around" the central part of the state of New York. The investigation also led to the seizure of "32 kilograms of cocaine, 117 grams of heroin mixed with fentanyl, more than \$490,000 and 15 firearms, according to indictments" that were "unsealed in Onondaga County Court." The AP quotes New York Attorney General Letitia James, who stated, "As Syracuse continues to experience record high levels of violence, today, we make good on our commitment to protecting our communities by taking...dangerous guns and drugs off our streets."

Georgia Drug Investigation Leads To Charges For 16 People.

The [Decatur-Avondale Estates \(GA\) Patch](#) (7/7, McIntyre, 1.44M) reports the FBI was involved with a drug trafficking investigation that led to federal charges for 16 people. Those defendants allegedly conspired to distribute cocaine in Georgia.

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Former JHL Biotech Executives Charged In Wire Fraud Scheme.

Behind a paywall, [Law360](#) (7/7, Subscription Publication, 9K) reports, "A California federal grand jury has indicted JHL Biotech's former CEO and former chief operating officer, slapping the Taiwanese biological drug development company's co-founders with charges stemming from an allegedly sprawling \$101 million trade secrets and wire fraud conspiracy." Law360 adds, "JHL's ex-CEO Raco Ivanov Jordanov and former COO Rose Lin are also accused of committing wire fraud, international money laundering and obstruction of justice, among other related charges, according to an indictment unsealed Wednesday. JHL Biotech changed its name to Eden Biologics in February. Both appeared in California federal court Wednesday and pled not guilty to all the charges."

Colleague Expresses Surprise At Charges Against Augusta, Georgia Commissioner.

WJBF-TV Augusta, GA (7/7) reports that Commissioner Dennis Williams, a local official in the Augusta, Georgia, "says after two years he was surprised to hear of the federal charges against Sammie Sias." Sias is accused "of pocketing thousands of dollars in sales tax money designated for...renovations" of the Jamestown Community Center. FBI agents raided his residence in August.

Repeat Securities Fraudster Under Investigation For \$736,500 Scam.

The Orange County (CA) Register (7/7, 594K) reports that according to federal investigators, Lambert Vander Tuig, a "securities fraud recidivist," and Ben Schachtschneider "are suspected of defrauding investors out of at least \$763,500 by making false claims about a nonexistent pharmaceutical company." The Register explains that "Tuig, while using an alias to hide a 2014 conviction in connection with a \$50 million Ponzi scheme, sold unregistered investments in Biosynetics, a company he claimed was registered in Wyoming." According to the SEC, "Vander Tuig, Schachtschneider and others fraudulently raised at least \$763,500 from 28 investors, including a retired firefighter, a retired military officer and several small business owners" by claiming Biosynetics "had secured distribution agreements" for a sleep aid "with major retailers" when, in fact, there were no such agreements.

New Jersey Man Pleads Guilty To Federal Fraud, Money Laundering Charges.

Jersey Shore Online (NJ) (7/7) reports that in New Jersey, Paul Camarda pleaded guilty to "health care fraud conspiracy and conspiring to engage in money laundering and obstructing justice." The Jersey Shore Online explains that Camarda "created a side business called...to independently market medical products and services for other companies, including compounded prescription medications for specialty pharmacies." Camarda "learned that certain local government employees had insurance coverage for these particular compounded medications." Then, when he "discovered that certain compounded medications...reimbursed up to thousands of dollars for a one-month supply," he "recruited individuals with...coverage to fraudulently obtain medically unnecessary compounded medications." Altogether, he received more than \$2.2 million in payments for the prescriptions. FBI's Atlantic City field office participated in the investigation for the case.

Local Official In Georgia Indicted For Destroying Records, False Statements.

The AP (7/7) reports that on Wednesday, federal prosecutors in Georgia announced the indictment of Sammie Lee Sias, a member of the Augusta Commission. Sias "faces charges of destruction, alteration or falsification of records in a federal investigation and false statements or representations made to a department or agency of the United States." WRDW-TV Augusta, GA (7/7, 39K) adds that "the charges carry a maximum statutory penalty of up to 20 years in federal prison, along with substantial financial penalties and up to five years of supervised release following completion of any prison term."

The Augusta (GA) Chronicle (7/7, Papp, McCord, 167K) explains that the case against Sias began when his next-door neighbor, Willa Hilton, raised allegations that the commissioner "had misused government funds and property and was emotionally abusive to children at Jamestown Community Center." In 2019, shortly after Hilton made her accusations, the FBI and Georgia Bureau of Investigation raided Sias' residence.

WJBF-TV Augusta, GA (7/7) says "the indictment alleges that Sias altered, destroyed or hid documents belonging to the Sandridge Community Association, including invoices, work orders, payments, and other financial documents related to the Jamestown Community Center, Jamestown SPLOST, SCA Board of Directors, SCA Summer Camp, 'with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of a federal criminal grand jury investigation.'"

In a separate article, WJBF-TV Augusta, GA (7/7) reports that Commissioner Dennis Williams, a local official in the Augusta, Georgia, "says after two years he was surprised to hear of the federal charges against Sammie Sias." WJBF quotes Williams as saying, "I've always believed that nothing was done wrong but when you deal with our society you can always take something and make it wrong."

CYBER DIVISION

Cybersecurity Firm Reportedly Warned Kaseya Of Security Flaw In April.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that, according to the Dutch Institute for Vulnerability Disclosure, its security analysts warned Kaseya Ltd of a cybersecurity vulnerability on April 6, 2021. Institute Chairman Victor Gevers wrote in a blogpost, "When we discovered the vulnerabilities in early April, it was evident to us that we could not let these vulnerabilities fall into the wrong hands." He added, "After some deliberation, we decided that informing the vendor and awaiting the delivery of a patch was the right thing to do."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

DOJ IG: Depleted US Prison Chaplain Corps Jeopardizes Safety.

[USA Today](#) (7/7, Johnson, 12.7M) reports, "The chaplain corps serving the vast federal prison system is so badly depleted that officials have allowed inmates convicted of terror-related offenses or with links to terrorist organizations to lead religious services, an internal Justice Department review found." Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz's report "found that the chaplain ranks, with 236 serving more than 150,000 inmates, is down by 30% and represents just eight of 24 faith groups recognized by the federal prison system. 'We found that a significant shortage in the number of chaplains and other chaplaincy services staff impairs the BOP's ability to implement a safe and effective religious services program,' the report concluded, noting that officials relied on alternate inmate-led programs 'without ensuring adequate supervision and oversight...' 'For example, we found that some institutions permitted inmates with a known nexus to international or domestic terrorism to lead religious services,' according to the report."

FAA: 75% Of Unruly Passenger Complaints Stem From Mask Compliance.

[The Hill](#) (7/7, Lonas, 5.69M) reports that the FAA said "three out of every four unruly passenger complaints on airlines stem from mask compliance issues." According to the FAA, "there have been 3,271 complaints of unruly passenger behavior since the beginning of the year, with about 2,475 of them concerning passengers who did not want to wear a mask." Meanwhile, "out of the thousands of complaints of unruly passengers, the FAA said it has moved forward with 540 cases that showed 'potential violations' and was already taking action against passengers in 83 of those cases."

[Insider](#) (7/7, 2.74M) reports "in June, several airline groups expressed their concerns in a letter to the Department of Justice, asking Attorney General Merrick Garland to prosecute unruly passengers." They "also wrote to FAA chief Steve Dickson seeking a larger crackdown on escalating passenger violence."

[CNBC](#) (7/7, 7.34M) also has a video report.

[FAA Issues Fines Totaling \\$119,000 As It Crackdowns On Unruly Passengers.](#) [USA Today](#) (7/7, 12.7M) reports that "in its continued effort to crack down on unruly air travelers, the Federal Aviation Administration announced a new round of proposed fines Tuesday." The FAA said "one passenger called in fake hijacking and bomb threats and another punched a woman who was carrying a baby." Meanwhile, "the proposed fines against nine passengers totaled \$119,000, and many centered around passenger opposition to mask wearing." USA Today says "the FAA has proposed more than \$682,000 against unruly passengers since Jan. 1 as the agency seeks to enforce a 'zero-tolerance policy' for dangerous behavior by passengers."

[KING-TV Seattle](#) (7/7, 417K) reports that "an unruly passenger on a flight from Sea-Tac Airport to Ketchikan is being fined after falsely reporting his flight was being hijacked." KING says "the Alaska Airlines passenger is being fined \$10,500 following the Jan. 23 incident, during which he called 911 and the FBI."

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (7/7, 5.69M) and [Fox Business](#) (7/7, Genovese, 3.06M).

NYTimes Analysis: Jails May Undercount Inmate Deaths From COVID.

The New York Times (7/7, A1, Turcotte, Sherman, Griesbach, Klein, Derr, Williams, 20.6M) reports that "more than 2,700 people are reported to have died of Covid-19 in connection to U.S. prisons, jails and immigration detention centers, but...additional cases raise the prospect that the known toll on incarcerated people falls far short of providing the full picture." The Times explains that it "identified dozens of people around the country" who died from COVID while incarcerated or shortly after being released but were not included "in official Covid-19 mortality tolls of the jails where" they were detained. "Public health officials say the prospect of overlooked virus deaths tied to the nation's prisons, jails and immigration detention centers carries particular risks. It is challenging, the experts say, to prepare prisons for future epidemics without knowing the full toll."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

How The FBI Played A Role In Princess Latifa's Capture.

USA Today (7/7, Hjelmggaard, Johnson, 12.7M) reports that sources used by USA TODAY believe the FBI was misled over circumstances aboard Princess Latifa's yacht during the March 2018 raid, "prompting the agents to obtain geolocation data from Nostromo's U.S.-based internet service provider and supply it to the Dubai government." If FBI agents obtained the data without a subpoena, then they "may have violated FBI protocols." However, without FBI assistance, Princess Latifa may not have been found during her escape.

Brazilian Federal Police Arrest "Bitcoin King" In \$300M Scam.

Newsweek (7/7, 2.67M) reports that "the Federal Police of Brazil announced on Monday they had arrested Cláudio Oliveira for his alleged involvement in a \$300 million fraud scheme." Newsweek explains that "Oliveira—the self-proclaimed 'Bitcoin King'—is president of the Brazilian Bitcoin brokerage firm Bitcoin Banco Group, and he is accused of staging a cryptocurrency theft to embezzle money." Oliveira "reported a bitcoin hack on his company in 2019, but Brazilian authorities believe the crime was a ruse."

OTHER FBI NEWS

FBI Agent Alleges Sexual Harassment At Las Vegas Office.

The New York Post (7/7, Feuerherd, 7.45M) reports, "An FBI agent claims in a new lawsuit that she was subjected to repeated sexual harassment at the Bureau's Las Vegas office, including by a supervisor who once allegedly texted her a photo of a rainbow-colored sex toy." The Post adds, "In the suit filed last week against US Attorney General Merrick Garland as head of the agency, FBI Supervisory Special Agent Karen Veltri alleges she was sexually harassed by two supervisors – then retaliated against for reporting the abuse to several oversight bodies. Veltri eventually reported the harassment in an email to FBI Director Christopher Wray, states the suit in Las Vegas federal court, which seeks unspecified damages."

WSJournal Lauds Judge For Restraining FBI In California Raid Lawsuits.

The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes about raids by the FBI in March of US Private Vaults in Beverly Hills, California. The business had been indicted for several crimes, including money laundering and selling drugs. The FBI seized \$86 million in cash and valuables agents found in safe deposit boxes belonging to individuals who have not been charged with crimes. In response to lawsuits, a federal judge two weeks ago granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting the FBI from taking permanent legal title to the seized contents. The Journal argues that the burden of depriving a US citizen of property rightfully falls on the government to prove guilt, not on those targeted to prove their innocence, and it applauds the judge for his action.

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

CDC Says Delta Has Become The Dominant Covid-19 Variant In The US.

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, Anthes, 20.6M) reports that, according to the CDC, the Delta variant "is now the dominant variant" of Covid-19 in the US. The agency "calculates that Delta accounts for 51.7 percent of coronavirus infections." The announcement comes as most research "suggests that most vaccines still provide good protection against it – and remain highly effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, McKay, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Delta has overtaken the Alpha variant, which now represents 28.7% of current infections.

[Reuters](#) (7/7, Roy) reports the data, which "shows the estimated biweekly proportions of the most common SARS-CoV-2 lineages," is "based on sequences collected through CDC's national genomic surveillance since Dec. 20, 2020."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Cunningham, Schemm, 10.52M) reports Delta's rise is threatening the global recovery after the Israeli Health Ministry "announced that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine – one of the world's most effective shots – was offering only 64 percent protection against infection and symptomatic illness caused by the Delta variant."

Also reporting on the surge of the Delta variant are [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/7, 6:41 p.m. ET, story 4, Muir, 6.04M), [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/7, 6:34 p.m. ET, story 3, Snow, 4.57M), and [CBS Evening News](#) (7/7, 6:38 p.m. ET, story 3, Garrett, 3.48M).

Analysis: Biden's Approach To COVID Passport Is "Decidedly Cautious."

[The Hill](#) (7/7, Chalfant, Samuels, 5.69M) examines President Biden's public positioning in regards to the vaccine passport debate, which it calls a "decidedly cautious approach... signaling a determination to not get in front of public opinion." While Biden "has avoided stepping into a messy fight over both passports and coronavirus vaccine mandates," his decision "has spurred frustration from some health experts who argue that the administration is missing a critical opportunity to get the virus under control by encouraging vaccine requirements."

Missouri Attempting To Curb COVID Surge.

The [AP](#) (7/7, Hollinsworth, Hajela) reports that while New York "held a ticker-tape parade Wednesday for the health care workers and others," Missouri "struggled to beat back a surge blamed on the fast-spreading delta variant and deep resistance to getting vaccinated." The state "leads the nation in new cases relative to the population," and it "is also averaging 1,000 cases per day – about the same number as the entire Northeast, including the big cities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts." Missouri's Springfield region "has been hit so hard that one hospital had to borrow ventilators over the Fourth of July weekend and begged on social media for help from respiratory therapists, several of whom volunteered from other states."

[CNN](#) (7/7, Elamroussi, 89.21M) reports the Biden Administration "said it would deploy response teams comprised of officials from the CDC, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to areas with a high spread of the virus and low vaccination rates." The surge team will "include an epidemiologist, research assistants, a health communication specialist, contact tracers and others who will help with vaccination and outreach."

Maryland COVID Data Shows 100 Percent Of Mortalities Were Unvaccinated.

[CNN](#) (7/7, Levenson, 89.21M) reports that 130 Maryland residents died in June, and none of them were vaccinated. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) announced the new data on Wednesday, and he added that unvaccinated people "made up 95% of new Covid-19 cases in the state and 93% of new Covid-19 hospitalizations"

White House Weighs Reshaping Fed To Align With Administration Priorities.

[Bloomberg](#) (7/7, Mohsin, Jacobs, Torres, 3.57M) reports as the White House considers whether to renominate Fed Chairman Powell, "officials are discussing the use of openings on the board to reshape the central bank to closer align with administration priorities such as inequality and tighter banking regulations, according to people familiar with the matter." President Biden "currently has

one vacant Fed governor seat to fill, and could potentially replace three more top central bank officials in the coming year, depending on how much he wants to revamp the Fed's leadership. Powell and Fed vice chairs Richard Clarida and Randal Quarles all have terms that will expire in coming months." Reuters says "no decision appears imminent," but "the lack of any clear candidates to replace Powell, along with his expressed interest in keeping his job, indicate that a renomination is possible. That would be in keeping with a decades-long tradition of presidents maintaining continuity in Fed leadership."

Biden Order Will Target Impediments To Workers Seeking Better Jobs.

The New York Times (7/7, Tankersley, Irwin, 20.6M) reports "as part of a broad executive order meant to bolster competition across the economy," President Biden "will push federal regulators to crack down on noncompete clauses, occupational licensing requirements and other measures that administration officials say hurt workers' ability to pursue better jobs." The order will encourage the FTC "to ban or limit noncompete agreements, which employers have increasingly used in recent years to try to inhibit their workers' ability to quit for a better job." In addition, it "encourages the commission to also ban 'unnecessary' occupational licensing restrictions, which can restrict workers' ability to find new work, especially across state lines" and "encourages both the commission and the Justice Department to further restrict the ability of employers to share information on worker pay in ways that might amount to collusion." In a series of tweets Wednesday, Roll Call (7/7, Lesniewski, 130K) reports, NEC Director Brian Deese "said...that the intention is to make sure that employers do not share with one another wage data...that is not also available to employees."

The AP (7/7, Boak) reports White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday, "This affects construction workers, hotel workers, many blue collar jobs, not just high level executives." According to Psaki, Biden "believes that if someone offers you a better job, you should be able to take it." The AP says the order "would be a key test as to whether empowering workers will lead to pay hikes and smooth the way for them to move to parts of the country where their skills are most in demand. It also enables Biden to show in the 2022 congressional elections how Democratic policies are focused on workers, a key argument as Republicans have increasingly tried to frame their party as backing the working class." The Hill (7/7, Gangitano, 5.69M) provides similar coverage.

White House Seeking Senate Floor Vote On Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal In Next Two Weeks.

Politico (7/7, Barron-Lopez, Everett, 6.73M) cites "multiple House and Senate Democratic sources" who say the bipartisan infrastructure deal "could hit the Senate floor as early as the week of July 19." During a call Wednesday, White House legislative affairs director Louisa Terrell and deputy legislative affairs director Shuwanza Goff "told Hill Democrats ...that the administration is working alongside the Senate to have the bipartisan infrastructure bill ready for floor consideration as early as the next two weeks, said two sources on the call." Politico says "some Democrats cautioned that the bill's substance remains fluid and that leaders and the White House are navigating a delicate situation as they try to appease Democrats eager for a big Democrat-only reconciliation package."

Rosen Backs Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal. The Hill (7/7, Carney, 5.69M) reports Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) has become the 22nd member of "the Senate's bipartisan infrastructure gang." During a radio interview this week, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) indicated the group she leads with Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), "had gained a new member since mid-June, when 21 senators came out in support of the framework." Sinema said, "We worked really hard...to build a coalition that is half Democrat, half Republican. We now have 22 senators who are supporting this framework." Sinema's office "told The Hill that Rosen...was that new member of the Senate's bipartisan infrastructure group." With Rosen, the group "is now evenly split between 11 Democratic senators and 11 Republican senators."

Dionne: Democrats Facing A "Goldilocks Problem" As They Try To Pass Infrastructure Package. E.J. Dionne writes in the Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) that as

congressional Democrats try to pass "large investments in the nation's economy, its environment and its social well-being," they are finding that while "just about everything they want to do is popular," when "you add everything up, it costs a politically eye-popping pot of money." Dionne describes it as "an especially challenging version of the Goldilocks problem: What's not too small, not too big, but just right?" President Biden and Democrats "will be judged – in the 2022 elections and after – by how they respond to two big challenges." One "is whether they legislate to defend democracy itself from attacks in Republican-led states across the country. The other is whether they manage to hold their fragile majorities together to keep the big promises they have made. They have no choice but to summon their inner Goldilocks."

Olen Urges Congress To Include Home Healthcare In Reconciliation Package. In her Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) column, Helaine Olen urges Congress "to include the \$400 billion investment in Medicaid home health care President Biden proposed in his American Jobs Plan in upcoming budget reconciliation legislation." Olen says "many in the Democratic Party's activist base are increasingly worried that it, like other long-cherished goals that Biden promised to deliver on – such as a public option for health-care coverage and bringing down the age of Medicare eligibility – will get pushed aside, done in by a combination of Republican intransigence and centrist hand-wringing about the size of the federal deficit." Olen argues, "Just because the federal government doesn't offer adequate help doesn't mean the need goes away." The costs "migrate to each of us individually, at one time or the other."

State AGs File Antitrust Suit Against Google.

Reuters (7/7) reports on Wednesday "dozens of U.S. state attorneys general filed an antitrust lawsuit" against Google in US District Court for the Northern District of California. According to "sources familiar with the matter," the states "have been expected to file a lawsuit saying that the search and advertising giant violates antitrust law in running its app store for Android phones." The suit, "one of a series that has been filed against Google in the United States, follows complaints about Google's management of its app store, known as the Play Store, even though the company was originally seen as more open than Apple Inc." Google "bans apps with objectionable content from its store, and further requires that some apps use the company's payment tools and pay Google as much as 30% of their revenue." The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Tracy, Mickle, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Some Biden Allies Complain He Has Kept Title 42 In Place Too Long.

Reuters (7/7) says President Biden has "frustrated allies by keeping in place a Trump-era border expulsion policy opposed by human rights activists and health experts." Reuters adds, "The so-called Title 42 order has allowed U.S. officials to immediately expel migrants who cross the border illegally. The Biden administration is now aiming to exempt families from the policy at the end of July after defending it for months as necessary to help stop the spread of COVID-19." According to Reuters, "Human rights groups and migration advocates have cheered the potential move, but some say the Democratic president made a politically costly mistake in keeping it in place for so long. They argue that it has done little to deter hundreds of thousands of migrants, nor has it insulated him from Republican attacks that his policies have fueled a spike in migration from Central America."

Congressional Black Caucus Calls For Expanded Deportation Review.

Roll Call (7/7, Monyak, 130K) reports that 30 Democratic lawmakers associated with the Congressional Black Caucus urged on Wednesday that DHS Secretary Mayorkas to utilize his "broad legal authority to return everyone unjustly deported." Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY) led the group in stating "Now is the time to turn the resources and power of the U.S. government toward repairing these harms in the name of racial justice for Black and brown immigrants."

Trump Sues CEOs Of Google, Facebook And Twitter.

Axios (7/7, Fischer, 1.26M) reports that former president Donald Trump "filed class action lawsuits Wednesday against Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Google CEO

Sundar Pichai." Axios says "it's the latest escalation in Trump's yearslong battle with Twitter and Facebook over free speech and censorship." Axios notes that Trump is "completely banned from Twitter and is banned from Facebook for another two years."

The New York Times (7/7, Goldmacher, 20.6M) reports that Trump, "speaking from his Bedminster, N.J., golf club, announced that he would serve as the lead plaintiff in the class-action lawsuit, arguing that he has been censored wrongfully by the tech companies." The Times says Trump's "political operation immediately began fund-raising off it. ... Before Mr. Trump was done speaking, both the National Republican Congressional Committee and the National Republican Senatorial Committee had sent text messages about the lawsuit and asked for contributions. Mr. Trump's political action committee sent its own solicitation shortly after the event ended. 'Donate NOW,' it said." According to the Times, "To some extent, the lawsuit appeared to be as much a publicity play...as an actual legal gambit." The Times points out that Trump "also said on Wednesday that he would pursue his anti-tech company agenda in Congress, state legislatures and 'ultimately, the ballot box.'"

Politico (7/7, Niedzwiadek, Gerstein, 6.73M) says Trump's lawsuit is "being supported by the America First Policy Institute, a newly established nonprofit stocked with ideological allies and former Trump administration officials to advance the former president's agenda after he left office." Politico reports that Trump was "accompanied by Brooke Rollins, AFPI's president and CEO, and board chair Linda McMahon. McMahon led the Small Business Administration under Trump and Rollins served as a top White House domestic policy adviser during his administration."

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) reports that the suit claims that the three tech platforms "violated Trump's First Amendment rights in suspending his accounts and argues that Facebook, Twitter and YouTube no longer should be considered private companies but 'a state actor' whose actions are constrained by First Amendment restrictions on government limitations on free speech." The Post adds that "the lawsuits also called for the court to strike down Section 230, a decades-old Internet law that protects tech companies from lawsuits over content moderation decisions."

Bloomberg (7/7, Niquette, Nix, 3.57M) reports that Trump "has been teasing that he'll launch a new platform that can't remove him. He said on Dave Rubin's 'Rubin Report' podcast on June 25 that 'there's a lot of platforms out there, that's what we're looking at, getting the right platform, a perfect platform, and I think you'll see something fairly soon.'"

The AP (7/7, Colvin, O'Brien), ABC World News Tonight (7/7, 6:52 p.m. ET, story 10, Muir, 6.04M), NBC Nightly News (7/7, 6:41 p.m. ET, story 6, Snow, 4.57M) and CBS Evening News (7/7, 6:45 p.m. ET, story 6, Garrett, 3.48M) provide additional coverage.

Federal Judge Lets Georgia's Voting Law Stand, For Now.

The New York Times (7/7, Astor, 20.6M) reports Judge J. P. Boulee of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia "let parts of Georgia's sweeping voting law stand on Wednesday, declining to block them from taking effect a week before runoff elections for state legislative seats." In his order, Boulee "said he was basing his decision on the imminence of the July 13 elections and not the merits of the case." Boulee wrote, "The court certainly appreciates the gravity of the First and Fourteenth Amendment harms plaintiffs have alleged," but "concerns in this case with respect to the July 13, 2021 runoff elections, including the risk of disrupting the administration of an ongoing election, outweigh the alleged harm to plaintiffs at this time. ... The Court reserves judgment regarding the propriety of relief as to future elections and will issue a separate order on this question at a later date."

Republican Pennsylvania State Senator Seeks To Launch Probe Of 2020 Election.

Reuters (7/7) reports Pennsylvania State Sen. Doug Mastriano (R), "an ally of former President Donald Trump," said Wednesday that "he would try to launch a probe of the 2020 election in the battleground state, although a state agency urged counties not to comply with what it called a 'sham review' of the voting process." In "a move that parallels a contentious audit going on in Arizona," Mastriano "said he sent letters to 'several counties' seeking information needed for a 'forensic investigation' of the November presidential election and of municipal primaries this past

May." Mastriano "said in a statement that the probe was necessary because millions of Pennsylvania residents doubted the veracity of the 2020 results." Reuters says it was not clear whether Mastriano "had the support of Republican leadership to try to compel counties to turn over information."

One Dead In Florida As Tropical Storm Elsa Makes Landfall.

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) reports the National Hurricane Center declared that Tropical Storm Elsa "made landfall Wednesday morning in Taylor County along the northern Florida Gulf Coast," bringing "peak winds of 65 mph." The Post explains that "the system's tropical storm status marked a decline from its earlier stint as a marginal Category 1 hurricane on Tuesday night as it paralleled the west coast of Florida, but strong winds and flooding remain possible with the storm regardless."

Still, ABC World News Tonight (7/7, 6:32 p.m. ET, story 1, Muir, 6.04M) reported "there have been families rescued from their homes." And NBC Nightly News (7/7, 6:31 p.m. ET, story 1, Snow, 4.57M) said crews are also "trying to restore power to 26,000 customers." Additionally, the Coast Guard "is searching" for nine people "after a boat capsized off the coast of Key West." The AP (7/7, Bynum, Anderson) adds that authorities from Jacksonville, Florida blamed the "weakened but resilient" storm for the death of a person who was killed after a tree toppled and struck two cars.

However, the AP also says the storm appears to have spared Florida from "significant damage." Meanwhile, "the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina were under a tropical storm warning, and forecasters predicted Elsa would remain a tropical storm into Friday," with storm watches in effect from North Carolina to Massachusetts. CBS Evening News (7/7, 6:32 p.m. ET, story 1, Garrett, 3.48M) said that as Elsa "marches north," the number of Americans "under flood watches and warnings" now exceeds 60 million.

Rapid Attribution Researchers Say Climate Change Drove Record-Breaking Heat Wave.

The AP (7/7, Borenstein) reports that Wednesday, a 27-member team of scientists from the World Weather Attribution group of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute released a study that attributes last week's record-breaking heat wave in the Pacific Northwest and western Canada to human-caused climate change. "The study, not yet peer reviewed, said that before the industrial era, the region's late June triple-digit heat was the type that would not have happened in human civilization."

The New York Times (7/7, Fountain, 20.6M) explains the study "is the latest in a growing body of research termed 'rapid attribution' analysis, which aims to establish if there is a link between climate change and specific extreme events like heat waves, heavy rain storms and flooding." The Times says "the goal is to publicize any climate connection quickly, in part to thwart climate denialists who might claim that global warming had no impact on a particular event."

Reuters (7/7) adds the results of the research are "not entirely surprising" as "worldwide, climate change has made heat waves more common, more severe and longer lasting."

Op-Ed: Amid Climate Threat, Biden Shouldn't Cave To Automakers On Emissions, Fuel Standards. In an op-ed for the New York Times (7/7, 20.6M), Daniel F. Becker, director of the Safe Climate Transport Campaign at the Center for Biological Diversity, and James Gerstenzang, the campaign's editorial director, write that President Biden "should ignore the auto industry's push for weak fuel efficiency and emissions rules and strengthen the tough standards imposed by the Obama administration that were shredded by Donald Trump." While Biden "understands the threat" of climate change and "has set a goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by up to 52 percent below 2005 levels by the end of the decade," he will not "get there by listening to the car companies." Becker and Gerstenzang continue that "only tough standards will protect the climate." They argue "auto rules must be aggressive. ... It's time, as the president says, to 'go big.'"

FAA Orders Emergency Inspections Of Bell Helicopters After Deadly Crash In Canada.

Reuters (7/7) reports on Wednesday, the Federal Aviation Administration "issued an emergency directive requiring main rotor inspections for some Bell model 212, 204 and 205 helicopters" after a June 28 crash claimed the life of a pilot battling wildfires in Canada. "The FAA said operators must complete inspections and replace some specified hub strap pins before further flights." Transport Canada Civil Aviation had "issued an emergency directive covering the same issue" on Monday.

WPost Analysis: Technological Advancements Push Militaries Toward Autonomous Weapons.

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) examines the emerging reality in which technological advancements make it possible to mass produce autonomous weaponized drones "on the cheap." While "efforts to enact a total ban on lethal autonomous weapons...are now being supported by 30 countries," the leading military powers "insist that isn't necessary." The Post explains that "the U.S. military says concerns are overblown, and humans can effectively control autonomous weapons, while Russia's government says true AI weapons can't be banned because they don't exist yet." Still, it is inevitable that "the demand for speed in war will...push militaries to offload more decisions to machines, especially in combat situations ... It's not hard to imagine opposing algorithms responding to each other faster than humans can monitor what's happening."

Psaki Dismisses Taylor Greene's Nazi Comparisons.

Politico (7/7, Martinez, 6.73M) reports that in an interview with CNN on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki "dismissed" Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's (R-GA) comments that compared the Biden Administration's vaccination campaign to the Nazis. "'We don't take any of our health and medical advice from Marjorie Taylor Greene,' the press secretary said. 'What we've seen over the course of the last several months is that one of the biggest barriers is access. ... It's up to every individual to decide whether they're going to get vaccinated.'"

Minnesota Man Earns Comfortable Living Promoting Disinformation Online.

In a 3,258-word article, the Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) profiles Sean Turnbull, a former film producer and marketing manager from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. The Post explains that Turnbull earns a living by "anonymously promoting conspiracy theories about dark forces in American politics on websites and social media accounts in a business he runs out of his home." Turnbull's activities have "generated revenue through subscriptions and donations and by advertising survival products and precious metals ... He reported that his business was generating between \$50,000 and \$250,000 annually in 2019." The Post says that while "seven tech companies, including Twitter, YouTube and Vimeo," have terminated Turnbull's accounts, "he has managed to keep his business going by repeatedly jumping to new outlets."

DC Court Suspends Giuliani's Law License.

Reuters (7/7) reports that on Wednesday, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals "suspended Rudy Giuliani, a former attorney for ex-President Donald Trump, from practicing law" in the nation's capital. The court "issued the order citing the suspension of Giuliani's New York law license two weeks ago" after a New York court "found he had lied in arguing that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Trump." Giuliani has previously "said he would go to court to fight the New York suspension."

Will: SCOTUS Decision Is A Victory For Free Speech.

In his column for the Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M), George Will writes approvingly of "the court's recent 6-to-3 ruling striking down California's law requiring charities operating there to report to the state's attorney general the identities of major donors." Will explains that "in the context of today's cancel culture, the court is properly cognizant of the propensity of fervid factions to try, often successfully, to destroy the reputations and even the livelihoods of people who advocate policies the destroyers dislike." Will concludes that while, "like most fads among political fanatics,"

this contemporary "cancel culture will recede," its "most lasting effect might be the court's acknowledgment of it in a precedent that strengthens protections for free political speech."

Emba: Four-Day Work Week About More Than Just Productivity.

Christine Emba writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/7, 10.52M) that the four-day workweek has "gone from fringe idea to pragmatic policy consideration," with Icelandic, Japanese, and Spanish officials approaching the concept with increasing seriousness. The COVID pandemic has also amplified interest in the idea. Emba argues that "as companies, activists and individual workers champion the idea of a shorter workweek, they're framing it in old terms. We can get all our work done in four days, we promise. In fact, we'll be more productive." But, she writes, the four-day workweek "shouldn't just be about becoming more productive – the real benefit is that it would allow us to be fuller people. So why not discuss the four-day workweek in those terms?"

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Haitian President Assassinated, Raising Fears Of Further Chaos.

[Reuters](#) (7/7, Paultre) reports that Haitian President Jovenel Moïse "was shot dead by unidentified attackers in his private residence overnight in a 'barbaric act', the government said on Wednesday, stirring fears of escalating turmoil in the impoverished Caribbean nation." Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph said in a broadcast that the government had declared a state of emergency. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/7, 6:36 p.m. ET, story 4, Snow, 4.57M) reported, "International outrage is growing tonight after the President of Haiti was assassinated in his own home." NBC (Gutierrez) added that the gunmen, "speaking English and Spanish, reportedly yelled they were DEA agents. The Haitian government says they were instead mercenaries, highly trained killers." NBC (Gutierrez) added, "Tonight the airport in Port-au-Prince is shut down. The Dominican Republic has closed its border with Haiti, and the US embassy there is telling its staff to shelter in place." Ben Tracey reports for the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/7, 6:43 p.m. ET, story 5, Garrett, 3.48M) that Haiti "has been in turmoil for months as President Moïse became increasingly unpopular for clinging to power after his term expired. There are now fears of more violence."

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, A1, Porter, Crowley, Méheut, 20.6M) reports in an interview, Joseph "told The New York Times that he was now in control of the country, but it was unclear how much legitimacy he had, or how long it might last. A new prime minister had been scheduled to replace Mr. Joseph this week — he would have been the sixth to hold the job in Mr. Moïse's term. The head of the nation's highest court, who might have helped establish order, died of Covid-19 in June."

[CNN](#) (7/7, 89.21M) reports, "Haitian first lady Martine Moïse was shot and injured in the attack, and has been taken to Miami for treatment. Her condition is described as stable but critical." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/7, 6:36 p.m. ET, story 2, Muir, 6.04M) reported, "The first lady was shot and critically wounded. And late today, the images coming in, she's now been flown to Florida for treatment, in stable but critical condition at this hour. They're hoping American doctors can save her."

Haitian Security Forces Report Killing Of Four Assassins, Capture Of Two More.

[Reuters](#) (7/7, Paultre) reports that Haiti's "security forces were locked in a fierce gun battle on Wednesday with assailants who assassinated" Moïse, and had killed four and captured two more. The [AP](#) (7/7, Sanon, Coto) reports that Haiti's police chief, Léon Charles, said late Wednesday that four suspected killers "have been fatally shot by police and two others arrested in an apparent hostage-taking situation." Charles "said late Wednesday that three police officers held hostage were freed."

Biden Condemns "Heinous" Assassination. [Reuters](#) (7/7, Zengerle, Psaledakis) reports that on Wednesday, President Biden said he was shocked by the "heinous" assassination, "calling it worrisome and saying his administration needed more information." Biden said in a statement, "We condemn this heinous attack and I am sending my sincere wishes for First Lady Moïse's recovery. The United States offers condolences to the people of Haiti and we stand ready to assist

as we continue to work for a safe and secure Haiti." Haiti's ambassador to the US, Bocchit Edmond, "said the gunmen falsely identified themselves as agents" of the US DEA, but "No way they were DEA agents."

The Washington Post (7/7, DeYoung, 10.52M) reports that officials "across the administration offered condolences and said the United States stood ready to help in investigating the killing. The United States provides Haiti a steady flow of humanitarian and development aid." However, "for many who closely follow events in Haiti as well as and U.S.-Haiti relations, the assassination was far from a shock. While devastating, it was further proof 'of the extent to which the security situation in Haiti has unraveled,' said Rep. Andy Levin (D-Mich), who co-chairs the House Haiti Caucus."

The New York Times (7/7, Porter, Santora, Robles, 20.6M) reports that before his assassination, Moïse "had been struggling to quell growing public anger over his attempt to hold onto power despite the opposition's insistence that his term had expired." He "had been ruling by decree for more than a year. Many, including prominent jurists, contend that his term ended in February. Haiti has been rocked by protests against his rule, and also has suffered a surge in gang activity."

The Washington Post (7/7, A1, Merancourt, Faiola, Berger, 10.52M) reports on the general chaos engulfing the nation as a backdrop to the assassination: "Gang violence and the coronavirus outbreak are both worsening. A shooting rampage in the streets of Port-au-Prince last week left at least 15 people dead. At least 278 Haitians have been killed this year in attacks that have led some citizens to flee the capital, traveling by boat and plane to avoid dangerous, gang-controlled roads." The New York Times (7/7, Kitroeff, Kurmanaev, 20.6M) similarly runs a background on the chaos in Haiti.

The New York Times (7/7, Robles, 20.6M) profiles Moïse, who "even before he took office," had to "fight off accusations that, as a virtually unknown banana exporter, he was nothing but a handpicked puppet of the previous president, Michel J. Martelly." During his time in office, Moïse "was widely accused of behaving like a strongman who tried to consolidate power" and "was also accused of having used powerful violent gangs to suppress political opposition."

In another piece, the New York Times (7/7, Bilefsky, 20.6M) reports that on the reaction of members of the Haitian "diaspora" to the assassination, "an act of violence viewed by many as a potent symbol of the impoverished Caribbean nation's descent into mayhem in recent months."

Also running reports on a story that continued to evolve during the latest news cycle are Axios (7/7, Doherty, 1.26M), Politico (7/7, 6.73M), the Wall Street Journal (7/7, A1, de Cordoba, Meichtry, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), among many others.

WPost Calls For International Peacekeeping Force. In an editorial, the Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) says that the assassination of Moïse "puts one of the Western Hemisphere's most impoverished countries at risk of anarchy. ... To prevent a meltdown that could have dire consequences, the United States and other influential parties — including France, Canada and the Organization of American States — should push for an international peacekeeping force, probably organized by the United Nations, that could provide the security necessary for presidential and parliamentary elections to go forward this year, as planned."

Meanwhile, Mary Anastasia O'Grady, in her column for the Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), says that the assassination of Moïse marks the failure of another effort in an attempt to build up institution in the country.

Global COVID Deaths Approach 4M.

The Washington Post (7/7, Alcantara, Shin, Shapiro, Taylor, Emamdjomeh, 10.52M) reports that, according to Johns Hopkins University, COVID-19 "has killed nearly 4 million people since it first emerged in Wuhan, China, in 2019." One billion vaccine doses "have been administered around the world, far more than the number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus since the start of the pandemic — though a large number of cases were likely never recorded."

US To Ship Millions Of Vaccines To Latin America.

CNN (7/7, 89.21M) reports that the Biden Administration "is sending millions of Covid-19 vaccines

to countries in Latin America this week as part of President Joe Biden's commitment to play a leading role in ending the pandemic across the globe." One million J&J vaccines will "ship to Bolivia on Thursday, one million doses of Pfizer will head to Paraguay on Friday and 1.5 million doses of Moderna will ship to Guatemala on Wednesday."

Germany Warns Of New Surge.

Reuters (7/7, Thomasson) reports that, according to Robert Koch Institute data, German COVID cases "ticked up again on Wednesday after more than two months of steady decline and most new cases have been of the Delta variant since the end of June." German Health Minister Jens Spahn also "dampened hopes on Wednesday for the lifting of all remaining coronavirus restrictions, saying that would depend on the pace of vaccination."

Delta Doubling Indonesian Mortality Rate.

The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Emont, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that, according to new Indonesian health data, COVID-linked deaths "rose sharply on Wednesday, with reported daily fatalities nearly double the number from two days ago." Indonesian hospitals are running out of beds and ventilators, and officials are beginning to warn of oxygen scarcity.

Senate Republicans Delay Effort To Repeal AUMFs.

Politico (7/7, Desiderio, 6.73M) reports that both the Senate and House are "moving to repeal outdated authorizations for the use of military force that are often ripe for abuse by the executive branch." According to Politico, "Today, as the nation grows weary of so-called forever wars, the concept has near-unanimous support in the Democratic Party and buy-in from a significant cohort of Republicans – giving Congress its best chance in a generation to re-assert its authority over matters of war and peace." However, Politico says "even with President Joe Biden coming out in support of repealing past authorizations and re-tailoring others...scrapping the AUMFs will be a complicated affair." Senate Majority Leader Schumer "has vowed to put a bipartisan bill on the floor," but "a group of GOP senators had pushed to delay the markup...until after committee members received a briefing from top Biden administration officials about the operational impact of repealing the AUMFs."

Swedish Prime Minister Re-Elected By Parliament, But Faces Continuing Challenge.

Reuters (7/7, Ahlander, Pollard) reports Swedish Social Democrat leader Stefan Lofven "was re-elected as prime minister by parliament on Wednesday, ending weeks of turmoil since his resignation last month but leaving his centre-left coalition facing a struggle ahead of next year's elections." Lofven, "who had quit after losing a no-confidence vote on June 21, has yet to find sufficient backing to pass a budget and has said he will resign once again if he is unable to get his budget through parliament in the autumn."

Two Suspects Arrested In Shooting Of Dutch Journalist.

Politico Europe (7/7, Schaert, 15K) reports that two men "arrested over the shooting of Dutch crime reporter Peter R. de Vries, who is fighting for his life in an Amsterdam hospital, will appear in court later this week, police said Wednesday." De Vries, "a star reporter who had received multiple threats for his work covering the criminal underworld, was shot five times, including once in the head, after leaving broadcaster RTL's Amsterdam studio following a TV appearance on Tuesday evening, according to local media reports." De Vries' shooting "prompted shock and condemnation across Europe." Police "said Wednesday that a 35-year-old Pole and 21-year-old from Rotterdam, arrested in a car on the A4 motorway near Leidschendam the night before, were suspected of direct involvement in the shooting and would be arraigned on Friday. A third person, who had been arrested in Amsterdam, was no longer a suspect."

President To Address Afghan Drawdown On Thursday Afternoon.

Reuters (7/7) reports that President Biden "said he will speak on Afghanistan on Thursday, days

after American troops pulled out of their main military base 20 years after entering the country.” Biden “made the remark to reporters at the White House when asked if he was worried about Kabul falling in the face of a ramped-up Taliban offensive.” White House press secretary Jen Psaki “said in a statement that Biden would speak about ‘our continued drawdown efforts and ongoing security and humanitarian assistance’ to the Afghan people and military on Thursday afternoon.”

Meanwhile, Politico (7/7, Seligman, 6.73M) reports that the US military’s withdrawal “is essentially complete, despite President Joe Biden’s comments last week that American troops will leave by late August, according to two U.S. officials.” The US “currently has roughly 600 troops in Afghanistan, most of whom are Marine Corps and Army personnel providing security at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul,” according to one of the officials. The rest “will be based at the Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport, said another U.S. official with direct knowledge of the discussions.”

ABC News (7/7, 2.44M) reports that though the Taliban is “gaining more territory by the day,” the President has “shown no second thoughts about his decision to withdraw” US forces. In related news, the New York Times (7/7, Philipps, 20.6M) runs a piece looking at what it was like for those that remained in South Vietnam after the US withdrew.

In his column for the Los Angeles Times (7/7, 3.37M), Doyle McManus writes that it is “no mystery why” Biden doesn’t speak often about Afghanistan: “Subjects like job-creation reports or the U.S. recovery from the pandemic let Biden talk about successes. Afghanistan offers only a choice of failures.” He adds that it is not a surprise that Biden “is tetchy when asked about the subject. He’s holding a bag left to him by three earlier presidents.”

Taliban Press Offensive, Attack Capital Of Badghis Province. The Washington Post (7/7, George, 10.52M) reports that Taliban militants “pushed into” Qala-e Nau, the capital of Badghis province, “a key city in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday morning, the latest advance in a string of attacks on government-controlled districts since foreign forces began to withdraw in May.” However, the situation in the city remains unclear, with Afghan government officials say they remain in control of the city. The New York Times (7/7, Gibbons-Neff, Timory, 20.6M) reports that “details were murky” from the city, “where fighting was widespread. Videos posted on social media showed some residents welcoming Taliban fighters on motorbikes as they entered.” Despite “dire reports from the ground, a statement from the Ministry of Defense on Wednesday afternoon said the Taliban were ‘fleeing’ and that ‘in the next few hours, all parts of the city will be cleared.’” The Wall Street Journal (7/7, Amiri, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports on the attack on the city.

Tajikistan Takes In 1,000 Afghan Refugees. Reuters (7/7) reports that Tajikistan “has taken in more than 1,000 civilian refugees fleeing the violence in Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province across the border, the government of Tajikistan’s Gorno-Badakhshan province said on Wednesday.” Tajikistan “has also temporarily taken in hundreds of Afghan servicemen who retreated from their positions in northern provinces where most of the territory appears now to be under Taliban control.”

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (7/7, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Afghanistan’s professional class, both men and women, who came of age during the allied occupation, are concerned about the future at the Taliban advance, and many are leaving the country.

Canada To Provide Refuge To Afghans That Aided Its Embassy. Reuters (7/7) reports that for its part, Canada is “planning to take in hundreds of vulnerable Afghan interpreters, embassy staff and their families as the United States draws down its military presence in Afghanistan after two decades, a government source said on Wednesday.” Interpreters “who remained in Afghanistan and Afghan staff at the Canadian embassy in Kabul want to leave, and Canada is looking to bring them in as immigrants, said a government source who asked to speak anonymously due to the sensitivity of the information.”

Zuma Surrenders To Authorities.

The AP (7/7, Magome) reports former South African president Jacob Zuma “left his home late Wednesday night to turn himself in to authorities to serve a 15-month prison term, his foundation has confirmed.” The New York Times (7/7, Eligon, 20.6M) reports that Zuma “voluntarily

surrendered on Wednesday, 40 minutes before a midnight deadline for the police to hand him over to prison officials. He was driven out of his compound in a long convoy of cars and taken into custody a short time after, police said. The arrest followed a week of tense brinkmanship in which the former president and his allies railed against the high court's decision, suggesting, without evidence, that he was the victim of a conspiracy."

Reuters (7/7) reports that the "constitutional court gave Zuma a 15 month jail term last week for defying an instruction earlier this year to give evidence at an inquiry into corruption during his nine years in power until 2018."

As Biden Crafts China Policy, Progressives Push Cooperation Over Competition.

Politico (7/7, Ward, 6.73M) reports that on Wednesday, "over 40 progressive groups," including the Sunrise Movement and the Union of Concerned Scientists, "sent a letter to President Joe Biden and lawmakers...urging them to prioritize cooperation with China on climate change and curb its confrontational approach over issues like Beijing's crackdown on Hong Kong and forced detention of Uyghur Muslims." The letter is "the latest salvo in the months-long drama between progressive Democrats who say cooperation on climate change should take precedence over competition with China, and moderates who think the administration can do both things at once." Politico says "as the Biden administration solidifies its China strategy, and as anti-China legislation moves through Congress, this intra-Democratic tussle could define the U.S.-China relationship for years to come."

Prenatal Test Developed Through Partnership With Chinese Military Raises Privacy Concerns.

Reuters (7/7, Needham, Baldwin) reports that "a prenatal test taken by millions of pregnant women globally was developed by Chinese gene company BGI Group in collaboration with the Chinese military and is being used by the firm to collect genetic data." The report shows that the "company collaborated with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to develop and improve the test, taken in early pregnancy, as well as the scope of BGI's storage and analysis of the data." The US "sees BGI's efforts to collect and analyze human gene data as a national security threat." The Hill (7/7, Choi, 5.69M), which also carries coverage of the prenatal test, points out that last year the federal government had even "warned Nevada against using some 250,000 donated COVID-19 tests made by BGI over concerns about patient privacy and involvement from the Chinese government."

WFP Begins Food Distribution In Venezuela.

Reuters (7/7) reports that on Wednesday, the UN World Food Program (WFP) "said...it had begun distributing school meals to children in Venezuela, where some 7 million people require humanitarian assistance after years of economic collapse in the once-prosperous OPEC nation." The development comes after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro "reached a deal" with the WFP in April in a move some analysts and diplomats see "as a concession by the government aimed at getting U.S. sanctions on its oil industry lifted." Reuters explains that "activists had been clamoring for years for...Maduro to allow the WFP to distribute food in the country, which contains the world's largest crude reserves by some measures, as a drop in crude prices and gaping fiscal deficits led to hyperinflation and recession."

CNN Analysis: Biden Administration's Red Carpet Treatment For Saudi Guest May Signal Warming Relations.

CNN (7/7, Gaouette, Atwood, 89.21M) reports that the Biden Administration hosted Deputy Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman – a Saudi prince and the brother of his country's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. CNN says the prince is "the most senior Saudi official to arrive in Washington since the White House distanced itself earlier this year from the kingdom." The prince "has had meetings with Biden's most senior national security officials," including National Security Advisor Sullivan, Defense Secretary Austin, and Secretary of State Blinken. "Bin Salman's red carpet treatment marks a sharp change from February, when the administration released a report finding the Crown Prince directly responsible for approving the murder of

journalist Jamal Khashoggi" and "sanctioned dozens of Saudis tied to human rights abuses." CNN explains that the new disposition may relate to the Administration's "struggles" with a resurgent Taliban, the war in Yemen, "faltering" talks with Iran and high gas prices.

Rocket Attack Targets US Embassy In Baghdad.

Reuters (7/7) reports that according to "Iraqi security sources," early on Thursday, "two rockets were fired at the U.S. embassy inside Baghdad's Greene Zone." The embassy's "anti-rocket system diverted one of the rockets" while "the second rocket fell near the zone's perimeter."

Explosion Erupts Aboard Container Ship At Major Dubai Port.

The AP (7/7) reports that late on Wednesday, "a fiery explosion erupted on a container ship anchored in" Dubai's Jebel Ali Port, "sending tremors across the commercial hub of the United Arab Emirates." The explosion "unleashed a shock wave through...Dubai, causing walls and windows to shake in neighborhoods" up to 15 miles from the port. "The sheer force and visibility of the explosion suggested the presence of a highly combustible substance." The AP adds that "there were no immediate reports of casualties at the port, which is also the busiest port of call for American warships outside the U.S."

Millions Of Syrians Will Face Crisis Without Russia-US Deal On UN Aid.

The Washington Post (7/7, 10.52M) reports that according to relief workers, Syrian civilians and the Biden Administration, "parts of northern Syria will quickly face a massive and deadly humanitarian crisis if the U.N. Security Council fails this week to extend a resolution allowing the United Nations to deliver aid across the Turkish-Syrian border." The Post explains that "the resolution, which allows the United Nations to coordinate aid shipments to Syria through only one border crossing, is set to expire Saturday." However, "Russia has promised for nearly a year to veto any resolution allowing cross-border aid to continue, viewing its distribution to areas held by opponents of President Bashar al-Assad, an ally of Moscow, as a violation of Syria's sovereignty."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

States Target Google Play Store Practices In Antitrust Suit

Travel Is Bouncing Back Strong, And Airlines Are Racing To Keep Up

US Treasury Yields Extend Steep Decline

A Generation Of Afghan Professionals Flees Ahead Of Taliban Advance

Looking For A Friend Without Benefits? Try Match, Bumble And Tinder.

Haiti President Jovenel Moise Assassinated at Home, Official Says

New York Times:

Haiti's President Assassinated In Nighttime Raid, Shaking A Fragile Nation

Eric Adams, Once A Political Outsider, Conquers The Inside Game

States And Cities Scramble To Spend \$350 Billion Windfall

Bill Gates Can Remove Melinda French Gates From Foundation In Two Years

Climate Change Drove Western Heat Wave's Extreme Records, Analysis Finds

The Real Toll From Prison Covid Cases May Be Higher Than Reported

Washington Post:

The Global Search For Covid-19's Patient Zero

Schools' Blitz Woos Families For In-Person Learning

Haiti's President Killed In Attack At His Residence, Assassination Tips Haiti Toward Destabilization

Happy To Get A Check, And Not

From Corporate Life To Promoting Conspiracy

Financial Times:

Suspects Shot Dead After Haitian President Assassinated
Brussels Plans New Agency To Fight Money Laundering
Gates Foundation Makes contingency Plans For Break-Up

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Elsa; Haitian President Assassinated; Surfside Building Collapse; Delta Variant In US; Federal Officers, Chicago Police Shot; Air Force Lawsuit; Trump Sues Social Media Companies.

CBS: Hurricane Elsa; Surfside Building Collapse; Delta Variant In US; Surgeon-General Murthy Interview; Haitian President Assassinated; Global Computer Chip Shortage; Federal Officers, Chicago Police Shot

NBC: Hurricane Elsa; Surfside Building Collapse; Delta Variant In US; Haitian President Assassinated; Trump Sues Social Media Companies; Grocery Prices Spike.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Elsa – 10 minutes, 10 seconds
Delta Variant In US – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
Haitian President Assassinated – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
Surfside Building Collapse Search – 5 minutes, 35 seconds
Federal Officers, Chicago Police Shot – 2 minutes, 10 seconds
Trump Sues Social Media Companies – 0 minutes, 30 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Biden — Meeting with national security team to discuss military drawdown from Afghanistan; remarks on military drawdown from Afghanistan as well as ongoing assistance; meeting with leadership of civil rights organizations
- Vice President Harris — Meeting with national security team to discuss military drawdown from Afghanistan; meeting with leadership of civil rights organizations

US Senate:

- Senate convenes for pro forma session – Senate convenes for pro forma session * Chamber on recess from 25 June – 12 July
Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 11:00 AM

US House:

- House convenes for pro forma session – House convenes for pro forma session * Chamber on recess from 2 July – 12 July
Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC; 12:30 PM

General Events:

- Brookings Discussion on Gender Equality – 'Making Progress on Gender Equality: It's Time For More Transparency' – Brookings Institution event discussing how donors can better engage with national stakeholders. Speakers include CDC Group Interim Gender Lead Marijin Wiersma; USAID Assistant to the Administrator for Policy, Planning, and Learning Michele Sumilas.
Location: Virtual Event, 10:00 AM
- Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team

Location: White House Press Room, 11:00 AM

- Press Briefing By Press Secretary Psaki

Location: White House Press Room, 12:30 PM

- Securities And Exchange Commission Closed Meeting

Location: US Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F St NE, Washington, DC, 2:00 PM

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b7E -3

From:
Subject: RE: BWC
To: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: July 8, 2021 9:32 AM (UTC-04:00)

From: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 3:10 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: BWC

Interestingly, Tim Dunham is presenting at the D's SVTC today about BWC.

Erin M. Prest
Deputy General Counsel
Investigative and Administrative Law Branch
Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation
JEH, Rm 7350

b7E -3

[REDACTED]

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From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: RE: BWC Policy/Plan
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 8, 2021 9:33 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Thanks, let me circle back to [REDACTED] as I have another question for her or someone on her team.

Stephen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: BWC Policy/Plan

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3,27

FYSA...I asked [REDACTED]
comments.

[REDACTED]

SSA [REDACTED]
Unit Chief
Investigative Law Unit
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 1:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: BWC Policy/Plan

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(SHE/HER/HEERS)
UNIT CHIEF | FOIA LITIGATION UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
JEH SUITE 10140 ROOM 11C3
OFFICE: [REDACTED]

FBI (22-cv-00149)-6663

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:40 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fw: BWC Policy/Plan

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -27

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

SSA [REDACTED]
Unit Chief
Investigative Law Unit
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[REDACTED]

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From: Delbago, William J. (CIRG) (FBI) [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 5:49 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: BWC Policy/Plan

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[REDACTED]

Please see below for review.

Bill

From: Dunham, Timothy M. (CID) (FBI) [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 4:14 PM

To: Delbago, William J. (CIRG) (FBI) [REDACTED]

Subject: BWC Policy/Plan

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Bill

b6 -1
b7C -1

Attached is a draft BWC policy/plan intended to meet the DAG memo requirement for submission of a policy/plan within 30 days from the issuance of the memo. 30 days would be the 6th/7th (next week).

I've left in the red lines just so anyone reviewing could see the thought process and reasoning. We'd take those out of our submission.

Available when/if the EAD would like to discuss.

Thanks,
Tim

Use of Body Worn Cameras by FBI Special Agents PG Draft (7-1-21).docx

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: RE: BWC Policy/Plan
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: July 8, 2021 9:35 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Hi Stephen,

Below is [redacted] response.

-

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted]
Date: Jul 7, 2021 6:28 PM
Subject: RE: BWC Policy/Plan
To: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)" [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Hey [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Thank for sharing this. [redacted]

b5 -1,2
b7E -27

[redacted]

Best Regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 1:55 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: BWC Policy/Plan

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[redacted]

[redacted]

(SEE HER/HERS)
UNIT CHIEF | FOIA LITIGATION UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
JEH SUITE 10140, ROOM UC3
OFFICE: [redacted]

E-MAIL:

[Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

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From:

[Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:40 PM

To:

[Redacted]

Subject: Fw: BWC Policy/Plan

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -27

Hi

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks.

[Redacted]

SSA

[Redacted]

Unit Chief

Investigative Law Unit

Office of the General Counsel

Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

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From: Delbago, William J. (CIRG) (FBI)

[Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 5:49 PM

To:

[Redacted]

Subject: FW: BWC Policy/Plan

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[Redacted]

Please see below for review.

Bill

From: Dunham, Timothy M. (CID) (FBI)

[Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 4:14 PM

To: Delbago, William J. (CIRG) (FBI)

[Redacted]

Subject: BWC Policy/Plan

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Bill



b6 -1
b7C -1

Attached is a draft BWC policy/plan intended to meet the DAG memo requirement for submission of a policy/plan within 30 days from the issuance of the memo. 30 days would be the 6th/7th (next week).

I've left in the red lines just so anyone reviewing could see the thought process and reasoning. We'd take those out of our submission.

Available when/if the EAD would like to discuss.

Thanks,
Tim

Use of Body Worn Cameras by FBI Special Agents PG Draft (7-1-21).docx

From: [redacted] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Fw: FY 2021 CRPT 100 TFO Body Cameras report for review
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: July 9, 2021 9:52 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: CRPT FY21_100 - DOJ Task Force Body Camera Pilot Program -ALO edits.docx
FYSA...DOJ's TF BWC Pilot Program FY21 Report

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

SSA [redacted]
Unit Chief
Investigative Law Unit
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation
[redacted]

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From: OCA_TASKING [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 9:48 AM
To: HQ_DIV06_OCA [redacted]; CJIS_OCALEGISLATIVETASKINGS

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[redacted] HQ-DIV00-STB-EXEC-
STAF [redacted]
[redacted]; HQ-DIV09-IALB-POLICY
[redacted]
[redacted] HQ_DIV18_OTD_COMMUNICATIONS
[redacted] QT_OTD_EOU_MBX

Cc: FBI_OCA_TASKING [redacted]
Subject: FY 2021 CRPT 100 TFO Body Cameras report for review

Comments Due: 11am July 13

Please find attached the FY 2021 CRPT 100 TFO Body Cameras report for review. To the extent your office has any comments, please submit them by the deadline.

Thank you,

[redacted]
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Office of Congressional Affairs

b6 -1
b7C -1

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Monday, July 12, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 12, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: FBIDirBriefing210712.doc

b7E -3

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 5:00 AM EDT

US Team Heading To Haiti To Aid In Investigation. The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Merancourt, Schmidt, 10.52M) reports that FBI officials arrived in Port-Au-Prince on Sunday “to assess conditions after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, but the Biden administration has not granted Haitian officials’ requests for U.S. troops to help provide security.” The [Miami Herald](#) (7/11, 647K) reports that a “technical team” of US officials was scheduled to arrive on Sunday, “a senior administration official said.” The Herald says that officials from the White House National Security Council, the State Department, DOJ and DHS are on the trip, and will meet with all three men claiming to be the leader of the country. Monica Alba, for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/11, 6:57 p.m. ET, story 3, Snow, 3.15M), reported the “inter-agency team expected to help in the expansive investigation and continued manhunt.” Alba added that while the US is not committing to sending troops, “something the US will be deploying is thousands of COVID-19 doses, possibly as early as next week.”

Defense Department Press Secretary John Kirby, on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/11, 844K) said, “We are aware of the request by the Haitian government” for US military assistance. He added, “We are analyzing it just like we would any other request for assistance at the Pentagon, it’s going through a review.” Kirby said “an interagency team, largely from the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, are heading down to Haiti right now to see what we can do to help them in the investigative process and I think that’s really where our energies are best applied right now, helping them get their arms around investigating this incident and figuring out who’s culpable, who’s responsible and how best to hold them accountable going forward.”

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/11, 6:09 p.m. ET, story 6, Barnett, 230K) reported, “Tonight FBI and homeland security officials are en route to Haiti to assist investigators there as political crisis following the assassination of the country’s president deepens. US troops will not be going despite a request for them.” CBS (Ruffini) added, “US officials we spoke to expressed concern and surprise that Haiti requested American forces because the country’s history is so full unwanted occupations from foreign powers. But that just goes to show you exactly how precarious the situation has become.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Barnes, Lopez, 20.6M) reports that a “senior administration official” said, “We are engaged with the Haitian government to learn more about their needs, and we are sending a technical team today to that end.” [Reuters](#) (7/11) reports that President Biden “will be briefed by the team when it returns and ‘then make decisions about the way forward,’ a senior Biden administration official” told them. Reuters adds that it “was not immediately clear how long the U.S. team would remain in Haiti. The administration official said on Sunday that Washington would also consult with its regional partners and the United Nations.”

Meanwhile, The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, Vyas, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Moïse’s security was lax, according to neighbors, with few guards outside his private residence on most days. The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Bennett, Cahlan, Samuels, Faiola, 10.52M) also runs a “visual” history of the assassination of Moïse.

Doctor Arrested In Miami May Be Key Suspect. The [Miami Herald](#) (7/11, Weaver, Charles, 647K) reports that Christian Emmanuel Sanon, a “Haitian doctor who has been a fixture in Florida for more than two decades,” has “been arrested in Haiti under suspicion that he was one of the leaders behind” the assassination of Moïse, according to Haiti National Police Chief Leon Charles. Sanon “was the first person one of the suspects called after being captured.” The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Turkewitz, Romero, 20.6M) looks at the role of the Colombians in the assassination, and says that Sanon “was said to have hired the private Florida security company that recruited at least some of the Colombians.” Charles said, “He arrived by private plane in June with political objectives and contacted a private security firm to recruit the people who committed this act.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Merancourt, Schmidt, 10.52M) reports that Sanon “allegedly” recruited “some of the assailants by telling them they would be his bodyguards.” Sanon “planned to assume the presidency and hire some of the men as his security team,” according to police.

Suspects: Attackers Meant To Arrest, Not Kill, Moïse. [Reuters](#) (7/11, Paultre, Marsh) reports that a “group of Colombians and Haitian Americans suspected of assassinating” Moïse “told investigators they were there to arrest him, not kill him, the Miami Herald and a person familiar with the matter said on Sunday.” A “source close to the investigation said the two Haitian Americans, James Solages and Joseph Vincent, told investigators they were translators for the Colombian commando unit that had an arrest warrant. But when they arrived, they found him dead.”

Gang Violence Again Erupts In Port-au-Prince. The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Merancourt, Schmidt, 10.52M) reports that “sporadic gunfire erupted in Port-au-Prince late Saturday and early Sunday, piercing the relative calm that followed Moïse’s killing as violent gangs threatened to fill the power vacuum in a country that now has no clear leader.” That’s a change from last week, when “the gangs gave the city something of a reprieve from the torrent of gunfire that has killed hundreds this year.”

The [AP](#) (7/11, Coto, Sanon) reports that the gangs “have long been financed by powerful politicians and their allies — and many Haitians fear those backers may be losing control of the increasingly powerful armed groups who have driven thousands of people from their homes as they battle over territory, kill civilians and raid warehouses of food.” The “escalation in gang violence threatens to complicate — and be aggravated by — political efforts to recover from” the slaying of Moïse.

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Cohen, 20.6M) reports that Haiti “was in bad shape even before its president was assassinated and rival factions laid claim to power. Now, it’s in meltdown.” Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph “and eight of the 10 remaining members of Parliament in the entire country of 11 million people have both said they have a legitimate right to assume power and fill Haiti’s vacuum of authority.” Joseph “has tepid backing from a Biden administration desperate not to be sucked into a quagmire.” For [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/11, 6:42 p.m. ET, story 6, Davis, 5.1M), Marcus Moore reported, “Since Wednesday’s attack, the city of Port-au-Prince has wrestled with returning to normal, but normal has long been a struggle here. Desperate scenes like this one have become increasingly common, as the country faces economic turmoil. Haiti has been in the midst of a gas shortage, which leads to scenes like this. People lining up for fuel because the opportunity to get gas is spontaneous.”

FBI Rules Out All-Star Game Threat After Arrests At Hotel Near Stadium. The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Shammass, 10.52M) reports, “Federal authorities said Sunday that there is no reason to suspect terrorism or a threat directed at Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game after three men were arrested Friday in an illegal-weapons investigation at a hotel blocks from the ballpark holding the event. ‘We are not aware of any threat to the All-Star Game events, venues, players, or the community at this time,’ the FBI’s Denver office said in a Twitter post.” The Post adds, “Authorities have released sparse details about the incident at downtown Denver’s Maven Hotel near Coors Field, where celebrations are starting ahead of Tuesday’s All-Star Game. Officers responded to the Maven after receiving a report of a ‘suspicious incident,’ the Denver Police Department said in a news release, and obtained search warrants for two rooms, where they gathered evidence. They also impounded two cars.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Lukpat, 20.6M) reports Denver police “seized 16 long guns, body armor and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition on Friday at a hotel about two blocks from the stadium where the Major League Baseball All-Star Game is to be played this week, according to officials and local reports,” and three men and a woman were arrested. The Times adds police “did not explicitly say if those arrested had stockpiled the weapons in preparation for an attack similar to the 2017 Las Vegas shooting in which a man fired from his upper-story hotel room at crowds attending a music festival, killing 58 and injuring hundreds,” but the FBI’s office in Denver “said it did not believe that the arrests were connected to terrorism.”

The [Denver Post](#) (7/11, Bradbury, 660K) reports, “Previously, law enforcement sources told Denver7 they feared a ‘Las Vegas-style shooting’ because of the number of weapons and ammunition in the hotel rooms, as well as the vantage point from a balcony, which would overlook potentially large crowds. One of the men who was arrested posted on Facebook about wanting to ‘go out in a big way,’ according to Denver7, which cited anonymous police sources.”

The [AP](#) (7/11, Peipert, Balsamo) says Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and Police Chief Paul Pazen “praised the hotel’s staff for alerting authorities and sought to ease any concerns that the area around the ballpark is unsafe. They declined to say what, if anything, the suspects were planning to do with the firearms.” On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/11, 6:35 p.m. ET, story 2, Davis, 5.1M), Kayna Whitworth reported the FBI is “saying ahead of big events like this, they always work closely with other agencies, but they continue to remind the public to remain vigilant.” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/11, 6:09 p.m. ET, story 4, Barnett, 230K) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

House Select Committee Examining January 6th Capitol Riot To Hold First Meeting In July. The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, 10.52M) reports, “The panel charged with investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by a pro-Trump mob will hold its first hearing this month, its chairman, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.), said Friday.” Thompson told MSNBC the hearing “will ‘absolutely’ go forward even if House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) declines to recommend Republican members for the panel.” McCarthy, adds the Post, “has repeatedly declined to say whether he plans to appoint members.” On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/9, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.92M), Chief Justice Correspondent Pierre Thomas said that when the House Select Committee “investigating the insurrection begins hearings in two weeks, among the first to be interviewed and witnesses, Capitol police officers attacked that terrible day.”

The [AP](#) (7/10, Jalonick, Rama) reports that Thompson “said Friday the committee hopes to ‘set the tone’ of the investigation by hearing from those first responders, many of whom were brutally beaten and verbally abused by former President Donald Trump’s supporters as they pushed past law enforcement and broke into the Capitol to interrupt the certification of President Joe Biden’s victory. Referring to the police officers, Thompson told The Associated Press in an interview, ‘We need to hear how they felt, we need to hear what people who broke into the Capitol said to them.’ He said the

members of the panel, who held an initial strategy session this week, want to frame that first hearing so that it is clear that they are serious, and also that they care about “those individuals who either secure the Capitol or clean the Capitol.”

Newsweek (7/10, 2.67M) reports that Thompson “said that no one is ‘off limits’ for testimony, including Donald Trump.” Thompson “said if any witnesses resist, he was willing to use the panel’s subpoena authority ‘to the fullest extent of the law.’ He said the panel hired professional staff to obtain a vast amount of data and will continue to do so through the summer break. The panel held a strategy meeting Wednesday where Thompson told his colleagues that, ‘whatever recess you might have planned for August, you might have to reassess it.’”

DOJ To Pay \$6.1M To Create Database For Capitol Riot Prosecutions. Politico (7/9, Gerstein, Cheney, 6.73M) reports the Justice Department will pay \$6.1 million to Deloitte Financial Advisory Services “to create a massive database of videos, photographs, documents and social media posts related to the Capitol riot as part of the process of turning relevant evidence over to defense attorneys for the more than 500 people facing criminal charges in the Jan. 6 events, according to a court filing and government records.” Politico says the database will allow prosecutors “to organize thousands of hours of body-worn camera footage, closed-circuit surveillance camera footage, more than a million social media videos, data from phones and email accounts, and the responses to more than 6,000 grand jury subpoenas, according to a court filing Thursday.”

DOJ Releases Body Cam Footage Of Officers Dragged By Pro-Trump Rioters. On its website, CNN (7/9, Rabinowitz, Cohen, 89.21M) reports the Justice Department “released new police body camera footage Friday showing one of the most disturbing assaults during the Capitol insurrection – where three officers waded into the crowd to save a pro-Trump rioter who was trampled, only to be stripped of their protective gear, dragged down a set of stairs and attacked with crutches, flagpoles, batons and bare hands.”

US Charges California Man With Raiding Capitol, Posing As Press. The AP (7/10) reports from Santa Ana, California, “A Southern California man has been arrested after being charged with joining the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol while trying to impersonate a member of the media.” Matthew Thomas Purse, 45, “was arrested in Irvine on Friday to face federal charges of entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building, the Orange County Register reported. Purse was photographed inside the Capitol wearing a tactical vest and black helmet marked with the word ‘press,’ according to a criminal complaint unsealed Friday. There is no evidence that Purse has legitimate press credentials or is affiliated with any news organization, the FBI said in an arrest warrant affidavit accompanying the complaint.”

BuzzFeed News (7/10, Tillman) reports, “The government is alleging that a confidential source tipped them off to a livestream Purse did on Twitch on Jan. 6 where he recorded himself saying, ‘Mission accomplished, we broke into the Capitol’; that video was later deleted. Purse isn’t a credentialed member of the Capitol press corps and there was no record of him ever being employed by a media outlet, according to the FBI. Purse had a website he used for livestreaming, but the government didn’t include a link. A federal magistrate judge originally refused to sign off on an arrest warrant for Purse in June, finding prosecutors failed to offer a robust enough explanation for how they’d made sure that Purse wasn’t actually a journalist.”

FBI Agents Interviewed Oath Keepers Leader In May. The New York Times (7/9, Feuer, 20.6M) reports that “shortly after federal agents confronted him in May outside a boutique hotel in Lubbock, Texas, seizing his cellphone with a warrant,” Stewart Rhodes, the leader of the Oath Keepers, made the “bold decision” to agree to be “questioned about his – and his militia’s – role in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.” In an interview, Rhodes told the Times that “against the advice of a lawyer,” he “spoke freely with the agents about the Capitol assault for nearly three hours,” and “said that he denied that he or any other Oath Keepers had intended to disrupt Congress’ certification of the Electoral College vote – the chief accusation the government has lodged against 16 members of the group who are charged with conspiracy.”

Constitutional Lawyers Reject Trump’s First Amendment Defense Against Jan. 6 Lawsuits. The Washington Post (7/9, 10.52M) says that although former President Donald Trump claims that the First Amendment “shields his conduct leading up to the Jan. 6 Capitol riot,” his assertion “is legally ‘spurious’ and should be rejected as a federal court considers lawsuits that allege he incited the violence, four prominent First Amendment lawyers and scholars argued Thursday.” The Post reports First Amendment lawyer Floyd Abrams, Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, former Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow, and “noted constitutional scholar” Laurence Tribe in a proposed 23-page “friend-of-the-court brief filed Thursday in a case brought by members of Congress and Capitol police...argued that courts must strike a balance between protecting freedom of political speech and preventing political intimidation.”

Lawmakers Demand Immediate Funding For Capitol Police As Remaining Fencing Removed. The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, 10.52M) says lawmakers “are sounding the alarm over the need to immediately fund the U.S. Capitol Police and National Guard or risk both security departments running out of money, potentially leading to hundreds of furloughs and cuts that would mark the latest setback for the forces after a tumultuous year.” The Post adds that House Democrats “in particular...are pressuring the Senate to immediately consider passing a \$1.9 billion emergency security supplemental measure during the July session that would quickly allot \$31 million to cover overtime pay, a demand that can be made difficult by a packed summer legislative calendar,” and Defense Secretary Austin “warned during a Senate Appropriations hearing last month that if the National Guard does not get reimbursement soon for staffing the Capitol daily for months after the insurrection, it would be forced to cancel trainings and drills.”

However, [Bloomberg](#) (7/9, Wasson, 3.57M) reports that the Senate “is turning its focus to [the] funding crisis caused by the Jan. 6 riot, with” Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on Friday “calling for an emergency bill to fund the Capitol Police and National Guard.” Republican lawmakers “are proposing an immediate infusion of \$521 million for the Guard, \$97 million for the Capitol Police and \$15 million for the office of the Architect of the Capitol, according to a document obtained by Bloomberg News.”

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (7/9, Cowan) reports workers “began to remove the last of the high-security fence around the U.S. Capitol on Friday, more than six months after former President Donald Trump’s supporters launched a deadly assault on the home of the U.S. Congress.” Reuters adds that according to House Sergeant-at-Arms William Walker, the removal of “the eight-foot-high (2.4-m) black mesh fencing,” which “at one point surrounded several blocks of Capitol Hill, interfering with pedestrian and vehicle traffic,” will “take about three days.”

Fencing Being Taken Down, But Capitol To Remain Closed To Public Visitors. The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) reports, “The metal fencing and concrete barriers that encircled the Capitol after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the complex on Jan. 6. gave way Saturday to an open plaza filled with families lounging on picnic blankets, dogs on leashes and visitors in sunglasses and hats.” Workers “began taking down pieces of the fencing early Friday evening” and the “remaining barriers were piled onto trucks and forklifted away Saturday morning.” All remaining barriers are expected “to be removed within three days and the Architect of the Capitol can ‘expeditiously reinstall the temporary fencing should conditions warrant,’ according to a memo sent to lawmakers Wednesday.” Moving forward, “Capitol Police will continue to monitor threats and the Capitol will still remain closed to public visitors, according to the memo.”

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/10, story 6, 1:46, Diaz, 2.16M) reported that the Justice Department this week announced it has made over 535 arrests related to January 6 and that approximately 300 suspects are still at large. Meanwhile, “the FBI released new video seeking the public’s help. As the investigations continue, multiple sources tell CBS News the US Capitol Police are on the verge of running out of money if Congress doesn’t approve a nearly \$2 billion security package soon. At least one source warns employees could be furloughed if agency funding isn’t replenished by September.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10, Legorano, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and a brief [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/10, story 6, 0:16, Johnson, 4.36M) broadcast provided similar coverage.

Trump Praises January 6 Rally Participants. [Politico](#) (7/11, Cohen, 6.73M) reports former President Trump “widely praised those who attended the Jan. 6 rally that preceded the insurrection at the Capitol, repeatedly using the word ‘love’ to describe the tone of the event.” Trump, who was “speaking on ‘Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo’ on the Fox News Channel,” had “said the rally participants were patriots, that some of them were unjustly arrested and jailed, and that a woman who was shot and killed by law enforcement during the insurrection was a great hero.”

Analysts Warn QAnon Theories “Far From Winding Down” Despite Social Media Crackdown. The [AP](#) (7/9, Ortutay) says that while it appears the QAnon conspiracy theory “has largely disappeared from big social media sites,” as Facebook and Twitter “have removed tens of thousands of accounts dedicated to the baseless conspiracy theory, which depicts former President Donald Trump as a hero fighting a secret battle against a sect of devil-worshipping pedophiles who dominate Hollywood, big business, the media and government,” but it “is far from winding down.” The AP adds that while “the banishment largely appears to have worked” and “it is more difficult to come across blatant QAnon accounts on mainstream social media sites these days, at least from the publicly available data that does not include, for instance, hidden Facebook groups and private messages,” its adherents “remain on the big platforms – only now they’re camouflaging their language and watering down the most extreme tenets of QAnon to make them more palatable.”

CBS: Militias May Pose Growing Threat In US. [CBS This Morning](#) (7/9, 2.04M) reported, “We’re learning more about domestic militias in the United States after a tense standoff with police on one of the busiest highways in the

Northeast. The standoff led to the arrest of a group of heavily-armed militia members, and shut down Interstate 95 in Massachusetts last weekend. Their group...is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as anti-government. This showdown is the latest example of how militia groups are emerging from the shadows." CBS (Catherine Herridge) added, "Former government officials tell CBS political divisions and social media are fueling militia membership." CBS also reported, "Weeks before the assault on the Capitol, court records allege that some militia members began training" and "in March, the nation's top intelligence official warned extreme militia groups are among 'the most lethal' and target law enforcement, government personnel, and facilities."

Officials Investigating Bomb Scare At Fort Lauderdale Airport. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/10, story 2, 1:52, Snow, 3.3M) reported officials in Fort Lauderdale, Florida "are investigating a bomb scare that shut down the city's airport for hours today, creating a travel nightmare." NBC's Vaughn Hillyard said authorities had to shut "down major terminals for nearly-four hours, causing more than 200 delayed flights in and out of Fort Lauderdale and stopping vehicle traffic outside." Hillyard added, "Authorities have given the all clear at this airport here. But sheriff's officials remain on scene. This is still an active, ongoing investigation as we wait to hear the exact cause of today's chaos."

TSA: Maryland Man Stopped With Loaded Pistol Attempting To Board Flight At Reagan National. The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, 10.52M) reports a Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman on Friday "said a man from Oxon Hill, Md., was found to be carrying a .40-caliber pistol loaded with six bullets while preparing to board a flight" the previous day. The man "faces a fine, and the handgun was confiscated, the TSA said." The Post adds that 13 handguns so far have been seized "at the airport this year," whereas 14 handguns were seized in all of 2019.

CNN: Tucker Carlson "Furious" At Fox News For Lack Of Support For NSA Spying Claims. [CNN International](#) (7/11, Stelter, Darcy) reports Tucker Carlson is "furious with Fox News executives for not vigorously defending him amid his evidence-free claims that the National Security Agency spied on him in a conspiracy to destroy his TV show, according to people familiar with the matter." One described Carlson as "furious" with "network executives, especially the public relations team," for "not backing him up," adding, "Tensions are sky high." Fox "pointedly" has not covered "his claims on its newscasts, even though such an intrusion would normally be a significant news story. Fox has not shown any outward signs of investigating Carlson's claims, either."

Russian Spokeswoman: Carlson Story "Very Strange." [Newsweek](#) (7/10, Cole, 2.67M) reported the scrutiny that Tucker Carlson "has faced over trying to arrange an interview with President Vladimir Putin was yet another example of Russia being portrayed negatively by the U.S., the country's foreign affairs spokeswoman has said." Maria Zakharova described it as a "very strange story," adding, "It's time to switch to aliens and UFO."

Sen. Paul Seeks Investigation Carlson NSA Allegations. [Axios](#) (7/11, Mucha, 1.26M) reports Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) is requesting an "investigation into allegations by Tucker Carlson that the National Security Agency was spying on him, Axios has learned." In a letter to NSA Director Gen. Paul Nakasone, Paul writes he is "open-minded" that the NSA is telling the truth regarding Carlson, but "argues a 'long train of abuses' committed by the agency must elicit more than a 'carefully worded' tweet of denial to be trusted."

Grenell Calls For Federal Action Against "Alleged Tucker Carlson NSA Leaker." The [Washington Times](#) (7/10, Soellner, 626K) reported former acting director of national intelligence Richard Grenell on Saturday "said actions should be taken against the person who allegedly 'unmasked' Fox News host Tucker Carlson to the National Security Administration."

Indiana Man Charged In FBI Task Force Officer's Shooting Death. The [Terre Haute \(IN\) Tribune Star](#) (7/9, Trigg, 57K) reports, "Federal charges were file Thursday against the Terre Haute man arrested in the killing of Terre Haute Police Detective and FBI Task Force Officer Greg Ferency outside the FBI's Terre Haute office Wednesday." Shane Meehan, 44, "was charged with the premeditated murder of a federal agent. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison, the FBI said in a release." Authorities "said Meehan was in custody and hospitalized Thursday, recovering from gunshot wounds he suffered during the ambush that resulted in Ferency's death. Meehan had not been able to make statements to investigators, FBI Special Agent Paul Keenan said."

[WRTV-TV](#) Indianapolis (7/9, 92K) reports, "According to court documents, Shane Meehan drove his pickup truck to the gate of the FBI Resident Building, got out, and then threw a Molotov cocktail at the building. When Terre Haute Police Department Detective and FBI Task Force Officer Gregory Ferency walked out of the building, Meehan confronted him and shot him. Ferency was able to return fire at Meehan but died from his injuries." Court documents "say an FBI Special Agent ran out of the building after the shots were exchanged and 'engaged Meehan in a gun battle.' After being shot twice, Meehan

was able to get into his truck and drove from the scene. Meehan was later located at the Vigo County Regional Hospital, where he was treated for his gunshot wounds.”

Recording Of FBI Agent Raises Allegations Of Sabotage In Whitmer Kidnap Plot Probe. The [Detroit News](#) (7/11, Snell, 1.16M) reports, “A lawyer for an accused bombmaker charged in the Gov. Gretchen Whitmer kidnapping case raised questions Sunday about whether the FBI is trying to sabotage defense teams ahead of a landmark trial.” The News adds, “A filing by the attorney for Delaware resident Barry Croft revealed the existence of a recording Sunday in which the lead investigator, FBI Special Agent Henrik Impola, discussed creating ‘disarray and chaos’ for defense lawyers, whom he labeled ‘paid liars.’” Defense attorney Josh Blanchard “included excerpts from the recording in a court filing Sunday that asked U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker to have prosecutors produce a witness list by late August. The request comes despite concerns about the safety of confidential informants and undercover FBI agents who helped infiltrate the alleged plot last fall – and whose names would be expected to appear on a witness list.”

Lawsuit Contests Accounts Of Officials Who Have Claimed Body-Camera Video Of Taylor Shooting Does Not Exist. The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) reports the Louisville Metro Police Department “may have pushed ‘misinformation’ and lied about the existence of body-camera footage from several officers involved in the no-knock raid that resulted in the death of Breonna Taylor last year, according to a lawsuit filed this week.” The legal action filed against Louisville police by a lawyer “representing Taylor’s family says authorities are continuing to withhold records that show whether there is additional body-camera footage that could help shed more light about the night the 26-year-old Black woman was killed.” The Post adds, “The 10-page complaint submitted to Jefferson County Circuit Court and obtained by The Washington Post challenges the accounts of Louisville police and public officials who’ve maintained body-camera footage of the fatal shooting does not exist, because the officers did not turn on their cameras or wear them at all.”

Swedish National Sentenced In Cryptocurrency Ponzi Scheme. The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/10, Beaman, 888K) reports, “A Swedish national was sentenced to 15 years in prison Thursday after pleading guilty to defrauding thousands of people in a multimillion-dollar Ponzi scheme, the Justice Department announced.” Roger Nils-Jonas Karlsson, 47, “pleaded guilty to various securities fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering charges on March 4 for his role in the scheme, which solicited victims to purchase shares in a faux investment venture he named ‘Eastern Metal Securities,’ according to court documents. The victims, who were told they would receive large returns, paid into the scheme using Bitcoin and other digital currencies. Instead of investing the funds, Karlsson transferred them into his personal bank accounts and used the money to buy homes, a racehorse, and a resort in Thailand for himself, according to the Justice Department.”

US Charges Mexican Man With Art Fraud. The [AP](#) (7/10) reports from New York, “A man who authorities say was trying to sell forgeries of works by artists including Jean-Michael Basquiat and Keith Haring was arrested on federal fraud charges.” Manhattan US Attorney Audrey Strauss “said the actual works are worth millions while the forgeries are ‘worthless’ in a complaint unsealed Friday in federal court in Manhattan.” Prosecutors say Angel Pereda, 49, of Mexico, “conned art buyers” who “he hoped wouldn’t notice the art was forged in a scheme from around 2020 to this year. Prosecutors also allege that Pereda falsified the ownership history of the forged artwork on at least one occasion, when an individual told him that record was detected as fraudulent.”

[NBC News](#) (7/11, Romero, 4.91M) reports, “Pereda, also known as Angel Luis Pereda Eguiluz, recently ran unsuccessfully for mayor of the central Mexican city of San Andrés Cholula, known for its proximity to the Great Pyramid of Cholula, according to Mexican news accounts. News accounts indicate that he also runs an eponymous foundation. No connection was made between the allegations against and Pereda campaign. An FBI agent investigating the case, Christopher McKeogh, noted in the criminal complaint that Pereda was the subject of ‘news articles referring to an apparent recent municipal election.’”

US Charges California Man With PPE Fraud. The [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (7/9, Licas, 594K) reports, “A federal grand jury indicted a Lake Forest man accused of pocketing \$3 million during the COVID-19 pandemic from companies attempting to buy personal protective equipment he didn’t actually have to sell, prosecutors said Friday, July 9.” Christopher John Badsey, 60 “was charged with four counts of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering, all felonies, in an indictment returned by the grand jury Wednesday. He was arrested by FBI agents Thursday.” Badsey “is the owner of the Irvine-based company First Defense International Security Services Corp., U.S. Attorney’s officials said in a news release Friday. Prosecutors said the defendant signed contracts with three companies between June and July 2020, and claimed he and his company could

provide millions of boxes of nitrile gloves at a time when hospitals nationwide were experiencing shortages of personal protective equipment, according to the indictment.”

US Seeking Greek Man For Allegedly Trying to Sell Inside Information. The [AP](#) (7/11, Neumeister) reports from New York, “Federal authorities say they are seeking a fugitive who tried to create a marketplace in the dark spaces of the internet for those with an appetite for inside information on stocks.” Manhattan US Attorney Audrey Strauss said Apostolos Trovias, 30, of Athens, Greece, “identified himself online as ‘The Bull’ as he solicited and offered to sell inside information. Federal authorities unsealed a criminal indictment against him on Friday, charging him with securities fraud and money laundering.” Prosecutors “said he’s sold inside information on stocks since December 2016, when he registered a ‘Dark Web’ internet site known as AlphaBay Market where he charged individuals \$99.95 weekly or \$299 monthly subscriptions to get access to inside information on stocks.”

FBI Faces Off Against Hackers. The [Concord \(NC\) Independent Tribune](#) (7/10, Sebenius, Mehrotra, 49K) reports that the “FBI’s Microsoft Exchange initiative was followed in May by a campaign to clawback 63.7 of the 75 Bitcoin (worth \$4.4 million at the time) that Colonial Pipeline paid in ransom to hackers on May 8.” The FBI tracked the cryptocurrency until it landed in a cryptowallet on May 27, while the FBI managed to get the cryptographic password.

Pentagon Providing Options To Respond To Cyberattacks. Defense Department Press Secretary John Kirby, on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/11, 844K), discussed President Biden’s comments that the US will take necessary action to defend infrastructure against cyberattacks from Russia. Kirby said, “I think you understand the last thing I’m going to do is talk about cyber operations on national TV in any great detail. Our job is to provide options to the President. Options in the cyber realm, options outside the cyber realm. Just because you face a cyber attack, doesn’t mean that that’s how you necessarily respond in kind. There’s a whole range of tools at the President’s disposal. ... We are going to be prepared and ready to tee up those options for him whenever he might need them.”

WPost Analysis: Many First Time Gun Buyers Drove Firearm Purchases In 2020. A [Washington Post](#) (7/10, A1, 10.52M) analysis says federal background checks indicate that “in blue cities and red suburbs alike,” gun purchases in 2020 climbed “to the highest level in half a century.” The Post adds, “A striking portion of those sales went to first-time gun buyers – 40 percent, according to the firearms industry’s trade association. Other studies show first-timers accounting for more like a fifth of sales in 2020, but that’s still unusually high, retailers said.” Sellers and purchasers alike indicate that “a disorienting and often frightening year drove many decisions to buy guns.” The Post features comments from some of the first-time buyers, including lifelong Democrat Shakima Thomas, who obtained “a gun permit early in the Trump administration but didn’t buy her first gun until last summer, when the killing of Floyd and the protests that spread across the nation made Thomas feel like the country was spiraling out of control.”

Olen Calls For Progressives To Acknowledge Uptick In Crime. In a [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) column, Helaine Olen writes that a poll put out this week shows that “Democrats, Republicans and independents all say there is a ‘major crisis’ in violent crime.” Crime has risen throughout the country, with Olen adding, “The murder rate surged nearly 20 percent in 2020, compared with 2019. Road-rage shootings have doubled nationally, claiming victims such as 6-year-old Aiden Leos in California in May.” However, many progressives “don’t want to admit this,” and Olen asserts that the denial must stop. Olen also says, “The failure to engage and take on the issue of growing violence and lawbreaking now – no matter how unpleasant, distasteful or uncomfortable – will only harm the progressive agenda and potentially cause swing voters to pull the lever for Republican candidates.”

DC Officials Probing Potential Hate Crime After Attackers “Question Victim’s Gender Identity.” Under the headline “D.C. Police Investigate Possible Hate Crime After Assailants Question Victim’s Gender Identity,” the [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) reports, “Multiple people attacked a person in Northwest Washington on Friday after questioning the victim’s gender identity, and police are investigating the case as a possible hate crime, officials said.” The individual who was attacked sustained “significant” though non-life-threatening injuries.

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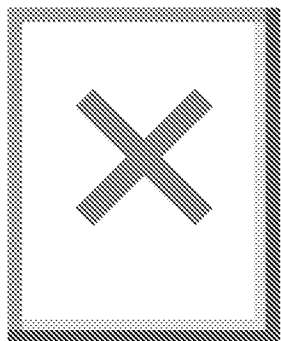
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TO : THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
DATE : MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 6:30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS

US Team Heading To Haiti To Aid In Investigation.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Merancourt, Schmidt, 10.52M) reports that FBI officials arrived in Port-Au-Prince on Sunday "to assess conditions after the assassination of President Jovenel Moise, but the Biden administration has not granted Haitian officials' requests for U.S. troops to help provide security." The [Miami Herald](#) (7/11, 647K) reports that a "technical team" of US officials was scheduled to arrive on Sunday, "a senior administration official said." The Herald says that officials from the White House National Security Council, the State Department, DOJ and DHS are on the trip, and will meet with all three men claiming to be the leader of the country. Monica Alba, for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/11, 6:57 p.m. ET, story 3, Snow, 3.15M), reported the "inter-agency team expected to help in the expansive investigation and continued manhunt." Alba added that while the US is not committing to sending troops, "something the US will be deploying is thousands of COVID-19 doses, possibly as early as next week."

Defense Department Press Secretary John Kirby, on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/11, 844K) said, "We are aware of the request by the Haitian government" for US military assistance. He added, "We are analyzing it just like we would any other request for assistance at the Pentagon, it's going through a review." Kirby said "an interagency team, largely from the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, are heading down to Haiti right now to see what we can do to help them in

the investigative process and I think that's really where our energies are best applied right now, helping them get their arms around investigating this incident and figuring out who's culpable, who's responsible and how best to hold them accountable going forward."

The CBS Weekend News (7/11, 6:09 p.m. ET, story 6, Barnett, 230K) reported, "Tonight FBI and homeland security officials are en route to Haiti to assist investigators there as political crisis following the assassination of the country's president deepens. US troops will not be going despite a request for them." CBS (Ruffini) added, "US officials we spoke to expressed concern and surprise that Haiti requested American forces because the country's history is so full unwanted occupations from foreign powers. But that just goes to show you exactly how precarious the situation has become."

The New York Times (7/11, Barnes, Lopez, 20.6M) reports that a "senior administration official" said, "We are engaged with the Haitian government to learn more about their needs, and we are sending a technical team today to that end." Reuters (7/11) reports that President Biden "will be briefed by the team when it returns and 'then make decisions about the way forward,' a senior Biden administration official" told them. Reuters adds that it "was not immediately clear how long the U.S. team would remain in Haiti. The administration official said on Sunday that Washington would also consult with its regional partners and the United Nations."

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal (7/11, Vyas, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Moïse's security was lax, according to neighbors, with few guards outside his private residence on most days. The Washington Post (7/11, Bennett, Cahlan, Samuels, Faiola, 10.52M) also runs a "visual" history of the assassination of Moïse.

Doctor Arrested In Miami May Be Key Suspect. The Miami Herald (7/11, Weaver, Charles, 647K) reports that Christian Emmanuel Sanon, a "Haitian doctor who has been a fixture in Florida for more than two decades," has "been arrested in Haiti under suspicion that he was one of the leaders behind" the assassination of Moïse, according to Haiti National Police Chief Leon Charles. Sanon "was the first person one of the suspects called after being captured." The New York Times (7/11, Turkewitz, Romero, 20.6M) looks at the role of the Colombians in the assassination, and says that Sanon "was said to have hired the private Florida security company that recruited at least some of the Colombians." Charles said, "He arrived by private plane in June with political objectives and contacted a private security firm to recruit the people who committed this act." The Washington Post (7/11, Merancourt, Schmidt, 10.52M) reports that Sanon "allegedly" recruited "some of the assailants by telling them they would be his bodyguards." Sonon "planned to assume the presidency and hire some of the men as his security team," according to police.

Suspects: Attackers Meant To Arrest, Not Kill, Moïse. Reuters (7/11, Paultre, Marsh) reports that a "group of Colombians and Haitian Americans suspected of assassinating" Moïse "told investigators they were there to arrest him, not kill him, the Miami Herald and a person familiar with the matter said on Sunday." A "source close to the investigation said the two Haitian Americans, James Solages and Joseph Vincent, told investigators they were translators for the Colombian commando unit that had an arrest warrant. But when they arrived, they found him dead."

Gang Violence Again Erupts In Port-au-Prince. The Washington Post (7/11, Merancourt, Schmidt, 10.52M) reports that "sporadic gunfire erupted in Port-au-Prince late Saturday and early Sunday, piercing the relative calm that followed Moïse's killing as violent gangs threatened to fill the power vacuum in a country that now has no clear leader." That's a change from last week, when "the gangs gave the city something of a reprieve from the torrent of gunfire that has killed hundreds this year."

The AP (7/11, Coto, Sanon) reports that the gangs "have long been financed by powerful politicians and their allies — and many Haitians fear those backers may be losing control of the increasingly powerful armed groups who have driven thousands of people from their homes as they battle over territory, kill civilians and raid warehouses of food." The "escalation in gang violence threatens to complicate — and be aggravated by — political efforts to recover from" the slaying of Moïse.

The New York Times (7/11, Cohen, 20.6M) reports that Haiti "was in bad shape even before its president was assassinated and rival factions laid claim to power. Now, it's in meltdown."

Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph "and eight of the 10 remaining members of Parliament in the entire country of 11 million people have both said they have a legitimate right to assume power and fill Haiti's vacuum of authority." Joseph "has tepid backing from a Biden administration desperate not to be sucked into a quagmire." For [ABC World News Tonight](#)[®] (7/11, 6:42 p.m. ET, story 6, Davis, 5.1M), Marcus Moore reported, "Since Wednesday's attack, the city of Port-au-Prince has wrestled with returning to normal, but normal has long been a struggle here. Desperate scenes like this one have become increasingly common, as the country faces economic turmoil. Haiti has been in the midst of a gas shortage, which leads to scenes like this. People lining up for fuel because the opportunity to get gas is spontaneous."

FBI Rules Out All-Star Game Threat After Arrests At Hotel Near Stadium.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Shammass, 10.52M) reports, "Federal authorities said Sunday that there is no reason to suspect terrorism or a threat directed at Major League Baseball's All-Star Game after three men were arrested Friday in an illegal-weapons investigation at a hotel blocks from the ballpark holding the event. 'We are not aware of any threat to the All-Star Game events, venues, players, or the community at this time,' the FBI's Denver office said in a Twitter post." The Post adds, "Authorities have released sparse details about the incident at downtown Denver's Maven Hotel near Coors Field, where celebrations are starting ahead of Tuesday's All-Star Game. Officers responded to the Maven after receiving a report of a 'suspicious incident,' the Denver Police Department said in a news release, and obtained search warrants for two rooms, where they gathered evidence. They also impounded two cars."

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Lukpat, 20.6M) reports Denver police "seized 16 long guns, body armor and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition on Friday at a hotel about two blocks from the stadium where the Major League Baseball All-Star Game is to be played this week, according to officials and local reports," and three men and a woman were arrested. The Times adds police "did not explicitly say if those arrested had stockpiled the weapons in preparation for an attack similar to the 2017 Las Vegas shooting in which a man fired from his upper-story hotel room at crowds attending a music festival, killing 58 and injuring hundreds," but the FBI's office in Denver "said it did not believe that the arrests were connected to terrorism."

The [Denver Post](#) (7/11, Bradbury, 660K) reports, "Previously, law enforcement sources told Denver7 they feared a 'Las Vegas-style shooting' because of the number of weapons and ammunition in the hotel rooms, as well as the vantage point from a balcony, which would overlook potentially large crowds. One of the men who was arrested posted on Facebook about wanting to 'go out in a big way,' according to Denver7, which cited anonymous police sources."

The [AP](#) (7/11, Peipert, Balsamo) says Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and Police Chief Paul Pazen "praised the hotel's staff for alerting authorities and sought to ease any concerns that the area around the ballpark is unsafe. They declined to say what, if anything, the suspects were planning to do with the firearms." On [ABC World News Tonight](#)[®] (7/11, 6:35 p.m. ET, story 2, Davis, 5.1M), Kayna Whitworth reported the FBI is "saying ahead of big events like this, they always work closely with other agencies, but they continue to remind the public to remain vigilant." The [CBS Weekend News](#)[®] (7/11, 6:09 p.m. ET, story 4, Barnett, 230K) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

House Select Committee Examining January 6th Capitol Riot To Hold First Meeting In July.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, 10.52M) reports, "The panel charged with investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by a pro-Trump mob will hold its first hearing this month, its chairman, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.), said Friday." Thompson told MSNBC the hearing "will 'absolutely' go forward even if House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) declines to recommend Republican members for the panel." McCarthy, adds the Post, "has repeatedly declined to say whether he plans to appoint members." On [ABC World News Tonight](#)[®] (7/9, story 7, 1:25, Muir,

5.92M), Chief Justice Correspondent Pierre Thomas said that when the House Select Committee "investigating the insurrection begins hearings in two weeks, among the first to be interviewed and witnesses, Capitol police officers attacked that terrible day."

The [AP](#) (7/10, Jalonick, Rama) reports that Thompson "said Friday the committee hopes to 'set the tone' of the investigation by hearing from those first responders, many of whom were brutally beaten and verbally abused by former President Donald Trump's supporters as they pushed past law enforcement and broke into the Capitol to interrupt the certification of President Joe Biden's victory. Referring to the police officers, Thompson told The Associated Press in an interview, 'We need to hear how they felt, we need to hear what people who broke into the Capitol said to them.' He said the members of the panel, who held an initial strategy session this week, want to frame that first hearing so that it is clear that they are serious, and also that they care about 'those individuals who either secure the Capitol or clean the Capitol.'"

[Newsweek](#) (7/10, 2.67M) reports that Thompson "said that no one is 'off limits' for testimony, including Donald Trump." Thompson "said if any witnesses resist, he was willing to use the panel's subpoena authority 'to the fullest extent of the law.' He said the panel hired professional staff to obtain a vast amount of data and will continue to do so through the summer break. The panel held a strategy meeting Wednesday where Thompson told his colleagues that, 'whatever recess you might have planned for August, you might have to reassess it.'"

DOJ To Pay \$6.1M To Create Database For Capitol Riot Prosecutions.

[Politico](#) (7/9, Gerstein, Cheney, 6.73M) reports the Justice Department will pay \$6.1 million to Deloitte Financial Advisory Services "to create a massive database of videos, photographs, documents and social media posts related to the Capitol riot as part of the process of turning relevant evidence over to defense attorneys for the more than 500 people facing criminal charges in the Jan. 6 events, according to a court filing and government records." Politico says the database will allow prosecutors "to organize thousands of hours of body-worn camera footage, closed-circuit surveillance camera footage, more than a million social media videos, data from phones and email accounts, and the responses to more than 6,000 grand jury subpoenas, according to a court filing Thursday."

DOJ Releases Body Cam Footage Of Officers Dragged By Pro-Trump Rioters.

On its website, [CNN](#) (7/9, Rabinowitz, Cohen, 89.21M) reports the Justice Department "released new police body camera footage Friday showing one of the most disturbing assaults during the Capitol insurrection – where three officers waded into the crowd to save a pro-Trump rioter who was trampled, only to be stripped of their protective gear, dragged down a set of stairs and attacked with crutches, flagpoles, batons and bare hands."

US Charges California Man With Raiding Capitol, Posing As Press.

The [AP](#) (7/10) reports from Santa Ana, California, "A Southern California man has been arrested after being charged with joining the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol while trying to impersonate a member of the media." Matthew Thomas Purse, 45, "was arrested in Irvine on Friday to face federal charges of entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building, the Orange County Register reported. Purse was photographed inside the Capitol wearing a tactical vest and black helmet marked with the word 'press,' according to a criminal complaint unsealed Friday. There is no evidence that Purse has legitimate press credentials or is affiliated with any news organization, the FBI said in an arrest warrant affidavit accompanying the complaint."

[BuzzFeed News](#) (7/10, Tillman) reports, "The government is alleging that a confidential source tipped them off to a livestream Purse did on Twitch on Jan. 6 where he recorded himself saying, 'Mission accomplished, we broke into the Capitol'; that video was later deleted. Purse isn't a credentialed member of the Capitol press corps and there was no record of him ever being employed by a media outlet, according to the FBI. Purse had a website he used for livestreaming, but the government didn't include a link. A federal magistrate judge originally refused to sign off

on an arrest warrant for Purse in June, finding prosecutors failed to offer a robust enough explanation for how they'd made sure that Purse wasn't actually a journalist."

FBI Agents Interviewed Oath Keepers Leader In May.

The New York Times (7/9, Feuer, 20.6M) reports that "shortly after federal agents confronted him in May outside a boutique hotel in Lubbock, Texas, seizing his cellphone with a warrant," Stewart Rhodes, the leader of the Oath Keepers, made the "bold decision" to agree to be "questioned about his – and his militia's – role in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol." In an interview, Rhodes told the Times that "against the advice of a lawyer," he "spoke freely with the agents about the Capitol assault for nearly three hours," and "said that he denied that he or any other Oath Keepers had intended to disrupt Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote – the chief accusation the government has lodged against 16 members of the group who are charged with conspiracy."

Constitutional Lawyers Reject Trump's First Amendment Defense Against Jan. 6 Lawsuits.

The Washington Post (7/9, 10.52M) says that although former President Donald Trump claims that the First Amendment "shields his conduct leading up to the Jan. 6 Capitol riot," his assertion "is legally 'spurious' and should be rejected as a federal court considers lawsuits that allege he incited the violence, four prominent First Amendment lawyers and scholars argued Thursday." The Post reports First Amendment lawyer Floyd Abrams, Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, former Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow, and "noted constitutional scholar" Laurence Tribe in a proposed 23-page "friend-of-the-court brief filed Thursday in a case brought by members of Congress and Capitol police...argued that courts must strike a balance between protecting freedom of political speech and preventing political intimidation."

Lawmakers Demand Immediate Funding For Capitol Police As Remaining Fencing Removed.

The Washington Post (7/9, 10.52M) says lawmakers "are sounding the alarm over the need to immediately fund the U.S. Capitol Police and National Guard or risk both security departments running out of money, potentially leading to hundreds of furloughs and cuts that would mark the latest setback for the forces after a tumultuous year." The Post adds that House Democrats "in particular...are pressuring the Senate to immediately consider passing a \$1.9 billion emergency security supplemental measure during the July session that would quickly allot \$31 million to cover overtime pay, a demand that can be made difficult by a packed summer legislative calendar," and Defense Secretary Austin "warned during a Senate Appropriations hearing last month that if the National Guard does not get reimbursement soon for staffing the Capitol daily for months after the insurrection, it would be forced to cancel trainings and drills."

However, Bloomberg (7/9, Wasson, 3.57M) reports that the Senate "is turning its focus to [the] funding crisis caused by the Jan. 6 riot, with" Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on Friday "calling for an emergency bill to fund the Capitol Police and National Guard." Republican lawmakers "are proposing an immediate infusion of \$521 million for the Guard, \$97 million for the Capitol Police and \$15 million for the office of the Architect of the Capitol, according to a document obtained by Bloomberg News."

Meanwhile, Reuters (7/9, Cowan) reports workers "began to remove the last of the high-security fence around the U.S. Capitol on Friday, more than six months after former President Donald Trump's supporters launched a deadly assault on the home of the U.S. Congress." Reuters adds that according to House Sergeant-at-Arms William Walker, the removal of "the eight-foot-high (2.4-m) black mesh fencing," which "at one point surrounded several blocks of Capitol Hill, interfering with pedestrian and vehicle traffic," will "take about three days."

Fencing Being Taken Down, But Capitol To Remain Closed To Public Visitors. The Washington Post (7/10, 10.52M) reports, "The metal fencing and concrete barriers that encircled the Capitol after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the complex on Jan. 6. gave way Saturday to an open plaza filled with families lounging on picnic blankets, dogs on leashes and visitors in sunglasses and hats." Workers "began taking down pieces of the fencing early Friday evening" and

the "remaining barriers were piled onto trucks and forklifted away Saturday morning." All remaining barriers are expected "to be removed within three days and the Architect of the Capitol can 'expeditiously reinstall the temporary fencing should conditions warrant,' according to a memo sent to lawmakers Wednesday." Moving forward, "Capitol Police will continue to monitor threats and the Capitol will still remain closed to public visitors, according to the memo."

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/10, story 6, 1:46, Díaz, 2.16M) reported that the Justice Department this week announced it has made over 535 arrests related to January 6 and that approximately 300 suspects are still at large. Meanwhile, "the FBI released new video seeking the public's help. As the investigations continue, multiple sources tell CBS News the US Capitol Police are on the verge of running out of money if Congress doesn't approve a nearly \$2 billion security package soon. At least one source warns employees could be furloughed if agency funding isn't replenished by September." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10, Legorano, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and a brief [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/10, story 6, 0:16, Johnson, 4.36M) broadcast provided similar coverage.

WPost: Jan. 6 Capitol Attack Was An "Insurrection" By "Dangerous Extremists And Encouraged By The President."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) editorializes that "in the six months since the Jan. 6 Capitol attack, former president Donald Trump has played down the violence," yet "the facts prosecutors have revealed since this national disgrace suggest that the insurrection was actually better planned and more dangerous than it seemed on live television." The Post concludes that now, "prosecutors are showing that this was not some run-of-the-mill riot; it was a violent incursion into the nation's seat of government conducted by dangerous extremists and encouraged by the president."

Rep. Gohmert Suggests Capitol Siege Was A Set-Up By Democrats.

[Newsweek](#) (7/11, Zhao, 2.67M) reports, "Texas GOP Rep. Louie Gohmert suggested that the January 6 was a conspiracy set-up by the Democrats and called the arrests of the Capitol rioters 'tyranny' in a speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Dallas on Sunday." Gohmert "suggested that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was responsible for the violent insurrection that forced lawmakers into hiding and left five people dead, including a Capitol police officer. 'On January 6th, the sergeant at arms had turned down, on behalf of the speaker, having the National Guard there to help protect the Capitol. Why did that happen? You think they were setting things up?' he said in his address at CPAC. 'We can't let them intimidate us from not protesting. That's what this treatment of people that got arrested was all about - intimidation,' Gohmert added."

Trump Praises January 6 Rally Participants.

[Politico](#) (7/11, Cohen, 6.73M) reports former President Trump "widely praised those who attended the Jan. 6 rally that preceded the insurrection at the Capitol, repeatedly using the word 'love' to describe the tone of the event." Trump, who was "speaking on 'Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo' on the Fox News Channel," had "said the rally participants were patriots, that some of them were unjustly arrested and jailed, and that a woman who was shot and killed by law enforcement during the insurrection was a great hero."

PROTESTS

Police Officers Sue California City Over BLM Mural Containing "Anti-Police" Images.

[The Hill](#) (7/9, Jenkins, 5.69M) reports "a group of police officers filed a lawsuit against" Palo Alto, California "over a mural that they said contained anti-police images." Per [The Daily Post](#), "five officers sued Palo Alto, arguing that the Black Lives Matter mural approved by the city includes images that constitute harassment against law enforcement."

Robert E. Lee Statue In Charlottesville Removed.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) reports, "Nearly a century after it was first erected, and

almost four years after it triggered a deadly weekend of violence, the statue of Robert E. Lee sitting on horseback in downtown Charlottesville was hoisted into the air Saturday and carted away on a truck." Zyanha Bryant, who launched a petition during 2016 to remove the monument, said, "I don't have much to say other than this is well overdue," adding, "This should have happened a long time ago." The Charlottesville City Council had originally voted for the statue's removal during February 2017, in the wake of Bryant's petition. However, a group of locals took legal action "a few weeks later, sparking a prolonged fight in court over whether the city could topple such monuments."

The New York Times (7/9, Levenson, Spencer, 20.6M) reports Charlottesville's decision to remove the statue "came more than four years after the City Council initially put forth a plan to remove it from what was then known as Lee Park, prompting scores of white nationalists to descend on Charlottesville in August 2017 in a 'Unite the Right' rally to protest the removal." The Times adds, "Counterprotesters confronted the rally, and a white supremacist drove into a crowd of peaceful demonstrators, killing a woman, Heather Heyer, and injuring dozens of others." On ABC World News Tonight (7/10, story 6, 1:55, Johnson, 4.36M), Faith Abubey said that after the Robert E. Lee statue was removed, "a statue of Confederate General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson [met] the same fate. Activists fighting for years to remove those Civil War monuments."

On the CBS Weekend News (7/10, story 5, 1:38, Diaz, 2.16M), Christina Ruffini said that additionally removed on Friday was a statue of "the explorers Lewis and Clark and what appears to be a cowering Sacagawea." Ruffini also said that "according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, about 700 statutes and monuments still remain to the Confederacy around the country, including some at the US Capitol. ... Last week the House of Representatives passed a resolution to have them removed, but that bill has yet to make it to the Senate." Regarding the monuments that were taken down, Monica Alba reported on NBC Nightly News (7/10, story 5, 1:55, Snow, 3.3M) that the White House "says President Biden believes those monuments belong in museums, not public places. And he welcomes their removal."

Staples: Northern Papers In Pre-Civil Rights Period That Praised Themselves For Being Against "Lynching In The Abstract Justified It In Practice." New York Times (7/10, 20.6M) editorial board member Brent Staples writes, "Newspapers that championed white supremacy throughout the pre-civil rights South paved the way for lynching by declaring African Americans nonpersons." Staples adds, "These newspapers entered their bloodiest incarnations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, inciting hellish episodes of violence during which white mobs murdered at will while sometimes destroying entire Black communities." African Americans "who fled these Southern horrors found the white Northern press only marginally less hostile." Northern publications that applauded "themselves for opposing lynching in the abstract justified it in practice by depicting the victims as naturally disposed toward heinous crime."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Analysts Warn QAnon Theories "Far From Winding Down" Despite Social Media Crackdown.

The AP (7/9, Ortutay) says that while it appears the QAnon conspiracy theory "has largely disappeared from big social media sites," as Facebook and Twitter "have removed tens of thousands of accounts dedicated to the baseless conspiracy theory, which depicts former President Donald Trump as a hero fighting a secret battle against a sect of devil-worshipping pedophiles who dominate Hollywood, big business, the media and government," but it "is far from winding down." The AP adds that while "the banishment largely appears to have worked" and "it is more difficult to come across blatant QAnon accounts on mainstream social media sites these days, at least from the publicly available data that does not include, for instance, hidden Facebook groups and private messages," its adherents "remain on the big platforms - only now they're camouflaging their language and watering down the most extreme tenets of QAnon to make them more palatable."

CBS: Militias May Pose Growing Threat In US.

CBS This Morning (7/9, 2.04M) reported, "We're learning more about domestic militias in the United States after a tense standoff with police on one of the busiest highways in the Northeast. The standoff led to the arrest of a group of heavily-armed militia members, and shut down Interstate 95 in Massachusetts last weekend. Their group...is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as anti-government. This showdown is the latest example of how militia groups are emerging from the shadows." CBS (Catherine Herridge) added, "Former government officials tell CBS political divisions and social media are fueling militia membership." CBS also reported, "Weeks before the assault on the Capitol, court records allege that some militia members began training" and "in March, the nation's top intelligence official warned extreme militia groups are among 'the most lethal' and target law enforcement, government personnel, and facilities."

Officials Investigating Bomb Scare At Fort Lauderdale Airport.

NBC Nightly News (7/10, story 2, 1:52, Snow, 3.3M) reported officials in Fort Lauderdale, Florida "are investigating a bomb scare that shut down the city's airport for hours today, creating a travel nightmare." NBC's Vaughn Hillyard said authorities had to shut "down major terminals for nearly-four hours, causing more than 200 delayed flights in and out of Fort Lauderdale and stopping vehicle traffic outside." Hillyard added, "Authorities have given the all clear at this airport here. But sheriff's officials remain on scene. This is still an active, ongoing investigation as we wait to hear the exact cause of today's chaos."

TSA: Maryland Man Stopped With Loaded Pistol Attempting To Board Flight At Reagan National.

The Washington Post (7/9, 10.52M) reports a Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman on Friday "said a man from Oxon Hill, Md., was found to be carrying a .40-caliber pistol loaded with six bullets while preparing to board a flight" the previous day. The man "faces a fine, and the handgun was confiscated, the TSA said." The Post adds that 13 handguns so far have been seized "at the airport this year," whereas 14 handguns were seized in all of 2019.

Administration Does Not Grant Due Process Rights To Guantánamo Detainees.

The New York Times (7/9, Savage, 20.6M) reports the Administration "pulled back on Friday from a Trump-era claim that detainees at the Guantánamo Bay wartime prison in Cuba have no due process rights under the Constitution. But it stopped short of declaring that noncitizens held at the American naval base in Cuba are covered by such legal protections, according to officials familiar with the matter." The Times says the Justice Department "in a much-anticipated brief before the full Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit...took no position on the question of whether Guantánamo detainees have any due process rights." According to the Times, "The muddled outcome followed a sharp internal debate among the Biden legal team."

Martins To Retire In Advance Of Sept. 11 Trial. The New York Times (7/9, Rosenberg, 20.6M) reports Army Brig. Gen. Mark S. Martins, who "has led war crimes prosecutions at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for a decade," will retire and is "handing off the trial of the five men accused of conspiring in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 to an as-yet unchosen successor." The Times says his departure "came as a surprise because he had obtained an extension to serve in the post until Jan. 1, 2023. Instead, he will retire on Sept. 30, according to a notice sent by Karen V. Loftus, a prosecution staff member, to families of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

CNN: Tucker Carlson "Furious" At Fox News For Lack Of Support For NSA Spying Claims.

CNN International (7/11, Stelter, Darcy) reports Tucker Carlson is "furious with Fox News executives for not vigorously defending him amid his evidence-free claims that the National Security Agency spied on him in a conspiracy to destroy his TV show, according to people familiar with the matter." One described Carlson as "furious" with "network executives, especially the

public relations team," for "not backing him up," adding, "Tensions are sky high." Fox "pointedly" has not covered "his claims on its newscasts, even though such an intrusion would normally be a significant news story. Fox has not shown any outward signs of investigating Carlson's claims, either."

Russian Spokeswoman: Carlson Story "Very Strange." Newsweek (7/10, Cole, 2.67M) reported the scrutiny that Tucker Carlson "has faced over trying to arrange an interview with President Vladimir Putin was yet another example of Russia being portrayed negatively by the U.S., the country's foreign affairs spokeswoman has said." Maria Zakharova described it as a "very strange story," adding, "It's time to switch to aliens and UFO."

Sen. Paul Seeks Investigation Carlson NSA Allegations. Axios (7/11, Mucha, 1.26M) reports Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) is requesting an "investigation into allegations by Tucker Carlson that the National Security Agency was spying on him, Axios has learned." In a letter to NSA Director Gen. Paul Nakasone, Paul writes he is "open-minded" that the NSA is telling the truth regarding Carlson, but "argues a 'long train of abuses' committed by the agency must elicit more than a 'carefully worded' tweet of denial to be trusted."

Grenell Calls For Federal Action Against "Alleged Tucker Carlson NSA Leaker." The Washington Times (7/10, Soellner, 626K) reported former acting director of national intelligence Richard Grenell on Saturday "said actions should be taken against the person who allegedly 'unmasked' Fox News host Tucker Carlson to the National Security Administration."

Conservative Media Continue Criticism Of ODNI Diversity Report.

The New York Post (7/9, Chamberlain, 7.45M) reports ODNI "was roundly mocked on social media Thursday for using an image on the cover of its annual diversity report that was obviously Photoshopped." Insider (7/10, Zitser, 2.74M) reports the cover "was edited to include a blind man with a guide dog and a woman in a wheelchair, Republican political consultant Luke Thompson first noted on Twitter."

Fox News (7/9, 23.99M) host Tucker Carlson dedicated several minutes at the top of his Friday broadcast to the issue, calling the cover a "Soviet-style fake."

The Daily Caller (7/9, Price, 375K) also reports.

UFO Enthusiasts "Aren't Buying Into" ODNI UAP Report.

The AP (7/11, Broom) reports about disappointment from some Americans, and especially from alleged UFO witnesses, who believe that the June 25 ODNI UAP "investigations and report are too little, too late."

DHS Names New Intel Chief.

CNN (7/9, Sands, 89.21M) reported DHS official John Cohen will "take over leadership of the department's intelligence branch." In a letter to "the DHS workforce, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced Friday that Cohen will serve as the senior official performing the duties of the undersecretary for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis." The DHS inspector general office is also "reviewing whether the Office of Intelligence and Analysis fulfilled its responsibility for providing intelligence to law enforcement for the January 6 events at the Capitol." Under Mayorkas' DHS leadership, "the office intends to focus on developing analytic products that are valuable to state and local officials, ensuring that personnel that work closely with law enforcement across the US and expanding communication beyond bulletins to 'real discussions' at the local level," according to a senior DHS official. Politico (7/9, Swan, 6.73M) reported Mayorkas' announcement "says Cohen's title will be senior official performing the duties of undersecretary of Intelligence and Analysis, meaning he will not be formally nominated for the role, which would have required Senate confirmation."

Fox News (7/9, Conklin, 23.99M) reported in the Friday memo, Mayorkas cited Cohen's "over three decades of experience in law enforcement, counterintelligence, and homeland security." Melissa Smislova, who has led the office "for several months, according to the Journal, and will return to her position as deputy under secretary for Intelligence Enterprise Readiness at I&A."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Indiana Man Charged In FBI Task Force Officer's Shooting Death.

The [Terre Haute \(IN\) Tribune Star](#) (7/9, Trigg, 57K) reports, "Federal charges were filed Thursday against the Terre Haute man arrested in the killing of Terre Haute Police Detective and FBI Task Force Officer Greg Ferency outside the FBI's Terre Haute office Wednesday." Shane Meehan, 44, "was charged with the premeditated murder of a federal agent. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison, the FBI said in a release." Authorities "said Meehan was in custody and hospitalized Thursday, recovering from gunshot wounds he suffered during the ambush that resulted in Ferency's death. Meehan had not been able to make statements to investigators, FBI Special Agent Paul Keenan said."

[WRTV-TV Indianapolis](#) (7/9, 92K) reports, "According to court documents, Shane Meehan drove his pickup truck to the gate of the FBI Resident Building, got out, and then threw a Molotov cocktail at the building. When Terre Haute Police Department Detective and FBI Task Force Officer Gregory Ferency walked out of the building, Meehan confronted him and shot him. Ferency was able to return fire at Meehan but died from his injuries." Court documents "say an FBI Special Agent ran out of the building after the shots were exchanged and 'engaged Meehan in a gun battle.' After being shot twice, Meehan was able to get into his truck and drove from the scene. Meehan was later located at the Vigo County Regional Hospital, where he was treated for his gunshot wounds."

Recording Of FBI Agent Raises Allegations Of Sabotage In Whitmer Kidnap Plot Probe.

The [Detroit News](#) (7/11, Snell, 1.16M) reports, "A lawyer for an accused bombmaker charged in the Gov. Gretchen Whitmer kidnapping case raised questions Sunday about whether the FBI is trying to sabotage defense teams ahead of a landmark trial." The News adds, "A filing by the attorney for Delaware resident Barry Croft revealed the existence of a recording Sunday in which the lead investigator, FBI Special Agent Henrik Impola, discussed creating 'disarray and chaos' for defense lawyers, whom he labeled 'paid liars.'" Defense attorney Josh Blanchard "included excerpts from the recording in a court filing Sunday that asked U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker to have prosecutors produce a witness list by late August. The request comes despite concerns about the safety of confidential informants and undercover FBI agents who helped infiltrate the alleged plot last fall -- and whose names would be expected to appear on a witness list."

Lawsuit Contests Accounts Of Officials Who Have Claimed Body-Camera Video Of Taylor Shooting Does Not Exist.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, Bella, 10.52M) reports the Louisville Metro Police Department "may have pushed 'misinformation' and lied about the existence of body-camera footage from several officers involved in the no-knock raid that resulted in the death of Breonna Taylor last year, according to a lawsuit filed this week." The legal action filed against Louisville police by a lawyer "representing Taylor's family says authorities are continuing to withhold records that show whether there is additional body-camera footage that could help shed more light about the night the 26-year-old Black woman was killed." The Post adds, "The 10-page complaint submitted to Jefferson County Circuit Court and obtained by The Washington Post challenges the accounts of Louisville police and public officials who've maintained body-camera footage of the fatal shooting does not exist, because the officers did not turn on their cameras or wear them at all."

Russian National At Heart Of North Carolina Murder-For-Hire Case Is Sentenced On Lesser Charges.

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (7/9, Murphy, 396K) reports, "A wealthy Russian national, who lived in a \$5 million home in Raleigh before his 2018 arrest on a slew of charges, including murder-for-hire, was sentenced to five years in prison Friday in North Carolina after pleading guilty to lesser charges." Leonid Teyf, 59, "pleaded guilty in March to bribery of a public official, visa fraud and making a false statement on a tax document. Teyf will be deported when he completes his

sentence, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina said." Teyf "and his ex-wife, Tatyana, will forfeit nearly \$6 million in assets. Tatyana Teyf, 43, pleaded guilty in March to making a false statement in an immigration document, but all other charges were dismissed and she will not face prison time."

Former GOP Staffer Pleads Guilty To Child Pornography Charge.

Politico (7/9, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports former GOP staffer and Republican National Committee aide Ruben Verastigui on Friday "pleaded guilty...to a child pornography charge and is facing 12 years or more in prison under a plea deal with prosecutors." Verastigui "entered the guilty plea from jail during a video conference hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Amit Mehta in Washington, D.C."

Prostitute Testifies That Pennsylvania Detective Paid Her For Sex, Gave Her Heroin.

The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (7/9, Miller, 567K) reports, "A woman who said she prostituted herself to support her drug habit told a federal jury Friday that she repeatedly had sex with a former Carlisle police detective who gave her heroin." The Patriot-News adds, "Retired Detective Christopher Collare also tipped her off about a police raid on the house of her drug dealer boyfriend, the woman testified during the fourth day of Collare's trial on corruption charges. The woman said that after her boyfriend was arrested Collare reneged on a deal where she had sex with him in return for his pledge not to attend a court hearing in hopes of having the charges against her boyfriend dismissed." Defense attorney John Abom "focused on the woman's long criminal record and the fact that she repeatedly told FBI agents that she had never even met the 53-year-old Collare, who was once a star of the Cumberland County Drug Task Force."

DC Officials Probing Potential Hate Crime After Attackers "Question Victim's Gender Identity."

Under the headline "D.C. Police Investigate Possible Hate Crime After Assailants Question Victim's Gender Identity," the Washington Post (7/10, 10.52M) reports, "Multiple people attacked a person in Northwest Washington on Friday after questioning the victim's gender identity, and police are investigating the case as a possible hate crime, officials said." The individual who was attacked sustained "significant" though non-life-threatening injuries.

Illinois Trucker Pleads Guilty To Child Sex Crime.

The State (7/9, Koop) reports, "An Illinois truck driver accused of impregnating a 13-year-old girl in his semi has pleaded guilty, officials said." David Kyle Skaggs, "a 33-year-old from Cahokia, pleaded guilty Thursday to transportation with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, according to the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia. In 2015, Skaggs began communicating with a 15-year-old boy from Virginia on Facebook and befriended his family," and he "told the boy's younger sister she was 'pretty' and suggested they be 'more than just friends,' the complaint said. Skaggs took the brother and sister on a road trip in his semi that summer with the permission of their mom. At a Flying J truck stop in South Dakota, officials said Skaggs gave the children alcohol and raped the girl in the sleeper area of the semi, the complaint said."

Centerville, Ohio Police Have Bank Robbery Suspect In Custody.

WHIO-TV Dayton, OH (7/9, 100K) reports Centerville Police responded to a robbery at LCNB Bank on Sunday morning, taking a suspect into custody. "Police said the robber left behind an item that is suspicious. Initial reports indicated the robber gave the teller a note saying he had a bomb strapped to him. The robber was described as a white male, wearing an Ohio State hat and grey Ohio State sweatshirt."

Odessa, Texas Man Admits To Driving to Lubbock For Sex With Child.

KXAN-TV Austin, TX (7/9, 300K) reports that Andrew Juaquez, 35, of Odessa was arrested by FBI agents Wednesday. Juaquez was in contact with Lubbock Police posing as a woman offering an 11-

year-old girl for sex. "Juaquez admitted to sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl" in a conversation with the undercover police officer.

KFMX-FM Lubbock, TX (7/9, Matsik) provides additional coverage.

KCBD-TV Lubbock, TX (7/9, 29K) reports that the woman Lubbock Police impersonated claimed to have been romantically involved with Juaquez for a year or two and had broken up because "Juaquez kept wanting to talk about doing sexually graphic things with children."

KWKT-TV Waco, TX (7/9) reports that the criminal complaint stated that the woman "occasionally got kicked off of Skout (social networking and dating site) when she had sexually explicit conversations about kids with other individuals."

New Jersey Man Arrested In Hotel, Charged With Kidnapping Son.

The New Jersey Star-Ledger (7/11, Nieto-Muñoz, 1.47M) reports that Tyler Rios, 27, was arrested at a hotel in Monterey, Tennessee and charged with abducting his two-year-old son from Rahway, New Jersey on Friday. Rios is also likely to be charged in the death of his ex-girlfriend, Yasemin Uyar, 24, found near the hotel.

Nebraska & Iowa See Rise In Hate Crimes.

The AP (7/9) reports Nebraska and Iowa have seen an increase in hate crimes in recent years, "most of which have been committed on the basis of race and ethnicity, according to the FBI."

FBI Search For Medina County Bank Robbery Suspect.

WKYC-TV Cleveland (7/9, 418K) reports the FBI and Medina Township Police Department are searching for the suspect in a bank robbery. The US Bank was robbed on Tuesday, June 29 by an armed man "wearing a yellow safety vest, a blue LA Dodgers hat and a mask."

Accused In Police Shooting Case Pleads Not Guilty.

WKMG-TV Orlando, FL (7/9, Argueta, 191K) reports that Othal Wallace, 29 was charged "with attempted first-degree murder of a law enforcement officer Thursday" and pleaded not guilty on charges of shooting Daytona Beach police officer Jason Raynor on June 23.

Tyler Man Indicted By Smith County Grand Jury.

KYTX-TV Tyler, TX (7/9, Roy) reports that Daniel Skipworth, 19, was indicted for "kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault of a child and trafficking a child on June 24" by a Smith County grand jury. Skipworth is accused of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 13 year old from her foster family's house in Florence, Alabama.

Fremont Man Sentenced For Aggravated Bank Robbery.

KFAB-AM Omaha, NE (7/9, Bertino, 1K) reports that Anthony Wayne Hall, 65, was sentenced for aggravated bank robbery and will serve a life sentence. Hall robbed the First State Bank in Fremont on November 21, 2019.

WOWT-TV Omaha, NE (7/9, Newbill, 59K) reports that Hall was previously convicted of murder, rape, and at least seven robberies. FBI Omaha Special Agent in Charge Eugene Kowel said, "Anthony Hall's career of committing violent crimes ended today. A mandatory life sentence means he will no longer be free to rob and menace our community. The FBI will always work with our law enforcement partners to hold violent criminals like Hall accountable for their actions."

NC Trooper Charged With Firearm Sales To A Felon.

The McDowell(NC) News (7/9, Biggs, 8K) reports that Trooper Timothy Jay Norman, 47, is accused of selling decommissioned firearms to felon Tommy Lee Hudson, 33. Both men were arrested Wednesday. "Norman is charged with unlawful transfer of a firearm to a prohibited person. Hudson is charged with possessing a gun after being convicted of a felony."

Pipe Bomb Found At Ex-Con's Residence.

The [Batavia \(NY\) Daily News](#) (7/10, DeSmit, 38K) reports that Donald R. Read Jr., 49, a two-time ex-convict, was arrested Tuesday after a pipe bomb was discovered at his residence.

Man Pleads Guilty To Assassination Plot For Ex-Girlfriend.

[Newsweek](#) (7/9, Ellington, 2.67M) reports that Daniel Slater, 51, of Palm Beach County, Florida, plead guilty on July 9 to hiring someone to murder his ex-girlfriend and her husband and frame Black Lives Matter for the assassination. The hitwoman, Brianne Slabaugh, was found dead on February 22, 2020 due to an overdose of heroin and cocaine. Slater's ex-girlfriend, Brianna Kane, had filed a restraining order against him in the past.

[Independent \(UK\)](#) (7/11, Kilander, 1.19M) reports that Slater also sought to kill Kane's sister and brother and law, "who he thought had ruined the relationship." The person Slater hired after Slabaugh was found dead "turned to be an undercover FBI agent." Slabaugh had "told Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies that Slater was training her to become an assassin."

Nevada School Counselor Arrested For Child Pornography Possession.

[Newsweek](#) (7/9, Palmer, 2.67M) reports that Tyler Ball-Imsdahl, 29, was arrested on charges of production and possession of child pornography on Thursday. Ball-Imsdahl, an employee of the Washoe County School District, was found in an investigation to have "more than 250 suspected images and videos of child abuse" located via emails and electronic devices owned by Ball-Imsdahl.

Investigation Into Bank Robbery Continues.

The [Defiance \(OH\) Crescent-News](#) (7/10, Reynolds, 45K) reports that the Defiance Police Department continues the investigation into the Tuesday afternoon robbery of the State Bank. The suspect still remains at large.

Omaha Man Sentenced To 10 Years For Child Porn Possession.

[WQWT-TV Omaha, NE](#) (7/10, Dvorak, 59K) reports that Marcus Dunn, 27, was sentenced to 10 years in prison, a \$1,100 fine, and a lifetime of supervision for child porn possession on Friday.

Eight New Englanders Arrested In Connection With Meth Trafficking Investigation.

An online [WBSM-AM](#) Fairhaven, MA (7/9, Robinson, 771) article said eight New England residents have been arrested and charged in connection with a "meth trafficking ring" investigation. The article quoted the FBI's Joseph Bonavolonta, who alleged that the arrested individuals "lined their pockets by...capitalizing on the misery of others." The article also quoted DEA New England Special Agent in Charge Brian Boyle, who stated, "As methamphetamine seizures are on the rise, DEA stands committed to keeping this highly addictive drug out of New England."

This story was also covered by other media outlets, including the [AP](#) (7/9), the [WLNE-TV](#) Providence, RI (7/9) website, the [Boston Globe](#) (7/10, Barefield, 1.04M), the [WHDH-TV](#) Boston (7/9, O'Laughlin, 101K) website, the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/9, Burns, 178K), the [WPRI-TV](#) Providence, RI (7/9, 316K) website, the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (7/9, Perry, 376K), the [Braintree \(MA\) Patch](#) (7/9, 1.44M) and the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (7/9, Albertson-Grove, 100K).

Two Ohio Women Convicted In Meth Case.

The [Youngstown \(OH\) Vindicator](#) (7/11, Vogrin, 135K) covers the FBI's involvement in an investigation that led to recent convictions for Ohio residents Mary E. Clearwater and Courtney P. Wilson. Clearwater and Wilson, who were each "convicted on one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine," had been accused of participating in an operation that sought to distribute that drug in parts of Ohio's northern region.

EMPLOYMENT

FBI To Host Albuquerque, New Mexico Recruitment Event.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/9, 188K) reports, "The FBI office in Albuquerque is holding a virtual recruitment event this month in hopes of bolstering and further diversifying its ranks." The Diversity Agent Recruitment, "an invitation-only event, will be from 5 to 7: 30 p.m. on July 22. During the event applicants will talk with a recruiter, join in group sessions with agents, learn about the FBI Academy and tips to streamline the application process. Applicants must be between the ages of 23 and 36, have some full-time work experience, and hold a bachelor's degree. No law enforcement or military experience is required."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Swedish National Sentenced In Cryptocurrency Ponzi Scheme.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/10, Beaman, 888K) reports, "A Swedish national was sentenced to 15 years in prison Thursday after pleading guilty to defrauding thousands of people in a multimillion-dollar Ponzi scheme, the Justice Department announced." Roger Nils-Jonas Karlsson, 47, "pleaded guilty to various securities fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering charges on March 4 for his role in the scheme, which solicited victims to purchase shares in a faux investment venture he named 'Eastern Metal Securities,' according to court documents. The victims, who were told they would receive large returns, paid into the scheme using Bitcoin and other digital currencies. Instead of investing the funds, Karlsson transferred them into his personal bank accounts and used the money to buy homes, a racehorse, and a resort in Thailand for himself, according to the Justice Department."

US Charges Mexican Man With Art Fraud.

The [AP](#) (7/10) reports from New York, "A man who authorities say was trying to sell forgeries of works by artists including Jean-Michael Basquiat and Keith Haring was arrested on federal fraud charges." Manhattan US Attorney Audrey Strauss "said the actual works are worth millions while the forgeries are 'worthless' in a complaint unsealed Friday in federal court in Manhattan." Prosecutors say Angel Pereda, 49, of Mexico, "conned art buyers" who "he hoped wouldn't notice the art was forged in a scheme from around 2020 to this year. Prosecutors also allege that Pereda falsified the ownership history of the forged artwork on at least one occasion, when an individual told him that record was detected as fraudulent."

[NBC News](#) (7/11, Romero, 4.91M) reports, "Pereda, also known as Angel Luis Pereda Eguiluz, recently ran unsuccessfully for mayor of the central Mexican city of San Andrés Cholula, known for its proximity to the Great Pyramid of Cholula, according to Mexican news accounts. News accounts indicate that he also runs an eponymous foundation. No connection was made between the allegations against and Pereda campaign. An FBI agent investigating the case, Christopher McKeogh, noted in the criminal complaint that Pereda was the subject of 'news articles referring to an apparent recent municipal election.'"

US Charges California Man With PPE Fraud.

The [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (7/9, Licas, 594K) reports, "A federal grand jury indicted a Lake Forest man accused of pocketing \$3 million during the COVID-19 pandemic from companies attempting to buy personal protective equipment he didn't actually have to sell, prosecutors said Friday, July 9." Christopher John Badsey, 60 "was charged with four counts of wire fraud and two counts of money laundering, all felonies, in an indictment returned by the grand jury Wednesday. He was arrested by FBI agents Thursday." Badsey "is the owner of the Irvine-based company First Defense International Security Services Corp., U.S. Attorney's officials said in a news release Friday. Prosecutors said the defendant signed contracts with three companies between June and July 2020, and claimed he and his company could provide millions of boxes of nitrile gloves at a time when hospitals nationwide were experiencing shortages of personal protective equipment, according to the indictment."

US Seeking Greek Man For Allegedly Trying to Sell Inside Information.

The AP (7/11, Neumeister) reports from New York, "Federal authorities say they are seeking a fugitive who tried to create a marketplace in the dark spaces of the internet for those with an appetite for inside information on stocks." Manhattan US Attorney Audrey Strauss said Apostolos Trovias, 30, of Athens, Greece, "identified himself online as 'The Bull' as he solicited and offered to sell inside information. Federal authorities unsealed a criminal indictment against him on Friday, charging him with securities fraud and money laundering." Prosecutors "said he's sold inside information on stocks since December 2016, when he registered a 'Dark Web' internet site known as AlphaBay Market where he charged individuals \$99.95 weekly or \$299 monthly subscriptions to get access to inside information on stocks."

Moldovan National Living In NH Pleads Guilty To False Statement.

The New Hampshire Union Leader (7/11, Feely, 100K) reports Stela Sacara, 34, a Moldovan citizen, pleaded guilty Thursday to lying to a federal agency about her chemical export company Sacara and Rochester Chemical. Sacara falsely stated to federal agents that Rochester Chemical's director was an individual names Amy Johnson. Joseph R. Bonavolonta, special agent in charge of the Boston Division of the FBI, said "Stela Sacara deliberately lied to federal agents to cover up the extent of her involvement in Rochester Chemical's business operations and ultimately who received their shipments. Not only did her actions waste our investigators[] time and energy trying to locate individuals who do not exist, but she also attempted to obstruct our investigation into whether the company was violating our export laws."

Duo Accused Of Forced Labor In Chicken Slaughterhouse Sentenced For Financial Crimes.

The New Jersey Star-Ledger (7/9, Attrino, 1.47M) reports that Mohammad Abdul Wahid, 59, and Mohammed Iqbal Kabir, 47, were "arrested in the fall of 2016 and charged with conspiracy to commit human trafficking, conspiracy to harbor undocumented persons for financial gain and violating the Fair Labor Standards Act." The two were sentenced to prison for financial crimes this week.

JT Burnette To Stand Trial Monday.

WCTV-TV Tallahassee, FL (7/9, Montanaro, 60K) reports Tallahassee developer JT Burnette is to stand trial Monday on "federal racketeering and extortion charges." Burnette's attorneys "are now asking permission to provide headphones for the jury, judge and legal teams, so they can better hear and understand the undercover audio recordings and videotapes that are expected to be introduced as evidence during the trial."

CYBER DIVISION

FBI Faces Off Against Hackers.

The Concord (NC) Independent Tribune (7/10, Sebenius, Mehrotra, 49K) reports the "FBI's Microsoft Exchange initiative was followed in May by a campaign to claw back 63.7 of the 75 Bitcoin (worth \$4.4 million at the time) that Colonial Pipeline paid in ransom to hackers on May 8." The FBI tracked the cryptocurrency until it landed in a cryptowallet on May 27, while the FBI managed to get the cryptographic password.

Pentagon Providing Options To Respond To Cyberattacks.

Defense Department Press Secretary John Kirby, on Fox News Sunday (7/11, 844K), discussed President Biden's comments that the US will take necessary action to defend infrastructure against cyberattacks from Russia. Kirby said, "I think you understand the last thing I'm going to do is talk about cyber operations on national TV in any great detail. Our job is to provide options to the President. Options in the cyber realm, options outside the cyber realm. Just because you face a cyber attack, doesn't mean that that's how you necessarily respond in kind. There's a whole range of tools at the President's disposal. ... We are going to be prepared and ready to tee up those

options for him whenever he might need them.”

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Harris Says She Feels “Very Strongly” That George Floyd Justice in Policing Act “Needs To Be Passed.”

On [BET](#)'s (7/9, story 3, 3:57, O'Brien, 381K) “State of Our Union,” Vice President Harris discussed crime, specifically gun violence, and policing reform. Harris said, “On the issue of policing, we need accountability. And...I was actually one of the original authors of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. And I feel very strongly that needs to be passed. There needs to be accountability for police officers who break the rules or break the laws.” Regarding public safety, Harris said the US “should reimagine how we think about public safety,” and encouraged reform in education, healthcare, homeownership, and economic recovery in communities with a large police presence.

WPost Analysis: Many First-Time Gun Buyers Drove Firearm Purchases In 2020.

A [Washington Post](#) (7/10, A1, 10.52M) analysis says federal background checks indicate that “in blue cities and red suburbs alike,” gun purchases in 2020 climbed “to the highest level in half a century.” The Post adds, “A striking portion of those sales went to first-time gun buyers – 40 percent, according to the firearms industry’s trade association. Other studies show first-timers accounting for more like a fifth of sales in 2020, but that’s still unusually high, retailers said.” Sellers and purchasers alike indicate that “a disorienting and often frightening year drove many decisions to buy guns.” The Post features comments from some of the first-time buyers, including lifelong Democrat Shakima Thomas, who obtained “a gun permit early in the Trump administration but didn’t buy her first gun until last summer, when the killing of Floyd and the protests that spread across the nation made Thomas feel like the country was spiraling out of control.”

Olen Calls For Progressives To Acknowledge Uptick In Crime. In a [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) column, Helaine Olen writes that a poll put out this week shows that “Democrats, Republicans and independents all say there is a ‘major crisis’ in violent crime.” Crime has risen throughout the country, with Olen adding, “The murder rate surged nearly 20 percent in 2020, compared with 2019. Road-rage shootings have doubled nationally, claiming victims such as 6-year-old Aiden Leos in California in May.” However, many progressives “don’t want to admit this,” and Olen asserts that the denial must stop. Olen also says, “The failure to engage and take on the issue of growing violence and lawbreaking now – no matter how unpleasant, distasteful or uncomfortable – will only harm the progressive agenda and potentially cause swing voters to pull the lever for Republican candidates.”

“Marijuana Martyr” Marks First Day Virginians Could Lawfully Possess And Grow Weed At Home.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, 10.52M) says that in October 1973, then-28-year-old Roger Davis “sold three ounces of marijuana to a police informant.” Meanwhile, investigators discovered roughly six additional ounces at his residence. The Post adds that “that sting operation would turn Davis into Virginia’s ‘Marijuana Martyr.’” Davis “was sentenced to 40 years in prison and fined \$20,000 – a punishment many decried as excessive and motivated by racism.” Moreover, Davis’ case ultimately got to the Supreme Court. This month, though, Davis saw “the first day Virginians could legally possess and grow marijuana in their homes. To him, it was a bittersweet step of progress.” Davis said, “It’s somewhat rewarding to get to say, ‘I guess I wasn’t so crazy after all, 50 years ago.’”

Advocates Want Biden To Apply “Same Priorities” For Criminal Justice Agenda To Selection Of Federal Prosecutors.

According to [The Hill](#) (7/11, Neidig, 5.69M), “President Biden is under pressure to expand his criminal justice reform efforts to include the dozens of U.S. attorney offices across the country that

prosecute federal crimes." The Hill reports advocates have "applauded Biden's criminal justice agenda, such as his plans to increase the number of former public defenders on the federal bench, but stress that the same priorities should be applied when selecting prosecutors to oversee the country's 93 districts." The Hill adds that with more cities "electing progressive district attorneys who campaigned on reducing mass incarceration, reformers are pushing Biden to follow suit and pick a new breed of federal prosecutors."

WPost Calls On Virginia To Take New Approach To Funding Local Prosecutors. The Washington Post (7/11, 10.52M) editorializes that the US "has learned the hard way that the tough-on-crime approach adopted in the 1990s really doesn't work," and "far more effective are diversion programs that aim to keep nonviolent, low-level offenders out of jail and make them productive members of the community." The Post criticizes Virginia for "punish[ing] counties that have led the way with criminal justice reform and reward those that have stuck with the old, failed ways," and concludes that a state commission should "come up with a more rational system. No doubt counties that are wedded to the old ways will fight any change for fear of losing funds. But instead of digging in their heels on the status quo, they should seek to get the state to help them implement programs – such as those started in Fairfax – that deliver real justice."

Adams Outlines Plans To Combat Crime In New York City.

New York City Democratic mayoral nominee Eric Adams, on CNN's State Of The Union⁸ (7/11, 484K), said that if elected, he plans to reduce crime via "a coordinated effort between the President, the governor, and the mayor to go after the flow of guns in our city, which is extremely important, but then right on the ground, how do we deal with the intervention aspects of it. We want to see the remake of an anti-gun unit. That's going to do precision policing, focusing on gangs and guns. We're going to have a coordinated effort to ensure our gun suppression unit receives the resources they deserve, and then we're going to be extremely comfortable going to our judges stating we can't have people who participate in gun violence and they're out the next day. That's unacceptable. We need to send a clear message that our streets are going to be safe."

In addition, Adams said on CNN's State Of The Union⁸ (7/11, 484K) that he supports national police reform "with an asterisk." Adams added, "I don't believe a police officer who is carrying out his job within the manner which he was trained to do so should be open to a lawsuit. If he's chasing an armed person who is discharging a weapon and that police officer discharges his weapon and an innocent person is struck...we should not have that officer open to a lawsuit. But when you look at a Floyd case, where clearly the officer went beyond his scope of responsibility, that officer should be open to a lawsuit." He continued, "I don't believe we should be suing officers who are doing their job...but those who step outside of those boundaries and recklessly carry [out] an act that causes life or serious injury, they should be open to being sued personally."

On ABC's This Week⁹ (7/11, 2.25M), Adams said, "Our city and country, we have become a place where all we do is wait downstream and pull people out. 30% of our inmates in prison are dyslexic. So if we just do dyslexia screening in upstream, we could prevent some of the crime that we're looking at downstream. Foster care failure: we feed crime in America and in New York. We need to stop the feeders of crime. We must have an immediate response. We should create something like the JTTF, Joint Terrorist Task Force. This is what we did to fight terrorism. Why are we ignoring the violence in the cities? You know why? They're black, brown and poor. We ignored them, and we basically have thrown up our hands and stated, 'There's nothing we can do about it.' They are wrong, and I'm going to show you said that."

Adams: Democrats' Priorities On Gun Laws Are "Misplaced." Politico (7/11, Hooper, 6.73M) reports on CNN's State Of The Union⁸ Sunday, Adams "said...that national Democrats are focusing on the wrong issue in terms of gun violence." Adams told CNN "that Democrats' priorities on gun laws at the federal level are misguided, saying they've focused too much on banning assault rifles in the aftermath of mass shootings, while they should be focusing more on gun crimes committed with handguns, which are more common." Adams said, "I believe those priorities, they really were misplaced. ... And it's almost insulting what we have witnessed over the last few years. Many of our presidents, they saw these numbers. They knew that the inner

cities, particularly where Black, brown and poor people lived, they know — they knew they were dealing with this real crisis.” Adams “stressed Sunday that Democrats need to increase focus on the trafficking of handguns.” He also “commended President Joe Biden’s increased focus on the rise in gun crimes in recent weeks, with the president announcing on June 23 that the Justice Department was launching five firearms trafficking strike forces in cities across the country.” Adams also appeared on [ABC’s This Week](#)⁸ (7/11, 1.96M) Sunday morning.

OTHER FBI NEWS

FBI Agent Who Fought VA For GI Bill College Benefits Wins Appeal.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (7/9, Zimmermann, 970K) reports, “James ‘Jim’ Rudisill did two stints in the Army that included two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan and then became an FBI counter-terrorism agent, helping build cases against white supremacists and ISIS supporters,” and “now, he has won a court fight regarding veterans’ benefits that could result in improved government-paid benefits for many of the nation’s longest-serving veterans who want to further their education.” His attorneys “estimate that 1.7 million veterans potentially could benefit as a result of the court victory the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit handed him on Thursday.” Rudisill, “who lives near Richmond, Virginia, had sued the government, arguing that the federal Department of Veterans Affairs shortchanged him on the tuition benefits provided under two versions of the GI Bill. On Thursday, by a 2-1 vote, a panel of federal appeals judges agreed that he was.”

NYTimes Analysis: Garland’s “Honeymoon” Ended By Effort To Make Decisions Independent Of Politics.

The [New York Times](#) (7/9, Benner, 20.6M) in an analysis says that Attorney General Garland is facing “an early challenge” as he seeks to “convince the public that a post-Trump Justice Department is not the same as an anti-Trump one.” Garland, it adds, “has struggled to convey his message...watching as his agenda was repeatedly subsumed by headlines about politically fraught matters left over from the Trump administration.” The Times says the DOJ under Garland has taken several actions “that critics – many on the left – denounced as unnecessarily shielding Mr. Trump and his top officials.” Those, says the Times, “ended any honeymoon period for Mr. Garland.” The Times also says, “most of Mr. Garland’s decisions have aligned with Mr. Biden’s agenda.”

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Fauci Says Vaccine Booster Not Yet Needed.

NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#)⁸ (7/11, 463K), discussed the delta variant of the coronavirus, and the potential need for vaccine boosters. Fauci said, “What the CDC and FDA were saying is that right now, given the data and the information we have, we do not need to give people a third shot, a booster, superimposed upon the two doses you get with the mRNA and the one dose you get with J&J. But that doesn’t mean we stop there. There are studies being done now ongoing as we speak about looking at the feasibility about if and when we should be boosting people. So this isn’t something that we say, no, we don’t need a boost right now, the story is ended forever. There’s a lot of work going on to examine this in real time to see if we might need a boost.”

On [ABC’s This Week](#)⁸ (7/11, 2.25M), Fauci said, “If you’re not vaccinated, you should be concerned, because it’s very clear that this is a nasty variant. It has a much greater capability of transmitting from person to person. We know from extensive experience, not only in our own country here in the United States, but in other countries that the vaccines that we are using work extremely well against the delta variant, particularly in preventing advanced disease that would lead to hospitalization and likely death in some circumstances. So the vaccines work. I mean,

that's the good news/bad news. The bad news is we have a nasty variant. The good news is we have a vaccine that works against it. That's the reason why we're very concerned. We have some sort of schism between some states and some areas that have a very low level of vaccination, which is really unfortunate because we want to make sure those people are protected for their own safety and their own life, and that of their family and community."

On CBS' Face The Nation^{*} (7/11, 2.33M), Fauci said, "It is almost inexplicable why people, when they see the data in front of them that they don't get vaccinated. We have a delta variant that is easily transmissible, much more easily and readily and efficiently from person to person than the other viruses, the other variants that we've dealt with. That's the first thing. The second thing, the data that's hitting you right between the eyes is that 99.5% of all the deaths to COVID-19 are in unvaccinated people. So you're talking about something that's life saving. So the idea of why some people, for whatever reasons and we know some of them are ideological, we know when you look geographically in the situations where you have under vaccinated states where you have 30% or less of the people vaccinated, I mean, we've really got to get beyond that and we've got to put those kinds of differences aside and say this is a public health issue. When you hear people at rallies talking, don't get vaccinated, don't get vaccinated, it doesn't make any sense because we're talking about a public health issue that is life saving for you, your family, as well as your community."

The Washington Post (7/11, Wang, 10.52M) reports Fauci has "expressed concern about vaccine hesitancy, as the coronavirus's more contagious delta variant becomes dominant in the United States." During his interview on Sunday, Fauci "alluded to recent polling that shows such vaccine hesitancy has been driven by Republicans, which he suggested Sunday was because of 'ideological rigidity.'" The Hill (7/11, Mastrangelo, 5.69M) reports Fauci "voiced concern about what he called a 'schism between some states and some areas that have a very low level of vaccination.'"

Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, on CBS' Face The Nation^{*} (7/11, 2.33M), discussed the potential need for a vaccine booster. Gottlieb said, "It was data coming out of Israel that suggests that people who were vaccinated a while ago, particularly older individuals, might be more vulnerable to the infection. So we see declining efficacy of the vaccine in Israel against the delta variant. But that declining efficacy seems to be clustered among people who are older and who are vaccinated. ... With respect to the boosters, what we're talking about is a third dose of the existing vaccine. And we also need to remember that anyone who gets vaccinated right now will not need a booster. If you go out and get vaccinated right now, that vaccine is going to carry you through the fall into the winter. What we're really talking about is people who were vaccinated a while ago where there may be some declining efficacy."

The AP (7/11, Yen), Politico (7/11, Hooper, 6.73M) and Bloomberg (7/11, Yang, 3.57M) provide additional coverage of Fauci's remarks.

Pfizer Reportedly Planning To Advocate For COVID Booster Shot. NBC Nightly News^{*} (7/11, 6:52 p.m. ET, story 2, Snow, 3.15M) reported that, according to the Washington Post, Pfizer "is expected to make the case to US officials this week that a third vaccine shot is needed to ward off the contagious Delta variant." The meeting will "happen in days as Pfizer's research suggests a third dose could offer more protection against the Delta variant." Reuters (7/11, Heavey, So, Prentice) reports that the announcement "prompted a quick response from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, saying Americans do not need a booster right now."

Agus: Booster Shots Are Not Needed Presently. The CBS Weekend News^{*} (7/11, 6:06 p.m. ET, story 3, Barnett, 230K) reported about its interview with CBS News medical contributor Dr. David Agus, who discussed Pfizer's reported meeting to advocate for a booster shot. Agus said of the proposal, "The bottom line is the vaccines work. And they cover us against all of the current variants so in the United States now there is no need for a booster shot, Pfizer is filing the booster shot with the FDA in case we need it in the future. So, we are lucky, we don't need it at the present time."

Young Americans' Hesitance To Receive COVID Vaccinations Hindering Fight Against

FBI (22-cv-00149)-6708

Pandemic.

The Wall Street Journal (7/11, Cooper, Siddiqui, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that many Americans aged 18 to 29 are not getting vaccinated against COVID-19, which is hindering efforts to achieve herd immunity. Their hesitance is one of the main reasons why President Biden missed his goal of giving 70% of adults at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine by July 4.

Meanwhile, Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R), on ABC's This Week[®] (7/11, 2.25M), discussed the surge in coronavirus cases in his state. Hutchinson said, "One of the things you see from the data is that early on in the pandemic the average age of hospitalizations was 64. That has dropped ten years down to 54. The reason is the elderly population got vaccinated. They're reducing the numbers going to the hospital. It's the age group between 30 and 54 that is coming ill, that have not become vaccinated. So that hospitalization rate has increased. What do we do about it? We're working very hard to go to that population through the employers, through trusted advisers such as clinics, making sure they have the information and overcoming the hesitancy or the simply we're putting it off approach. I've started community conversations, going to cities. I'll be in six cities next week in Arkansas talking about what are the concerns, what are the community ideas as to how we can do this better in terms of increasing that population and their vaccination rate."

Fox News Hosts Continue To Reject Federal Vaccination Campaign.

The New York Times (7/11, A1, Hsu, 20.6M) reports that while Fox News Chairman Rupert Murdoch "received a dose of a Covid-19 vaccine" as early as December 2020, a different message "has been a repeated refrain on the prime-time shows hosted by Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham on Mr. Murdoch's Fox News Channel — a message at odds with the recommendations of health experts, even as the virus's Delta variant and other mutations fuel outbreaks in areas where vaccination rates are below the national average." Carlson and Ingraham "have said on the air that the vaccines could be dangerous; that people are justified in refusing them; and that public authorities have overstepped in their attempts to deliver them." Their shows have "helped cement vaccine skepticism in the conservative mainstream, even as the Biden Administration's campaign to inoculate the public is running into resistance in many parts of the country."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), on CNN's State Of The Union[®] (7/11, 463K), discussed President Biden's call for door-to-door outreach for vaccinations. Kinzinger said, "What President Biden said and maybe he could have said it slightly different was, we're willing to come to your house to give you the vaccine. At no point was anybody saying they're going to break down your door and jam a vaccine in your arm despite your protest. This is outrage politics that is being played by my party and it's going to get Americans killed. ... My party has been hijacked. ... If you're a Republican voter do not listen to Marjorie Taylor Greene. The vaccine is safe. COVID is real. Get vaccinated."

Adams Looks To Err On The Side Of Caution With Pandemic Rules.

New York City Democratic mayoral candidate Eric Adams, on CNN's State Of The Union[®] (7/11, 484K), discussed what he would consider for local pandemic rules. Adams said, "I believe that we should err on the side of being cautious. Clearly coronavirus is a formidable opponent. It is changing every day. There's a lot that we don't know. But we should spread facts and not fear. Let's let the science dictate the policy. We have amazing scientists here in this country. Allow them to dictate the policy we should carry out for health, but I'm in complete support. I still wear my mask from time to time when I'm in crowded settings and whatever we can do to ensure that we don't repeat the pandemic experience that we had, we should lean into that."

Bloomberg (7/10, 3.57M) reports Adams "said he'd recommend that vaccinated residents also wear masks in public indoor settings given the spread of the delta variant," which "accounts for 26% of New York City's cases." The city's delta average "is about half the percentage nationally."

Missouri Struggling To Contain Growing COVID Surge.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/11, 6:40 p.m. ET, story 4, Davis, 5.1M) reported that Missouri's Mercy Springfield Hospital is struggling to contain the latest COVID surge, and it is the "starkest example of the Delta variant's increasing threat." The hospital is "opening a sixth COVID ward for the first time in the pandemic."

United Airlines CEO Says Leisure Demand Has Completely Recovered.

United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby, on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (7/11, 1.67M), discussed the resumption in demand for travel. Kirby said, "We see a huge desire for people to get back out, reunite with friends and family and connect with the world, and that leisure demand is more than 100% recovered. ... Business demand is still off 60%. Of course, a lot of international borders are still closed. So we're back to 100%, but we're certainly headed in the right direction. ... I don't think anything will be normal on the other side of this, but we expect that business demand is really going to pick up in September as most schools are back in. A lot of people are back in offices, but we don't think it really recovers in full until 2023. Europe, we expect to be as soon as the borders are open. ... Asia is probably another 18 to 24 months away. It's going to take a little longer to get Asia."

Much Of Biden's Agenda Hangs In The Balance As Senators Return To Washington.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, Duehren, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the fate of much of President Biden's agenda is hanging in the balance as senators return to Washington this week following a two-week recess. [The Hill](#) (7/11, Carney, 5.69M) says Democrats "are entering crunch time as they try to move past months of haggling to an intense few weeks of summer legislating that will determine whether their top priority stalls out or if they achieve one of the party's biggest legislative victories since passing ObamaCare more than a decade ago." Ahead of a scheduled August recess, Democrats "are vowing to pass two measures: a bipartisan infrastructure bill, if it sticks together, with 60 or more Senate votes; and a budget resolution that includes instructions for passing another bill under reconciliation that allows them to bypass a GOP filibuster for a party-line, multitrillion-dollar infrastructure package." In a letter to his caucus last week, Senate Majority Leader Schumer wrote, "My intention for this work period is for the Senate to consider both the bipartisan infrastructure legislation and a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions, which is the first step for passing legislation through the reconciliation process."

Biden Order Seeks To Increase Competition, But Some Research Sees Less Cause For Concern About Consolidation.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports President Biden's executive order aimed at increasing competition as some sectors of the economy are consolidating into a few companies is based on academic research which show that the economy has become less competitive amid this consolidation. However, the Journal cites other research that has found less reason to be alarmed about consolidation.

Yellen Says COVID Variants Could Derail Global Economic Recovery.

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Rappeport, 20.6M) reports Treasury Secretary Yellen "said on Sunday that she was concerned that coronavirus variants could derail the global economic recovery and called for an urgent push to deploy vaccines more rapidly around the world." In comments "at the conclusion of a gathering of the finance ministers of the Group of 20 nations," Yellen said, "We are very concerned about the Delta variant and other variants that could emerge and threaten recovery. ... We are a connected global economy. What happens in any part of the world affects all other countries." While "many cities and countries have started to declare victory against the pandemic, easing restrictions and returning to normal life," Yellen "warned that the public health crisis was not over."

WPost Analysis: FEMA Denial Of Disaster Aid To Black Families Due To Informal Land Transfers.

In a nearly 4,200-word article, the Washington Post (7/11, 10.52M) reports President Biden "has instructed FEMA to prioritize getting help to... 'too often overlooked' communities," but "more than a third of Black-owned land in the South is passed down informally, rather than through deeds and wills, according to land use experts," which the Department of Agriculture "has found... is 'the leading cause of Black involuntary land loss.'" The Post says the absence of formal deeds means "families are cut off from federal loans and grants, including from FEMA." The Post adds that its analysis has found FEMA nationally "denies requests for help from about 2 percent of applicants for disaster aid because of title issues," but in majority-Black counties "the rate is twice as high," and "in parts of the Deep South, FEMA has rejected up to a quarter of applicants because they can't document ownership."

Branson Concludes Flight That Sets Stage For Space Tourism.

A nearly 2,200-word New York Times (7/11, Chang, 20.6M) article reports that Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson on Sunday "at last fulfilled a dream that took decades to realize: He can now call himself an astronaut." The Times says that a "small rocket plane... carried him and five other people to the edge of space and back," a flight that "reinforces the hopes of space enthusiasts that routine travel to the final frontier may soon be available to private citizens, not just the professional astronauts of NASA and other space agencies. Another billionaire with his own rocket company – Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon – has plans to make a similar jaunt to the edge of space in nine days."

Likewise, the AP (7/11, Bryan, Dunn) says that the flight of 71-year-old "swashbuckling billionaire" Branson brought "astro-tourism a step closer to reality," even as he beat "his exceedingly richer rival Jeff Bezos" to space. According to the AP, the plane "reached an altitude of 53.5 miles (86 kilometers) over the New Mexico desert – enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and witness the curvature of the Earth – and then glided back home to a runway landing." The AP adds the brief trip "was a splashy and unabashedly commercial plug for Virgin Galactic, which plans to start taking paying customers on joyrides next year."

On the CBS Weekend News (7/11, 6:01 p.m. ET, story 1, Barnett, 230K), Mark Strassmann said that with Branson's flight "the emerging market of space tourism has a genuine success story." On its website, CNN (7/11, Wattles, 89.21M) also labels Branson's flight as "a landmark moment" for the commercial space industry which "has for years been seeking to make suborbital space tourism (a relatively simple straight-up-and-down flight, as opposed to orbiting the Earth for longer periods) a viable business with the aim of allowing thousands of people to experience the adrenaline rush and sweeping views of our home planet that such flights can offer." According to CNN, Virgin Galactic "plans to conduct just one more test flight before it will begin flying paying customers. More than 600 people have reserved tickets priced at \$200,000 to \$250,000 so far. The company is expected to reopen ticket sales soon, though at a higher price point."

However, Reuters (7/11, Gorman) reports Branson "has said he aims ultimately to lower the price to around \$40,000 per seat as the company ramps up service, achieving greater economies of scale." On ABC World News Tonight (7/11, 6:32 p.m. ET, story 1, Davis, 5.1M), Gio Benitez portrayed Branson's company as "hoping to open space up for all."

The Washington Post (7/11, 10.52M) reports that with "Bezos' Blue Origin and Elon Musk's SpaceX" among several companies developing "spacecraft designed to allow private citizens, and not just NASA trained military fighter pilots and scientists, to earn the title of 'astronaut,'" Virgin Galactic "seemed intent on making it clear that this was not a traditional NASA launch. Instead of a stoic countdown, there was a party-like atmosphere along the tarmac, a scene as much a spectacle as a space launch that even included a musical guest, Khalid, who debuted a new song during a performance here. The company's live broadcast of the flight was hosted by comedian and late-night host Stephen Colbert, and Musk was on hand to watch Branson and the crew take off."

On NBC Nightly News (7/11, 6:48 p.m. ET, story 1, Snow, 3.15M), Tom Costello reported Bezos "seemed to concede the win writing, 'can't wait to join the club.'" Costello added Bezos' Blue Origin "is still waiting for FAA approval but hoping to lift off from west Texas in nine days. Sources say that FAA approval could come early this week." A Wall Street Journal (7/11, Maidenberg,

Cameron, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) article headlined "Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic Flight Opens Door To Space Tourism" provides similar coverage.

NYTimes Analysis: Biden's Speeches Can Get Lost In Minutiae Instead Of Reaching Oratorical Heights.

In an analysis, the New York Times (7/11, Shear, 20.6M) reports as President Biden "travels the country pitching his plan for spending trillions of dollars to reshape the American economy, he is facing a rhetorical reality that has long plagued many of his predecessors: There is a vast difference between explaining and inspiring, and Mr. Biden...often struggles to reach the potential oratorical heights of the office he holds." While the White House "is perfectly fine with Mr. Biden's ability to turn down the political heat in Washington after four years of chaotic governance," Biden "can sometimes get lost in the minutiae." The Times says when Biden "starts a speech, what can seem like high-stakes drama to those inside the Washington Beltway often feels like the stuff of PBS documentaries to the rest of the country."

Death Toll In Florida Building Collapse Reaches 90 As Officials Say Search Efforts To Conclude Within Weeks.

The AP (7/11, Frisaro, Calvin) reports Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava on Sunday "said 90 deaths have now been confirmed in last month's collapse of the 12-story Champlain Towers South in Surfside, up from 86 a day before. Among them are 71 bodies that have been identified, and their families have been notified, she said. Some 31 people remain listed as missing." The AP adds Miami-Dade Fire Chief Alan Cominsky "said it was uncertain when recovery operations would be completed because it remains hard to know when the final body would be found," but he "said it might now be as few as two weeks, based on the current pace of work." Meanwhile, the AP (7/11, Calvin) reports in another article about how the experience is affecting those rescuers "who responded to past tragedies," who "say the crews in Surfside will carry on with the same commitment and care, even though authorities this past week officially gave up on finding any survivors."

Amid Heat Wave, Firefighters Combat Blazes In California, Arizona, Oregon.

The AP (7/11, Weber) reports firefighters confronted "searing weather" on Sunday as they "struggled to contain a Northern California wildfire that continued to grow...and forced the temporary closure of a major highway, one of several large blazes burning across the U.S. West amid another heat wave that shattered records and strained power grids." The AP says California officials "asked all residents to reduce power consumption...after a major wildfire in southern Oregon knocked out interstate power lines." According to the AP, the Bootleg Fire has "exploded to 224 square miles (580 square kilometers) as it raced through heavy timber in Oregon's Fremont-Winema National Forest," even as California's "largest wildfire of the year," the Beckwourth Complex Fire, "was raging near the border with Nevada." The AP adds that in Arizona, the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating after "a small plane crashed Saturday" while surveying the "lightning-caused" Cedar Basin Fire, "killing both crew members on board."

On ABC World News Tonight (7/11, 6:37 p.m. ET, story 3, Davis, 5.1M), Will Carr reported the wildfires are being "fueled by the life-threatening heat and that mega drought that's drained water resources across the region." Carr added 29 million people are "suffering under the latest record-breaking heat wave. Temperatures in Las Vegas this weekend soaring to 117 degrees, the highest ever recorded there." According to Carr, "Scientists say we are witnessing the effects of climate change."

Meanwhile, Lilia Luciano reported on the CBS Weekend News (7/11, 6:04 p.m. ET, story 2, Barnett, 230K) that Washington and Oregon have issued "new emergency orders mandating access to shade, water and drinks for anyone working outdoors after an Oregon farm worker died. Also distressing farmers, the heat torching their crops." Luciano added, "The longer this heat wave lasts, the more damage it will do to future crops. Not to mention, the droughts it is prolonging and the fires it is fueling."

In CPAC Speech, Trump Lashes Out At Biden, Big Tech, The Press, The "Radical Left."

CNN (7/11, Reston, 89.21M) reports on its website that in his speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference Sunday, former President Donald Trump "accused big tech companies of skewing the votes in the 2020 election through censorship and he chided the press for stating that there is no widespread evidence of voter fraud. He accused the 'radical left' of cheating and called the 2020 election 'a disgrace to our nation.'" Trump said, "We are truly being scorned and disrespected all over the world. Never forget that the radical left is not the majority in this country. We are the majority and it's not even close." CNN says "there was no issue more dominant at the CPAC gathering in Dallas than Trump's false claim that the 2020 election was fraudulent, even though there is no evidence of widespread voting fraud in last year's contest."

The Dallas Morning News (7/11, 772K) says Trump "vowed that once Republicans take back Congress in the 2022 midterms." Trump said, "We will take back that glorious White House that sits so majestically in our nation's capital." Trump also "needled President Joe Biden for going senile and Big Tech as overbearing losers." The Morning News says Trump "spent the day downplaying the Jan. 6 attack." In appearance on Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures (7/11) before his speech, Trump said, "There was such love at that rally. You had over a million people there. They were there for one reason. . We had a corrupt election. We had a rigged election. We had a stolen election." Trump described the rally as "a lovefest. ... They were peaceful people. These were great people."

The Hill (7/11, Schnell, 5.69M) reports Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) "led CPAC's straw poll for the 2024 GOP presidential nominee. Trump held a commanding lead, with 70 percent of those who responded to the survey saying they would vote for him in the Republican primary if it were held today. DeSantis came in second with 21 percent. ... Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Fox News host Tucker Carlson, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem (R) and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (R) all received 1 percent in the poll that included Trump."

Doyle McManus writes in the Los Angeles Times (7/11, 3.37M) nearly "two-thirds of GOP voters told pollsters in one recent survey that they're still convinced the election was stolen — a number that hasn't changed much since November." McManus says this "fantasy hasn't stayed alive on its own; Trump has spent much of his time since leaving office stoking his claims and warning Republican politicians that he will torpedo their careers if they don't back him up." McManus argues, "This isn't a harmless exercise in political puffery; it deepens the polarization of American politics and weakens democracy."

Jackson Says Biden Is "Confused" And "Disoriented." The Dallas Morning News (7/10, 772K) reports for conservatives gathered in Dallas over the weekend, "the belief that President Joe Biden has slid into dementia is an article of faith, like patriotism and the sanctity of life." Rep. Ronny Jackson (R), who served as physician to three presidents, said, "He's confused, he's lost, he's disoriented, he stares off into space, he shuffles when he walks, he doesn't know where he's at or what he's doing. ... The White House used to be a symbol of power and influence. And now, literally every day it's more and more looking like an assisted living facility. It's true." Jackson on Saturday "joined a CPAC panel titled 'Who's the boss, where's my applesauce?' aimed at exploring Biden's purportedly tenuous grasp on his own administration and, perhaps, reality."

Texas Republicans Advance Voting Legislation.

The AP (7/11, Coronado, Weber) reports Texas Republicans on Sunday advanced bills "that would make voting harder in a state that already has some of the nation's toughest restrictions after hundreds spoke against the proposals." Republicans signaled their intention "to advance a new election bill — which would prohibit 24-hour polling places, ban drop boxes and stop drive-thru voting — this weekend, with a first major vote on the proposals expected this week." The AP says the timeline is "pushing some Democratic lawmakers toward calling for a second walkout to again stop the restrictions from moving forward like they did in May when they broke quorum."

The New York Times (7/11, 20.6M) says following "marathon weekend hearings," the bill cleared "key committees in the House and Senate" despite "fierce opposition from Democrats." Democrats on both panels "united in opposition to the bills and prepared for further combat on the

floors of the Senate and the House. Beverly Powell, a state senator from the Fort Worth suburbs who voted against the bill in committee, said Senate Democrats were planning 'many' amendments during the floor debate and might try to introduce an alternative bill."

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (7/11, 772K) reports in an appearance on [Fox News Sunday](#), Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) "pushed back at anchor Chris Wallace's question that the elections legislation could make it harder for some Texans to vote by banning 24-hour and drive-through voting, which proved popular in Harris County last election." Wallace asked, "If 24-hour voting worked, why not continue it?" Abbott said, "One thing we want to make sure we have is integrity in the ballot box system and we need to have poll watchers and monitors and, candidly, it's hard even for a county to get people to be watching the polls 24 hours a day." Abbott also "said drive-thru voting violates the sanctity of the ballot box." He said, "You go into the ballot box alone and no one is there watching over your shoulder. ... And to allow other people to pile into a car with you, it will alter that." The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, 10.52M) reports Abbott "also defended issues to be covered in the Texas legislature's special session, after Wallace noted that no bills related to the state's power grid made it to the session despite worries that the grid, which failed in February, could shut down once again during the summer." [The Hill](#) (7/11, Choi, 5.69M) provides similar coverage of Abbott's interview.

New York AG's Cuomo Probe Has "Paralyzed" State's Democratic Apparatus.

[Politico](#) (7/11, Gronewold, 6.73M) reports the future of New York state politics is in the hands of state Attorney General Letitia James (D), "who has been investigating a portfolio of allegations against" Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) since March. James "has retained private attorneys who have interviewed several women who accused Cuomo of harassment, as well as top staff said to be aware of his alleged misconduct. But little more is known about the probe, and James has made clear there is no clock in her office counting down the months, weeks or days remaining in her inquiry." Politico says that "uncertainty has paralyzed much of New York's Democratic political apparatus." Meanwhile, the "FBI and the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn have been looking into Cuomo's coronavirus task force and how it handled nursing homes early on in the pandemic."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Research Into Previous Viruses Offer Glimpse Into Challenges In Finding Origins Of Pandemic, Experts Say.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, A1, Marcus, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that bat experts say research on the origin of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, and other viruses exemplifies the challenges facing those trying to determine the origin of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Fosun To Sell COVID Vaccine Doses To TSMC, Others For Taiwan Inoculations.

[Bloomberg](#) (7/11, 3.57M) reports that on Friday, Fosun Pharma signed a contract for sale of the BioNTech vaccine with TSMC, Hon Hai and Zuellig Pharma. Fosun is permitted to market the BioNTech vaccine in the greater China regions including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, and buyers "then donate the doses to medical institutions in Taiwan for local inoculations." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, Wang, Deng, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Fosun and BioNTech announced the agreement is for 10 million doses.

[Reuters](#) (7/11, Lee, Blanchard) reports that last month, Taiwan's government granted permission to Foxconn billionaire Terry Gou and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co "to negotiate on its behalf for the vaccines, which would be donated to Taiwan's government for distribution." Fosun said "the shots would be sold to TSMC and Gou's charity foundation via Fosun's Hong Kong subsidiary and a Taiwanese medical firm."

EU Vaccination Campaign Not Focusing On Undocumented Immigrants.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, 10.52M) examines the EU vaccination campaign, which seeks to

"outpace the highly infectious delta variant," but ongoing efforts "face a major gap: undocumented immigrants." Pew Research Center data suggests 4.8 million unauthorized immigrants "lived in 32 European countries as of 2017," and studies "show they are more vulnerable to the coronavirus than European populations at large."

UK PM To Urge Vigilance As England Lifts COVID-19 Restrictions.

Bloomberg (7/11, Ashton, 3.57M) reports, "Prime Minister Boris Johnson will warn people to remain vigilant as he prepares to lift virtually all remaining coronavirus restrictions in England." On Monday, he "is widely expected to confirm that mandatory curbs will end as planned on July 19, including the legal requirement to wear masks in indoor settings." However, he'll "warn that the unlocking will drive a new surge in cases and that people must 'all take responsibility' in the coming weeks to help keep infections at a manageable level, his office said in an emailed statement." Reuters (7/11, Pitas) reports, "Johnson's office says the green light to lift restrictions depends on meeting four tests: enough people getting vaccinated, vaccines reducing hospitalizations and deaths, hospitals being free from pressure and variants not posing too great a risk." Politico Europe (7/11, Honeycombe-Foster, 15K) also covers the story.

Japan Announces New Restrictions Ahead Of The Olympics.

CBS Weekend News (7/11, story 9, Barnett, 1.61M) reported that Japan "has imposed a state of emergency due to rising COVID cases" ahead of the Summer Olympics. The forthcoming ban on alcoholic beverage sales is leading to pushback from Japan's dining industry, which "says it is being unfairly singled out as the government struggles to contain another COVID surge."

Wise: The Summer Olympics Are No Longer About The Athletes. Michael Wise argues in the Washington Post (7/11, 10.52M) that the 2021 Summer Olympics should have been a celebration of the global athletic community, but the decision to continue hosting the event amidst the pandemic reflects the power of corporate greed. Wise adds that if the International Olympic Committee cared about the athletes, then the organization would have canceled or postponed the event until it could be safely held in Japan, where an estimated 16 percent of the population is fully vaccinated and 83 percent of its residents have called for a postponement.

Indian Health Officials Warn Of Potential Third Surge.

The New York Times (7/11, Mashal, Kumar, 20.6M) examines the uneven local responses to India's springtime COVID surge, and Indian health officials are "warning of a third wave of infections when the second has at best only leveled off." India "continues to report tens of thousands of new infections and close to 1,000 deaths each day, numbers that are almost certainly an undercounting," and only an estimated 5 percent of its citizens are fully vaccinated.

WSJournal: Administration Should Continue To Recognize Captive Nations Week.

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (7/11, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that they are told that White House aides are considering the idea of changing the annual proclamation of Captive Nations Week to "Free and Open Societies Week." The Journal says that while the issue may seem semantic, language matters when confronting authoritarian regimes.

Thousands Of Protesters Take To The Street In Cuba.

ABC World News Tonight (7/11, 6:44 p.m. ET, story 7, Davis, 5.1M) reported, "Now, extraordinary images coming in from Cuba. Protests against the Communist government in several areas throughout the island nation. Thousands demonstrating against food and fuel shortages. Special police deploying, several people arrested." Reuters (7/11, Frank) calls the protests "rarely seen," and people are "expressing frustration over pandemic restrictions, the pace of COVID-19 vaccinations and what they said was government neglect." President Miguel Diaz-Canel, "who also heads the Communist Party, blamed the United States for the unrest in a nationally televised speech on Sunday afternoon."

The Washington Post (7/11, Faoli, 10.52M) says Cuba "erupted in its largest-scale

demonstrations in decades on Sunday as thousands of people chanting 'freedom' and 'yes, we can' took to the streets from Havana to Santiago de Cuba in a major new challenge to an authoritarian government struggling to cope with increasingly severe blackouts, food shortages and a spiking coronavirus outbreak." The protests "spoke to the power of social media, as well as discontent that has bubbled to the surface in the worsening pandemic, during which Cuba has already witnessed growing political protests led by artists and musicians."

CNN (7/11, Oppmann, 89.21M) reports that videos "uploaded to social media appeared to show other protests in a handful of cities and towns across the island. In some of the videos, people shouted they "weren't afraid" or that they wanted liberty or access to coronavirus vaccines."

Mary Anastasia O'Grady, in her column for the Wall Street Journal (7/11, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), writes that as the pandemic has swept the island, local medical professionals and civil society groups have begged the government to allow international aid to reach the people directly. However, the government refused, and now the crisis "is near cataclysmic proportions."

Kirby: US "Not Walking Away" From Afghanistan.

Defense Department Press Secretary John Kirby, on Fox News Sunday (7/11, 844K), discussed the situation in Afghanistan as the US withdraws. Kirby said Afghan security forces "have much more capacity than they've ever had before, much more capability and they've got an air force, a very capable air force helping defend their troops on the ground. They've got very sophisticated special forces who have been in the fight and they are brave fighters. ... It's their right and responsibility now to defend their citizens and their country." He added, "We're going to continue to support them from a financial perspective, logistical perspective, and certainly aircraft maintenance. We're not walking away from this relationship."

Similarly, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, on NBC's Meet The Press (7/11, 2.84M), said, "The purpose that we went into Afghanistan for was to degrade and disrupt Al Qaeda, to limit their ability to project attacks outside of Afghanistan. To a great degree we've done that. The job is not over. This is not a closure. This is a transition. We have to maintain continual involvement both with the Afghan government by supporting them financially, also providing the kind of technical assistance they need for their air force, and other elements, but I think the President was presented with a bad series of choices." Politico (7/11, Hooper, 6.73M) reports that Reed said, "I think the president made a difficult, but the best of many poor choices." The Hill (7/11, Choi, 5.69M) reports Reed also predicted, "I think Kabul will hold."

However, Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), on CNN's State Of The Union (7/11, 463K), said, "I think if Afghanistan, as it unfortunately appears is going to happen, if the government collapses, Kabul falls, we see the horrible pictures, we see the rise of the Taliban again, and we see safe haven for terrorists to train, we might realize that Afghanistan, though not fun for us, and that was a big sacrifice, was certainly worth not having that be a safe haven. I hope I'm wrong, but we might see that." On NBC's Meet The Press (7/11, 2.84M), Kinzinger said, "I do think it's quite likely we're going to have to either, when we return to Afghanistan, because of the existential threat to us or our allies, reoccupy Bagram, or we may have to bomb it if there's some kind of an air mission."

Afghan Forces Claim To Repel Assault On Takhar Provincial Center. Reuters (7/11) reports that Afghan security forces, backed by air strikes, "repelled an assault by Taliban fighters on the provincial centre of a key northern province bordering Tajikistan on Sunday, officials said." Abdullah Qarluq, the governor of Takhar province, said, "The enemy's offensive attacks were repelled, and they suffered heavy and unprecedented casualties, as a result of which 55 enemy soldiers were killed and 90 were wounded." Reuters "could not independently confirm his account." Briefly, ABC World News Tonight (7/11, 6:44 p.m. ET, story 8, Davis, 5.1M) reported, "Now to Afghanistan, as the last American troops plan to leave. The Taliban claiming control of at least 85 percent of the country. Civilians battling the Taliban as they push for control in the northeast portion of the country."

US Warns China Against Attacking Philippine Forces.

Reuters (7/12) reports the US on Sunday "repeated a warning to China that an attack on Philippine armed forces in the South China Sea would trigger a 1951 U.S.-Philippines mutual defense treaty." Secretary of State Blinken "made the comment in a written statement marking the fifth anniversary of a ruling by an arbitration tribunal repudiating China's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea." Blinken, "referring to the rejection by former President Donald Trump's administration of China's claims to offshore resources in most of the South China Sea," said, "The United States reaffirms its July 13, 2020 policy regarding maritime claims in the South China Sea. ... We also reaffirm that an armed attack on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the South China Sea would invoke U.S. mutual defense commitments under Article IV of the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty."

The AP (7/12) says in a "stern message" Blinken said, "We call on (China) to abide by its obligations under international law, cease its provocative behavior, and take steps to reassure the international community that it is committed to the rules-based maritime order that respects the rights of all countries, big and small."

Analysis: Slowing Chinese Economic Recovery Underscores Limits Of Global Rebound.

Bloomberg (7/11, 3.57M) examines the People's Bank of China's decision to "cut the amount of cash most banks must hold in reserve in order to boost lending" because forthcoming data "is expected to show growth eased in the second quarter to 8% from the record gain of 18.3% in the first quarter." While the Chinese economy "was always expected to descend from the heights hit during its initial rebound and as last year's low base effect washes out," economists "say the softening has come sooner than expected, and could now ripple across the world."

Analysis: Chinese Crackdown On Billionaires Reflects End Of Technology Boom.

Bloomberg (7/10, Schmidt, Liu, Feng, 3.57M) examines the latest Chinese regulatory crackdowns on domestic technology companies, and the banning of Didi Global's ride-hailing application is "delivering their latest hammer blow to an entrepreneurial elite that once seemed destined to challenge [Mark] Zuckerberg and his U.S. peers at the top of the world's wealth rankings." Chinese arguments behind the regulatory changes "include concerns about anticompetitive behavior in the tech industry, risks to financial stability from lightly regulated lending platforms and the rapid proliferation of sensitive personal information in the hands of large corporations."

China Condemns US Over Commerce Department Blacklisting Decision. The Hill (7/11, Vakil, 5.69M) reports that the Chinese Ministry of Commerce "said on Sunday it would take 'necessary measures' in response to the Commerce Department's announcement on Friday that the U.S. would add 19 Chinese companies to an economic blacklist over their alleged roles in human rights abuses and supporting military modernization." The ministry "said that the department's decision to add these companies was a 'serious breach of international economic and trade rules' claimed that it was 'unreasonable suppression.'"

Protests Erupt In Tbilisi After Journalist's Death.

The AP (7/11) reports that "several thousands people protested" in front of the Georgian parliament in Tbilisi on Sunday, "demanding that the ex-Soviet nation's prime minister resign over the death of a journalist who was attacked and beaten by anti-LGBT protesters." Cameraman Alexander Lashkarava "was found dead in his home by his mother earlier Sunday, according to the TV Pirveli channel he worked for." Bloomberg (7/11, Bedwell, 3.57M) reports Lashkarava "was beaten when anti-LGBTQ+ protesters attacked community activists and journalists in the Georgian capital on July 5, leading organizers to abandon a planned Pride Week march. Lashkarava's death, reported by police on Sunday, was condemned by the European Union's ambassador to Georgia, Carl Hartzell."

Pope Makes First Public Appearance Since Surgery.

ABC World News Tonight (7/11, 6:44 p.m. ET, story 9, Davis, 5.1M) reported Pope Francis "making his first public appearance since surgery one week ago. Greeting the faithful from his

hospital balcony. At the exact time that he usually gives his weekly blessing from the Vatican." ABC (Rulli) added, "Delivering his Sunday blessing from this tenth floor hospital balcony here in Rome. Smiling down on the crowd below, to cheers of 'viva il papa,' 'long live the Pope.' You can hear their cheers." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/11, 6:11 p.m. ET, sotry 7, Barnett, 230K) broadcast a similar report, while print coverage included the [AP](#) (7/11, D'Emilio) and the [Washington Post](#) (7/11, 10.52M), among others.

Pro-Western Party Leading In Moldovan Elections.

[Reuters](#) (7/11, Tanas) reports, "Pro-Western Moldovan President Maya Sandu's PAS party was leading snap parliamentary elections on Sunday, data from the central election commission showed, on a platform of fighting corruption and carrying out reforms." With just over 37% of ballots counted, "PAS had 42.34% of the vote, while its main rival, Dodon's Socialists and Communists bloc, had 33.86%, the data showed."

No Clear Winner In Bulgarian Parliamentary Elections.

[Reuters](#) (7/11, Tsolova) reports the Bulgarian parliamentary elections "failed to produce a clear winner on Sunday, exit polls showed, with the new anti-elite party There Is Such a People (ITN) narrowly ahead of the centre-right GERB party of former premier Boyko Borissov." The country's "second election since April reflects deep divisions in the European Union's poorest member state over the legacy of Borissov's decade-long rule." Reuters says that "many have turned to anti-establishment or anti-graft parties in hope of more resolute action against pervasive corruption, blaming Borissov...for turning a blind eye or even supporting powerful oligarchs."

US Citizen Accused Of Sedition In Jordan Alleges He Was Tortured.

The [AP](#) (7/11, Laub, Akour) reports that Bassem Awadallah, a "U.S. citizen and former top aide to Jordan's King Abdullah II," alleges "he was tortured in Jordanian detention and fears for his life, his U.S.-based lawyer said Sunday, on the eve of a verdict in the high-profile sedition trial linked to a rare public rift in the kingdom's ruling family." The "allegations of mistreatment, denied by Jordanian officials Sunday, were raised just days before Jordan's king is to become the first Arab leader to meet with President Joe Biden at the White House on July 19. Jordan is a key Western ally in an unstable Middle East."

Protests Over Zuma's Jailing In South Africa Spread.

[Reuters](#) (7/11, Winning) reports that "sporadic violence" gripped Johannesburg on Sunday as protests over "the jailing of former South African President Jacob Zuma spread." President Cyril Ramaphosa "said on Sunday there was no justification for violence and that it was damaging efforts to rebuild the economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic."

Israel To Withhold \$180 Million In Tax Revenue From PA Over Stipends To Militants.

[Reuters](#) (7/11) reports the Israeli cabinet said on Sunday it will "withhold \$180 million in tax revenue it collect last year on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, or about 7% of the PA's total tax revenue, to offset stipends paid to militants and their families." Under a 2018 law, Israel "calculates each year how much it believes the Palestinian Authority has paid in stipends to militants, and deducts that amount from the taxes it has collected on the Palestinians' behalf."

Israeli Court Rules Same-Sex Couples Can Have Children Through Surrogacy. The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Parker, 10.52M) reports that a "decision by Israel's supreme court Sunday paved the way for same-sex couples to have children through surrogacy, capping a decade-old legal battle in what activist groups hailed as a major advance for LGBTQ rights in Israel." The court ruled that restrictions "on surrogacy for same-sex couples and single fathers in Israel must be lifted within six months...giving authorities time to prepare for the change while making clear that it is a definitive one."

Egypt, Ethiopia Clash Building Over Nile Water Rights.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10, El-Fekki, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the clash between Egypt and Ethiopia over Ethiopia's decision to start operating a dam on a major tributary of the Nile is heating up, highlighting the dependence of the nations on the water from the river. The Journal says that the dispute is one of the world's more significant flashpoints over water right.

NYTimes Reporter Chronicles How Tigrayan Guerrillas Recently "Routed Ethiopia's Powerful Army."

In a more than 2,000-word article titled "How Local Guerrilla Fighters Routed Ethiopia's Powerful Army," [New York Times](#) (7/11, 20.6M) reporter Declan Walsh says that since "a simmering feud between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Tigrayan leaders, members of a small ethnic minority who had dominated Ethiopia for much of the three previous decades, exploded into violence" in November, it "has been largely hidden from view, obscured by communications blackouts and overshadowed by international outrage over an escalating humanitarian crisis." However, Walsh was on the ground for "a cascade of Tigrayan victories that culminated in their retaking the region's capital, and altered the course of the war." According to Walsh, "We saw how a scrappy Tigrayan force overcame one of the largest armies in Africa through force of arms, but also by exploiting a wave of popular rage."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Global Tax Deal Heads Down Perilous Path In Congress](#)

[Buy, Borrow, Die: How Rich Americans Live Off Their Paper Wealth](#)

[Bat Scientists Warn That The World May Never Know Covid-19 Origins](#)

[Remember Last Year's 7 p.m. Cheer? Some New Yorkers Are Still At It.](#)

[Binance Froze When Bitcoin Crashed. Now Users Want Their Money Back.](#)

New York Times:

[More Power Lines Or Rooftop Solar Panels: The Fight Over Energy's Future](#)

[How Local Guerrilla Fighters Routed Ethiopia's Powerful Army](#)

[Murder Mystery: What Were Colombian Military Vets Doing In Haiti?](#)

[The Rationing Of A Last-Resort Covid Treatment](#)

[Despite Outbreaks Among Unvaccinated, Fox News Hosts Smear Shots](#)

[Branson Completes Virgin Galactic Flight, Aiming To Open Up Space Tourism](#)

Washington Post:

[An American Kingdom](#)

[Haitian Arrested As Key Suspect](#)

[Nonprofits Pushed To A Racial Reckoning](#)

[Death Valley Closes In On Record-high Heat](#)

[Growing Crops — And A Movement](#)

[On The Edge Of His Seat, Branson Hits Edge Of Space](#)

Financial Times:

[Brussels Targets Aviation Fuel Tax In Drive To Reduce Carbon Emissions](#)

[Softbank's Second Vision Fund Speeds Up Pace Of Investment](#)

[Richard Branson Touches The Edge Of Space](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Richard Branson Spaceflight; Potential Denver Shooting; Wildfires; Delta Variant; Haiti;

Protests In Cuba; Taliban Expands In Afghanistan; Pope Francis Makes Public Appearance
CBS: Richard Branson Spaceflight; Wildfires; Delta Variant; Potential Denver Shooting; Haiti; Pope Francis Makes Public Appearance; Olympics
NBC: Richard Branson Spaceflight; Delta Variant; Haiti

Network TV At A Glance:

Richard Branson Spaceflight – 9 minutes, 45 seconds
Delta Variant Surge – 6 minutes, 45 seconds
Haiti Grappling With Assassination – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Wildfires In American West – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Pope Francis Post-Surgery – 3 minutes, 20 seconds
Potential Denver Shooting – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

President Biden — Meeting with Attorney General Garland and local leaders to discuss Administration's comprehensive strategy to reduce gun crimes.

Vice President Harris — traveling to Detroit.

US Senate:

- Debate on State Department Nominee – Senate convenes to resume consideration of Uzra Zeya as nominee for Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights

Location: US Capitol, 3:00 PM

- Senate Foreign Relations Hearing – Foreign Relations Committee holds top secret hearing on resolution on Repealing AUMFs – "S.J.Res. 10: Repeal of the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force as well as Discussion of Recent U.S. Military Strikes in Iraq and Syria."

Location: SVC-217, US Capitol Visitor Center, 6:00 PM

US House:

- House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup Meeting – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY2022 appropriations bill

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2118, 11:00 AM

- House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup Meeting – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY2022 appropriations bill

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2118, 1:00 PM

- House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup Meeting – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY2022 appropriations bill

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2118, 3:00 PM

- House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup Meeting – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY2022 appropriations bill

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2118, 5:00 PM

General Events:

- National Association of Counties Annual Conference and Exposition – NACo event concludes, with speakers including House Speaker Pelosi and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo

Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland, 9:30 AM

- Press Briefing by Press Secretary Psaki

Location: White House Press Room, 12:15 PM

- National Academies Workshop on Artificial Intelligence – "Protecting Critical Technologies for

National Security in an Era of Openness and Competition: Workshop on Artificial Intelligence” virtual event held by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine and Public Policy, Committee on Science, Technology and Law, and Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy

Location: Virtual Event, 1:00 PM

- Transportation Research Board Automated Road Symposium – TRB Automated Transportation Symposium virtual event, including keynotes from Secretary of Transportation Buttigeig, Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt, and Aurora Innovation CEO Chris Urmson.

Location: Virtual Event

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b7E -3

From: [redacted] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: BWC
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: July 14, 2021 3:05 PM (UTC-04:00)
Hi Stephen,

b6 -1
b7C -1

I had a call with the CDCAC this afternoon and they asked if there are any updates re: the BWC policy. I told them it's probably still very much in the process with you and main Justice but that I'd reach out to you. They also asked about a BWC survey that someone at the last Director's meeting apparently said was being sent out to the field, but I'm not familiar with that. Is there any info on either the BWC policy or survey that you have that I may relay to the CDCAC? Thanks very much for your help.

[redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[redacted]

Counsel, Field Legal Program
Office of General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted]

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: FW: Draft FBI Policy: Use of BWCs by FBI Special Agents
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: July 15, 2021 7:58 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: DOJBWCAAddendum#2.docx

b6 -1
b7C -1

Hi Stephen

Did you have a chance to review? Need any additional wording etc?

Thx

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 5:41 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Draft FBI Policy: Use of BWCs by FBI Special Agents

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Stephen,

Attached is a first draft [redacted] took a look and contributed as well. Let me know what else you need.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Investigative Law Unit
Room 7919 JEH

[redacted]

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From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]

b7E -3

FBI (22-cv-00149)-6723

Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 10:04

To: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Draft FBI Policy: Use of BWCs by FBI Special Agents

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Thank you.

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 10:03 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Draft FBI Policy: Use of BWCs by FBI Special Agents

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Sure

-

On Jun 21, 2021 9:34 AM, "Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)" [Redacted] wrote:
Thanks [Redacted]

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1

Let me know if you have questions.

Thank you.

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 8:18 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft FBI Policy: Use of BWCs by FBI Special Agents

Good morning Stephen,

I do not have any comments,

[Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[Redacted]

Assistant General Counsel
Investigative Law Unit
Room 7919 JEH

[Redacted]

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 3:09 PM
To: Bessee, Cecilia O. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]; McNally, Richard (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]; McCarthy, Dawn L. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[Redacted]

Cc: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]; Browning, Dawn Marie (OGC) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: Draft FBI Policy: Use of BWCs by FBI Special Agents

All -

Please find attached CID's latest proposed draft policy for use of BWCs by SAs.

As many of you know, the DAG recently directed the the FBI (and other DoJ LE agencies) issue a policy within 30 days for use of BWCs by our Special Agents. [Redacted]

b5 -1,2
b7E -27

[Redacted]

Thanks in advance for everyone's input, and feel free to touch base with me if you have questions as you are reviewing.

Stephen

Stephen D. Kelly
Chief, Operational Law Section
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Monday, July 19, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 19, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: FBIDirBriefing210719.doc

b7E -3

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021 5:00 AM EDT

White House: Biden Has Confidence In Wray Despite Nassar Probe Report. The Washington Times (7/16, Mordock, 626K) reports, “White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that President Biden has confidence in” FBI Director Wray, “even as blunders keep mounting for the embattled bureau. ‘Yes, he has confidence in Christopher Wray,’ Ms. Psaki said at a White House press briefing.” The Times adds, “Ms. Psaki’s comments come the same week that a scathing report by the Justice Department’s inspector general laid bare the FBI’s embarrassing bungling of its sex-abuse investigation of former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar. The report found the FBI ‘failed to respond with the utmost seriousness and urgency that the allegations deserved and required.’ It also found that officials made ‘numerous and fundamental errors,’ including failing to alert state or local authorities, and did not take steps to mitigate the ongoing threat of Nassar.”

WWJ-TV Detroit (7/16) reports, “The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the FBI’s handling of the Larry Nassar sex abuse case. In a statement, Committee Chairman Senator Dick Durbin says ‘The FBI’s failure in this case led to more athletes being victimized. This committee has the responsibility of oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.’ He also went on to say the hearing is needed to examine the injustice, and prevent similar tragedies from happening.”

Fox News (7/16, Creitz, 23.99M) reports, “The first woman to come forward with accusations of sexual abuse at the hands of disgraced, and now imprisoned, USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar told Fox News on Friday that more girls could’ve been protected from the physician’s deviancy if not for “multiple errors” made by the FBI as described in an inspector-general report.” Rachael Denhollander, 36, “now an attorney, told ‘The Story’ that the bureau dropped the ball multiple times in its investigation of Nassar, and claimed an FBI official ‘wined and dined’ with now-disgraced former USA Gymnastics chief Stephen Penny Jr. Penny was arrested in 2018 by the Great Smoky Mountains division of the U.S. Marshals and indicted on charges he hid or destroyed documents relating to Nassar’s sexual abuse at the Huntsville, Texas, ranch of Olympics gymnastics champion Bela Karolyi.”

The Indianapolis Star (7/16, Evans, Cook, Phillips, Kwiatkowski, 662K) reports, “The stinging criticism of the FBI’s Indianapolis field office in a report issued Wednesday by the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Justice leaves more questions than answers,” and “those who can help explain the roles and motivations of key agents cited in the report – which found misconduct including lying and ethical breaches in connection with the failure to follow up on 2015 reports about sexual abuse allegations against longtime USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar – aren’t talking.” The Star adds, “The failings by local FBI agents, including then-Special Agent in Charge W. Jay Abbott, allowed Nassar to continue sexually abusing women and young girls. The justice department report said at least 70 were molested during the nearly year-long delay in pursuing the July 2015 allegations. An attorney for 250 Nassar survivors said the number is more than 120.”

In a separate article, the Indianapolis Star (7/16, Evans, Cook, Kwiatkowski, Bowman, 662K) reports, “The former chief of the FBI’s Indianapolis Division considered applying for the head position of USA Gymnastics after he sat on sexual abuse allegations against the Indianapolis-based Olympic organization’s longtime team doctor Larry Nassar in 2015.” W. Jay Abbott “and other senior Indianapolis FBI officials failed to act on those allegations for at least 8 months, and later lied about doing so, according to a stinging rebuke of the FBI’s handling of the case from the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Justice. That delay and inaction allowed Nassar to continue to practice and molest at least 100 more young athletes under the guise of medical treatment, according to an attorney for 250 Nassar survivors.”

Two Men Facing Charges After Plotting To Attack California Democratic Party Headquarters. The New York Times (7/16, MacFarquhar, 20.6M) reports, “Angered by the results of the 2020 presidential election, two men in Northern California plotted for months to blow up the state Democratic Party headquarters in Sacramento, according to federal authorities.” The two individuals “face conspiracy and weapons charges,” and the Times adds that they, according to court documents, talked about assorted targets via encrypted messaging apps, with the targets “including the Governor’s Mansion as well as Twitter and Facebook offices.” Documents quoted defendant Ian Benjamin Rogers as having told the other man, Jarrod Copeland, via text, “I want to blow up a democrat building bad.”

The Washington Post (7/16, Sonmez, 10.52M) reports that Rogers and Copeland “were ‘prompted by the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election’ and believed their attack would spark a ‘movement,’ according to federal prosecutors, who said the men were members of a militia group.” The Post paraphrases the indictment as having said that law enforcement confiscated “five pipe bombs, thousands of rounds of ammunition and ‘between 45 and 50 firearms, including at least three fully-automatic weapons’ during a January search of Rogers’s home and business.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/16, story 8, 1:49, Muir, 5.66M), correspondent Pierre Thomas reported that Rogers and Copeland “allegedly believed Trump had won the 2020 election. The indictment says text messages from Rogers’ phone reveal ‘his intent to attack Democrats and places associated with Democrats in an effort to ensure that Trump remained in the office.’” Thomas went on to say, “A federal prosecutor says the men remain a threat. Rogers and Copeland are still in custody. Copeland today pled not guilty.”

[Reuters](#) (7/16, Lynch) reports, “Two California men have been indicted on charges they conspired to attack the Democratic Party headquarters in Sacramento, the state’s capital city, the U.S. Justice Department said on Friday.” Reuters adds, “According to the unsealed indictment, Ian Benjamin Rogers, 45, of Napa and Jarrod Copeland, 37, of Vallejo started plotting to attack Democratic targets after the 2020 presidential election. They also tried to get support from an anti-government group to further the cause. The indictment does not name the militia group they contacted, but prosecutors in a different court filing said Copeland emailed the far-right group Proud Boys, trying to ‘recruit others to join the plot,’ and also was a member of a militia group affiliated with the Three Percenters.”

The [AP](#) (7/16, Thompson) reports from Sacramento, California, “Ian Benjamin Rogers had five illegal pipe bombs and nearly 50 weapons at his home and shop in California’s wine country, a ‘ThreePercenters’ bumper sticker on his vehicle, a ‘white privilege card’ at his house, and text messages that led federal prosecutors to charge him with conspiring to firebomb the state Democratic Party headquarters in Sacramento. His attorney admits his client is in serious trouble, but said Friday that the alleged plot was nothing more than drunken talk between two buddies inflamed by the defeat of former president Donald Trump. ‘Firebombing your perceived political opponents is illegal and does not nurture the sort of open and vigorous debate that created and supports our constitutional democracy,’ U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hinds said in announcing the unsealing of an indictment Thursday in San Francisco federal court.”

[USA Today](#) (7/16, Hauck, 12.7M) reports, “The men ‘began planning to attack targets they associated with Democrats after the 2020 Presidential election and sought support from an anti-government militia group,’” federal prosecutors said. The men “intended to first target the John L. Burton Democratic Headquarters in Sacramento, according to court documents, and ‘made plans to attack it using incendiary devices.” The men “believed that the attacks would start what they called a ‘movement,’” the indictment said.”

[CNN](#) (7/16, Polantz, 89.21M) reports, “Court records citing extensive encrypted messages between Rogers and Copeland raise the alarm of how the men sought to inspire domestic terrorism toward Democrats – and how their anti-government motivations may still persist. In January, Rogers had told Copeland, ‘I want to blow up a democrat building bad,’ and Copeland responded in agreement, writing, ‘Plan attack.’ The pair discussed ‘war’ after President Joe Biden’s inauguration, the Justice Department said. They also discussed attacking George Soros, a billionaire donor who supports liberal causes, and Twitter, which by then had removed Trump from the social media platform. ‘I hope 45 goes to war if he doesn’t I will,’ Rogers allegedly wrote.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/16, Chabria, 3.37M) reports, “Democratic Party Chairman Rusty Hicks called the plot ‘extremely disturbing’ in a news release, adding, ‘it points to a broader issue of violent extremism that is far too common in today’s political discourse.’”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage, as did the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/16, story 5, 0:27, O’Donnell, 3.34M) in a brief broadcast.

Among other news outlets reporting are [Bay City \(CA\) News](#) (7/16), the [Daily Beast](#) (7/16, Richards, 933K), [CNEC](#) (7/16, Constantino, 7.34M), [Newsweek](#) (7/16, Jackson, 2.67M), [BuzzFeed News](#) (7/16, Miller), [KQVR-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (7/16, 46K), and [KQVR-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (7/16, 46K).

Biden: Social Media Platforms Are “Killing People” By Failing To Censor Vaccine Critics. [CNN](#)

(7/16, Judd, Vazquez, 89.21M) reports that on Friday, President Biden “said...social media platforms like Facebook are ‘killing people’ with misinformation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic as the White House ramps up its rhetoric around false information on social media regarding the pandemic. ‘They’re killing people – I mean they’re really, look, the only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated,’ Biden told reporters as he left the White House for Camp David.” CNN adds, “Meetings between the Biden administration and Facebook in recent weeks have been ‘tense,’ a source familiar with the conversations told CNN. The source said Biden officials who had taken concerns about vaccine misinformation to Facebook had concluded that the company was either not ‘taking this very seriously, or they are hiding something,’ due to what they view as Facebook’s unwillingness to tackle vaccine misinformation.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/16, Kanno-Youngs, Kang, 20.6M) says Biden “unleashed his growing frustration with social media,” with the outburst capping “weeks of anger in the White House over the dissemination of vaccine disinformation online, even as the pace of inoculations slows and health officials warn of the rising danger of the Delta variant.”

According to the Los Angeles Times (7/16, Megerian, Hupka, 3.37M), “The president’s remark in answer to a reporter’s question came at the end of a week in which the White House began to push back more strongly against misinformation about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, blaming it for some Americans’ unwillingness to get their shots.” The Times adds, “The resurgence of COVID-19 cases represents a setback for Biden, who staked his presidency on ending the pandemic and ushering in an economic recovery. The increases are greatest in areas that favored his rival, former President Trump, reflecting the politicization of the pandemic response in the prior administration, which left many conservatives averse to wearing masks, social distancing and, ultimately, getting vaccines.” The CBS Evening News (7/16, lead story, 3:20, O’Donnell, 3.34M) explained that new polls show “a majority of those who haven’t been vaccinated believe incorrect information about the shot, and this is why health officials are concerned.”

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (7/16, A1, Viser, Lerman, Pager, 10.52M) reports Biden’s comments “marked a far more combative tone than he had taken previously on the pandemic and came a day after Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy issued a broader warning against health misinformation.” Axios (7/16, Sukin, 1.26M) and The Hill (7/16, Chalfant, 5.69M) provide related coverage.

In an appearance on MSNBC’s Morning Joe (7/16, 822K), US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said, “I’m very concerned about the misinformation that’s...preventing people from getting vaccinated. ... We know there are two thirds of people unvaccinated right now who are saying they believe common myths about COVID-19 or think they might be true.” Murthy added, “We’ve been in conversation with technology companies.... We believe technology companies have a responsibility to reduce the spread of misinformation on their platforms. It’s not enough to say this might get better in a few years. Right now the misinformation is harming people’s health. If you run a platform, have a technology company that is somehow inadvertently or contributing to the spread of misinformation, you have a responsibility to take action to stop it. ... We are seeing people lose their lives because of misinformation.”

The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Parti, Needleman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Facebook spokesman Kevin McAlister pushed back on the claim, arguing that “the facts show that Facebook is helping save lives. Period.” The company said earlier on Friday that it had “removed more than 18 million pieces of COVID misinformation, removed accounts that repeatedly break these rules, and connected more than 2 billion people to reliable information about COVID-19 and COVID vaccines across our apps.” Reuters (7/16, Bose, Culliford) reports McAlister said the company “will not be distracted by accusations which aren’t supported by the facts.”

NBC Nightly News (7/16, story 2, 2:43, Holt, 4.59M) reported that in addition to Facebook, “YouTube says it’s taken down more than 800,000 videos, TikTok [took down] 50,000 just late last year.”

CNBC (7/16, Rodriguez, 7.34M) reports on its website that Biden “was echoing earlier comments from White House press secretary Jen Psaki.” Psaki is quoted as saying, “We’re dealing with a life or death issue here and so everybody has a role to play in making sure there’s accurate information. ... We are regularly making sure social media platforms are aware of the latest narratives dangerous to public health that we and many other Americans are seeing across all of social and traditional media.”

However, Fox News (7/16, Miller, 23.99M) reports Psaki’s comments drew criticism from conservatives, who accused the Administration of colluding with social media to censor speech. Fox News’s Peter Doocy asked Psaki “how long the administration has been spying on people’s Facebook profiles,” while Fox News contributor Katie Pavlich tweeted that “Psaki says the White House has been flagging ‘problematic posts’ on Facebook they believe are misinformation about Wuhan coronavirus.” Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) said on Fox News (7/16, 23.99M) that the Administration’s work with Facebook “looks like a First Amendment violation.”

In an editorial, The Wall Street Journal (7/16, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) cautioned against the coordination between the federal government and big tech companies on censorship, pointing to former President Trump’s lawsuits and censorship during the COVID pandemic.

Bloomberg (7/16, Parker, Sink, 3.57M) reports Psaki “said the outreach was no different than when the White House engaged regularly with news organizations, and called on social media companies to create ‘robust enforcement strategies’ to combat those providing misinformation.”

CDC Director Warns “Preventable” COVID Cases Among Unvaccinated Americans. The New York Times (7/16, Anthes, Petri, 20.6M) reports, “As the highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus fuels outbreaks in the United States, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned on Friday that ‘this is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.’” CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said, “Our biggest concern is that we are going to continue to see preventable cases, hospitalizations and, sadly, deaths among the unvaccinated.”

CNBC (7/16, Mendez, 7.34M) reports, “Deaths from the coronavirus are increasing again as the delta variant rips through unvaccinated pockets of the country... [Walensky] said Friday.” She explained, “After weeks of declines, seven-day

average daily deaths have increased by 26% to 211 per day.” Additionally, new cases are “on the rise, with a current seven-day average of 26,300 cases, according to the CDC...an increase of roughly 70% from the seven-day average last week.” Lastly, “the seven-day average for hospitalizations is now at 2,790, up about 36% from a week ago after weeks of decline.”

The Washington Post (7/16, A1, Abutaleb, Sellers, 10.52M) reports on its front page that Walensky said “We are seeing outbreaks of cases in parts of the country that have low vaccination coverage because unvaccinated people are at risk, and communities that are fully vaccinated are generally faring well.” She added that 97% of COVID-19 hospitalizations are among the unvaccinated, as are “virtually all” deaths.

The AP (7/16, Hollingsworth, Funk) reports that “some hospitals are reporting record or near-record patient volumes.” However, “even for those that aren’t, this round of the pandemic is proving tougher in some ways, hospital and health officials said,” since “staff members are worn out, and finding traveling nurses to boost their ranks can be tough.”

NBC Nightly News (7/16, lead story, 3:03, Holt, 4.59M) reporter Miguel Almaguer said, “Amid protests over vaccine mandates, a handful of states with high case rates are reporting a higher rate of newly vaccinated. But for now, it’s not enough to slow a dangerous and deadly rise, a threat looming larger every day.” He added, “the CDC stopped tracking breakthrough infections unless they resulted in hospitalization, which is rare. But NBC News has heard back from 27 states so far, and we tallied 66,000 breakthrough cases. That’s just a small fraction of the vaccinated.”

ABC World News Tonight (7/16, lead story, 3:00, Muir, 5.66M) reported, “There is also concern over the danger this poses to children soon going back to school. Twelve and under have not been vaccinated. And for these rare breakthrough cases, people testing positive even after they have been fully vaccinated. ... The rate of new vaccinations has now fallen nearly 85% since mid-April, to the lowest level since January.” Meanwhile, “as the vaccination rate plummets the number of new COVID cases is spiking up nearly 70% from just last week.” The Washington Post (7/16, Bump, 10.52M) provides related coverage.

The Washington Post (7/16, 10.52M) editorializes that “as long as the pandemic rages out of control, it can incubate new variants to pose a threat to everyone.” The Post adds, “Vaccines are the most important exit from the pandemic misery, but doses are still too scarce.” While the US “has stepped up in sharing vaccines,” the Post concludes “far more must be done to help stand up vaccine factories and ensure that everyone in the world can be protected. Until that happens, no one is truly protected.”

Murthy Joins Biden In Criticizing Social Media Companies For Spread Of Misinformation About COVID Vaccines.

USA Today (7/18, Brown, 12.7M) reports Surgeon General Murthy “took aim Sunday at social media platforms like Facebook for perceived inaction on stopping misinformation about COVID-19 and vaccines,” two days after President Biden “said falsehoods online are ‘killing people.’” USA Today says the remarks “more forcefully criticizing media and tech platforms they argue are endangering the public” comes amid “rising coronavirus infections across the country” and the persistence of “conspiracy theories about the pandemic,” while The Hill (7/18, Klar, 5.69M) reports the “new pressure from the federal government” comes as the Administration “makes a push to encourage reluctant Americans to get COVID-19 vaccines.”

Politico (7/18, Ward, 6.73M) reports Murthy on Fox News Sunday (7/18, 828K) “dismissed the idea that the Biden administration is looking for a scapegoat and using Facebook misinformation as an excuse for missing its vaccination goals.” Murthy said, “This is about the health of Americans and the reality is that misinformation is still spreading like wildfire in our country, aided and abetted by technology platforms.” He continued, “I have been in dialogue with a number of technology companies in good faith efforts to express my concerns to them and where they have taken positive steps. And some of them have, I’ve acknowledged that, as we should do, but what I’ve also said very clearly to them, privately and also publicly, is that it’s not enough.”

Likewise, the Surgeon General asserted on ABC’s This Week (7/18, 2.38M), “I’ve been deeply concerned about the flow of misinformation across technology platforms and throughout society over the last many months. This is not a new problem, to be clear. For a doctor, I, for years, sat with patients and worked with them to try to untangle the web of misinformation about help they’d received on social media and other sources. What we’re seeing that’s different now is the speed and scale with which misinformation is spreading.” He continued that he has called on technology companies to adopt “greater transparency with the data they have to share with independent researchers so we can get a better sense how much misinformation is flowing on these sites and how to address them. The algorithms on these sites which serve up information again and again to people that sometimes reinforces misinformation are also places where we can ask those companies to make changes.”

In addition, the AP (7/18, Reeves) reports Murthy on CNN’s State Of The Union (7/18, 610K) “said...he’s concerned about what lies ahead with cases of COVID-19 increasing in every state, millions still unvaccinated and a highly contagious virus variant spreading rapidly,” and “said the worsening situation shows the need to convince more people to get inoculations.” The AP adds Murthy “said ‘not nearly enough’ progress was being made in the fight against misinformation spread through social media about COVID-19 and vaccines,” while Reuters (7/18, Schectman, Lynch) reports he “said that social media companies

have fueled false narratives about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, echoing...Biden's comments that social media companies were 'killing people.'"

The New York Times (7/18, Kang, 20.6M) reports the Surgeon General "also responded to accusations by a Facebook official who spoke anonymously to CNN, saying the administration was 'looking for scapegoats for missing their vaccine goals,'" a claim the Times says he "disputed." Murthy stated, "I've been very consistent in what I've said to the technology companies." He added, "When we see steps that are good, we should acknowledge those." However, the Surgeon General continued, "I've also said...that it's not enough. We are still seeing a proliferation of misinformation online."

Meanwhile, the Washington Post (7/18, Wang, Rowland, 10.52M) reports that with "less than half the country fully vaccinated and daily inoculation numbers having slowed considerably, administration officials have intensified their warnings to the public. Vice President Harris on Sunday tweeted: 'This Delta variant is no joke. Get vaccinated.'" The Post adds Harris' office on Saturday had "issued a statement saying she and her staff had met with members of the Texas state legislature who last week tested positive for the coronavirus despite being fully vaccinated – so-called 'breakthrough cases' – but it was determined neither the vice president nor her aides were at risk of exposure," and "on Sunday, after the White House said Harris was visiting Walter Reed military hospital for a routine doctor's appointment, two officials close to the vice president emphasized it was 'not covid-related at all' and didn't have anything to do with her recent meeting with the Texas Democrats."

The Wall Street Journal (7/18, Restuccia, Needleman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that according to Zignal Labs Inc, the spread of false information about vaccines has more than doubled on social media platforms over the past three months. The Journal adds Administration officials said behind-the-scenes talks with Facebook on how to address the misinformation about vaccines were unproductive, which spurred the President and other officials to adopt more public criticism of the company.

On ABC World News Tonight (7/18, lead story, 2:45, Davis, 4.52M), Trevor Ault said that Administration officials "believe rampant misinformation around COVID is still getting in the way" of widespread vaccination. NIAID Director Fauci: "If we had had the pushback for vaccines the way we're seeing on certain media, we probably would still have smallpox."

Jennifer Rubin writes in the Washington Post (7/18, Rubin, 10.52M) when the President said, "They're killing people" in response to a question "about platforms such as Facebook that amplify scientifically false anti-vaccines claims, and deter people from getting lifesaving shots" he was correct. Rubin argues that those individuals spreading disinformation, including Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) and other elected officials "are putting people at risk. Not only do these voices discourage vaccination, and thereby endanger those inclined to follow their advice, they also put children too young to receive the vaccination at risk. It is hard to imagine a more disgraceful way to make money or advance one's career."

James Downie writes in his Washington Post (7/18, 10.52M) column that given the wide availability of vaccines, the recent rise of COVID Cases has been "entirely preventable. The backsliding is due in part to Republican politicians and right-wing commentators who have spread misinformation about the virus, as well as colleagues too scared to confront them." Downie says, "Not all vaccine hesitancy is due to red vs. blue politics," but what "makes vaccine resistance among Republicans different is that it's being fanned for partisan gain and right-wing media profit. The result will be hundreds and hundreds – if not thousands – of avoidable deaths."

Gottlieb: Disinformation About Fertility, DNA Are Most Responsible For Vaccine Hesitancy. Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, on CBS' Face The Nation (7/18, 2.4M), said "probably the most pervasive" misinformation contributing to vaccine hesitancy "is that somehow the vaccine itself is going to have an impact on fertility." He said that this is "discouraging a lot of young women from getting vaccinated," but "what we've seen is COVID infection during pregnancy can be very dangerous" and "I think every woman who's an expectant mom or a prospective mom should be talking to their doctor about getting vaccinated." He also criticized misinformation regarding DNA alleging that the vaccines are "going to integrate into your genome. That's not the case. This is an mRNA vaccine. And what it really is doing is delivering a genetic sequence of mRNA of the spike protein. ... When the body sees that mRNA, it does one of two things: Either it destroys it or it translates it into the protein, and then your body develops antibodies against that protein."

Klobuchar Warns Social Media Companies That Misinformation Justifies Need For Changing Liability Standards. Bloomberg (7/18, Yang, 3.57M) reports Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) on CNN's State Of The Union (7/18, 639K) "said misinformation on social media about Covid-19 vaccines adds urgency to her call to change liability standards for what is published on their platforms." She said, "I really appreciate President Biden calling this out." According to Bloomberg, Klobuchar also "suggested using antitrust laws to 'look back and see if they should divest assets so we can get true competition' with 'dominant' social media platforms."

Portman: While Vaccines Are "Safe" And "Effective," Administration Should Not Be "Going Door-To-Door And Mandating It On People." Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), on CNN's State Of The Union (7/18, 610K), discussed the partisan gap in vaccinations. Portman said, "The vaccines are a miracle. It's amazing. By the way, President Trump's Administration started

this effort with Operation Warp Speed. It's something we should all celebrate. Vaccines are safe. The vaccines are effective. As you know, I was in one of the trials. I'm still in the trial. The J&J trial. I got my vaccine early to show my constituents that I trusted the vaccines, that they were safe and effective. ... I don't think it ought to be something where we're going door-to-door and mandating it on people. We ought to be doing a much more effective and massive public media campaign, talking about the facts, giving people the scientific facts on this."

Cassidy: Officials Should Not Be "Surprised" That "Citizens Don't Trust Government." Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/18, 828K), said people should not be "surprised when citizens don't trust government. When you have partisan comments coming out of the White House regarding the next Jim Crow laws, people like Senator Schumer and the White House not cooperating on a bipartisan bill. ... That just doesn't work, but I would also argue as a position, you need to go back to your healthcare workers. It shouldn't be the president advocating. Again, [Biden's] depicting himself as an über partisan. You need to have your doctor, your nurse, physician's assistants speaking to the patients they normally care for. ... This is good, it saves lives. What I'm trying to do, I'm trying to educate. ... You choose either to be vaccinated or accept a higher rate of unnecessary deaths. That's the way to communicate your position, not through some uber partisan person who asked us to trust him except when they're making incredibly partisan statements."

Cruz: Psaki's Allegations That Tech Companies Allowing Misinformation To Spread "Strengthened" Trump's Lawsuit. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (7/18), said former President Donald Trump "filed a class action lawsuit against big tech based on the theory that they were engaged in censorship that is unconstitutional, that is contrary to the first amendment. Now, the challenge his lawsuit faces is the following: The first amendment applies only to government action. ... The Supreme Court has long recognized a line of cases that when government uses a private company as a tool, as an arm to implement a government policy, and in this instance when government explicitly asks a private company to censor the following speech that we disagree with, that private company can be treated as a state actor. ... I wonder if Jen Psaki is on the payroll of Donald Trump because her press conference strengthened President Trump's lawsuit against big tech."

Capitol Riot Cases Being Delayed Due To "Struggle To Manage Huge Amounts Of Video Evidence." The [Washington Post](#) (7/16, 10.52M) reports, "A struggle to manage huge amounts of video evidence is delaying hundreds of Jan. 6 Capitol breach cases as many of more than 500 people charged now wait for U.S. prosecutors to produce records that could help defendants decide whether to face trial or plead guilty." The government has passed on sizable "blocks of evidence directly implicating many individual defendants – including pertinent social media posts." However, while the government has disclosed "clips of U.S. Capitol surveillance and officer body-camera footage, it has yet to release comprehensive video of the entire event that might reveal mitigating or exonerating conduct that day, such as whether a person helped maintain order at other times, or what police or others nearby were doing, prosecutors and defense lawyers have said." Party due to this, only roughly 20 suspects out of in excess of 500 charged up to this point have pleaded guilty.

Judge Rebuffs DOJ Request To Disclose Capitol Riot Grand Jury Materials To Contractor. [The Hill](#) (7/16, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports, "A federal judge on Friday denied a request from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to share grand jury materials from investigations into the Jan. 6 Capitol riot with a contractor who was hired to organize them into a database." US District Court for the District of Columbia Chief Judge Beryl Howell "said in a 54-page memorandum opinion that the DOJ was incorrect in arguing that employees of Deloitte contracted to work on the project could be considered 'government personnel,' which would grant them access to the grand jury evidence." Howell wrote, "Deloitte, a private firm contracted by the government on a non-exclusive basis, is a private rather than a public governmental entity, and its staff are employees of the firm rather than the government." The Hill adds, "Thus, Howell argued that the secrecy provisions pertaining to grand jury rules do 'not allow disclosure of grand jury matters to Deloitte and its employees.'" [Politico](#) (7/16, Gerstein, Cheney, 6.73M) says Howell's decision "could complicate and drag out the prosecutions" of Capitol riot defendants "by requiring government personnel to be more involved in aspects of the process of sharing evidence with defense attorneys."

Two Florida Police Officers Charged In Capitol Siege Probe. The [Washington Post](#) (7/16, 10.52M) reports, "A father and son, who are current and former Florida police officers, and a North Carolina man have been charged with joining alleged Proud Boys members in the Jan. 6 Capitol riots, according to a new, five co-defendant indictment unsealed in Washington on Friday." Kevin "Tito" Tuck, 51, and Nathaniel A. Tuck, 29, "of central Florida were arrested and released on \$25,000 unsecured bond Thursday by a U.S. magistrate judge in Tampa, court records show. Edward George Jr. was also arrested Thursday and was scheduled to appear in federal court Friday in Raleigh, according to court records." The charges "bring the number of off-duty law enforcement officers charged in the Capitol mob to at least 20, and the defendants' ties to

several central Florida police agencies highlight the continued pressure on sheriffs and police chiefs nationwide to scrub their ranks of members with links to white supremacist and far-right armed groups.”

The Hill (7/16, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports, “According to a superseding indictment unsealed Friday, authorities have charged 51-year-old Kevin Tuck and his son, 29-year-old Nathaniel Tuck, with multiple crimes, including obstruction of an official proceeding and disorderly and disruptive conduct. The two were arrested in Tampa, Fla., and were released on a \$25,000 bond Thursday.” The Tucks “were included in the indictment along with Edward George Jr., who was scheduled to appear in federal court Friday in Raleigh, N.C., as well as previously charged Orlando-area men Arthur Jackman and Paul Rae. George was also charged with allegedly assaulting a police officer and stealing government property, and along with Kevin Tuck was charged with entering the Senate chamber. Both George and Nathaniel Tuck were charged with engaging in civil disorder, according to the indictment.”

The Daily Beast (7/16, Weill, 933K) reports, “A Florida man arrested for allegedly breaking into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 and hitting a police officer inside is himself a former cop who joined the Proud Boys while still serving on the force, chat logs tied to the far-right group reveal.” Nathan Tuck, 29, “was arrested this week in connection with the storming of the Capitol, as was his father, Kevin. The elder Tuck was a police officer with the Windermere, Florida, police department until he resigned after his arrest on Thursday. Nathan Tuck, meanwhile, served as a police officer in Apopka, Florida, until September 2020. Following his arrest, the Apopka Police Department released a statement noting that Tuck was not on the force during the Capitol riot. The younger Tuck was, however, a police officer when he filed an application to join the Proud Boys, according to chat logs reviewed by The Daily Beast.”

Arizona Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (7/16, Schott, 284K) reports, “A man dressed as Captain Moroni, a figure from the Book of Mormon, who took part in the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was arrested by federal authorities on Thursday.” The FBI “arrested Nathan Wayne Entrekin in Cottonwood, Arizona. According to the FBI affidavit, he was carrying a ‘wooden dowel with a piece of cloth attached.’ ‘The cloth appears to have the following text handwritten on it: IN MEMORY OF OUR GOD, OUR RELIGION, AND FREEDOM. AND OUR PEACE, OUR WIVES, AND OUR CHILDREN. ALMA 46:12,’ the statement of facts continued.” The FBI memo “spends several paragraphs detailing the story of Captain Moroni who raised armies and ‘his followers executed anyone who rejected to Title of Liberty [the all caps words noted on the cloth above] or who refused to accept democracy of tyranny.”

The Deseret News (UT) (7/16, 114K) reports, “Entrekin narrated videos for his mother while he walked around inside the Capitol and on the grounds outside and also gave videotaped interviews, according to the affidavit. ‘I am Captain Moroni. I’m the William Wallace of the Book of Mormon,’ Entrekin said in one interview, according to the affidavit. ‘In the Book of Alma of the Book of Mormon, a freedom fighter named Captain Moroni fought for his freedom against the King-Men,’ the affidavit said Entrekin said in interviews.”

The AP (7/16, Billeaud) reports, “Entrekin documented his movements in and outside the building in cellphone videos in which he addressed his mother, who wasn’t at the Capitol, authorities said. While Entrekin claimed that he was herded into the building by the crowd, the FBI said security video shows Entrekin didn’t appear to be pushed into the Capitol. And when he left the building and re-entered it, investigators said Entrekin didn’t appear to be pushed forced in against his will, according to court records.”

The Washington Post (7/16, Shepherd, 10.52M) reports, “In videos FBI investigators said they found on Entrekin’s cellphone, he said he wanted to represent ‘the Mormon element’ at a rally for Trump. The alleged rioter told FBI agents that the scene at the insurrection had been ‘solemn’ and ‘revered,’ according to a criminal complaint filed on Wednesday. Police say Entrekin told them in the interview that he had entered the federal building but said he did not realize he was not allowed inside, despite video that showed alarms blaring as he walked in. FBI agents also found videos on Entrekin’s phone that showed him relaying that police had sprayed tear gas and rubber bullets into the crowd.”

AP Analysis: Disinformation Fueling Fact Inversion Of January 6 Attack. The AP (7/18, Woodward, Long, Klepper) examines the ongoing campaign by some conservatives to overhaul the public-facing history of the January 6 attack. The campaign “is rooted in the formula of potent propaganda through the ages: Say it loud, say it often, say it with the heft of political power behind you, and people will believe,” and the techniques “have been in play at least since World War I, when the U.S. government roused sentiment for the cause with posters depicting the German soldier as an ape-human with a willowy American maiden in his clutches.” The AP adds former President Trump has “perfected the art of repetition.”

Attorney General Urged To Reject Rep. Brooks’ Claim In January 6 Lawsuit. In an op-ed for the New York Times (7/18, 20.6M) , former Deputy Attorney General Donald Ayer, Danielle Brian, who is executive director of the Project On Government Oversight, and Norman Eisen, who served as special counsel to the House Judiciary Committee during the first

Trump impeachment, write of Rep. Eric Swalwell's (D-CA) lawsuit against Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL) over the latter's actions on January 6 that Brooks has asked Attorney General Garland "to certify that his actions on Jan. 6 were those of a government employee acting within the scope of his employment." According to the authors, Garland "should emphatically reject Mr. Brooks's request to make this certification, because our nation deserves a full accounting for those involved in the storming of the Capitol," and should "unequivocally reject any notion that a congressman is doing his job when he foments a riot based on lies in order to sabotage a legitimate national electoral process."

US Charges Three Florida White Supremacists With Racketeering. [WJXT-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (7/16, Peel, 396K) reports from Jacksonville, Florida, "Three local men in federal court in Jacksonville on Thursday are among 16 Florida men named in a federal indictment, part of a violent gang that goes by 'Unforgiven.' One of the men is from Jacksonville, one is from Orange Park and another is from Satsuma. According to the indictment, gang members tried to use corrupt law enforcement members to find out about the investigation into the organization. Officials call the group a racketeering enterprise that's accused of murder, kidnapping, robbery and other violent crimes." According to WJXT-TV, "News4Jax spoke with Toni Chrobot who is a retired FBI assistant special agent in charge, now CEO of Risk Confidence Group. 'They believe in the Aryan philosophy. They have their own constitution and by-laws but we don't know exactly what those are,' Chrobot said."

Alabama Man Jailed For Anthrax Hoax Letters Is Convicted Of Similar Crimes In Louisiana. The [AP](#) (7/17, McConnaughey) reports, "A 49-year-old Alabama man serving time for sending anthrax hoax letters has been convicted of sending similar letters from a federal prison in Louisiana." The AP adds, "The conviction for sending four envelopes of white powder from the prison in Oakdale to the U.S. Senate in 2016 could add up to 20 years to Clifton Lamar Dodd's prison time. He received a total of 15 years and 6 months in two earlier cases. Some of the letters mailed in 2010 and 2011 also were sent from behind bars." Dodd "was trying to make trouble for other Oakdale inmates by sending the letters in 2016, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for Louisiana's western district. A federal jury in Lafayette convicted Dodd on Thursday on four counts of mailing hoax letters in which talcum powder simulated 'a biological agent and toxin.'"

Arizona Man Charged With Threatening Governor, Secretary Of State. [KTVK-TV](#) Phoenix (7/16, Palacios Perez, 390K) reports, "A Phoenix man on the FBI's Terrorist Watchlist was arrested on Wednesday after he threatened Arizona Governor Doug Ducey and Secretary of State Katie Hobbs." KTVK-TV adds, "According to court documents, on July 1, 26-year-old Laquint Cherry posted on Twitter under an alias account a statement threatening the lives of Ducey and Hobbs. His message read in part: 'Doug Ducey, Katie Hobbs wanna join Jesus in heaven?' Cherry also included hashtags, tagging ISIS and the Islamic State. In the post, Cherry included a photo of himself holding a loaded gun with an extended magazine in his left hand, documents state. The social media company flagged the post, but investigators had to track down the person behind the alias account."

Three Men Arrested Near All-Star Game Face Federal Gun Charges. The [AP](#) (7/16, Slevin) reports from Denver, "Three men arrested with more than a dozen weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition at a Denver hotel near the site of Major League Baseball's All-Star Game have been charged with federal firearms crimes, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Friday." The AP adds, "The number of weapons found May 9 near the event and a request by one of the men for a room with a balcony raised concerns among police of a possible mass shooting but the FBI soon said it had no reason to believe the arrests were connected to terrorism or that there was a threat to the game. Federal prosecutors reiterated that in announcing that Richard Platt, Ricardo Rodriguez and Gabriel Rodriguez had each been charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Each has multiple previous felony convictions, according to court documents. Gabriel Rodriguez is also charged with possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine."

The [Denver Gazette](#) (7/16, Cardi, Mullen) reports, "The city's downtown detention center confirmed to The Denver Gazette that agent Greg Johnson picked up Richard Platt, Gabriel Rodriguez and Ricardo Rodriguez Friday morning. Court records showed initial appearances scheduled for 2 p.m. The fourth suspect, Kanoelehua Serikawa, remained in local custody as of Friday and she does not currently face federal charges. Her attorney previously told The Gazette she had 'peripheral' involvement in last week's operation, and Platt told investigators Serikawa was not involved in the sales of the guns, according to affidavits prepared by Johnson. According to the affidavits, Platt said he did not have a choice in taking part in the gun sales because he was in trouble with 'Rocco,' a person he named as his drug dealer and trying to make extra money."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/16, Beaman, 888K) reports, "The incident quickly commanded national attention, as some officials suspected early on that the firearms were part of a plot to kill baseball fans in Denver for the All-Star Game. Some

speculated the suspects planned a 'Las Vegas-style shooting' akin to 64-year-old Stephen Paddock's murder of concertgoers from his hotel room in 2017, the Denver Post reported."

Chinese National Sentenced For Scheme To Buy US Commando Craft. The Washington Times (7/16, Gertz, 626K) reports, "A Chinese national was sentenced to 3 ½ years in prison on Friday as part of what U.S. officials said was a plot to illegally export inflatable military boats that are used by special operations commandos to China." Ge Songtao, 51, of Nanjing, China, "pleaded guilty in federal court in Florida last fall to charges of conspiracy to submit false export information to the federal government. Analysts said the case reveals how China's military has gone through Hong Kong to obtain embargoed goods." US District Judge Harvey Schlesinger, "during a hearing in Jacksonville federal court, said Ge intended to reverse-engineer the special military-grade engines and sell a knock-off version to Beijing's military. The boats were described in court as 'maritime raiding craft.'"

Prosecutor In Hunter Biden Probe Rejected Moves That Would Have Revealed Investigation Earlier. Politico (7/16, Schreckinger, 6.73M) reports, "Last summer, federal officials in Delaware investigating Hunter Biden faced a dilemma. The probe had reached a point where prosecutors could have sought search warrants and issued a flurry of grand jury subpoenas. Some officials involved in the case wanted to do just that. Others urged caution. They advised Delaware's U.S. Attorney, David Weiss, to avoid taking any actions that could alert the public to the existence of the case in the middle of a presidential election. 'To his credit, he listened,' said a person involved in the discussions, reported here for the first time. Weiss decided to wait, averting the possibility that the investigation would become a months-long campaign issue." Politico adds, "Since taking office, President Joe Biden has left Weiss – a Republican appointed by Donald Trump on the recommendation of Delaware's two Democratic senators – in place. That puts him in one of the most sensitive positions in the Justice Department, deciding how to proceed with an investigation of the president's son that has proven politically fraught on several fronts."

Nationals Park Reopens After Nearby Shooting. The Washington Post (7/18, 10.52M) reports hours after "a burst of gunshots outside Nationals Park" on Saturday disrupted the game between the San Diego Padres and Washington Nationals, "unaware, in that moment, that the incident took place on South Capitol Street and there wasn't an active shooter situation in the stadium." the teams "returned Sunday morning to play a baseball game. Fans showed up, too, in small pockets around a park that fits more than 41,000." To the Post, "It was normal except that, in the lead-up to first pitch at 1:08 p.m. for the resumption of a contest that stopped amid nearby gunfire in the sixth inning, all people discussed was their version of the previous night." On the CBS Weekend News (7/18, story 2, 1:48, Duncan, 230K), Kris Van Cleave said that "for the people that were there [Saturday] it was a very scary experience, myself included. I was in the stands and there was a point in time where you didn't know what was going on or if you were in danger."

On NBC Nightly News (7/18, story 4, 1:14, Snow, 3.43M), Kelly O'Donnell reported officials "say shots were exchanged between two cars. Three people were wounded, including a woman passerby, grazed in the chaos." Likewise, Elizabeth Schulze reported on ABC World News Tonight (7/18, story 4, 2:14, Davis, 4.52M) that the suspects "have yet to be identified, and police say they're combing through surveillance video and witness accounts as part of this investigation."

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal (7/18, Day, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that the shooting outside the ballpark and a separate one that left a six-year-old girl dead this weekend have highlighted the increase in gun crime in DC and in other US cities. ABC World News Tonight (7/18, story 13, 0:23, Davis, 4.52M) reported in a brief broadcast on the shooting of the child, who NBC Nightly News (7/18, story 5, 0:51, O'Donnell, 3.43M) identified as Nyiah Courtney. Kelly O'Donnell said the shooting that also left "her mother and four other adults wounded," comes amid "a national spike in gun violence." O'Donnell added that in New York City, "gun incidents [are] up 29% over last year," in Atlanta, "homicides up more than 27%. Philadelphia up 31%, with 299 murders as of this weekend." O'Donnell continued that President Biden "says the federal government can do more to crack down on licensed gun dealers who sell illegal weapons." Biden: "We'll make sure you can't sell death and mayhem on our streets. It's an outrage." O'Donnell added on NBC Nightly News (7/18, story 6, 0:21, Snow, 3.43M) that the Administration "is setting up five new strike force teams to deal with illegal gun trafficking, and telling state and local officials how they can use some extra COVID relief funds for crime prevention."

However, a Washington Post (7/18, 10.52M) editorial argues that a recent 2-1 ruling by the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit "has given a thumbs-up to licensed handgun sales for a cohort of individuals, aged 18 to 20, who are vastly more likely to use them to commit murder than older adults," and as such "shrugged off public safety concerns and brushed aside the legislative prerogatives of Congress, which mandated a legal age of 21 to purchase handguns from licensed dealers more than a half-century ago." The Post warns, "That act of judicial arrogance, if affirmed on appeal, would likely accelerate the current spike

in homicides, many of them committed with handguns by individuals under the age of 21. And it comes as Americans are embarked on a record-setting gun-buying spree, which began during the pandemic and shows no sign of waning.”

King: Bowser's Plan To Address Gun Violence In Eastern Anacostia Insufficient. Colbert King writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, 10.52M) that Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) “has come up with a scheme that she calls ‘a first-of-its-kind in the nation to deploy a public health approach to gun violence prevention.’” Her “Building Blocks DC” program is “supposed to be aimed where gun violence is regularly happening.” Bowser is “launching her program in several blocks east of the Anacostia River in Ward 8.” However, King argues, “It may be a hard political truth for City Hall to swallow, but gun violence, as Nationals Park showed the whole country, is affecting a wider swath of the nation’s capital than just the eastern side of the Anacostia.” Bowser’s program, which “will concentrate on ‘151 blocks that represent nearly 2% of all blocks in the District, but were the site of 41% of all gunshot-related crimes’ leaves residents in the rest of the city’s blocks...to cry out, ‘What about us?’”

Texas SWAT Team Commander Killed, Four Officers Injured In Standoff With Gunman. The [AP](#) (7/16) reports from Levelland, Texas, “Authorities captured the suspect late Thursday following an hourslong police standoff where one officer was killed and four others were wounded in a small West Texas city.” Omar Soto-Chavira, 22, “was injured when he was taken into custody around 11:30 p.m. at a home in Levelland, police Chief Albert Garcia told reporters. The suspect was being transported to a hospital in Lubbock for treatment, Garcia said. The extent of the suspect’s injuries was not disclosed. Authorities used robots to enter the home, then deployed gas, which drew Soto-Chivara out of the residence, Lubbock County Sheriff Kelly Rowe said at the briefing.” The AP adds, “The standoff between the suspect and law enforcement had begun at the home around 1 p.m. after someone reported a man as possibly armed along the residential street in Levelland, about 30 miles west of Lubbock.”

[CBS News](#) (7/16, 5.39M) reports, “Hockley County Sheriff Ray Scifres had said the suspect had a history of contact with police. He also said Bartlett, leader of the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office’s SWAT command, was a nine-year veteran of the department who had served overseas in the U.S. Army.” [The Hill](#) (7/16, Lonas, 5.69M) reports, “Multiple agencies including the FBI were involved in the standoff.”

Ohio Man Charged With COVID-19 Relief Fraud. The [Willoughby \(OH\) News-Herald](#) (7/18, 77K) reports, “A Chester Township man was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges related to alleged COVID-19 relief fraud.” Robert Bearden, 49, “faces three counts of wire fraud and one count of theft of government funds in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. According to the indictment, Bearden is accused of devising a scheme to fraudulently obtain Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. About \$60,000 in loans are identified in the indictment.” The News-Herald adds, “According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio, Bearden allegedly carried out the scheme in multiple ways. That included submitting EIDL applications through the SBA’s online application portal that contained false information about existing business and non-existing business.”

US Charges Nursing Home Operators With Selling Bogus Diplomas. The [AP](#) (7/16, Kunzelman) reports from College Park, Maryland, “The owners and operators of nursing schools in Virginia and Florida have been charged with plotting to sell bogus transcripts and diplomas, helping unqualified candidates pass nursing board exams and get health care jobs, federal authorities said Friday.” The AP adds, “In March 2019, a witness told the FBI that Patrick Nwaokwu, 50, of Laurel, Maryland, and Musa Bangura, 62, of Manassas, Virginia, were creating illegitimate transcripts and certificates through a nursing school in Woodbridge, Virginia. After the school was shut down for violating state regulations, Nwaokwu and Bangura continued selling bogus transcripts and certifications backdated to when it was open, the FBI says. The FBI also investigated allegations that Nwaokwu and Bangura worked with people in Florida to sell illegitimate degrees for licensed practical nurses and registered nurses at a second school established by Johanah Napoleon, 45, of Wellington, Florida.”

US Places Restrictions On Several Russian IT Firms. [Reuters](#) (7/16) reports the US on Friday “took a new stab at Russia’s cybersecurity industry, restricting trade with four information technology firms and two other entities over ‘aggressive and harmful’ activities – including digital espionage – that Washington blames on the Russian government.” According to a Commerce Department posting, the Treasury Department during April sanctioned the six entities, and Reuters adds that the entities being put on the Commerce Department’s blacklist implies that US firms “cannot sell to them without licenses, which are seldom granted.”

FBI To Consider Upgrading Criminal Background Checks To Prevent Sale Of Guns To Underage, Out-Of-State.

CNN (7/16, Carrega, 89.21M) reports, "The FBI has agreed to consider modifying its criminal background check system after the Justice Department's inspector general found the system did not cross check the buyer's age with legal requirements of their home state, according to a report released on Thursday." CNN adds, "Under federal law, customers are not allowed to buy firearms, specifically a rifle or a shotgun, in a jurisdiction that is different from the address listed on their identification unless the customer's age is legal in both the state of sale and where the person lives, according to the report. The findings stem from an Office of Inspector General's audit that was launched, in part, after Colorado lawmakers asked the agency to probe the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which is used by licensed federal firearms sellers and other retailers, after an 18-year-old purchased a shotgun in Colorado even though she was a resident in Florida, which prohibits the sale of firearms to anyone under 21."

NBC News (7/16, Williams, 4.91M) reports, "The FBI must upgrade its system for conducting background checks on gun buyers to avoid repeating illegal sales like the one that led hundreds of Colorado schools to close or lock down in 2019, the Justice Department's inspector general said in a new report." NBC News adds, "Members of Congress asked Inspector General Michael Horowitz to conduct a review after an 18-year-old woman from Florida came to the state just before the 20th anniversary of the deadly school shooting in Columbine. Sol Pais flew to Denver and shortly after arriving bought a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunition. Alarmed by police in Miami that she was obsessed with Columbine and had made threats toward area schools, authorities in Colorado launched an immediate search, considering her armed and dangerous. Dozens of schools in the Denver area were closed or locked down. Pais was found the next day, dead of an apparent self-inflicted shotgun wound, police said." Also reporting on their websites are KUSA-TV Denver (7/16, Sylte, 738K) and WPBF-TV West Palm Beach, FL (7/17, 69K).

FBI Expects 7,500 Cases In Oklahoma Next Year In Wake Of McGirt Ruling. The Oklahoman (7/16, Casteel, 205K) reports, "Money to help the federal government and Indian tribes handle the criminal caseload stemming from the jurisdiction shift in eastern Oklahoma has cleared a key U.S. House committee amid a prediction that the FBI will have to investigate 7,500 Indian-related cases in the state next fiscal year." The Oklahoman adds, "The House Appropriations Committee on Thursday approved \$70 million in additional funding for the U.S. Justice Department specifically for the increased caseload related to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in McGirt v Oklahoma. A separate bill including \$10 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for McGirt-related expenses cleared the committee earlier this month. Both bills, which will now be considered by the full House, include requests for long-term estimates of McGirt related costs."

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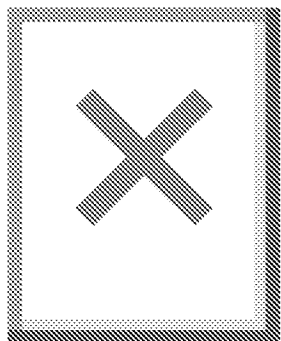
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