

FBI Arrests Tulsa Man For Threatening Biden, Lawmakers.

[Myparistexas.com](#) (6/24) reports that on June 18, the FBI has arrested John Jacobs Ahrens "for sending threatening emails to KOTV Channel 6 directed at President Joseph Biden, unnamed members of the Congress, and their families." The website explains that "in his messages, Ahrens demanded money, and if it wasn't sent, he allegedly wrote that he would kill the President, members of Congress, and their families."

Missouri Man Faces Federal Charges For Child Sex Solicitation.

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (6/24, Lukitsch, 519K) reports that Brent Deadmon "is facing at least one federal charge" after the FBI arrested him on Wednesday for "sending sexually explicit images and requests to children." The Star adds that Deadmon "has an earlier conviction of sex crimes with children," having pleaded guilty in 1999 "to statutory sodomy, statutory rape and providing pornographic material to an 11-year-old girl."

Multi-agency Search For Missing Tennessee Girl Continues.

The [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/24, Sorrell, News) reports that "the search continued Wednesday for 5-year-old Summer Moon-Utah Wells, who has been missing for more than a week in Hawkins County, Tennessee." The circumstances of the girl's disappearance "remain unclear" - it is not known "whether she simply walked away and became lost, was injured or was abducted." The Herald Courier notes that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, and several local agencies are participating in the search.

Stolen Art Recovered By FBI Is Returned To Owner's Family.

The [AP](#) (6/24) reports that on Thursday, authorities announced they have returned six pieces of stolen "contemporary art worth more than \$100,000" to the family of Anne Spivak. "The screen prints and lithographs were taken from...Spivak...while she was bedridden. ... She died five months later at age 86." [WWJ-TV Detroit](#) (6/24) says the FBI recovered the art after the pieces "were consigned to various individuals and a New York gallery." However, no arrests have been made.

Judge Weighs Special Prosecutor's Exit From Tisaby Case.

The [AP](#) (6/24) reports that a state court judge in St. Louis, Missouri "said Thursday that he'll decide by the end of next week whether to allow the special prosecutor to withdraw from the perjury and evidence tampering case against William Don Tisaby, a former FBI agent hired by St. Louis' top prosecutor to investigate" former Gov. Eric Greitens (R-MO). The AP explains that the special prosecutor, Gerard Carmody, "filed a motion in May to exit the case." He told the judge during a hearing Thursday that "because of other issues with his law firm, 'I can no longer serve as special prosecutor in this case.'"

Florida Couple Plead Guilty To Trafficking Child For Money, Drugs.

[WJAX-TV Jacksonville, FL](#) (6/24, Mathers, 138K) reports that Samuel and Deborah Lynn Templeman have pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to sex traffic a child and possession of child sex abuse material. "Investigators say Samuel Templeman and the victim began regularly using heroin and crack cocaine together. Around that time, a pimp began asking the child victim to engage in various sexual acts in exchange for drugs, according to the plea agreements."

Advanced Law Enforcement Training Resumes At Upstate New York Center.

[Spectrum News Central NY](#) (6/24, Krull, 43K) reports that the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, New York has resumed offering training programs to law enforcement. Currently, the facility is "hosting bomb technicians and tactical team members from across" New York as well as other parts of the country. Spectrum News notes that the program is "part of the FBI Tactical Bomb Technician Certification Course."

Disappearance Of California Man Part Of Hells Angels Investigation.

The [San Jose Mercury News](#) (6/24, Gartrell, 432K) reports that court records reveal the FBI's investigation into the still unsolved disappearance of California resident Art Carasis is "part of a massive investigation into" the Hells Angels, an outlaw biker club. The Carasis case "is now the third such missing persons case that authorities have acknowledged they investigated before obtaining a racketeering indictment against 11 Hells Angels in 2017." According to the Mercury News, "the other two are Robbie Huff...and Joel Silva...believed to have been shot and killed in 2014."

Court Schedules Sentencing For Former Suffolk County DA.

The [Riverhead \(NY\) Patch](#) (6/24, 1.44M) reports that a federal court has scheduled a sentencing hearing for August 10 in the case against former Suffolk County District Attorney Tom Spota. The Patch explains Spota and his chief investigator Christopher McPartland were convicted of obstruction as part of an effort to cover up a 2012 incident in which "a man was beaten after he stole a duffel bag from a former police chief filled with sex toys and pornography." A jury found the pair guilty of "witness tampering, obstruction of justice, and conspiracy after they pressured witnesses not to cooperate with an FBI investigation into the 2012 assault."

Illegal Marijuana Grow Sites Shutdown Operation In California Leads To 29 Arrests.

In online coverage, [KERO-TV Bakersfield, CA](#) (6/24, Wright) reports the DEA and the "Kern County High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force" participated in a recent operation that targeted allegedly illegal marijuana grow sites in California. The operation, which shut down 10 Kern County sites, led to 29 arrests and the seizure of more than "870 pounds of processed marijuana." Nearly "14,000 marijuana plants" were destroyed during the operation.

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Scaramucci Testifies At Trial Of Manafort Banker.

[Politico](#) (6/24, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports, "One of the best-known but short-lived members of former President Donald Trump's White House staff, Anthony Scaramucci, took the stand as a prosecution witness Thursday at a federal trial of a Chicago banker accused of trying to trade millions of dollars in loans for a senior post in the Trump administration." Scaramucci "testified for more than an hour about his interactions with the banker, Stephen Calk, and the persistent efforts that former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort made to try to get Calk a top role at the Pentagon or elsewhere. Scaramucci, who served as White House communications director for less than two weeks in July 2019, said Manafort's advocacy during the presidential transition helped Calk land an interview with a so-called 'tiger team' that was screening prospects for top jobs in the new administration. 'He had suggested and recommended Mr. Calk and he wanted us to interview him ... The original position was secretary of the Army,' said Scaramucci."

Jury Hears Closing Arguments In Corruption Trial Of Texas Developer.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (6/24, Gonzales, 772K) reports, "The latest Dallas City Hall corruption case to hit the federal courts is now in the jury's hands." The Morning News adds, "Jurors in Ruel Hamilton's federal bribery trial heard closing arguments from both sides Thursday, marking the end of nearly two-weeks of testimony before Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara Lynn." Hamilton, "a 65-year-old local developer of affordable housing, is accused of bribing two former Dallas City Council members, Dwaine Caraway and Carolyn Davis, for support and approval of his development projects. He faces up to 30 years in prison if convicted. The case is notable because it targets a white businessman who is said to have paid the bribes. Previous federal corruption trials in Dallas have mainly involved local Black politicians, leading to accusations of racial bias in prosecutorial decision making."

[WFAA-TV Dallas](#) (6/24, 486K) reports that on Thursday, a jury began deliberating corruption charges against Ruel Hamilton, a Dallas developer who is accused of "accused of paying thousands

of dollars in bribes" to two former members of the Dallas City Council "in exchange for their political support." An attorney for Hamilton argued that the councilmembers "'set Ruel up' at the behest of the FBI and prosecutors."

Federal Judge Blocks Forfeiture Of Private Vaults.

The Beverly (CA) Press (6/24) reports that on June 22, a federal judge "granted a temporary restraining order that stops the government from using civil forfeiture to take the contents of safe deposit boxes seized in the FBI's raid on Beverly Hills company U.S. Private Vaults." The Press says, "Jeni Pearsons and her husband, Michael Storc, along with Joseph Ruiz and Travis May, joined with the Institute for Justice to fight the unconstitutional seizure and the FBI's attempt to take their cash and valuables."

CYBER DIVISION

Ransomware Attack In Texas Affects 26K Students, Educators.

The San Antonio Express-News (6/24, Lingle, 685K) reports that the computer and communication systems of the Judson Independent School District in Texas "remained paralyzed Thursday as staffers scramble to understand the extent of a ransomware attack detected a week earlier." The Express-News says that while officials "weren't disclosing what information the cyberattack compromised," they "acknowledged that Judson computers, telephones and e-mail services were still down." The attack affects 3,270 district employees and 22,900 students across 30 campuses.

Gig App Blurs Line Between Government Surveillance, Consumer Services.

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, A1, Tau, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the US military as well as foreign governments have used an app offered by Premise Data Corp. to deploy the gig-based workforce in performing reconnaissance tasks and gauge public opinion. The Journal says the app and others like it blur the line between government surveillance and consumer services.

F1N7 Cybercrime Gang Member Gets Seven Years For Massive Identity Theft.

Reuters (6/24, Satter) reports that on Thursday, a federal court sentenced Andrii Kolpakov, a Ukrainian "hacker" who belongs to the "notorious cybercrime group" F1N7, "to seven years in prison for his role in a notorious cybercrime group that stole millions of credit and debit card details from across the United States." According to Reuters, F1N7 "is among the most prolific cybercriminal enterprises in existence." The gang "had over 70 people organized into discrete departments and teams, including a unit devoted to crafting malicious software and another unit compose of hackers who exploited victims' machines."

Energy Department Asks For \$201 Million For Cybersecurity.

CNBC (6/24, Macias, 7.34M) reports that in appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm requested that her department's 2022 budget include \$201 million to address digital vulnerabilities after a steady uptick in sweeping cyber attacks. The funds would be used to "bolster the federal agency's cybersecurity efforts and address any 'gaps' in the supply chain and tech infrastructure." CNBC quotes Granholm as saying, "'As we have seen, the Colonial Pipeline incident made it clear that the fact that we do not have cyber standards on pipelines like we do on the electricity sector, that suggests a major hole.' ... 'I will say that it is clear that there are gaps, not so much in our ability internally to respond but in our ability to see what is happening in the private sector.'"

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cybercriminal enterprises in existence." The gang "had over 70 people organized into discrete departments and teams, including a unit devoted to crafting malicious software and another unit composed of hackers who exploited victims' machines."

Chicago Agriculture Company ADM Shores Up Cyber Defenses. The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Bunge, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Juan Luciano, CEO of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), a Chicago-based agriculture company, announced on Thursday that his company has launched a ransomware task force and begun cyberattack drills amid surging cybercrimes targeting food and agriculture businesses.

Companies Are Using Successful Past Cyberattacks To Test Their Defenses.

Behind a paywall, the Wall Street Journal (6/23, Rundle, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that companies are testing their cybersecurity defenses by replicating successful attacks. The move comes as government officials and lawmakers push private companies to better secure their systems against attackers.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Justice Department's Anti-Violent Crime Strategy Highlighted.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/24, Du, 855K) reports the Administration has "announced that communities experiencing a surge in gun violence can use American Rescue Plan funding to rehire police officers to pre-pandemic levels, pay overtime, upgrade technology and boost" gun crime prosecutions. The announcement comes as the DEA, "the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the FBI are" working with local law enforcement organizations to investigate "criminal organizations as part of the Justice Department's Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Violent Crime in cities nationwide."

TSA, FAA Report Rise In Unruly Passengers.

Contributor Joe Walsh writes in Forbes (6/24, 10.33M) that TSA has "tallied at least 69 physical assaults against its security staff since the pandemic's early days in March 2020, the agency told Forbes, including one passenger who bit a pair of TSA agents in Denver earlier this month." TSA didn't "release pre-pandemic data, but it says violent confrontations between passengers and airport security agents have become unusually common." The FAA has also reported an increase in unruly passengers. The agency has "opened 487 investigations into unruly passengers so far this year, up from just 183 for all of 2020, after airline crews reported over 3,000 unruly travelers to the FAA."

The Hill (6/24, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports that in a press release Thursday, TSA "said the incidents of unruly passengers at security checkpoints and aboard public transportation 'needlessly

interrupt travel, delaying flights and other transportation operations across the country.” The press release added, “TSA, in coordination with our air carrier and airport management partners, as well as the FAA, will not tolerate such actions, and may pursue criminal charges and a civil penalty up to the maximum allowable by law.”

The Denver Gazette (6/24, Metzger) reports on the incident involving a passenger allegedly biting two TSA agents at Denver International Airport in June. The Gazette says TSA did not “release any information about what led to the incident but said it remains under investigation.” The passenger “faces a potential civil fine of up to \$13,910 for each violation of airport security requirements, the agency said.”

Also reporting is WXYZ-TV Detroit (6/24, 201K).

Senate Committee Split Along Party Lines Over Biden Choice To Head ATF.

Reuters (6/24) reports the Senate Judiciary Committee divided along party lines Thursday over whether to advance President Biden’s nomination of “gun control advocate David Chipman” to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Ahead of the tie vote, “Republicans vocally opposed Chipman’s nomination, citing his history of advocating stronger gun regulations.” Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) the ranking Republican on the committee, said, “Mr. Chipman wants to ban assault weapons. ... This nomination is like a Republican putting the NRA in charge of ATF.” Reuters says because the position is “so politically fraught,” the Senate “has only confirmed one ATF director nominee in the last 15 years. The rest of the ATF’s leaders served in an acting capacity.” Judiciary Chairman Durbin said, Thursday, “This nomination is a test. Can we put someone in charge of the ATF?”

Pandemic Hastens Increase In Overdose Deaths Trend Among Black US Citizens.

The AP (6/24, Galofaro) reports the US opioid crisis “portrait...has long been painted as a rural white affliction, but the demographics have been shifting” as fatal overdoses surge among Black people. According to the AP, the COVID pandemic “hastened the trend by further flooding the streets with fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid, in communities with scant” substance use disorder prevention resources.

Woman Charged With Fraud For Opioid Prescription While Pregnant.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports Kim Blalock, a 36-year-old mother of six “who says she has chronic back pain, battled excruciating aches during her most recent pregnancy, so she turned to painkillers prescribed by her doctor, hoping for relief,” but “instead...has endured a distressing ordeal: Her baby tested positive for the opioid, which precipitated an investigation that led an Alabama prosecutor to charge Blalock with prescription fraud in a case her attorneys say is an unprecedented violation of a pregnant woman’s privacy and freedoms.” The Post adds Lauderdale County District Attorney Chris Connolly “said this is the first time he has prosecuted a pregnant woman refilling her prescription as fraud.” According to the Post, “This new punitive step in Alabama, the state with the nation’s harshest statute against drug use during pregnancy, is part of policies set by dozens of states that researchers say are ‘divorced from health care.’”

CDC: HIV Tests Rare In Medical Settings Among West Virginia Drug Users.

The AP (6/24, Raby) reports preliminary findings by the CDC show “emergency departments and inpatient medical personnel rarely conducted HIV testing on intravenous drug users in a West Virginia county with one of the nation’s highest spikes in such cases.” The CDC investigation “was done to assess behaviors and attitudes of people who inject drugs as well as community stakeholders.” It also “examined access and barriers to services and analyzed HIV contact tracing procedures and other data.”

Faria: Dem Policies, Not White Supremacy, Responsible For Surging Gun Sales Among Black People.

In an opinion for the Washington Examiner (6/24, Faria, 888K), Zachary Faria addresses the

argument put promoted by The View's Sunny Hostin that "white supremacy" is the reason for a surge in gun purchases among black people. Faria argues, "Black people aren't buying guns because of 'white supremacy.' They are buying them because Democrats are running and ruining the cities they live in."

OTHER FBI NEWS

FBI Sought Warrant Amid Fears Pennsylvania Would Seize Fabled Gold.

The [AP](#) (6/24, Rubinkam) reports, "An FBI agent applied for a federal warrant in 2018 to seize a fabled cache of U.S. government gold he said was 'stolen during the Civil War' and hidden in a Pennsylvania cave, saying the state might take the gold for itself if the feds asked for permission, according to court documents unsealed Thursday." The AP adds, "The newly unsealed affidavit confirms previous reporting by The Associated Press that the government had been looking for a legendary cache of gold at the site, which federal authorities had long refused to confirm. In any case, the FBI said, the dig came up empty. The AP and The Philadelphia Inquirer petitioned a federal judge to unseal the case. Federal prosecutors did not oppose the request, and the judge agreed, paving the way for Thursday's release of documents."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (6/24, Nark) reports, "The FBI in Philadelphia spent several frigid days in March 2018 digging for gold at Dents Run and has long said nothing was found in the excavation. The treasure hunters who had been studying the site for decades had always thought the agency was lying. A March 2018 application for a warrant to seize property, unsealed on behalf of the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Associated Press, reveals the FBI had done its homework on the gold, even if the story turned out to be a fairy tale." The Inquirer adds, "The legend of the Elk County gold dates back to the summer of 1863, when a special Union detachment was tasked with transporting 26 gold bars, each weighing 50 pounds, from West Virginia to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. That detachment, as the story goes, was ambushed, the gold lost and supposedly buried."

Texas Police, Trump Supporters Sued Over Highway Incident.

The [AP](#) (6/24, Coronado) reports from Austin, Texas, "Civil rights organizations and people who were part of a Biden campaign caravan last fall that was surrounded on a Texas highway by Trump supporters filed two federal lawsuits Thursday, alleging local law enforcement failed to respond to efforts to intimidate them." The AP adds, "Videos shared on social media from Oct. 30 show a group of cars and pickup trucks – many adorned with large Trump flags – riding alongside the campaign bus as it traveled from San Antonio to Austin. The Trump supporters at times boxed in the bus. At one point, one of the pickups can be seen colliding with an SUV that was driving behind the bus. The incident led Democrats to cancel an event later in the day. Then-President Donald Trump criticized the FBI at the time after the agency said it was investigating."

[Reuters](#) (6/24, Ax) reports, "One lawsuit, which named more than a half-dozen members of the 'Trump Train' as defendants, accused the Trump supporters of violating the Ku Klux Klan Act, an 1871 law named after the violent white supremacist organization and intended to prohibit groups from engaging in voter intimidation. The second lawsuit claims the public safety director in San Marcos, Chase Stapp, and several unnamed local law enforcement officers failed to provide emergency assistance as Trump backers played a 'madcap game of highway "chicken,"' swerving within inches of the bus and sideswiping one staffer's vehicle."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/24, Harris, 982k) reports, "The plaintiffs include former state Sen. Wendy Davis, a Democrat, and others who were traveling on a Biden campaign bus from San Antonio to Austin just days before the 2020 presidential election. The incident was one of the most high-profile "Trump Train" events in the lead-up to the election, even as the former president's supporters blocked major roadways in New York, New Jersey and other states. The FBI said in November it was investigating the Texas incident, though a spokesperson did not respond to a request for an update on Thursday."

Co-Host Of "The View" Calls On FBI To "Extradite" Britney Spears Following Conservatorship Testimony.

Fox News (6/24, Gillespie, 23.99M) reports, "'The View' co-host Meghan McCain reacted strongly Thursday to singer Britney Spears' court testimony this week asking for her conservatorship to be removed from her father." Fox News adds, "Discussing Spears' arguments with her co-hosts, McCain said the testimony made her feel 'physically ill,' likened her circumstances to a victim of human trafficking, and called on the FBI to immediately 'extradite her from her home' to stop what she called abuse from her family." Spears "appeared in court Wednesday, breaking her silence on the conservatorship. 'I actually believe this has reached the level that the FBI needs to be involved and extradite her from her home away from these people this very moment because these are people that could continue the abuse in real time. I think it's that extreme,' McCain said."

Audit: Federal Law Enforcement "Generally Unprepared" To Implement BWC Policies.

Newsweek (6/24, Lemon, 2.67M) reports a Department of Justice (DOJ) audit found that the DEA, the FBI, the US Marshals Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives "were generally unprepared to implement BWC [body worn camera] programs if required." A similar Washington Times (6/24, Zantow, 626K) article says the DOJ Office of the Inspector General audit report finding comes less than three weeks after a DOJ memo directed those organizations "to create and submit" BWC policies "for review within 30 days." The memo is also highlighted in a USA Today (6/24, Lee, 12.7M) story that covers the audit finding.

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Biden Visits North Carolina To Promote Vaccinations.

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (6/24, Bajpai, Battaglia, Brache, 396K) reports President Biden on Thursday "urged North Carolinians who haven't been vaccinated yet to go get their shots, saying that vaccination is the best way to protect themselves from COVID-19 and ensure a return to life as normal." Speaking in Raleigh to "a few hundred people, most of whom were volunteers and front-line workers from local nonprofits that have been helping administer vaccines in the Triangle," the President said, "I wanted to come to Raleigh to thank everyone in this room for everything you're doing to get your community vaccinated." Biden added, "It matters. You're saving lives and that's not hyperbole." WSOC-TV Charlotte, NC (6/24, 89K) reported Biden "spoke about the hesitation to get the shot among people of color. He said we need to close the racial gap in vaccination rates to save lives. The President also reminded people that Uber and Lyft will give you a free ride to get your shot and bring you back home after."

According to The Hill (6/24, Samuels, 5.69M), "Much of the crowd consisted of people of color, and Biden emphasized the need for vaccine equity and getting the shots to vulnerable populations." The Hill adds attendees "included volunteers who will go out into the community in the coming days to urge local residents to get the vaccine." The President said, "Because of people like you here in Raleigh and across America, we're going to win this fight."

WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (6/24, 1.2M) reported Biden was in North Carolina "trying to boost confidence in the COVID vaccine. We know that here in North Carolina, 55% of adults are at least partially vaccinated, which falls far below the 66% of adults nationwide who have received a COVID shot. Obviously, Joe Biden's visit here in North Carolina is no mistake. Our state is struggling right now to boost vaccinations."

WXLV-TV Greensboro, NC (6/24, 1.94M) said Biden visited the state "as his Administration announces that they will fall short of their goal to get every adult American vaccinated by July 4. The President is hoping that they will still hit that goal by the middle of the month." Reuters (6/24, Renshaw) reports that 16 states "and the District of Columbia have reached Biden's vaccination goal, but the country as a whole and several other states continue to lag." The AP (6/24, Miller) says, "As of Wednesday, 65.6% of Americans age 18 and older had received at least one shot, according to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control. The figure is expected to be over

67% by July 4.”

WITN-TV Greenville, NC (6/24, 10K) reported Biden’s visit “is aimed to get vaccination numbers up even more, in a state that lags behind the rest of the country. But experts say a visit is unlikely to change many minds. Rather, a doctor says getting your questions answered by a trusted source is a strong way to help people both have a better understanding of the COVID-19 vaccine and feel more comfortable with getting one.”

The New York Times (6/24, Kanno-Youngs, 20.6M) reports Biden “implored Americans...to ‘knock on doors and talk to friends and neighbors’ about getting vaccinated, as the White House opened a campaign-like blitz to persuade people around the country to get their shots.” The Times says that the President’s speech “came as the government is shifting its strategy from mass vaccination sites to a more localized effort – deploying top officials to local communities, with an eye toward younger Americans who have not had the access or are reluctant to get vaccinated.”

In addition, ABC World News Tonight (6/24, story 3, 1:20, Muir, 5.95M) chief national correspondent Matt Gutman said that “with the threat of the Delta variant growing,” the President traveled to North Carolina to make “an urgent push for the vaccine.” Biden: “It’s more easily transmittable, this Delta variant, potentially deadlier and especially dangerous for young people.”

Likewise, Bloomberg (6/24, Wingrove, 3.57M) reports that the President “warned of the risks posed by [the] highly transmissible and potentially deadlier coronavirus variant as he prodded Americans to get vaccinated amid a decline in the pace of inoculations,” and CNBC (6/24, Mendez, 7.34M) reports on its website that the President “said Thursday that Covid deaths in the United States will continue to rise due to the spread of the ‘dangerous’ delta variant, calling it a ‘serious concern.’” Biden said, “Six hundred thousand-plus Americans have died, and with this delta variant you know there’s going to be others as well. You know it’s going to happen. We’ve got to get young people vaccinated.”

Meanwhile, Fox News (6/24, 23.99M) reports on its website that while promoting vaccinations in Raleigh, the President “said Thursday that the U.S. has not been so divided since the days of the Civil War and suggested that Donald Trump was to blame.” Biden said, “It’s such a waste of talent. It’s such a waste of time. And the rest of the world is looking at us. The rest of the world is wondering, can we really lead the world again?”

In his Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) column, Perry Bacon Jr. provides a “list of some of the people who provided outstanding service to the country during the worst stages of the pandemic. I consulted with journalists, government officials, policy experts and others, but these are solely my choices.” The list includes: Govs. Andy Beshear (D-KY), Mike DeWine (R-OH), and Jay Inslee (D-WA), NIAID Director Fauci, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, President Biden, White House Chief of Staff Klain, the “scientists who developed the vaccines,” healthcare workers, and the American people.

FLOTUS, Fauci Promote Vaccinations In Florida. The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (6/24, Faiello, 762K) reports First Lady Jill Biden and NIAID Director Fauci on Thursday visited a “two-hour ‘Shots on Ice’ vaccination event at Amalie Arena,” where the Tampa Bay Lightning “invited those who had not been vaccinated to get their shot in a cool way. AdventHealth administered both the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines for free.” The Times adds Dr. Biden, “‘a Philly girl through-and-through,’ commended the Lightning organization and the Viniks for their creativity and the efforts they’ve made to promote vaccinations in the Tampa Bay area.” She said, “You might be asking, ‘Dr. Biden, why would you betray your beloved (Philadelphia) Flyers by coming down to Florida and complimenting a rival team?’” The First Lady added, “There are some things that transcend even hockey. And I know that my beloved Flyers are right behind me feeling that way.”

Walensky, Murthy Advocate For Vaccinating Teens. On ABC’s Good Morning America (6/24, 2.9M), CDC Director Walensky was asked about a “new warning” there is “likely an association between” mRNA Covid vaccines and “an increased risk of a rare heart condition for young people.” Walensky said there is a risk of “this rare, but mild myocarditis...but...we look at the risks and the benefits. And just to put this in perspective, if we have a group of 12 to 17-year-olds who we are working to vaccinate over the next four months and we can vaccinate a million of them, which would be great strides. Over the next four months we could expect 30 to 40 of these

mild self-limited cases of myocarditis. And for that if we were to vaccinate all one million we would avert 8,000 cases of COVID, 200 hospitalizations, 50 ICU stays and one death.”

On MSNBC's Morning Joe^s (6/24, 896K), US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said, “There’s a narrative out there that kids don’t have to worry about COVID-19. I would differ with that. I would say, in fact, we’ve seen many children be infected by COVID. And while, by and large, they do much better than adults, we’ve seen many children hospitalized. We have had a small number of children who have died from COVID-19. We have many young people who have actually struggled with long COVID symptoms, shortness of breath, fatigue, headaches and other symptoms that linger for months after the infection.”

Nearly All COVID Fatalities In US Among Unvaccinated Patients, CDC Data Show. The AP (6/24, Johnson, Stobbe) reports “only about 150 of the more than 18,000 COVID-19” fatalities in the US last month “were in fully vaccinated people,” and “‘breakthrough’ infections in fully vaccinated people accounted for fewer than 1,200 of more than 853,000 COVID-19 hospitalizations,” according to an AP analysis of CDC data. These data represent “a staggering demonstration of how effective the shots have been and an indication that deaths per day – now down to under 300 – could be practically zero if everyone eligible got the vaccine.” The CBS Evening News^s (6/24, story 3, 0:25, O'Donnell, 3.76M) provided similar coverage

More Than 70% Of Eligible Californians Vaccinated Against COVID. The Los Angeles Times (6/24, Lin, 3.37M) reports more than 70% of California residents aged 12 and older are partially vaccinated against COVID-19, according to CDC data. Meanwhile, the New York Times (6/24, Bengali, 20.6M) reports the city of San Francisco “said on Wednesday that it would require all 35,000 of its employees to be vaccinated against Covid-19 or risk losing their jobs, making it one of the largest U.S. municipalities to impose a vaccine mandate for public workers.”

However, the San Francisco Chronicle (6/24, Asimov, 2.44M) reports San Francisco unions “snapped back against an order that city workers receive a coronavirus vaccination on penalty of firing, calling for a more collaborative approach, while an advocacy group warned that Black workers could be disciplined more often than others under the mandate.”

Buttigieg Says Administration Supports Right Of Companies To Implement Vaccine Passport.

The Hill (6/24, Lonas, 5.69M) reports Transportation Secretary Buttigieg this week “said the federal government supports the rights of companies to implement a COVID-19 vaccine passport policy.” Buttigieg said, “If a company, a business wants to take steps to keep their workers and their passengers safe, I would think that, from a government perspective, we want to do everything we can to encourage that.”

GOP Legislators Trying To Block Universities From Requiring Students To Receive COVID-19 Vaccine. Politico (6/24, Leonard, 6.73M) reports, “Conservative state lawmakers are moving to block public and private universities from requiring returning students to have proof of Covid vaccinations or get the vaccine itself, in a push that could complicate President Joe Biden’s effort to get shots to young adults.” Meanwhile, “the American College Health Association has called for colleges and universities to have Covid-19 vaccine requirements this fall, with their normal exemptions including for preexisting medical conditions.”

Delta Variant First Gained Foothold In Missouri In Rural Regions.

The AP (6/24, Hollingsworth) reports the delta coronavirus variant, which “is contributing to a surge of cases in Missouri, first gained a foothold in rural areas of the state where vaccinations rates are low, a pattern not seen previously, state health officials say.” The variant “is becoming the predominant strain detected in wastewater in some parts of the state, particularly in the southwest corner, where COVID-19 hospitalizations are on the rise.” Jeff Wenzel, who oversees the wastewater surveillance program for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, said, “With the U.K. variant...we started seeing that in the larger cities and we saw that spread out into smaller communities, and we are seeing the opposite now with this delta variant.” On NBC Nightly News^s (6/24, story 3, 1:40, Holt, 4.91M), Gabe Gutierrez said Missouri “now leads the

nation with the most new infections," while "neighboring Arkansas reported its biggest one day jump in cases in more than three months."

Asked on [CNN](#) (6/24, 660K) about the spread of the COVID Delta Variant, US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said, "I'm really worried about the Delta Variant. This is the most transmissible variant that we've seen so far. ... And it also appears...that it could potentially be more dangerous as well in terms of the severity of illness it causes. ... And it's rapidly growing here in the United States, exceeding 20 percent of our cases – doubling, in fact, in just two weeks. So I'm really worried for those who are unvaccinated. On the other hand, if you are vaccinated, the news is good because we have found that the vaccines...are highly effective against the Delta Variant. We have good reason to believe the Johnson & Johnson will be effective, as well. But if you are not vaccinated, you are even more at risk than you were over the past year."

Delta Variant Starting To Spread In California. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/24, Money, 3.37M) reports the Delta coronavirus variant "is beginning to spread in California, offering a preview of how the battle of the pandemic is going to change as officials move to protect a shrinking minority who remain at risk because they have not been vaccinated." In the state, "the Delta variant has grown from comprising 1.8% of analyzed coronavirus samples in April to 4.8% of them in May."

NIH: US Likely Had More Than 20M COVID Cases By Mid-July 2020.

The [New York Times](#) (6/24, Vigdor, 20.6M) reports according to a new study by the National Institutes of Health, for every COVID case "recorded in the United States in mid-2020, nearly five asymptomatic cases went undetected." The Times says the study "reinforced previous findings that the scope of contagion was much more widespread in the early months of the pandemic," and "highlighted the vast gap in virus testing in many parts of the country and the disproportionately high infection rate among Black people at the time." According to the Times, "N.I.H. researchers estimated that there were as many as 20 million infections in the United States by mid-July 2020, far more than the three million cases that public health authorities recorded. Their findings were based on a yearlong study that began in April 2020, with researchers analyzing blood samples collected from more than 8,000 people, mostly from early May through July 31."

Hawaii Ends Pre-Travel COVID Testing Requirement For Mainland Visitors.

[USA Today](#) (6/24, Gilbertson, 12.7M) reports that starting July 8, Hawaii "will end its pre-travel COVID testing requirement for visitors from the U.S. mainland who are fully vaccinated." The [AP](#) (6/24, Jones) reports, "Those using the quarantine exemption must upload their vaccination cards to a state website and also bring a hard copy while traveling."

Book Details Trump Administration's Response To Then-President's COVID Diagnosis.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/24, Paletta, Abutaleb, 10.52M) reports on the Trump Administration's internal response once President Trump and some of his advisors began testing positive for COVID-19 in October 2020. Drawing from "Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History," the Post reports, "A five-day stretch in October 2020...marked a dramatic turning point in the nation's flailing coronavirus response. Trump's brush with severe illness and the prospect of death caught the White House so unprepared that they had not even briefed Vice President Mike Pence's team on a plan to swear him in if Trump became incapacitated." While President Trump was being treated at Walter Reed Medical Center, "his doctors consulted with the medical experts on the White House coronavirus task force whom the president had long ago discarded," including FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, NIAID Director Anthony Fauci and CDC Director Robert Redfield.

WPost: Recent Discovery Of NIH Data Deletions Call For Sustained Investigation Into Origins Of Coronavirus.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/24, 10.52M) editorializes that a March 30 report on the origins of the novel coronavirus published by a joint mission of the World Health Organization and China "listed the key

global databases, including the Sequence Read Archive managed by the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. The archive says it is 'the largest publicly available repository of high throughput sequencing data.' But some early sequences from Wuhan were missing from the archive. They had been deposited in March 2020 by researchers in China who were looking at diagnostic testing methods. In June 2020 the researchers wrote to the NIH and asked that the sequences be deleted." The Post writes that the recent discovery of those deletions "just adds to the pile of questions about whether China is hiding something. It is time to launch a serious, sustained investigation."

Biden Trade Nominees Say They Will Work With Allies To Compete With China.

Bloomberg (6/24, 3.57M) reports in its "Supply Lines" newsletter that President Biden's nominees "to be deputies to the U.S. Trade Representative pledged to work with American allies to compete with China and to find solutions to longstanding disputes with Canada over lumber." Sarah Bianchi, who would oversee the agency's China, Africa and competitiveness portfolios, told a Senate Finance subcommittee hearing on her nomination Thursday that with China, "We have to be strong, and we have to get our other allies in the region as well to be supportive." Jayme White, who would oversee Europe and Western Hemisphere, told the panel, "In terms of our competition with China, it's important to be in the game, and be fighting for more open markets for American products."

Two Top Harris Travel Aides Are Departing.

The New York Times (6/24, Karni, Rogers, 20.6M) reports "two top aides who oversee travel for Vice President Kamala Harris are departing." Director of Advance Karly Satkowiak and Advance Coordinator Gabrielle DeFranceschi "have both told the vice president's office they plan to leave in the coming weeks, according to three sources familiar with their plans. A spokeswoman for Ms. Harris said the departures were long planned and that both women are currently engaged with finding their replacements." The Times says the departures "leav[e] the vice president with her critical support staff in flux as she seeks to ramp up travel ahead of big vaccine and voting rights pushes she is planning through July." They come "as the administration has put out a broad call for 'advance associates' to help Ms. Harris and her husband, Douglas Emhoff, with a big push of vaccine-related travel in the summer months."

Economy Grew 6.4% In First Quarter.

The AP (6/24, Crutsinger) reports the Commerce Department said Thursday that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 6.4% for the first quarter of the year, "setting the stage for what economists believe may be the strongest year for the economy in about seven decades." Many economists believe that US economic growth has continued in the current quarter.

Initial Jobless Claims Fell Slightly Less Week. The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Omeokwe, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports initial unemployment claims fell slightly last week to a seasonally adjusted 411,000 from an upwardly revised 418,000 the week before. Citing "government data through last week," Reuters (6/24, Schneider) reports that "ongoing claims for U.S. unemployment insurance have dipped faster in recent weeks in states ending federal benefits this summer than in states keeping the \$300 weekly supplement in place until the fall." According to a Reuters analysis of weekly federal unemployment data, "from the week ending May 1 through the week ending June 12, continuing claims for state unemployment benefits fell 17.8% in the 26 states ending benefits early, to 990,000, and by 12.6%, to 2.18 million, in the rest of the country." But, the data "do not yet answer the larger and arguably more important question of whether hiring will also accelerate in those states," which "an almost all-Republican group of governors says is the goal of cutting the benefits early."

Maryland Residents Sue To Block Hogan Decision To End Enhanced Unemployment Benefits. The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports a group of unemployed Maryland residents are suing to stop "the state's decision to end enhanced federal unemployment aid next week." The Unemployed Workers Union "filed a class-action lawsuit in Baltimore Circuit Court on Thursday over Gov. Larry Hogan's [R] decision to stop providing several unemployment benefits

on July 3, two months before the federal end date." The lawsuit, filed against Hogan and Labor Secretary Tiffany Robinson, "questions the legality of Hogan's decision to revoke residents' rights to the federal assistance before the September deadline, saying it violated state and federal law."

Michigan State Senate Votes To End Enhanced Unemployment Benefits. Citing an AP report, The Hill (6/24, Lonas, 5.69M) reports the Michigan state Senate has voted to end the \$300 weekly federal unemployment benefits put in place during the pandemic on July 31, "only two months before the federal government planned on ending it." But, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) is expected to veto the measure, which was supported by all of the chamber's Republicans and no Democrats. Whitmer "rejects Republican arguments that the extra benefits are incentivizing people not to find a job." She "contends the lack of child care is the reason there has been a labor shortage."

Emails Show Mnuchin, Powell Were In "Near Constant Contact" With BlackRock CEO In Early Days Of Pandemic. The New York Times (6/24, Smialek, 20.6M) reports that as the pandemic began last year, and Federal Reserve Chairman Powell and then-Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin "scrambled to save faltering markets," they "were in near-constant contact" with BlackRock chief executive Laurence D. Fink, "whose firm stood to benefit financially from the rescue." In the days "before and after many of the Fed's emergency rescue programs were announced in late March," Fink "was in frequent touch with Mr. Mnuchin and Mr. Powell." The Times cites emails obtained through a records request and public releases which "show the extent to which economic policymakers worked with a private company as they were drawing up a response to the financial meltdown and how intertwined BlackRock has become with the federal government."

CDC Announces "Final" One-Month Extension Of Eviction Moratorium.

The AP (6/24, Khalil) reports the Administration on Thursday "extended the nationwide ban on evictions for a month to help millions of tenants unable to make rent payments during the coronavirus pandemic but said this is expected to be the last time it does so." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky "extended the evictions moratorium from June 30 until July 31." However, the CDC said that "this is intended to be the final extension of the moratorium."

Reuters (6/24, Lynch, Shepardson) reports that Tuesday, "a group of 44 U.S. lawmakers had called for the extension, citing an estimate that about '6 million renter households are behind on their rent and at risk of eviction.'" But Axios (6/24, Reyes, 1.26M) says "landlord groups have appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn the moratorium arguing the order 'will prolong...severe financial burdens.'"

The New York Times (6/24, Thrush, 20.6M) reports White House officials "pressed reluctant C.D.C. officials to extend the moratorium, which they see as needed to buy them more time to distribute \$21.5 billion in emergency federal housing aid funded by a pandemic relief bill passed this spring." Politico (6/24, O'Donnell, 6.73M) reports the Treasury Department also "released new guidance for state and local officials responsible for channeling \$46 billion in emergency rental assistance into the hands of struggling tenants, after much of the federal aid had failed to be distributed. A senior Biden administration official told reporters Thursday that the goal was to use 'these 30 days to do everything possible to mitigate harmful evictions and prevent a flood of evictions when the moratorium ends.'"

On NBC Nightly News (6/24, story 4, 1:25, Holt, 4.91M), Morgan Radford said the CDC action "means tenants...among the more than six million households behind on rent, now have one more month before their landlords can evict them. Black and Latino residents are most at risk, facing rates of potential eviction almost four times higher than white renters. Housing advocates say the extension is essential." The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Ackerman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage, but a Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial is critical of the new CDC extension of the eviction moratorium.

Administration Defending Pipeline Project That Has Prompted Mass Protests.

The New York Times (6/24, Tabuchi, 20.6M) reports that the Administration has "defended a

contentious pipeline project that would carry hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil through Minnesota's delicate watersheds, urging in a court brief that a challenge brought by local tribes and environmental groups be thrown out." The Times says the pipeline, "which is known as Line 3 and is being built by Canadian pipeline company Enbridge Energy, has been the focus of mass protests in recent weeks." According to the Times, "The closely watched filing in federal court was the latest in a series of actions taken by the administration to back Trump-era approvals of oil and gas infrastructure, despite President Biden's pledge to aggressively cut emissions from fossil fuels."

Native American Tribes Benefiting From Bakken Shale Oil Production. The AP (6/24, Fonseca) reports that thousands of members of three Native American tribes live on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation "atop one of the biggest U.S. oil discoveries in decades, North Dakota's Bakken shale formation." According to the AP, "The drilling rush has brought the tribes unimagined wealth – more than \$1.5 billion and counting – and they hope it will last another 20 to 25 years." The AP adds, "The boom also propelled an almost tenfold spike in oil production from Native American lands since 2009...complicating efforts by President Joe Biden to curb carbon emissions." The AP says "burning of oil from tribal lands overseen by the U.S. government now produces greenhouse gases equivalent to about 12 million vehicles a year," but Biden "exempted Native American lands from a suspension of new oil and gas leases on government-managed land in deference to tribes' sovereign status."

Criswell: FEMA "Can Do A Better Job Of Making Sure Our Programs Are Easily Accessible" To Disaster Survivors.

The Washington Post (6/23, Dreier, 10.52M) reported FEMA Administrator Criswell testified Wednesday before the House Transportation Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure -- "for the first time since being confirmed in April" -- about why FEMA's "approval rates for disaster survivors who apply for help have fallen to historic lows." Chair Peter A. DeFazio said, "Survivors who have lost literally everything should not have to go through a rigmarole to try to prove eligibility for often meager FEMA assistance. It's demoralizing." Criswell responded, "I understand the frustration. I think that right now, we can do a better job of making sure our programs are easily accessible for individuals."

WSJournal Backs FEMA Plan To Adjust NFIP Premiums. The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial says FEMA's plan to adjust premiums for the National Flood Insurance Program, which would abandon current premium pricing and replace it with a formula that adapts prices to each property is a step toward fairness and returning the program to solvency.

Debate Over Antitrust Bill Targeting Big Tech Splits Both Parties.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports that "in a marathon markup meeting that lasted 29 hours, the House Judiciary Committee approved all six of the bills in a sweeping antitrust package that takes aim at Big Tech and attempts to reel in the giants' power." According to the Post, "The lengthy debate that began Wednesday and did not finish till Thursday afternoon illuminated the fissures within both parties as tech companies continue lobbying lawmakers, and some California delegates -- whose districts encompass many tech headquarters -- voiced skepticism." The Post notes that two Republicans "joined those voting to advance the bill, while four Democrats were opposed."

Axios (6/24, Harding McGill, Gold, 1.26M) says the committee faced "a blizzard of amendments," but "beat...back a wave of lobbying from the affected companies -- Apple, Google, Facebook and Amazon." According to Axios, "The bills aim to limit future acquisitions by the four largest tech companies, prevent them from favoring their own products on their platforms, and require them to make their services interoperable and their user data portable." Axios adds, "If they become law, they'd represent the largest expansion of U.S. antitrust powers in generations." Bloomberg (6/24, Edgerton, 3.57M) reports the "marathon session" had "featured recurring clashes over whether software giant Microsoft Corp. would be subject to the committee's four bills focused on the biggest tech companies."

Politico (6/24, Lima, Nylan, Birnbaum, 6.73M) says, "Reaction throughout the Capitol to the

panel's tech antitrust legislation showed that the effort faces serious friction from lawmakers of both parties, despite years of growing anger at the industry among Democrats and Republicans in Congress." According to Politico, "The most notable pockets of resistance during Wednesday's and Thursday's 19-plus-hours-and-counting markup came from lawmakers from California, the home base of Google, Facebook and Apple. One lawmaker not on the committee, Silicon Valley-based Democrat Ro Khanna, separately told POLITICO that he will ask a fellow Californian, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to retool the legislation."

CNBC (6/24, Feiner, 7.34M) reports on its website that "at one point during the hearing, Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., turned to Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., and said, 'I find myself in rare agreement with the gentleman.'" Gaetz replied, "Let's not make it common, Mr. Chairman." But CNBC says "within the scope of the debate... such odd couples were common. On the same side of the debate with broad support of the bills were antitrust subcommittee Chairman David Cicilline, D-R.I., and Ranking Member Ken Buck, R-Colo., leaders of the subcommittee who have remained close allies throughout the investigation their panel ran into Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google. On the other side were pairings like Reps. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., and Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who aligned on amendments regarding data portability."

The New York Times (6/24, Kang, McCabe, 20.6M) reports that "many" Republicans "say that the bills only add more government intervention while not directly addressing their concerns about free speech." Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), the top Republican on the committee, "said the antitrust bills failed to address the ability of Facebook and other social media companies to cut off political voices." Jordan is quoted as saying, "Big tech censors conservatives. ... These bills don't fix that problem; they make it worse."

Politico (6/24, Birnbaum, 6.73M) reports that Pelosi "did not say whether she intended to put the bills on the floor in their current form, but she defended the legislation as an effort to protect 'consumers.'" Reuters (6/24) reports that Pelosi said on Thursday, "This legislation attempts to address that in the interest of fairness, in the interest of competition, and the interest of meeting the needs of people whose privacy, whose data and all the rest is at the mercy of these tech companies."

Meanwhile, Bloomberg (6/24, Chang, Edgerton, 3.57M) reports Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) on Bloomberg TV interview on Thursday "presented a bullish case for revamping antitrust enforcement in the U.S., citing bipartisan determination to address competition across the economy." Klobuchar "said there is a 'small but mighty group that works on this, both Democrats and Republicans,' committed to pushing the best antitrust proposals through Congress." Bloomberg adds that Klobuchar "praised her House counterpart, Rhode Island Representative David Cicilline, whose bill to prevent a handful of large tech companies from favoring their own products moved out of committee shortly before dawn on Thursday."

Teamsters Vote To Prioritize Unionization Of Amazon Workers. The AP (6/24, Pisani) reports the International Brotherhood of Teamsters voted Thursday in favor of prioritizing the unionization of Amazon's US workers, and the union will create and fund a division dedicated to Amazon. The AP adds the Teamsters "said that Amazon, the nation's second-largest private employer, is exploiting its employees by paying them low wages, pushing them to work at fast speeds and giving them no job security," and the company also threatens "the working standards it has created for workers at other freight and delivery companies, such as UPS." Reuters (6/24, Mathews) reports the resolution was supported by "nearly 96% of delegates... at the 30th international convention of Teamsters, which includes representatives from 500 unions and together account for 1.4 million workers in the United States." The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Herrera, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Google Pushing Back Deadline To Eliminate Third-Party Cookies Until 2023. CNBC (6/24, Graham, 7.34M) reports Google said Thursday it is delaying its timeline to eliminate third-party tracking cookies from 2022 to 2023. The delay provides "the digital advertising industry more time to plan for more privacy-conscious targeted ads." Shares in several ad technology companies rose on the news. Bloomberg (6/24, Bergen, 3.57M), Reuters (6/24, Dave), and the Wall Street Journal (6/24, A1, Haggin, Schechner, Vranica, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provide similar coverage.

Democrats Eyeing Two Options For Raising Debt Ceiling.

Politico (6/24, Emma, 6.73M) reports that as the federal government is "expected to reach the limits of its borrowing authority within months of even weeks," Democrats are considering "two starkly different options for raising the debt ceiling." Democrats "could use the filibuster protections of the budget process to raise the debt ceiling and pass some or all of Biden's infrastructure agenda without GOP support, or they could find 10 Senate Republican votes to suspend the debt limit by reaching a bipartisan deal," but "neither option is especially easy or palatable." The first option "requires support from moderate Democrats, who aren't sold on circumventing the normal legislative path and might face political blowback for voting to hike a national borrowing limit that's already reached \$28 trillion debt," while the second "relies on help from Republicans who are demanding fiscal reform in exchange for their votes, with the stability of the American economy on the line."

Bipartisan Group Of Lawmakers Warn Slow Mail Will Hurt Consumers, Constituents.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports, "A bipartisan group of lawmakers says mail slowdowns should not be part of the U.S. Postal Service's strategy to fix its finances, citing concerns that any lag in the conveyance of vital medications or important business communications will hurt consumers." The Post asked 30 lawmakers "from the most affected areas what the service slowdowns would mean for their constituents." Their responses are included in the article.

Congress Votes To Overturn Trump-Era Payday Lender Regulations.

The AP (6/24, Sweet) reports the House voted 218-208 Thursday to overturn "a set of regulations enacted in the final days of the Trump administration that effectively allowed payday lenders to avoid state laws capping interest rates." The House vote overturned "the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's payday lending regulations, with one Republican voting with Democrats." The Senate voted to overturn rules in May, and Reuters (6/24, Johnson) says President Biden is expected to sign it. The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Bykowicz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

House Passes Veterans Contraception, LGBTQ Credit Fairness Bills Republicans Had Blocked.

The Hill (6/24, Marcos, 5.69M) reports the House on Thursday passed bills "to promote credit fairness for LGBT-owned businesses and ensure that veterans can access contraceptive health care without copays, after both measures failed to advance under an expedited process last week." Last week, Democratic leaders had scheduled voted on the bills "under a fast-track process used for bipartisan legislation that requires a two-thirds supermajority for passage," but "Republicans largely opposed both bills, resulting in the measures falling short of the necessary supermajority for passage." One measure, which "would ensure that veterans can access contraceptives free of cost, passed largely along party lines in a 245-181 vote, with only 26 Republicans voting with all Democrats in support." Lawmakers also voted 252-176 to pass a bill "that would expand financial institutions' reporting about the credit applicants who own small businesses to include sexual orientation and gender identity, as a way to document if LGBT applicants are possibly facing discrimination."

House Subcommittee Approves Pay Raise For Federal Workers.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports a house Appropriations subcommittee approved a bill Thursday that would give federal employees "a 2.7 percent raise in January 2022 as recommended by President Biden," and drop "a long-standing ban on most abortion coverage in their health insurance program." The vote financial services and general government spending bill "passed on a voice vote with some members voting no, but no recorded vote was requested." The Post says the measure "does not specify a raise figure, in what amounts to a form of action by inaction." Under federal pay law, "if Congress does not enact a specific raise by the end of the year, the

White House's recommendation takes effect automatically."

DOJ's Antitrust Division Investigating Archegos Collapse.

Bloomberg (6/24, Natarajan, McLaughlin, Schoenberg, 3.57M) reports US investigators "are examining how global banks handled multibillion-dollar trades with Archegos Capital Management that sent stocks into a spiral and burned other shareholders." Bloomberg cites "people familiar with the matter" who say "at least part of the probe into the collapse of Bill Hwang's firm after lenders rushed to liquidate souring positions in March," is being handled by the Justice Department's antitrust division. According to the people, the division "has been seeking information from Hwang's biggest backers on Wall Street, who had discussed the possibility of moving in concert to unwind the portfolio and sever ties with his busted family office."

Austin Police Enforce Public Camping Bans As Homelessness Has Increased.

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports as Austin, Texas police have begun to enforce city and statewide bans on public camping as the city is undergoing a growth boom that has increased its housing affordability crisis, homelessness is on the rise and local shelters are full.

White House Denies Timing Of Harris Border Trip Is Linked To Trump's Plans.

On CBS This Morning (6/24, 2.29M), Jericka Duncan reported that Vice President Kamala Harris "plans to visit the southern border tomorrow after hearing heavy criticism from Republicans" because she "has not been to the border to see the current situation firsthand." Nancy Cordes went on to report that "we don't know much yet about what she's going to be doing there. The White House has not shared those details yet because this trip is just coming together." Cordes added, "This announcement about her trip comes just days before former president Trump is set to visit the Texas border next week. The White House insisted to us that the timing is unrelated and that this was just the right time for her to go."

On NBC's Today (6/24, 2.96M), Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff was asked about former President Donald Trump's allegation that his wife is only visiting the border because he announced plans to do so. Emhoff said, "Kamala Harris is not driven by any political issues or political pressure. She's really just doing what the right thing is to do for this very important job that the President entrusted her with."

Texas House Member Says Harris Needs To "Spend More Than Just A Couple Of Hours In El Paso." In an appearance on CNN (6/24, 530K), Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-TX) said, "I'm glad the Vice President realizes the border crisis is real. I wish she would spend more than just a couple of hours in El Paso. Ideally this is the first of many visits. The border is very diverse. El Paso sector is different than the Del Rio sector or Laredo or Big Bend sector. The other thing I would say, too, is the administration needs to work with Congress. This isn't a Republican issue or Democrat issue. We have to come together to...secur[e] our border. ... Ideally this is the first of many visits the Administration makes."

In an appearance on Fox News (6/24, 23.99M), Gonzalez said, "I'm hearing the Vice President isn't going to be on the ground very long. Only a few hours. As a matter of fact, the flight to El Paso is going to be longer than the time that she is going to be on the ground. ... But...I am excited that she is at least showing up." Gonzalez added, "You really can't be a border security expert if you are on the ground for two hours. You know, have you got to put some effort into this. ... Her showing up and taking a photo op, getting back on a plane as fast as she can; it's disrespectful. ... But, what I'm really would like to see is this administration has to be held accountable for title 42. If they do away with title 42, as bad as things are now, you are going to see them get worse."

Biden Pledges To Barnstorm Nation To Defend Voting Rights.

Bloomberg (6/24, Jacobs, 3.57M) reports President Biden on Thursday "said he'll travel the country to warn Americans that their ballots may go uncounted if Republican state legislatures' efforts to

restrict voting rights are successful." The President said he would "make the case to the American people that this isn't just about showing identification, that this is who I am when I vote. This isn't just about whether or not you can provide water for someone standing in line while they're waiting to vote." He added, "This is about who gets to judge whether your vote's counted after it's been cast." In addition, [Reuters](#) (6/24) reports Biden called for making Election Day a holiday for US workers. He stated, "If I had my way, and I think it is really important, every Election Day would be a day off."

Asked on [MSNBC](#) (6/24, 1.07M) whether the President supports abolishing the filibuster for voting rights bills, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said, "The President's position on that hasn't changed. But he believes, also, that there's a way – there should be a way – for Democrats and Republicans across the country to work together to make voting more accessible to people. It's a basic right." Psaki also emphasized that the president has not abandoned federal voting rights legislation, saying, that Biden "will work with Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, others on what we can do next on a federal level. There's also additional voting rights, additional pieces of legislation to make sure we're protecting voting rights across the country. That's something he's going to continue to advocate for."

On [CNN](#) (6/24, 534K), Anita Dunn, Senior Advisor to President Biden, said, "I think President Biden has spoken about democracy as always being at risk and something we always have to be defending. As a young senator, he actually fought successfully to get the Voting Rights Act extended for an additional 25 years. But as he would be the first to tell you, these aren't new issues. At the same time, in the aftermath of 2020 and those elections, what we're seeing in this country, the attempt to suppress the vote, to write rules that make it easier for some people but harder for others is wrong. ... So we're going to figure out a path forward. He's not going to stop fighting for voting rights."

However, [McClatchy](#) (6/24, Roarty, Chambers, 29K) reports the failure to move the For the People Act through the Senate "has brought to the surface once-dormant doubts among progressives that the president – when push came to shove – would prioritize their policy issues. They say his relationship with the left, the next election and his legacy as a statesman are on the line if he is unable to find a way to advance voting rights legislation and other core campaign pledges by summer's end."

Marc Thiessen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/24, 10.52M) that Senate Democrats bringing up "a partisan election bill" and "using the Republicans' justified resistance to argue for eliminating or weakening the filibuster" was an act of political theater. Thiessen argues, "The fact that Republicans used the filibuster to block what they believed was harmful legislation is not outrageous." Republicans "are going to filibuster partisan legislation. Get over it." It is not "an excuse to get rid of the filibuster. If Democrats want to avoid Republican filibusters, there is a simple way to do so: Stop acting as though they won in a landslide in 2020, when voters elected a 50-50 Senate and one of the narrowest House majorities in modern times."

Republicans Continue To Advance Efforts To Control State Elections. [CNN](#) (6/24, Schouten, 89.21M) reports on its website that with "efforts to pass federal election legislation stalled in the US Senate, voting rights advocates are issuing fresh warnings about an array of provisions that allow legislators and others in Republican-led states to seize power from the officials who oversee elections day-to-day." According to CNN, "The Republican moves come after election officials in both parties resisted efforts by former President Donald Trump and his allies to overturn the 2020 election results – and as Trump continues to gripe about a "stolen" election and urge more 'audits' of ballots cast last year in states... Biden won."

Revs. Jesse Jackson And William Barber Arrested At Voting Rights Protest. [CNN](#) (6/24, Chavez, 89.21M) reports on its website that US Capitol Police said the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. William Barber II "were among 21 people arrested on Wednesday near the US Supreme Court building for crowding and obstructing" during a protest "over voting rights and the filibuster's abolition." According to CNN, "The faith leaders are part of several high-profile figures and organizations demanding that lawmakers at the state and federal halt efforts to enact bills that restrict voting access and support the For the People Act, a signature voting and election bill that Democrats had pitched to counter state-level efforts."

Harris Holds Listening Session With LGBTQ+ Leaders.

The Advocate (6/24, Ring, 604K) reports Vice President Harris held a "listening session" with LGBTQ+ leaders Wednesday, during which she "reiterated that she, President Joe Biden, and their administration are committed to LGBTQ+ rights and promised" that "we will continue to have [those conversations] every day of the week, all year round." Harris said in her opening remarks, "As we look at this movement, we've come a long way, but there's still so much work to be done. . . We know that we have the Equality Act that we need to get passed. We know the issue, in terms of the experiences our transgender youth are having around the country. We know – and I could go on and on down the list – that we still don't have full rights when it comes to employment, housing, things of that nature."

FAA Panel Calls For Change To Gender-Neutral Terminology. The New York Times (6/24, Paz, 20.6M) reports an FAA advisory committee "recommended this week that the agency replace words and phrases like 'airman' and 'man-made' with gender-neutral terms like 'aircrew' and 'manufactured' as part of an effort to set a more inclusive tone." The FAA's Drone Advisory Committee included the recommendations in a report "to refresh the language used in the drone industry," but the panel hopes "the wider aviation world might also adopt the terms."

Transgender Runner Barred From Women's 400-Meter Hurdles At US Olympic Trials. According to the AP (6/24), "Transgender runner CeCe Telfer will not be allowed to compete in the women's 400-meter hurdles at U.S. Olympic trials because Telfer has not met the conditions World Athletics established in its eligibility regulations for certain women's events." The AP reports Telfer had been "entered in this week's trials but was ultimately not allowed to compete because of guidelines World Athletics released in 2019 that closed off international women's events of between 400 meters and a mile to athletes who did not meet the eligibility requirements. Among those requirements was that their testosterone levels had to be below 5 nonomoles per liter (nmol/L) for a span of 12 months."

Study: More Than Half Of LGBTQ Adults In America Have Experienced Violent Threats. The Hill (6/24, 5.69M) "Briefing Room" blog says according to a study from The William Institute at the UCLA School of Law, 52% of LGBTQ adults in America "said that someone had threatened them with violence since they were age 18," and "among this group, 61 percent of transgender women said someone threatened them, compared to 49 percent of cisgender women and 52 percent of cisgender men. In addition, 75 percent of respondents said someone verbally insulted or abused them. Thirty-nine percent said someone had thrown an object at them." The Hill also reports 42% "said they were hit, beaten, physically attacked or sexually assaulted as adults, while 41 percent said they were robbed, had property stolen or vandalized."

Democrats Increasingly Worried About Fate Of Biden's Agenda.

Politico (6/24, Siders, 6.73M) says five months into Joe Biden's presidency, "the promise of Democrat-occupied Washington is crashing into reality. Donald Trump may be gone, but the sense of hope that permeated the Democratic Party's rank-and-file after his defeat – and the accompanying capture of Congress – is being replaced by a haze of disillusionment that threatens the party's prospects of generating enthusiasm in the run-up to a critical midterm election." Politico adds that Biden "and his major spending plans remain popular, according to most polling, with Biden's job approval rating still holding above 50 percent," but "even Biden's marks have inched down in the FiveThirtyEight polling average from a high of about 55 percent in March to about 52 percent" now, and "more significant, the number of Democrats who say things broadly are heading in the wrong direction is ticking up."

Jennifer Rubin writes for the Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M), "Biden's approval rating remains steady in a batch of new polls (56 percent approval and 43 percent disapproval in the Fox News poll, 54-43 percent in Politico-Morning Consult and 56-42 percent in Gallup)." Biden, she writes, "is sailing along on the strength of his response to the pandemic," while Republicans "are spinning their wheels with laughably fake audits and baseless assertions of a stolen election (in which many of them were elected or reelected). They resort to race-baiting with the scary-sounding critical race theory, only to be slapped down by the highest-ranking military officer in the country. Maybe they should try something new – like offering real solutions for real problems."

WSJournal Examines Manchin's Impact On Schumer's Efforts To Maintain Democratic Unity. The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Wise, Collins, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports on the relationship between Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and its impact on Schumer's efforts to keep the Democratic caucus united as he tries to advance President Biden's agenda.

Zakaria Criticizes Democrats For Focusing More On National Races Than State Legislatures. Fareed Zakaria writes in the Washington Post (6/24, Zakaria, 10.52M) that Democrats currently have "total control of just 18 state legislatures, compared with 30 for Republicans." To Zakaria, "too many Democratic states have gotten bloated, mismanaged and corrupt." Liberals, he argues, "don't like to face squarely the issue of Democratic incompetence." While the party "wants more government, for many good causes and reasons," to "gain the trust of people, it needs to first face up to its failures and work harder to show that it can effectively manage the governments it already runs."

Senate Confirms Jackson-Akiwumi To Seventh Circuit Court Of Appeals.

Chicago Sun-Times (6/24, 970K) columnist Lynn Sweet highlights that in "a history-making 53-40 vote – with only three Republicans crossing the aisle – the Senate confirmed Candace Jackson-Akiwumi on Thursday for a seat on the Chicago-based 7th Circuit Court of Appeals." According to Sweet, Jackson-Akiwumi "will be only the second Black judge to serve on a court dominated by white men since the 7th Circuit held its first session on June 16, 1891," and "once sworn-in – no date is announced – Jackson-Akiwumi will be the only person of color and the first federal public defender on the court."

Senate Judiciary Committee Approves Bill To Film Supreme Court Arguments.

Politico (6/24, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports the Senate Judiciary Committee "approved a pair of bills Thursday that would dramatically expand video coverage of federal court trials and other proceedings while putting Supreme Court arguments on camera for the first time." The bills "have bipartisan support, including the endorsement of the panel's chair, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), and the longstanding backing of the committee's ranking Republican, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)."

Cuomo Senior Advisor Interviewed In Sexual Harassment Probe.

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Vielkind, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Rich Azzopardi, a senior advisor to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), has been interviewed by investigators with the New York state attorney general's office. Azzopardi is the highest-ranking current Cuomo aide known to have been interviewed in the Attorney General Letitia James' probe of sexual-harassment allegations against the Governor.

Adams Says He Will Revamp NYC's Approach To Dealing With Crime.

The New York Times (6/24, Barnard, Mays, 20.6M) reports Eric Adams, who has "emerged as the likely Democratic nominee for mayor of New York City," made it clear Thursday "that he would revamp New York's approach to dealing with crime and suggested that other big cities and the national Democratic Party would be wise to follow suit." During a news conference outside Brooklyn Borough Hall, Adams, "speaking in the tones of a mayor-elect...laid out a middle road between progressives and conservatives: Fight racism in policing, but step back from a progressive movement that has seen cities slash police budgets, ban police chokeholds and allow more people charged with crimes to go free without bail." Adams said, "If the Democratic Party fails to recognize what we did here in New York, they're going to have a problem in the midterm elections and they're going to have a problem in the presidential election."

NYTimes Analysis: Progressives Fared Well In New York Primaries, But NYC "May Elude Their Grasp." The New York Times (6/24, Lerer, 20.6M) reports in an analysis while New York state's primary elections "brought a number of victories" for progressives, "the biggest apple of them all – New York City's mayoralty – may elude their grasp." The Times says "the idiosyncratic politics of deeply Democratic New York City are hardly a bellwether for the nation," but "the results in the mayoral contest in particular point to a progressive movement still charting

its way through the kinds of divisive policy issues that split the Democratic Party during last year's presidential primary."

Record Levels Of Outside Spending In NYC Mayoral Primary Appears To Have Had Little Impact. Politico (6/24, Anuta, 6.73M) reports while "outside special interest groups spent record amounts of cash" in New York City's mayoral primary, "in most cases the investment was an unqualified dud." According to data from AdImpact, "political action committees spent nearly \$25 million on broadcast, radio and digital advertising." That total included "donations from the likes of megadonors Jeff Yass, Steve Cohen and Dan Loeb. But the money did little to improve the electoral fortunes of many candidates in the crowded field. In fact, some of the highest-dollar splurges went toward candidates who never got out of the single digits, according to preliminary vote counts from Tuesday's election."

Blow Lauds Success Of Black Candidates In NYC Primaries. Charles Blow writes in the New York Times (6/23, 20.6M) Black candidates "are leading many of the citywide or boroughwide races in New York, the city with the most Black residents – two million – of any city in the country." But "the pros come with a mountain of cons. You need look only to the tenure of the first Black mayor of New York, David Dinkins. ... Then, as now, a Black mayor would not be taking the reins of the city during a time of peace and prosperity." Blow describes "a strange paradox in politics that keeps playing out: Black people reach the top when things hit the bottom. Remember that Barack Obama was elected when we thought the global economy was about to collapse. If these Black candidates succeed in this New York City election, the question will be: Can they avoid the pitfalls?"

WPost Argues For DC Statehood.

A Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) editorial says a Senate hearing this week on whether to grant statehood to the District of Columbia "shined a spotlight on the continuing injustice of the disenfranchisement of the citizens who live in the nation's capital." The Post says statehood opponents ignore "the ugly truth" that "more than 700,000 residents of D.C. are denied the basic democracy this country was founded on. They are taxed...without equal say in the federal laws that govern them, and the decisions of their local government are subject to the whims of Congress." Republicans "have cited parking spaces, car dealerships, landfills, airports, mining, logging and agriculture as reasons to oppose D.C. statehood, and Tuesday's hearing saw equally preposterous arguments." While Constitutional issues have also been raised, the Post says "it is impossible to reconcile this country's founding principles with D.C.'s status."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Senators Urge Blinken To Vaccinate Americans Expats.

In an exclusive, Axios (6/24, Mucha, 1.26M) reports Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) "are leading an effort urging the Biden administration to coordinate with the Defense Department to donate supplemental COVID-19 vaccine doses to U.S. embassies and consulates." Axios adds Murphy, Moran, and 24 other senators on Thursday sent a letter to Secretary of State Blinken calling for him to "coordinate with the Defense Department to administer vaccines to the nine million Americans living abroad."

US To Ship 3M Doses Of J&J COVID Vaccine To Afghanistan.

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Lubold, Trofimov, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the Administration intends to ship three million doses of Johnson & Johnson's COVID vaccine to Afghanistan next week. The country is dealing with its deadliest wave of COVID cases to date.

Some Members Of US Congress Introduce Bill To Reopen Canadian Border.

Fox News (6/24, Olson, 23.99M) reports on its website that Rep. Elise Stefanik (D-NY) and Sen. Steve Daines (D-MT) on Thursday "plan to introduce a bill to force Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to begin reopening the U.S.-Canada border after more than a year of

international travel being essentially cut off due to the coronavirus pandemic." The legislation "would immediately force Mayorkas to allow border crossings for family visits, to visit property owned in the United States, business travel, and travel to an American airport to board a flight." The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that despite a decline in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations in Canada, the government will continue to gradually reopen. The country is waiting until a large portion of the population to be fully vaccinated against coronavirus before fully reopening border.

WHO Predicts Most Vulnerable Populations Will Need Annual COVID Booster Shots.

In an exclusive, Reuters (6/24, Guarascio) reports the World Health Organization "forecasts that people most vulnerable to COVID-19, such as the elderly, will need to get an annual vaccine booster to be protected against variants, an internal document seen by Reuters shows." Reuters says the estimate was "discussed on Thursday at a board meeting of Gavi, a vaccine alliance that co-leads the WHO's COVID-19 vaccine programme COVAX. The forecast is subject to changes and is also paired with two other less likely scenarios." According to Reuters, Moderna and Pfizer "have been vocal in their view that the world will soon need booster shots to maintain high levels of immunity, but the evidence for this is still unclear."

IMF Floats Proposal To Help Poor Countries During Pandemic.

The New York Times (6/24, Goodman, Rappeport, 20.6M) reports on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on exacerbating global wealth inequity, describing a proposal under which "the International Monetary Fund would issue \$650 billion worth of reserve funds, essentially creating money that troubled countries could use to purchase vaccines, finance health care and pay down debt." The Times touches on ways in which the pandemic has widened the gap between rich and poor countries, describing the challenges faced by the World Health Organization's COVAX vaccine distribution scheme.

Sydney Enters "Scariest Period" Of Pandemic As Delta Variant Spreads, Premier Says.

The Washington Post (6/24, Pannett, 10.52M) reports that the premier of New South Wales, home to Sydney, Gladys Berejiklian "on Thursday said an outbreak of the highly infectious delta variant in the city meant it was facing 'perhaps the scariest period' of the entire pandemic." The COVID-19 "cluster began last week with an airport limousine driver and has grown to 36 cases, including 11 announced Thursday."

Researchers Find 2M Brits Have "Long COVID."

The Washington Post (6/24, Ang, Taylor, 10.52M) reports new research "found that 2 million people living in England reported experiencing "long covid" symptoms, with women and lower-income people particularly susceptible." After contracting COVID-19, "patients say that after their immediate illness subsided, they suffered lingering symptoms for months, including fatigue, insomnia, brain fog and respiratory problems." Researchers are still looking into the "precise cause" of the condition.

Japanese Emperor "Concerned" That Tokyo Olympics Could Cause Rise To COVID Cases.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports Japanese Emperor Naruhito "appears to be 'concerned' that this summer's Olympics in Tokyo could cause a rise in coronavirus infections, according to the head of the Imperial Household Agency." Naruhito's "warning will embarrass the government and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), but it has come too late to cause a change of heart among organizers, who are determined to start the Games on July 23, after a one-year delay due to the pandemic." Reuters (6/24, Kim, Murakami) reports that while Naruhito's position was "framed as the official's impression rather than something he explicitly expressed, the rare insight into the monarch's thinking on the Games lit up social media, with many wondering whether there would be a formal address on the topic."

Israel Battles COVID Outbreak Attributed To New Delta Variant.

The New York Times (6/24, Kingsley, 20.6M) reports that despite a new COVID-19 outbreak, Israel's "current death rate remains close to zero, and only 26 of 729 active coronavirus patients were hospitalized, according to data released by the Health Ministry." Government officials and medical experts "have attributed the outbreaks to the Delta variant, and point to international travelers as a potential source of the outbreaks."

Seychelles Attributes Beta Variant To Surge In Cases Despite Vaccination Success.

Bloomberg (6/24, Sguazzin, 3.57M) reports that while Seychelles "has vaccinated a greater proportion of its people than any other nation," the Indian Ocean island nation "said genetic sequencing of samples shows that the so-called Beta variant, first discovered in South Africa last year, is behind a surge in cases." According to Bloomberg, Seychelles "has mainly offered Sinopharm and AstraZeneca Plc vaccines, the latter made under license in India and known as Covishield, to its 98,000 people."

Africa Faces Resurgence Of COVID Infections That will Surpass Previous Waves, WHO Africa Says.

The AP (6/24, Petesch) reports, "Africa is facing a devastating resurgence of COVID-19 infections whose peak will surpass that of earlier waves as the continent's countries struggle to vaccinate even a small percentage of the population, top health officials said Thursday." New infections "have been rising since the beginning of May and the resurgence will surpass previous waves by early July, according to WHO Africa." Reuters (6/24, Mohammed, Dzirutwe) reports that Africa CDC director John Nkengasong "said he was more worried about getting vaccines in time, regardless of where the doses came from." He adds that at least "20 countries were in the middle of the third wave, with Zambia, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo among those whose health facilities were being overwhelmed."

Study Finds Coronavirus Pandemic Hit East Asia 20,000 Years Ago.

The New York Times (6/24, Zimmer, 20.6M) reports a study published Thursday in the journal Current Biology found that a coronavirus epidemic occurred in East Asia "some 20,000 years ago[,] and was devastating enough to leave an evolutionary imprint on the DNA of people alive today," providing researchers with possible clues for pharmaceutical development. Dr. David Enard and colleagues at the University of Arizona found 42 genes that likely "evolved their antiviral mutations sometime between 20,000 and 25,000 years ago, most likely over the course of a few centuries." Dr. Yassine Souilmi, a co-author of the study, said the genes are "actually pointing us to molecular knobs to adjust the immune response to the virus."

Yellen To Attend G20 Finance, Climate Meetings In Italy.

Reuters (6/24, Lawder) reports that, according to the Treasury Department, Treasury Secretary Yellen will "attend the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Venice, Italy, on July 9-10 to press U.S. policy priorities on taxes, climate change and an inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic." She will "meet with G20 counterparts and attend the Venice International Conference on Climate with G20 counterparts on July 11," and she will then "travel to Brussels to meet with European Union counterparts and the Eurogroup 'to discuss U.S. policy priorities and respective efforts to support the economic recovery.'"

Indigenous Canadian Group Announces Discovery Of New Mass Grave At Former Canadian School.

The New York Times (6/24, Austen, Bilefsky, 20.6M) reports that a new mass grave was "found at the site of a former school in the province of Saskatchewan," and there are as many as 751 bodies interred at the site. The mass grave "was uncovered only weeks after the remains of 215 children were found in unmarked graves on the grounds of another former church-run school for Indigenous students in British Columbia." Canadian Indigenous groups have decried the discoveries, which "have jolted a nation grappling with generations of widespread and systematic

abuse of Indigenous people.”

The Washington Post (6/23, A1, 10.52M) reports that the Cowessess First Nation “made the ‘horrific and shocking discovery’ at the site of the former Marieval Indian Residential School in the southeastern part of the province.” Reuters (6/24) reports Prime Minister Justin Trudeau “said he was ‘terribly saddened,’” and he “told indigenous people that ‘the hurt and the trauma that you feel is Canada’s responsibility to bear.’”

The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Mackrael, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the Cowessess First Nation began searching the area this month following the discovery of the first mass grave. The Marieval Indian Residential School had operated for nearly a century, and 4,100 official deaths were logged at the site.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Dismisses International Criticisms.

Reuters (6/24) reports Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega “said on Wednesday sanctions would not deter his government and vowed not to free detained political foes accused of crimes, as international pressure mounted to end a crackdown ahead of a November election.” His administration “has arrested at least 15 political opponents in recent weeks, including five presidential hopefuls, ahead of the presidential vote in which the long-ruling leader will run for a fourth consecutive term.”

Peruvian Elections Judge Resigns Over Infighting.

Reuters (6/24) reports Peruvian election magistrate Luis Arce “said on Wednesday night he would leave his post after the jury rejected the first 10 requests to annul votes presented by right-wing Keiko Fujimori, who was narrowly behind socialist outsider Pedro Castillo in the June 6 vote.” He “alleged bias on the jury and said ‘decisions were already made,’” but the Peruvian election board “rejected Arce’s allegation of bias as ‘offensive’ and said a magistrate was not allowed to resign mid-review so he would be suspended instead, and a provisional replacement found ‘to avoid delaying our work.’”

Haitian Gang Leader Announces New Campaign Against Political Elites.

Reuters (6/24) reports G9 Federation gang leader Jimmy Cherizier “warned this week he was launching a revolution against the country’s business and political elites, signaling a likely further escalation of violence in the impoverished Caribbean nation.” He “gave a statement to local media outlets in the slum of La Saline on Wednesday, saying the G9 had become a revolutionary force to deliver Haiti from the opposition, the government and the Haitian bourgeoisie.”

Haitian Supreme Court President Dies Of COVID. The Miami Herald (6/24, 647K) reports Supreme Court Judge René Sylvestre “is the latest high-profile Haitian personality to succumb to the deadly coronavirus in Haiti, where the government has yet to issue a shot of any COVID-19 vaccine, and a deadly surge is leading to increased infections and deaths.”

Colombian Union Leader Vows To Renew Protest Campaign.

Reuters (6/24) reports Colombian Central Union of Workers President Francisco Maltes has warned of expanding the ongoing antigovernment protests if the Colombian government does not negotiate. He told Reuters, “(There will be) a great national strike in the second semester.” He continued, “It’ll be of greater proportions because citizens have understood that it’s through unity and peaceful mobilization that we can achieve changes in this country.” Protest leaders had “suspended marches while they work on laws to present to Congress in the legislative period due to start on July 20.”

Biden Pledges To Evacuate Tens Of Thousands Of Afghans Before Last US Troops Exit.

The AP (6/24, Madhani, Knickmeyer) reports President Biden on Thursday “vowed...that Afghans who helped the U.S. military ‘are not going to be left behind’ as his administration stepped up planning to evacuate thousands of Afghan interpreters while their applications for U.S. entry are processed.” According to the AP, “A senior administration official said planning has accelerated in

recent days to relocate the Afghans and their families to other countries or U.S. territories while their visa applications are sorted." The AP adds that the Administration "intends to carry out the evacuation later this summer, likely in August, before its September deadline to withdraw U.S. forces."

The New York Times (6/24, Cooper, Schmitt, 20.6M) says the White House has "come under heavy pressure from lawmakers and military officials to protect Afghan allies from revenge attacks by the Taliban and speed up the lengthy and complex process of providing them special immigrant visas." According to the Times, "More than 18,000 Afghans who have worked as interpreters, drivers, engineers, security guards, fixers and embassy clerks for the United States during the war have been trapped in bureaucratic limbo after applying for special immigrant visas." The Times adds that US officials estimate that "those applicants have 53,000 family members," and Rep. Mike McCaul (R-TX) told Reuters (6/24) that the US evacuation of "at-risk Afghan interpreters will include their family members for a total of as many as 50,000 people."

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports that "an individual familiar with the matter said the administration had not yet finalized decisions about the destination for evacuated visa applicants," but "lawmakers and advocates have suggested that could be a third country or a U.S. territory such as Guam." The Post adds, "Some lawmakers, criticizing the administration for not moving fast enough, have proposed moving the visa applicants from Afghanistan to Guam to keep them safe while their paperwork and investigations are conducted. But the most likely destinations for evacuees appeared to be in the Middle East," potentially Qatar or the United Arab Emirates.

Politico (6/24, McLeary, Swan, Toosi, 6.73M) quotes Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) as saying, "That's what a lot of us have been asking for. So it's a good thing. But I'm not confident that every single person who helped us and the many others who are threatened by the Taliban are all going to be out of the country in July, or that most of them even want to be out of the country in July. And so the best way to help the great mass of Afghans who are at risk is to help the Afghan government survive this onslaught from the Taliban and I'm not seeing enough movement there."

According to Reuters (6/24), the decision to approve evacuations "risks inflaming a sense of crisis in Afghanistan, just a day before Biden meets Afghan President Ashraf Ghani for talks in Washington aimed at projecting a sense of partnership despite the U.S. military exit." Reuters says the Taliban have launched "a major offensive in Afghanistan," and "fighting between U.S.-backed Afghan forces and the Taliban has surged in recent weeks, with the militants gaining control of territory." Reuters says that the US Defense Department "now estimates the Taliban control 81 of the country's 419 district centers." Bloomberg (6/24, Jacobs, Flatley, 3.57M) reports the Taliban "has said that Afghans who assisted the U.S. have nothing to fear after the American withdrawal and should remain in the country."

However, Politico (6/24, Toosi, Desiderio, 6.73M) reports that "in recent days, the U.S. has completed more than half the troop withdrawal, and the Taliban have seized dozens of Afghan districts amid warnings that the government in Kabul could fall in a matter of months once the U.S. leaves." Politico adds, "Biden risks being seen as the president who lost Afghanistan — and Republicans know it. GOP lawmakers are having an I-told-you-so face-off with Biden, suggesting that the president will own the consequences of an Afghan debacle — both political and otherwise." Reuters (6/24) reports that "fighting has worsened around Afghanistan but especially in the north where Taliban insurgents have conducted a wave of offensives in recent days, moving beyond their southern strongholds." The Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Meanwhile, Axios (6/24, Lawler, 1.26M) reports Ghani "will arrive at the White House Friday seeking assurances that the U.S. will keep up its diplomatic push for a peace deal and financial support for the beleaguered Afghan military, says Michael Kugelman of the Wilson Center." In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/24, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) cautions the Administration's promises to the Afghan government are likely to prove inadequate to counter the Taliban's continued advance. The Journal warns the President will be responsible for the consequences of the US withdrawal, as was his predecessor.

US Officials: "Several Hundred" Troops Will Remain In Afghanistan After Withdrawal Until September. US officials on Thursday told the AP (6/24, Baldor, Burns) that

"roughly 650 U.S. troops are expected to remain in Afghanistan to provide security for diplomats after the main American military force completes its withdrawal, which is set to be largely done in the next two weeks," while "several hundred additional American forces will remain at the Kabul airport, potentially until September, to assist Turkish troops providing security, as a temporary move until a more formal Turkey-led security operation is in place." However, the officials also "said the U.S. expects to have American and coalition military command, its leadership and most troops out by July Fourth, or shortly after that, meeting an aspirational deadline that commanders developed months ago."

Meanwhile, the AP (6/24) reports US and Turkish officials "met in Turkey's capital on Thursday to discuss plans for Turkish troops to continue securing Kabul's airport after the withdrawal of the U.S. and other NATO troops from Afghanistan." According to the AP, critics "see Turkey's offer to operate the airport as being part of an effort by" Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government "to mend ties with the United States which have deteriorated over an array of disagreements. Those have centered on Turkey's purchase of Russian weapons and U.S. support to Syrian Kurdish fighters which Ankara says are linked to a Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey. They question the safety of the Turkish non-combat forces there."

Biden Calls On China To Stop Crackdown On Hong Kong Journalists.

Bloomberg (6/24, Wayne, 3.57M) reports President Biden on Tuesday "demanded that Beijing end its crackdown on independent journalists in Hong Kong after news outlet Apple Daily ceased publishing this week under pressure from China." In a statement, Biden said, "It is a sad day for media freedom in Hong Kong and around the world." He continued, "Through arrests, threats, and forcing through a national security law that penalizes free speech, Beijing has insisted on wielding its power to suppress independent media and silence dissenting views." In addition, Reuters (6/24) reports the President "called on China to stop targeting the independent press and release detained journalists and media executives."

Meanwhile, Reuters (6/25) reports Sens. Pat Toomey, ranking member of the Senate Banking Committee, and Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) "called on [Biden] to impose sanctions on those responsible for forcing the closure of Hong Kong's Apple Daily newspaper, suggesting foreign banks were among those implicated." The AP (6/24, Soo), Reuters (6/24, Pang, Pomfret), and the Wall Street Journal (6/24, Yu, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) report that on Thursday, Apple Daily published its final newspaper in Hong Kong.

Henry Olsen writes at the Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) that it is clear China's government "will not give Hong Kong the freedoms it was guaranteed when the United Kingdom turned its colony over to the mainland in 1997." While "nothing the United States or its allies can do will reverse that fact in the near term," Olsen argues, "that doesn't mean we should do nothing." Olsen suggests a number of steps the US should take and concludes, "Hong Kong's freedom is being snuffed out. It is against our values and our interests to remain a bystander."

Hong Kong Orders Public Libraries To Follow Security Law. Bloomberg (6/24, Marlow, Lam, 3.57M) reports the Hong Kong government on Thursday "said all public libraries must comply with its national security law after a pro-China lawmaker highlighted that a local branch had prominently displayed books written by media tycoon and pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai."

Bachelet Criticizes Hong Kong Security Law. Reuters (6/24) reports UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet "said on Thursday that Hong Kong's new national security law was leading journalists to 'self-censor' to avoid clashing with 'vaguely formulated offences.'"

Biden Honors Filipino President Benigno Aquino III After Death From Diabetes Complications.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports former Filipino President Benigno Aquino III, who "was a staunch campaigner in his own right against domestic corruption and China's expansive territorial claims," has died at the age of 61. His family said that the cause "was renal failure as a result of diabetes." The AP (6/24, Gomez) reports President Biden said in response to the news,

"President Aquino's steadfast commitment to advancing peace, upholding the rule of law, and driving economic growth for all Filipinos, while taking bold steps to promote the rules-based international order, leaves a remarkable legacy at home and abroad that will endure for years to come."

Reuters (6/24) reports President Rodrigo Duterte "declared June 24 to July 3 as period of national mourning, with the national flag to be flown at half-mast on all government buildings." He said, "I offer my heartfelt condolences to the Aquino family. Please accept the love and the prayers of a grateful nation." The New York Times (6/23, Mydans, Goldman, 20.6M) examines Benigno Aquino III's historic role in the country's democratic experiment. Wall Street Journal (6/24, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

State Department Approves Potential F-16 Sale To Philippines. Reuters (6/24) reports that the State Department "has approved the potential sale of F-16 fighter jets, as well as Sidewinder and Harpoon missiles, to the Philippines in three separate deals with a combined value of more than \$2.5 billion." The announcement "Comes as the United States seeks to renew an agreement with the Philippines governing the U.S. troop presence in the country, which is critical to Washington's strategy to counter ever-expanding Chinese activity in Asia."

US Reportedly No Longer Concerned About Taiwan Impacting Chinese Ties.

Reuters (6/24) reports that, according to American Institute deputy director Raymond Greene, the US "no longer sees Taiwan as a problem in its relations with China, but as an opportunity to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific." He "said when he first worked in Taiwan almost two decades ago, everything it did related back to cross-Taiwan Strait issues and how Taiwan fit into the U.S.-China relationship." However, efforts "have been overwhelmingly focused on deepening ties and working together to help other countries develop their economies and democratic institutions."

Chinese Military Calls On Taiwan To Embrace Reunification Efforts. Reuters (6/24) reports that, according to the Chinese defense ministry, Taiwan "needs to be clearly aware that its future lies in 'reunification' with China and that it cannot rely on the United States." Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang said, "The United States should fully understand that China's development and growth cannot be stopped by any force." He added, "The Democratic Progressive Party authorities must be soberly aware that the future of Taiwan lies in national reunification." The statements came after the Chinese military "entered Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) last Tuesday."

UN Warns Of Mass Internal Displacement In Burma.

Reuters (6/24) reports that, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, an estimated 230,000 people "have been displaced by fighting in Myanmar and need assistance." The agency "said relief operations were ongoing but were being hindered by armed clashes, violence and insecurity in the country."

Japan Formally Proposes Four-Day Work Week.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports that Japan, which is "known for its rigid work culture," is "entertaining changes to the standard workweek few would have predicted even several years ago." The government published its annual economic policy guidelines, and it "unveiled plans to push employers to adopt four-day workweeks, marking official acceptance of a once-fringe approach that has gained increasing purchase internationally amid workplace changes wrought by the coronavirus pandemic."

Indian Prime Minister Addresses Kashmiri Elections.

Reuters (6/24) reports Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "told leaders from Jammu & Kashmir that elections would be held there after the region's constituencies were reconfigured following the revocation of its semi-autonomous statehood." The talks "were the first between Modi and Kashmiri leaders since the government scrapped the Himalayan region's special status in 2019, detaining thousands of people and imposing a months-long lockdown."

Pakistani Aid Group Calls On Pakistan To End Indiscriminate Executions.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, 10.52M) reports that, according to Justice Project Pakistan, Pakistan has executed 515 people since 2014 even though fewer than 90 were convicted on terrorism charges. The organization argues that a similar pattern "has emerged in sentencings, with researchers contending that the vast majority of crimes resulting in death sentences have little connection to terrorism." The article examines the cases of several prisoners, who were convicted as minors and face execution for their crimes.

Pakistan Arrests "Key Suspect" In Lahore Bombing. The [AP](#) (6/24, Dogar, Tanveer) reports Pakistani security forces on Thursday "arrested one of the alleged perpetrators of a car bombing the day before that killed three people and wounded 25 near the residence of a convicted militant leader linked to the Mumbai terrorist attacks, officials said." The man behind Wednesday's attack "in the eastern city of Lahore was arrested at the airport as he was trying to leave the country, said Suhail Ahmad, a security official familiar with the investigation. He identified the man as Pakistani national David Peter."

EU Dismisses Franco-German Call For Overtures To Putin In Wake Of Biden's Summit.

The [AP](#) (6/24, Cook) reports that on Thursday, EU countries "bordering Russia rejected a Franco-German plan to resume official meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, with one leader likening the move to an attempt to talk a bear out of stealing honey." In a statement, the EU on Friday "said only that they 'will explore formats and conditionalities of dialogue with Russia.' There was no mention of any high-level meetings or plans for a summit with Putin." [Reuters](#) (6/24) reports the "firm resistance from Poland and Baltic countries" came after France and Germany on Wednesday "proposed that holding a summit with Putin was a possible way to repair ties between the close trade partners, following on from U.S. President Joe Biden's summit in Geneva with Putin." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/24, Marson, Grove, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) article headlined "Europeans Split Over Russia After Biden's Summit With Putin" provides similar coverage.

[Politico Europe](#) (6/23, Herszenhorn, Momtaz, Barigazzi, Von Der Burchard, Wanat, 15K) describes "the EU's carefully orchestrated Russia policy" as in "disarray" following the proposal from outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron that had "seemed intended to create a new carrot-and-stick approach toward Russia." Politico adds officials "failed to explain why making such a move at this particular time might yield different results than previous attempts to engage with Putin. But there were quick signs the plan could backfire, potentially dividing the EU by being too soft on Putin by offering a summit, while simultaneously angering Moscow by raising the threat of new sanctions. Such threats could risk undermining an effort by...Biden to shift the dynamic between the West and the Kremlin, just a week after he met Putin at a high-stakes summit in Geneva."

However, [Reuters](#) (6/24) reports that the Kremlin indicated on Thursday that Putin "backs [the] idea to restore dialogue and contacts between Moscow and the European Union." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, "We consider such a proposal positively."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/24, 10.52M) says that if Putin "is interested in cooperation with Mr. Biden, one of the simplest and easiest things" to do is drop Russia's opposition to the UN Security Council resolution "needed to keep the aid flowing [to displaced Syrians] after July 10, triggering a dire humanitarian crisis."

Russian Official Threatens To "Bomb" UK Ships In The Black Sea. The [AP](#) (6/24, Isachenkov) reports that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov warned on Thursday that Russia is "prepared to target intruding warships if they fail to heed warnings...after a Black Sea incident in which a British destroyer sailed near Crimea in an area that Russia claims as its territorial waters." According to the AP, Russia "said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of British destroyer Defender on Wednesday to drive it away from waters near the Crimean city of Sevastopol." However, "Britain denied that account, insisted its ship wasn't fired upon and said it was sailing in Ukrainian waters."

[Reuters](#) (6/24) reports that Russia "summoned the British ambassador in Moscow for a formal diplomatic scolding after the warship breached what the Kremlin says are its territorial

waters but which Britain and most of the world say belong to Ukraine." Reuters quotes Ryabkov as saying, "We can appeal to common sense, demand respect for international law, and if that doesn't work, we can bomb."

Bloomberg (6/24, Meyer, Donaldson, 3.57M) reports that also on Thursday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson "defended the U.K.'s armed confrontation with Russia in the Black Sea, dismissing Moscow's protests as London vowed to continue to exercise its right to enter disputed waters off Crimea. 'I think it was wholly appropriate to use international waters,' Johnson told reporters." Bloomberg adds that Johnson "declin[ed] to say whether he'd personally approved the route of the British destroyer," saying: "the important point is that we don't recognize the Russian annexation of Crimea."

US Ambassador To Russia Returns To Moscow. The Hill (6/24, Lonas, 5.69M) says US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan on Thursday "return[ed] to his post after leaving in April due to increased tensions between the countries." Axios (6/24, Saric, 1.26M) reports Sullivan's return "comes just after his attendance at last week's U.S.-Russia summit in Geneva," and CNN (6/24, Hansler, 89.21M) reports online that it comes "days after the Russian ambassador to the US resumed his post in Washington, DC." According to CNN, their return "marked a modest deliverable from last week's summit" of Biden and Putin.

Blinken To Meet With Pope Next Week.

Reuters (6/24) reports that when Secretary of State Blinken meets with Pope Francis "and top Vatican officials on Monday, the new secretary of state's visit will put relations between Washington and Holy See on a new footing," and "set the scene for a visit to the pope by Joe Biden, only the second Catholic U.S. president, expected for October." However, Reuters highlights that Blinken's visit "follows a conference at which U.S. Roman Catholic bishops voted to draft a statement on Communion that may admonish Catholic politicians, including Biden, who support abortion rights despite opposing the practice personally."

Christine Emba writes in the Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) that in voting to move forward with drafting a statement on "the Meaning of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church," the US Conference of Catholic Bishops "is sowing questions about the steadiness and moral focus of the U.S. Catholic Church." Emba questions why the bishops have chosen to "go after Biden, and why now? And why isn't the church attending to other pro-life issues – the death penalty, unjust war, the climate crisis – with the same level of concern?" Emba argues, "The lesson most observers have taken away is that the Catholic Church – in the United States, at least – is less a moral institution than a political one, and that its leadership is willing to use its authority to pursue partisan ends."

NYTimes Analysis: Blinken Well Received In Germany. In an analysis titled "It's More Fun: Germany Offers Blinken A Gushing Welcome," the New York Times (6/24, Crowley, 20.6M) says that during his two-day visit to Berlin, "Blinken's swooning hosts did little to disguise their relief over the end of the Trump era and the rejuvenation of American ties with Germany." Per the Times: "Germany's foreign minister, Heiko Maas, was practically gushing at a joint appearance with his counterpart at a chic Berlin beer garden Thursday, recalling his first conversation with Mr. Blinken after he became secretary of state."

Clean Air Task Force Finds EU Gas Infrastructure Is Leaking Methane.

Reuters (6/24) reports that, according to leaked video footage, methane "is spewing out of natural gas infrastructure across the European Union because of leaks and venting." The Clean Air Task Force "found methane seeping into the atmosphere at 123 oil and gas sites in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Romania this year."

Europe, Russia Struggling To Handle Latest Heat Wave. The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports that Europe and Russia are preparing for another "record-breaking heat wave" as monthly records "have already fallen as highs climb to near 100 degrees in some areas, with temperatures in the Arctic Circle spiking close to 90." Weather models "suggest the core of the record-breaking heat will become centered on western Russia in the days ahead, probably intensifying before reaching a climax on Friday with highs up to 25 degrees above average." The

hottest weather will "exist in western Russia, northeastern Europe and parts of Scandinavia."

UK Climate Watchdog Warns UK Governments Failing To Meet Pledges. The New York Times (6/24, Reed, 20.6M) reports that the UK Committee on Climate Change "said on Thursday that the British government was doing far too little to carry out the ambitious pledges it had made on tackling climate change." While the government "has promised to cut its greenhouse emissions to net zero by 2050," it "has failed to take interim steps — such as tax incentives for reducing emissions — essential to meet that goal."

EU Advances Migrant Policy "Outsourcing Plans."

The AP (6/23, Cook) reports EU leaders "pushed ahead Thursday with plans to outsource the bloc's migration policy challenges by spending billions of euros to improve cooperation from countries that people leave or cross when they set out for Europe." At their summit in Brussels, the leaders said that "mutually beneficial partnerships and cooperation with countries of origin and transit will be intensified." No countries were named "but the focus is on northern Africa." The leaders called for an approach that "will be pragmatic, flexible and tailor-made" and will make use of all available "instruments and incentives" to persuade the countries to cooperate. The summit statement "was prepared by envoys in advance and was subject to almost no discussion Thursday."

Cyprus Wants Frontex To Halt Migrants From Turkey. The AP (6/24, Hadjicostis) reports Cyprus wants the EU's "border agency Frontex to step in and prevent the flow of migrant arrivals from Turkey that authorities say have stretched the eastern Mediterranean island nation's asylum system to its limits." Cyprus is also asking the EU to "activate all available mechanisms" to help it manage Syrians arriving in the country. The Cypriot Foreign Ministry "says Turkey hasn't included Cyprus in its program to halt migrant flows into the 27-member bloc since the deal was signed five years ago."

EU Parliament Calls On Member Countries To Ensure Access To Legal Abortion.

Reuters (6/24) reports EU lawmakers "passed a resolution" on Thursday, "calling for the bloc's 27 countries to ensure the right to legal and safe abortion in a push to improve women's sexual and reproductive health." The non-binding resolution "said the COVID-19 pandemic had limited access to many services crucial for sexual and reproductive health and rights, illustrating how the pandemic has affected women more than men."

Sweden Democrats Move From Fringe Party To Potential King-makers.

Reuters (6/24, Johnson, Ahlander) reports, with newly-won 60 seats in country's 349-seat parliament, "the Sweden Democrats are being wooed by parties which once shunned them because of their roots in the white-supremacist fringe and hard-line anti-immigration policies." With the likelihood of "a snap election growing, the Sweden Democrats will be in a position to be part of any centre-right coalition that comes to power – or at the least, help define its policies."

State Department Negotiator Warns Iranian Nuclear Discussions May End If Negotiations Do Not Progress.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports that an unidentified State Department negotiator discussed the current state of US-Iran nuclear negotiations with reporters on Thursday. While the source "repeated the Administration's mantra that 'nothing is agreed until it is all agreed. . . . We are still negotiating every issue,'" they added, "But we do have differences, and if we can't bridge them in the foreseeable future, we're going to have to regroup." Reuters (6/24) reports that the latest round of talks "adjourned on Sunday, two days after hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi, the Iranian judiciary chief who is subject to U.S. sanctions, was elected president of the Islamic Republic." The official "said the U.S. delegation expected to return to Vienna for a seventh round in the not-too-distant future but he did not know when, suggesting the key factor would be internal Iranian consultations following Raisi's election."

Axios Analysis: Bennett Engaging With Biden On Iran Nuclear Talks. Barak Ravid of Axios (6/24, 1.26M) says the new government of Israel "has been trying to influence the Biden administration's approach to the Iran nuclear deal in a series of high-level meetings with U.S.

officials." According to Ravid, "Under former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel didn't engage with the Biden administration over the deal except to vehemently oppose it and stress that Israel wouldn't be constrained by it." Ravid says that while Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and his cabinet "also oppose the deal," they are "trying to engage with the U.S. on the issue." On Sunday, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is "expected" to meet with Secretary of State Blinken in Rome and "highlight several conditions Israel thinks the U.S. must demand from Iran as part of a return to the deal."

Canada Concludes Iran's Downing Of Airliner Was Not Premeditated. Reuters (6/24, Scherer) reports Canada announced on Thursday it "had found no evidence that Iran's downing of a Ukrainian passenger plane last year had been premeditated, and condemned what it called the incompetence and recklessness of those responsible." Iran has admitted it "shot down the airliner shortly after takeoff from Tehran in January 2020, killing 176 people, and blamed a 'disastrous mistake' by forces on high alert during a confrontation with the United States." A special Canadian forensic team "charged with examining all available information about the incident, including classified intelligence," said it had "found no evidence that Iranian officials ordered the shoot-down or that it was premeditated," but added, "This in no way absolves Iran of its responsibility for the death of 176 innocent people."

US Officials Plead For More Aid For Yemen.

Reuters (6/24) reports that on Thursday, the Biden Administration "called on the international community, especially regional countries, to fulfill their pledges to increase funding for humanitarian assistance to Yemen and warned that aid programs could otherwise be forced to close." US Special Envoy to Yemen Timothy Lenderking "told a webinar sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations that humanitarian programs for Yemen will begin to close unless contributions increase in the next few months." Sarah Charles, a senior official with the US Agency for International Development, "echoed Lenderking's warning," and said the US "will provide more funds on top of \$350 million allocated this year."

UN Calls On Israel To Stop Building Settlements Immediately.

The AP (6/25, Lederer) reports UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN Mideast envoy Tor Wennesland on Thursday "accused Israel of flagrantly violating international law by expanding settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, saying settlements are illegal and urging the country's new government to halt their enlargement immediately." According to the AP, Guterres and Wennesland "reported on implementation of a 2016 Security Council resolution that declared settlements have 'no legal validity'" and "demanded a halt to their expansion in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, lands the Palestinians want to include in a future state."

Meanwhile, the New York Times (6/24, Kingsley, Rasgon, 20.6M) reports on "the rapidly expanding settlement" of Evyatar in the West Bank. The Times says "the huge protests it has begun to attract have become an early stress test for the fragile new Israeli government." According to The Times, "The settlement is illegal under Israeli law, and the Israeli Army has ordered it razed, subject to the approval of the government." The Times warns if Bennett "backs the settlers, he will alienate the leftist and Arab members of his coalition," but "if he permits them to be evicted, he will allow the Israeli right to paint him as a turncoat."

Palestinian Anti-Corruption Activist Dies In Palestinian Custody.

The Washington Post (6/24, 10.52M) reports that, according to a Palestinian sources, anti-corruption activist and Palestinian Authority critic Nizar Banat "died in the custody of Palestinian security forces soon after being arrested at his house Thursday." His family "said officers who stormed his bedroom began beating Nizar Banat while he was still in bed and that he was bleeding heavily from head wounds as they removed him from the house."

UNDP Mourns Deaths Of 540K In Northeast Nigeria.

Reuters (6/24) reports that, according to the UN Development Program, Nigeria's ongoing conflict with Islamist insurgents has "killed nearly 350,000 people as of the end of 2020." The toll "is 10

times higher than previous estimates of about 35,000 based only on those killed in fighting in Nigeria since the conflict's start 12 years ago."

Ethiopian Military Claims Responsibility For Airstrike On Tigray Marketplace.

The [AP](#) (6/24) reports that the Ethiopian military "said it was responsible for a deadly airstrike on a busy marketplace in the country's Tigray region," and health workers "said the attack killed at least 64 people, including children, but the military insisted only combatants were targeted." A doctor "described a 'horrible' scene of badly wounded people lying on the ground, crying in pain with no medical care." [Reuters](#) (6/24) reports Ethiopian Colonel Getnet Adane "told Reuters in an interview in Addis Ababa that the combatants in the town of Togoga were dressed in civilian clothes."

Burkina Faso Blames Solhan Attack On Child Soldiers.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/24, 10.52M) reports Burkina Faso government spokesman Ousseni Tamboura discussed the recent terror attack on Solhan, which "claimed at least 138 lives," and he said that the attack "was perpetrated by mostly children." The announcement "comes as 10 percent of Burkina Faso's schools have shuttered due to rising insecurity – a trend that researchers say makes children more vulnerable to abuse, human trafficking and combat recruitment." [Reuters](#) (6/24) reports that UNICEF condemned the finding, saying, "We strongly condemn the recruitment of children and adolescents by non-state armed groups. This is a grave violation of their fundamental rights."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Biden, Senators Agree To Roughly \\$1 Trillion Infrastructure Plan](#)
[Miami Building Collapse: Dozens Missing In Surfside, Florida; At Least One Killed](#)
[Google Delays Cookie Removal To Late 2023](#)
[Environmental Investing Frenzy Stretches Meaning Of 'Green'](#)
[App Taps Unwitting Users Abroad To Gather Open-Source Intelligence](#)

Washington Post:

[Scores Missing In Fla. Condo Collapse](#)
[Biden Claims Victory On Deal](#)
[Their Loved Ones, Gone In Seconds, Now They Wait.](#)
[Indigenous Graves Found At 2nd School In Canada](#)
[Specter Of Forced Labor In Solar's Ties To China's Xinjiang Region](#)

Financial Times:

[Biden Agrees \\$1tn Infrastructure Deal With Senators](#)
[Japanese Emperor 'Extremely Concerned' About Olympics](#)
[Hedge Funds Rethink Tactics After \\$12bn Hit From Meme Stock Army](#)
[Gupta Wins Reprieve From Legal Action To Shut Down Some Of His Companies](#)
[JPMorgan Pushes Bankers To Get Vaccine Before Office Return](#)
[India's Rajasthan Royals cricket Team Valued At \\$250m With US Stake](#)
[Hong Kongers Rush To Buy Final Edition Of Apple Daily Newspaper](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Florida-Condominium Collapse; Biden-Infrastructure Deal; Covid Update; Washington, DC-Bridge Collapse; Rudy Giuliani-Law License Suspended.

CBS: Florida-Condominium Collapse; Biden-Infrastructure Deal; Biden Covid Vaccinations; January 6th Investigation; Rudy Giuliani-Law License Suspended.

NBC: Florida-Condominium Collapse; Biden-Infrastructure Deal; Covid Update; CDC-Eviction Moratorium; Britney Spears.

Network TV At A Glance:

Florida-Condominium Collapse – 41 minutes, 30 seconds

Biden-Infrastructure Deal – 5 minutes, 50 seconds

Covid Update – 3 minutes, 25 seconds

Rudy Giuliani-Law License Suspended – 40 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Biden — President Biden meets Afghan leadership at the White House – President Joe Biden welcomes Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and High Council for National Reconciliation Chairman Dr Abdullah Abdullah to the White House. Last month, the U.S. began final withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Afghanistan, due to be completed by 11 Sep – the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the U.S.

Location: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

- Vice President Harris — Vice President Harris visits Texas as part of work to address migration from the Northern Triangle – Vice President Kamala Harris travels to El Paso, TX, accompanied by Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, as part of her work – conducted at the request of President Joe Biden – ‘to oversee diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.’

Location: El Paso, TX

US Senate:

- Senate breaks for Independence Day State Work Period

US House:

- House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including consideration of ‘H.R. 2062, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act’; ‘H.R. 1443, LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act’; ‘H.R. 239, Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act’; and three resolutions of disapproval to reverse regulatory actions made under the prior administration including ‘S.J.Res 13’, ‘S.J.Res. 14’, and ‘S.J.Res 15’

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 9:00 AM

- House Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bill

Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC; 9:00 AM

- House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on ‘brain health’ – Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights Subcommittee virtual hearing on ‘Brain Health: A Global Perspective’, held via Cisco Webex, with testimony from University of California at Los Angeles Senior Associate Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor Dr Daniel Geschwind; University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research Director Dr Gladys Maestre; and Boston Children’s Hospital Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida Chair and Director of Neonatal and Congenital Anomaly Neurosurgery Dr Benjamin Wharf

Location: Virtual Event; 10:00 AM

- House Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bill

Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC; 11:00 AM

Cabinet Officers:

- Secretary of State Blinken meets French President Macron in Paris – Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets French President Emmanuel Macron and Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in Paris to discuss topics including global security and recovering from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. While in Paris, he also meets OECD Secretary General Mathias Cormann to discuss 'key economic priorities, international taxation, and U.S. chairmanship of the 60th anniversary Ministerial Council Meeting in October'

Location: Paris

- Education Secretary Cardona visits Howard University, touring their COVID-19 community vaccine clinic – Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visits Howard University, touring their coronavirus (COVID-19) community vaccine clinic and encouraging students and members of the public to get vaccinated. He meets pre-med students who are serving as vaccine ambassadors and going into surrounding neighborhoods and communities to encourage more people to receive the vaccine, and discusses the American Families Plan. Tour, alongside Howard University Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Rashad Young and Executive Vice President and COO Tashni Dubroy (9:30 AM EDT) followed by a brief press gaggle (9:40 AM EDT)

Location: Howard University College of Medicine, 508 W Street NW, Washington, DC; 9:30

AM

Visitors:

- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and High Council for National Reconciliation Chairman Dr Abdullah Abdullah

General Events:

- Washington Post Live conversation on the 117th Congress with Republican Rep. Ken Buck

Location: Virtual Event; 11:00 AM

- Heritage Foundation releases 2021 China Transparency Report, with GOP Rep. Steve Chabot – Heritage Foundation holds an online event to preview the 2021 China Transparency Report. Speakers include Republican Rep. Steve Chabot, Davis Institute Visiting Fellow Chad Wolf, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs David Feith

Location: Virtual Event; 12:00 PM

- Dem Rep. Peter Welch discusses 'Modernizing the U.S. Energy System' on EESI event – Environmental and Energy Study Institute presents 'Modernizing the U.S. Energy System: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Path Forward'. Democratic Rep. Peter Welch introduces the event, with other speakers include Department of Energy Building Technologies Office Technology Manager for Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings Monica Neukomm, Cornell University's Eilyan Bitar, Smart Electric Power Alliance Managing Director Janet Besser, and Southern California Edison Integrated System Strategy Director Dana Cabbell * Rescheduled from 18 Jun

Location: Virtual Event; 12:00 PM

- FTA holds public information session on equity agenda – Federal Transit Administration public information session on 'agency's equity agenda and Request for Information on Transportation Equity Data' * Rescheduled from 18 Jun

Location: Virtual Event; 2:00 PM

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From: [redacted]
Subject: FW: BWC Policy
To: Timothy M. (CID) (FBI) Dunham [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Feinberg; Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)
Sent: June 25, 2021 10:32 AM (UTC-04:00)

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1

[redacted]

[redacted]

On Jun 24, 2021 2:06 PM, [redacted] wrote:
Hello!

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

Attached is the updated BWC policy following a meeting with IPO this morning. [redacted]

[redacted]

Please let me know if there's anything else you need from me. Thank you!

--

[redacted]
Special Advisor
Federal Bureau of Investigation
[redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:12 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: BWC Policy

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Hi [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1

Attached is the BWC Policy with updates made per this morning's meeting. All changes have been made in tracks.

Thank you,
[redacted]

[Redacted]

Policy Team Supervisor
Internal Policy Office

[Redacted]



b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

From: Stephen Kelly
Subject: FW: BWC Policy
To: Dunham, Timothy M. (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI)
Sent: June 25, 2021 11:04 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Thanks [redacted] I will take a look.

Stephen

-

On Jun 24, 2021 2:06 PM [redacted] wrote:

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: RE: TFO BWC Question
To: [Redacted]
Sent: June 30, 2021 11:32 AM (UTC-04:00)

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -4,27

Just for your awareness [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Not sure if that helps, but that's basically where we are on the issue.

Stephen

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:00 AM
To: [Redacted]
(FBI) [Redacted]
Subject: Fwd: TFO BWC Question

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC)

Just FYI....no action needed....thx

-

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

From: [Redacted]
Date: Jun 30, 2021 10:58 AM
Subject: TFO BWC Question
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Hi: [Redacted] This is not a question I am familiar with.

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1

If more is needed, please let me know.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

-

On Jun 30, 2021 9:53 AM, [Redacted] wrote:
Hi [Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27



From: [redacted] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Automatic reply: TFO BWC Question
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: June 30, 2021 11:32 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

I will be out of the office on a family emergency for approximately one week. If you need **Immediate** attention please contact AGC [redacted]

[redacted] If this is a matter that can wait please email me at [redacted]

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Free for a quick call...
To: [REDACTED] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: June 30, 2021 11:46 AM (UTC-04:00)

b5 -2
b6 -1
b7C -1

[REDACTED]

Stephen

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

[REDACTED]

b7E -3

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: RE: Free for a quick call...
To: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: June 30, 2021 11:50 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Just call me when you're done. No urgency for me.

Stephen

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Free for a quick call...

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

I'm on a conference call about the [redacted] OIC tasking.

b6 -3
b7C -3

-
On Jun 30, 2021 11:46 AM, "Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)" [redacted] wrote:

b5 -2
b7E -3

[redacted]

Stephen

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

[redacted]

b7E -3

From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: RE: TFO BWC Question
To: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: June 30, 2021 12:14 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1

Thx much, Stephen.

On Jun 30, 2021 11:31 AM, "Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)" [redacted]

b5 -1,2
b7E -4,27

Just for your awareness [redacted]

[redacted]

Not sure if that helps, but that's basically where we are on the issue.

Stephen

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:00 AM
To: [redacted] Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: TFO BWC Question

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Just FYI....no action needed....thx

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

From: [redacted]
Date: Jun 30, 2021 10:58 AM
Subject: TFO BWC Question

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

[redacted] This is not a question I am familiar with.

[redacted]

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1

If more is needed, please let me know.

Thanks,

[redacted]

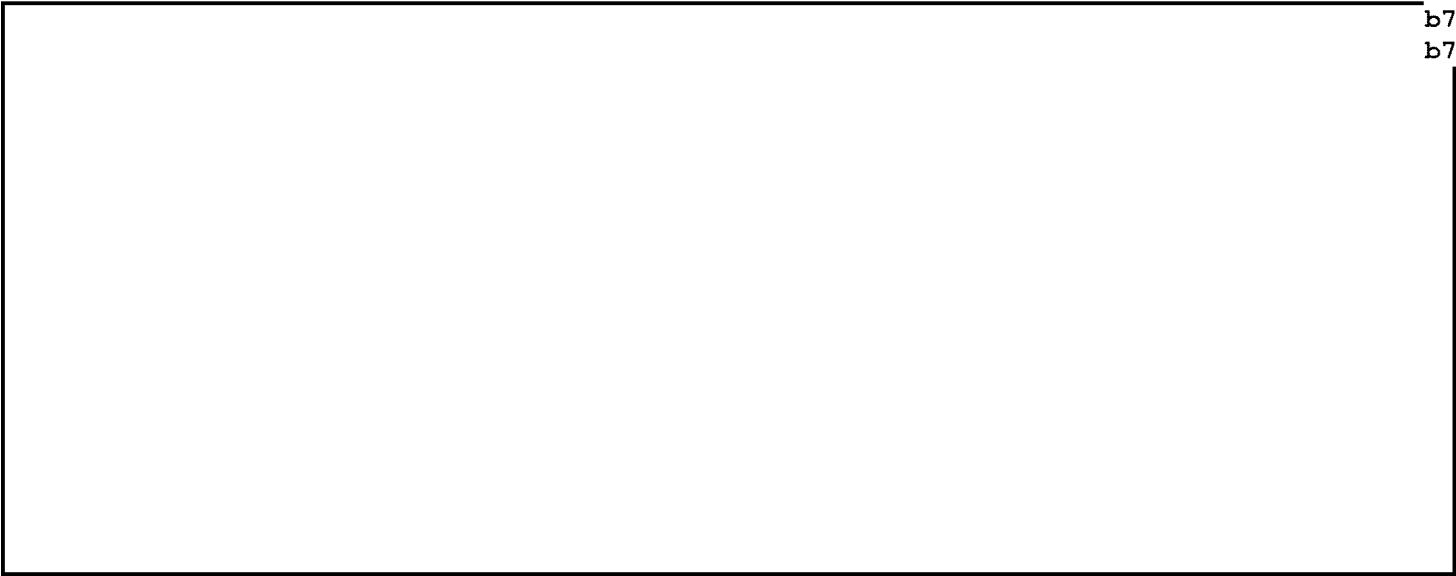
On Jun 30, 2021 9:53 AM, [redacted] wrote:

b6 -1
b7C -1

FBI (22-cv-00149) b7E -3

Hi

b5 -1,2
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -4,27



Dunham, Timothy M. (CID) (FBI)

Subject: BWC Policy
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 3:30 PM
End: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 4:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Dunham, Timothy M. (CID) (FBI)
Required Attendees: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); Feinberg, Matthew A. (CD) (FBI) (DO) (FBI)

b6 -1
b7C -1

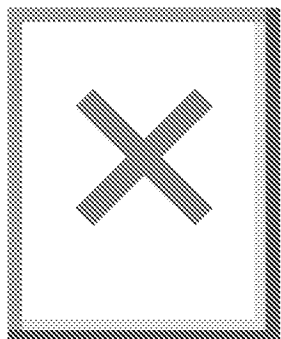
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[Learn more about Teams](#)

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs News Briefing Thursday, July 01, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 1, 2021 6:26 AM (UTC-04:00)

b7E -3

Mobile version and searchable archives available at [REDACTED]



TO : THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
DATE : THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021 6:30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS

House Votes To Create Select Committee To Investigate January 6 Riot.

The New York Times (6/30, Broadwater, 20.6M) reports that the House "voted mostly along party lines on Wednesday to create a select committee to investigate the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol, pushing ahead over Republican opposition with an inquiry into security failures and the origins of the deadliest attack on Congress in centuries."

The AP (6/30, Jalonick) reports that the vote to create the committee "was 222-190, with all but two Republicans objecting that majority Democrats would be in charge. The action came after Senate Republicans blocked creation of an independent commission that would have been evenly split between the two parties." The Los Angeles Times (6/30, Wire, 3.37M) reports that GOP leaders "urged their members to vote no on the bill, saying existing committees have the necessary authority to investigate and that the committee would be redundant and a distraction." CNN (6/30, Wilson, Foran, 89.21M) reports that the two Republicans who backed the panel, Reps. Liz Cheney (R-WY) and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), "have each faced backlash for their high-profile criticism of Trump."

The Washington Post (6/29, Demirjian, 10.52M) reports that House Speaker Pelosi "designed

the select committee to have 13 members, only five of whom would be appointed 'after consultation with the minority leader,' Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.). That means Pelosi will be able to select eight of the panel members herself, including its chairman, and maintain the power to overrule McCarthy for picking anyone Democrats consider objectionable." Politico (6/30, Wu, Ferris, 6.73M) reports that "many" in Pelosi's caucus "are still anxious about the prospect of Republicans starting another bitter fight by trying to appoint members who voted against certifying President Joe Biden's win. Even worse, in their minds, would be GOP riot investigators who some Democrats view as having abetted the attack."

For his part, Bloomberg (6/30, House, 3.57M) reports that McCarthy "said he hasn't decided whether he would appoint any Republicans to the panel. 'It's all partisan, you can see it,' he said in an interview."

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Wise, Levy, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that in a letter to her colleagues ahead of the vote, Pelosi wrote, "We have the duty, to the Constitution and the Country, to find the truth of the Jan. 6 Insurrection and to ensure that such an assault on our Democracy cannot happen again."

Fox News (6/30, Schultz, 23.99M) reports that the panel "is charged with investigating the circumstances surrounding the 'domestic terrorist attack' and issuing a final report with recommendations for corrective measures. There's no timetable for the work to be completed, meaning the committee could keep the Jan. 6 attack in the headlines well into the 2022 midterm election year." Reuters (6/30, Cornwell) reports that the panel "will have subpoena power, presumably allowing it to call [former President] Trump as a witness, said Carrie Cordero, a senior fellow at the Center for New American Security think tank. However, 'they'll have to make decisions about whether they want to engage in litigation over subpoenas,' she said."

Roll Call (6/30, Marquette, 130K) reports that the "parameters of the select committee are materially different than the commission that was proposed by House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., and ranking member John Katko, R-N.Y." The Thompson-Katko deal "would have had congressional leaders in both parties appoint 10 commissioners, providing an even split between Republicans and Democrats. Also, unlike the select committee, the commission had an end date of Dec. 31, 2021, and would have required Republican consent to issue subpoenas."

Giovanni Russonello, in a piece for the New York Times (6/30, 20.6M), interviews the paper's congressional reporter, Luke Broadwater, about how the committee will function and how it is perceived by Republicans.

Meanwhile, the New York Times (6/30, 20.6M) has created a 40-minute video presentation, created from a variety of sources, that attempts to show what actually occurred on January 6.

Biden Links Climate Change And Wildfires, Increases Firefighters' Pay.

The Washington Post (6/30, Sonmez, Itkowitz, Wagner, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, President Biden "announced a short-term boost in pay for federal firefighters and pledged to work for longer-term improvements in compensation as he convened a virtual meeting...with governors from Western states to combat what is shaping up to be a brutal wildfire season. ... Biden said he was taking short-term action to ensure that starting pay for federal fighters is at least \$15 an hour, a figure he called 'still not enough.'" The Post says Biden, "who was joined in person by several Cabinet secretaries as he addressed governors appearing on an array of screens," also "sounded the alarm more broadly on the impact of climate change and resulting drought and more intense fires." The AP (6/30, Madhani, Daly) reports that Biden, "recalling horrific scenes from wildfires in California and other states last year," said on Wednesday, "Orange skies look like end-of-days smoke and ash." Biden added, "Climate change is driving a dangerous confluence of extreme heat and prolonged drought. We're seeing wildfires of greater intensity that move with more speed."

The New York Times (6/30, Sanger, Flavelle, Montague, 20.6M) reports that Biden "discuss[ed] strategies to minimize weather-related disasters this summer. 'The truth is, we're playing catch-up,' Mr. Biden said, adding that he was surprised at the absence of federal attention to the details of firefighting when he came to office." Biden is quoted as saying, "Right now we have to act, and act fast." However, according to the Times, "Many of the proposals Mr. Biden

discussed at the governors' meeting – including a permanent raise for federal firefighters to roughly \$15 an hour, early satellite detection of fires and better firefighting equipment – are unlikely to be ready for the wildfire season that has already begun in parts of the West. ... The exception, Mr. Biden said Wednesday, would be some immediate bonuses for firefighters." Bloomberg (6/30, Jacobs, 3.57M) reports that "federal workers that continued to serve this wildfire season would receive a \$1,000 bonus." Bloomberg also says Biden "used the occasion to tout the nearly \$50 billion for wildfire prevention and risk mitigation efforts in the bipartisan infrastructure framework currently being debated on Capitol Hill."

The Los Angeles Times (6/30, Phillips, 3.37M) reports that Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA) "praised Biden for his focus on wildfires and climate change, saying that California and Washington, D.C., had previously been 'sparring partners, not working partners.'" Newsom said, "I've been waiting 4½ years to hear a president say what you just said."

Politico (6/30, Gibson, 6.73M) reports that "at the mixed in-person and virtual roundtable hosted by the White House, Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and more than a dozen federal officials spoke to Western state Govs. Newsom, Kate Brown (D-Ore.), Spencer Cox (R-Utah), Mark Gordon (R-Wyo.), Jay Inslee (D-Wash.), Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.), Jared Polis (D-Colo.), and Steve Sisolak (D-Nev.)."

More broadly, Reuters (6/30) says that Biden and the Democrats "want billions of dollars from Congress to blunt climate change. Some Republicans have played down the severity of climate change, with some branding it a hoax. The conflict over this and other spending measures is likely to dominate the summer in Washington, a season of wildfires and hurricanes."

Heat Wave Eases In Places, But Remains Serious. Reuters (6/30, Warburton, Olmos) reports that the "heat wave that has scorched much of western Canada and the U.S. Northwest eased on Wednesday after smashing record high temperatures throughout the region this week, but officials were still bracing for more sizzling temperatures and the threat of wildfires." The Hill (6/30, 5.69M) reports that the heat wave "lingering over the Pacific Northwest since Friday has led to dozens of deaths and hundreds of hospitalizations in both the U.S. and Canada." The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Elinson, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the heat wave caused at least 45 deaths in the Portland, Oregon region.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg (6/30, Chediak, 3.57M) reports that New York City "is urging all of its 8.4 million residents to conserve electricity to avoid outages as a brutal heat wave peaks, becoming the latest region to have its power grid tested this year by extreme weather." Mayor Bill de Blasio said Thursday, "We have a real challenge on our hands. Immediately reduce the use of electricity in your home or in your business. This is very serious stuff."

The nightly news broadcasts portrayed the extreme weather in near-apocalyptic terms, highlighting its deadliness. The CBS Evening News (6/30, story 2, 2:55, O'Donnell, 3.63M) reported that "the dangerous and historic heat wave in the Pacific Northwest is slowly loosening its grip, but more than 50 million Americans remain under heat alerts on both sides of the try." CBS (Lenghi) added, "Life-threatening heat continues to bear down on both coasts, and the death toll is rising." Biden said, "People are hurting. It's more dangerous for kids to play outside. Roads are buckling under the heat."

ABC World News Tonight (6/30, story 3, 1:15, Davis, 5.83M) reported, "The deadly heat wave on both coasts. Fifty million people under heat alerts tonight. Deaths rising from that historic heat wave in the Pacific Northwest. Nearly four dozen people passing away in the Portland, Oregon, area alone. Heat emergencies in DC, Philly and Boston again tonight. Boston firefighters battling a four-alarm fire in triple digit heat and Boston in the past 24 hours. New York City sending out emergency alerts to conserve energy. A power line catching fire and traffic lights going dark. And as we head into the night, a severe thunderstorm watch for much of the northeast."

NBC Nightly News (6/30, story 4, 1:40, Holt, 5M) reported, "Dangerous, deadly and unprecedented, another day of record heat gripping the northeast and parts of the northwest." NBC (Llamas) added, "Tonight, that dangerous heat melting the Big Apple. Record highs at La Guardia airport and nearby Newark. New Yorkers told not to crank the AC. ... Eleven states under heat alerts on the east coast."

WPost: Americans Should Get Used To Such Extremes. The Washington Post (6/30,

10.52M), in an editorial, says that Americans "should get used to terms such as 'heat dome' and 'megadrought.' The sorts of extreme weather events that experts warned would become increasingly frequent are occurring. Searing temperatures across the Pacific Northwest are just the latest example." While "it will take scientists more time to attribute this particular episode to climate change," it is "already clear that baseline temperatures that seem only mildly higher produce more extreme events, more often." The Post concludes, "The sooner the world weans itself off carbon-emitting forms of energy, the better chance human beings have of preventing widespread suffering."

Biden Expected To Meet With DeSantis, Bereaved In Surfside On Thursday.

Politico (6/30, Caputo, 6.73M) reports that on Thursday, President Biden "will make his first trip to Florida as president to meet with the families of the dead and missing" in Surfside, and "will likely appear beside Florida's Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, seen as a top-tier potential presidential candidate who might challenge Biden's reelection in three years." According to Politico, "The White House and Florida governor's office in Tallahassee are in talks to figure out each man's schedule and whether and how each man will appear together on camera – essentially, what political professionals call the 'optics' of such visits – at the same time the agencies under them are coordinating their response."

Meanwhile, the New York Times (6/30, Barry, 20.6M) compares the catastrophe to the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, saying "for anyone who recalls the fresh days following the World Trade Center catastrophe – 20 years ago this September – the reports and images from Surfside are almost too familiar, no matter that the Champlain building was roughly one-tenth the height of the 110-story twin towers. The two events are bound by the human and technical rhythms of disaster."

Death Toll From Surfside Disaster Rises To 18. Reuters (6/30) reports that "Six more bodies have been found in the shattered ruins of a Miami-area condominium tower over the past 24 hours, officials said on Wednesday, bringing the confirmed death toll to 18 nearly a week after the building collapsed." Mayor Daniella Levine Cava "told a news conference there were 147 people still unaccounted for." The AP (6/30, Bynum) adds that the remains recovered on Wednesday included "included the first children, ages 4 and 10, a loss that the Miami-Dade mayor called 'too great to bear.'" USA Today (6/30, 12.7M) adds that "as families cling to fading hope, Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett said many have asked him when efforts will turn from a rescue to a recovery mission and wondered how long a person could survive under the heaps of rubble."

The New York Times (6/30, Heyward, Fausset, 20.6M) and the Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M) also carry updates on the Surfside disaster and rescue mission. And, in another article, USA Today (6/30, 12.7M) profiles a family that was stranded in Florida as a result of the disaster.

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

US Arrests More Than A Dozen In Capitol Siege Probe.

The Washington Post (6/30, Hsu, Weiner, 10.52M) reports, "More than a dozen arrests in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot were announced or unsealed Wednesday, revealing charges against alleged supporters of extremist right-wing groups including the Oath Keepers, Proud Boys and Boogaloo Bois, and individuals accused of attacking the property of news media." According to the Post, "The arrests ranked among the most made public in a single day and came as an alleged Oath Keepers member reached an unexpected plea deal with prosecutors in the largest conspiracy case brought against those accused of obstructing Congress as it met to confirm the 2020 election results." Mark Grods "became the second from the anti-government group publicly to flip in the 16-defendant conspiracy case and cooperate with prosecutors in the latest sign of movement in the investigation. In court Wednesday, he admitted to two federal counts of conspiracy and aiding and abetting the obstruction of an official proceeding."

Man Charged In Capitol Siege Probe Captured In Texas.

USA Today (6/30, 12.7M) reports, "A man accused of destroying media property and breaching the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 was apprehended by federal authorities in Austin earlier this week, the Department of Justice said." Zvonimir Joseph Jurlina "was arrested on Monday and charged with destruction of property in special maritime and territorial jurisdiction and aiding and abetting, as well as an act of physical violence on grounds, the Justice Department said. Authorities did not say in Jurlina's arrest affidavit where he was arrested in Austin or why he was in the city as he was matched to two addresses in New York. Jurlina is one of dozens who have been arrested in Texas in relation to the insurrection. The growing list of suspects includes at least 41 Texans." USA Today adds, "The FBI used public video that Jurlina uploaded onto YouTube to tie him to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol."

Newsweek (6/30, Hutzler, 2.67M) reports, "Prosecutors allege that Jurlina was part of a crowd that assaulted a media staging area shortly before 5 p.m. on Jan. 6. Members of the press were forced to flee as the large crowd moved past metal barricades and began destroying cameras, tripods, shades and other remote broadcasting equipment. 'Numerous members of the crowd yelled inflammatory rhetoric against the members of the media,' the affidavit read. One member of the press said their news organization had \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of equipment destroyed, the affidavit said." The FBI "posted photographs of the media stage assault and asked for the public's assistance in identifying the individuals involved. FBI agents identified Jurlina through a 12-part series of live-stream videos he posted to YouTube from the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6."

Weapons Found In Home Of Virginia Officer Charged In Capitol Siege Probe.

WLSL-TV Roanoke, VA (6/30, Williamson, 171K) reports from Rocky Mount, Virginia, "A former Rocky Mount police officer charged in connection with the riots at the U.S. Capitol may soon be in federal custody." WLSL-TV adds, "On Wednesday, the United States filed a motion to have Thomas Robertson detained pending trial for 'substantial violations of the terms of his pre-trial release,' according to federal court documents. Robertson is one of two former Rocky Mount police officers charged in connection with the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. While executing a search warrant at Robertson's property in Ferrum on Tuesday, authorities said they found a loaded M4 rifle, a partially-assembled pipe bomb and they seized several span cans of ammunition and two boxes of 7.62 ammunition."

WDBJ-TV Roanoke, VA (6/30, Scachetti, 73K) reports, "While investigating his alleged involvement in the Capitol attack, FBI agents say they found evidence Robertson has been buying and selling guns online. They searched his home Tuesday, saying they found a loaded M4 rifle, ammunition and a partially assembled pipe bomb. Photos of what the FBI says was a partially assembled pipe bomb in the home of a former police officer charged after the January 2021 DC riot"

FBI Arrests Two Massachusetts Men In Capitol Siege Probe.

The Springfield (MA) Republican (6/30, Hook, 592K) reports, "Law enforcement officers with Boston's Federal Bureau of Investigations Joint Terrorism Task Force have arrested Noah Bacon of Somerville and Chase Allen of Seekonk for their alleged roles in the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol." The Republican adds, "According to a press release issued by the FBUI Wednesday afternoon, the two latest arrests bring the total number of those arrested by the FBI's Boston Division to 10. The arrest warrant for both men for 'Knowingly Entering or Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds Without Lawful' among other charges was signed on Tuesday by United States District Court Judge Harvey G. Michael."

The Attleboro (MA) Sun Chronicle (6/30, Peterson, Linton, 11K) reports from Seekonk, Massachusetts, "The FBI arrested a man in Seekonk Wednesday for his alleged involvement in the riot at the U.S. Capitol in January." Chase Kevin Allen, 25, "formerly of Seekonk and now of Reno, Nev., was released conditionally after an initial appearance via video in U.S. District Court in Boston. He was arrested without incident by the FBI in Seekonk on a federal warrant charging him with destruction or injury to buildings or property in special maritime and territorial jurisdiction as well as an act of physical violence on the Capitol grounds, the FBI said."

Boston (6/30, 538K) reports, "Tips led to the arrests of Bacon and Allen, who participated in the riots in different capacities, according to charging documents shared by the FBI Boston office. Security footage showed Bacon present during attempts to overcome the line of officers, though he doesn't appear to push anyone. Charging documents describe him pushing through the rioters once law enforcement was overwhelmed, and heading up to the third floor. CSPAN footage shows Bacon inside the Senate Chamber for about 10 minutes."

WLNE-TV Providence, RI (6/30, Poitras), WBTS-TV Boston (6/30, Klein, 83K), and WBZ-TV Boston (6/30, 92K) also report.

"QAnon Shaman" Is Reportedly Cooperating With FBI In Capitol Siege Probe.

The Arizona Republic (6/30, Ruelas, 1.05M) reports, "An attorney for Jake Angeli, the Phoenix man who became a signature figure in the Jan. 6 raid on the U.S. Capitol when he participated with painted face and a fur helmet with horns, argued Wednesday his client poses no danger and should be released from jail." The Republic adds, "Angeli, according to his attorney, has also been cooperating with federal authorities, including providing them with video footage. Angeli has detailed for the FBI how he traveled to D.C. in January, his attorney said. In arguments held by telephone in the Washington, D.C., circuit court, Albert Watkins argued that his client, Angeli, was a peaceful man who was languishing while being held in solitary confinement. Watkins said that even the most mentally fit person would 'turn into a blithering idiot' under such conditions. Judge Royce Lamberth ended the hearing by saying he would consider the matter and issue a ruling shortly."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Iowa Woman Sentenced For Damaging Pipeline.

The Ottumwa (IA) Courier (6/30, Ocker, 30K) reports from Des Moines, Iowa, "One of the two women who damaged portions of the Dakota Access Pipeline has been sentenced to prison and ordered to pay nearly \$3.2 million in restitution." Jessica Rae Reznicek, 39, of Des Moines, "was sentenced Wednesday to eight years in federal prison. She had taken a plea agreement and entered a guilty plea to one charge of conspiracy to damage an energy facility. The charge carried a possible sentence of up to 20 years. In addition to prison time, Reznicek was ordered to pay \$3,198,512.70 in restitution and will serve three years of supervised release following her prison term. A co-defendant, Ruby Montoya, also of Des Moines, is awaiting sentencing." The Courier adds, "Authorities said Reznicek and Montoya conspired with others to damage the Dakota Access Pipeline in several locations, including in Wapello and Mahaska counties."

Operation Flashpoint Event Starts in Clinton, MS.

WAPT-TV Jackson, MS (6/30, Gordon, 75K) reports that the first Operation Flashpoint event was hosted Wednesday in Clinton, Mississippi by CISA and the FBI. "The goal of the 90-day program is to encourage both businesses and the community to voluntarily report suspicious activity. They're asked to report anyone who is buying large amounts of a combination of certain chemicals and materials." WJTV-TV Jackson, MS (6/30) also reports.

TikTok Says It Removed More Than 300,000 Videos In First Three Months Of 2021 For Spreading "Violent Extremism."

Insider (6/30, Perrett, 2.74M) reports, "TikTok announced Wednesday that it removed more than 300,000 videos for violating its policy on 'violent extremism' in the first three months of 2021. In total, the company announced it removed more than 61 million videos for various violations of its community guidelines in the first three months of this year." Insider adds, "The numbers come from its first transparency report of 2021, which covers content posted to the platform during the first quarter of the year, from January 1 through March 31. The company began releasing transparency reports in 2019, though previous reports were released bi-annually rather than quarterly. Of these 'violent' videos, 82.1% were removed before users reported them to the

company, and 87.1% of them were removed within 24 hours of being posted on TikTok, the company said Wednesday."

DHS Warns Of Potential For Summer Violence By Right-Wing Extremists.

CNN (6/30, Cohen, Sands, 89.21M) reports that DHS officials "are warning that the same sort of rhetoric and false narratives that fueled the January 6 attack on the US Capitol could lead to more violence this summer by right-wing extremists." CNN adds, "A growing belief among some Donald Trump supporters that the former President will be reinstated in August, coupled with relaxed Covid-19 restrictions, has DHS officials concerned that online rhetoric and threats could translate into actual violence in the coming months as more people are out and in public places." According to CNN, "The August theory is essentially a recycled version of other false narratives pushed by Trump and his allies leading up to and after January 6, prompting familiar rhetoric from those who remain in denial about his 2020 election loss. But the concern is significant enough that DHS issued two warnings in the past week about the potential for violence this summer."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Carlson Echoes McCarthy's Call For Probe Into NSA.

Fox News (6/30, Creitz, 23.99M) reports Fox News host Tucker Carlson "joined the calls from at least two Republican lawmakers for a full investigation into the National Security Agency (NSA) allegedly spying on his texts and emails" after the agency denied he is the "target" of a surveillance investigation. Carlson reiterated Wednesday "that he does not make the claim lightly, and that the NSA's statement on Tuesday does not directly deny any spying has or is taking place; only that he" is not the "target." On Wednesday's program, Carlson "praised Reps. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., and Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., following their calls for an investigation into the potential that the NSA is or was in possession of data from his texts and/or email messages." The Hill (6/30, Vakil, 5.69M) reports McCarthy "announced on Wednesday that he asked Rep. Devin Nunes, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee," to look into the allegations.

Newsweek (6/30, Aila Slisco, 2.67M) reports McCarthy said the NSA "cannot be used as a political instrument, and House Republicans will ensure accountability and transparency."

Among outlets also reporting are BBC News (6/30, 876K), The Hill (6/30, Mastrangelo, 5.69M), The Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M), The Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M), Forbes (6/30, Wilson, 10.33M), and The Washington Examiner (6/30, Larsen, 888K).

Microsoft Exec Says US Overuses Secret Orders For Americans' Data.

Reuters (6/30, Satter) reports that the US government "is overusing its secret subpoena power to routinely gather vast amounts of data on American internet users, a senior Microsoft executive said in prepared testimony to Congress released on Wednesday." Microsoft VP for Customer Security and Trust Tom Burt "said that American law enforcement was ordering Microsoft to stay quiet about between one third to one quarter of the requests for data that it received." The panel called a hearing "into secrecy orders in the wake of revelations that the U.S. Department of Justice during Donald Trump's administration had secretly sought the phone records of reporters and Democratic representatives to investigate the leak of classified material."

Director Of Naval Intelligence Praises Increased Cooperation With ODNI.

Defense News (6/30, Pomerleau, 73K) reports senior military leaders "predict the U.S. will fight against sophisticated adversaries, and rapid integration as well as data and capability sharing will be crucial." Speaking at the WEST 2021 virtual conference on Wednesday, Vice Adm. Jeffrey Trussler, deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare and director of naval intelligence, said, "[Am I] satisfied with where we sit right now? No. Am I bullish that we are absolutely headed in the right direction? Yes." Trussler "said Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines has repurposed the three-star military official within her office that previously served as the deputy director of national intelligence for national security partnerships. That official now

more closely collaborates with the military services." Just within "the last week or so, Haines hosted an event with the service intelligence officials, the undersecretary of defense for intelligence and security, and the Defense Intelligence Agency to demonstrate capabilities."

Former CIA Operative To Publish Memoir.

The AP (6/30) reports a former CIA operative "known for his exploits everywhere from Miami to Nicaragua to Afghanistan has a book deal." Enrique Prado's "Black Ops: The Life of a CIA Shadow Warrior" is scheduled to be published next March. Prado said in a statement Wednesday, "A lot has been said about the CIA over the years," and that he hopes "to clear the name of my agency. I know the untold sacrifices that have been made for this country by devoted men and women who have served anonymously, as quiet heroes. I'm eager to share those stories now."

Haines Interviewed By Yahoo! News On Cyberattacks, Climate, Domestic Terrorism.

Yahoo! News (6/30, 10.87M) Editor in Chief Daniel Klaidman conducted a 5,500-word interview with DNI Haines on a range of topics including "why she believes it is entirely possible we will never know the true source of the COVID-19 pandemic, why in the wake of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol her office has a legitimate role to play in the fight against purely domestic terrorism, and why the intelligence community 'simply cannot succeed' without a 'diverse and talented workforce.'" Haines said a 90-day review by the intelligence community of COVID-19's origin is "really a direction to redouble our efforts, to think of every possible additional source of information that we could unearth to try to answer this question." Haines adds, "I feel very blessed for having policymakers who recognize that we may not have an answer at the end of the day, that we're just going to do our damndest to try to get to an answer."

Intelligence Community CISO "Sees A More Data-Centric Future."

NextGov (6/30, Vincent) reports America's intelligence community chief information security officer "plans to pursue efforts to help grow the cybersecurity workforce and foster more data-centric operational approaches as the uncertain future of technology unfolds." ODNI IC CISO Matt Conner said at Splunk's GovSummit Tuesday, "The cybersecurity apparatus is still geared around a traditional definition of systems – you know, full-stack, storage, compute, processing – all in one device. I think that we don't talk enough about data: data integrity, data security." During the virtual event Conner, "explained the IC wants to realize a future that involves some commercial off-the-shelf services, discoverable data and knowledge management." Officials are already "intentional about this within ODNI." Conner pointed to ODNI's "move to the cloud as an example, noting that it's refactoring applications to separate data from applications so that the data can be discoverable and consumed by analysts, regardless of fabric or variables of mission and location."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Allison Mack Sentenced To Three Years In NXIVM Probe.

The AP (6/30, Hays) reports from New York, "TV actor Allison Mack, who played a key role in the scandal-ridden, cult-like group NXIVM, was sentenced to three years in prison Wednesday on charges she manipulated women into becoming sex slaves for the group's spiritual leader." Mack, "best known for her role as a young Superman's close friend on the series 'Smallville,'" had "previously pleaded guilty to the charges and began cooperating against NXIVM leader Keith Raniere. Prosecutors credited her with helping them mount evidence showing how Raniere created a secret society of brainwashed women who were branded with his initials." Mack "wept at times while reading her statement to the court. U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis told her he believed her apology was sincere, but said she deserved a serious sentence for using her celebrity to groom victims as 'a willing and proactive ally' and 'essential accomplice to Raniere's monstrous crimes.'" The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports.

One Shooting Defendant Pleads Not Guilty, Other Seeks Youthful Offender Status.

The [Decatur \(AL\) Daily](#) (6/30, Wetzel, 53K) reports that one of the two defendants in the septuple killing, Frederic Allen Rogers, 23, in Morgan County in June 2020 pleaded not guilty "by reason of mental disease and mental defect," while the other, John Michael Legg, 20, requested "youthful offender status" Tuesday.

Norfolk Man Sentenced To Life In Prison For Kidnapping Resulting In Death.

[KFAB-AM Omaha, NE](#) (6/30, Bertino, 1K) reports that Ramon Simpson, 51, of Norfolk, Nebraska, was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping Phyllis Hunhoff. Hunhoff would be found inside her vehicle on the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation, killed by stabbing and strangulation.

[KCAU-TV Sioux City, IA](#) (6/30, Sanderson) reports that Hunhoff was a resident of Yankton, South Dakota and was abducted while travelling back from her mothers home in Utica, South Dakota. Ramon Simpson, Joseph James, and other men were seen on footage entering Hunhoff's vehicle outside her mother's house and driving her to Norfolk.

Montana Man Arraigned On Federal Firearm Charges And Hate Crime Charges.

[KXLF-TV Butte, MT](#) (6/30) reports that John Russell Howald, 44, pleaded not guilty to an indictment accusing Howald of discharging a firearm into an individual's house who he believed to be homosexual.

Salem Drug Gang Tied To Shootings Against Rivals.

The [Salem \(MA\) News](#) (6/30, Manganis, 60K) reports that two alleged gang leaders and two women were arrested Wednesday. The gang leaders are "alleged to be involved in selling thousands of counterfeit Percocets that actually contained fentanyl and openly discussing retaliatory shootings against rival gangs." Vincent Caruso, 26, and Ernest Johnson, 33, face "multiple conspiracy counts involving fentanyl, firearms and money laundering. Caruso is also charged with conspiracy to possess a machine to manufacture pills." Laurie Caruso, 51, of Lynn, and Nicole Benton, 45, of Saugus also face conspiracy charges involving money laundering and fentanyl.

Eleven Arrested In Colorado For Attempting To Entice Children.

The [Denver Gazette](#) (6/30, Mullen) reports that 11 men were arrested last week for attempting to arrange sexual encounters with children in northern Colorado. Operation Greeley Predators took place on Friday and Saturday, and involved the Greeley Police Department, DHS, FBI, Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Colorado State Patrol, and Windsor Police Department. The 11 suspects have been identified as "Omar Faruk, 25, of Greeley, Dean Forbes, 25, of Fort Morgan, Gustavo Garza, 47, of Greeley, Brian Homola, 43, of Loveland, Khary Amin Harry King, 43, of Estes Park, Gilberto Luxlux, 38, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Ryan Mannon, 42, of Greeley, Sean McCarthy, 38, of Eldorado Springs, Poe Reh, 35, of Greeley, Brandon Salazar, 29, of Fort Collins, & Thor White, 34, of Greeley."

Connecticut Man Indicted On Two Counts Of Child Pornography Production.

The [New Haven \(CT\) Patch](#) (6/30, Santiago, 1.44M) reports that a federal grand jury has "indicted Edward Walker, 48, of New Haven, on two counts of production of child pornography." In June and July 2019, Walker has been accused of enticing and employing "a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing two videos of that conduct."

Six Missouri And Illinois Men Face Federal Charges Over Sex With Minors.

[KTVI-TV St. Louis](#) (6/30, 289K) reports that six men from Missouri and Illinois, Eric E. Hamilton II, 22, Godfrey C. Hubbard, 52, Justin Schneider, 33, Christopher M. Simmons, 30, Michael James Smith, 39, and James Tiroch, 37, face federal charges for attempting to have sex with minors.

The [Southern Illinoisan](#) (6/30, 14K) reports that all are charged with attempted enticement of a minor, and Hamilton and Simmons are also "charged with traveling across state lines with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct." Simmons is also charged with "attempted commercial

sex trafficking of a child.”

RiverBender (IL) (6/30, Brannan) reports that all six defendants “are accused of using the internet to entice someone under 17 years old to engage in unlawful sexual activity and traveling to a specific location to engage in sexual acts with a minor.”

“Operation Sockeye” Nets 119 Fugitives In South-Central Alaska.

Alaska Native News (6/30) reports that a two-week initiative in Alaska to arrest the state’s most violent fugitives, Operation Sockeye, has resulted in the arrest of 119 fugitives. From June 14-26, 2021, 15 law enforcement agencies arrested 119 throughout south-central Alaska, and “seized 15 firearms, 145 rounds of ammunition, over 100 grams of narcotics, \$14,231.00 U.S. currency, 15 fraudulent checks and recovered 2 stolen vehicles and 1 snow-machine.”

FBI And Yonkers Gang Unit Conduct Raid To Serve Fed Warrant.

The White Plains (NY) Patch (6/30, Edwards, 1.44M) reports that the Yonkers Police Department Gang Unit and FBI served a federal arrest warrant in Yonkers Wednesday morning. “Several suspects were reportedly taken into custody at the address.”

Seattle Police Officer Shoots Man In Midst Of Serving Search Warrant.

The AP (6/30) reports that a “Seattle police officer shot a man in Puyallup while serving a search warrant amid a probe into organized crime and drug trafficking.” The officer was “working with a federal task force that served 19 search and arrest warrants, confiscating nearly 50 firearms and drugs. Diaz said two firearms were “found in the vicinity” of where the man fell outside a house in Puyallup.” The shot man, his name as of yet unreleased, was taken to a hospital for treatment.

The Seattle Times (6/30, Carter, 1.19M) reports, “According to a 173-page search warrant unsealed Wednesday in U.S. District Court, the occupant of the home was under surveillance for being a ‘multi-ounce cocaine redistributor’ working with other targets of the investigation, which employed judge-authorized telephone taps, surveillance, and undercover purchases. The warrant stated that agents believed cocaine was kept at the residence. The shooting is under investigation, Diaz said. The officer was wearing a body camera and the chief said video would be made public within the next few days. The man’s injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, officials said. Seattle police were in the Pierce County city to assist the FBI with the investigation into organized crime and ‘armed drug traffickers,’ according to the bureau. A specialized task force was serving multiple arrest and search warrants throughout the area.”

Man Sentenced To Over A Decade In Prison After Second Child Porn Conviction.

The AP (6/30) reports that Bradley Edward Corley, 46, of Marrero, Louisiana, was sentenced Tuesday to 10 years and 10 months in prison for possession of child pornography. Corley had previously been convicted for possession of child pornography in 2006.

FBI And Local Police Raid North Providence Locations In Prostitution Sting.

GoLocalProv (RI) (6/29, Nagle) reports that FBI agents and members of the Providence and North Providence Police conducted multiple raids on several North Providence areas Monday. Witnesses report women being removed from a home at 40 High Service Avenue in North Providence.

FBI Searching For Robbery Suspect Who Exchanged Gunfire With Agents In Kentucky.

WDRB-TV Louisville, KY (6/30, 303K) reports from Louisville, Kentucky, “Federal authorities are still searching for an armed robbery suspect who exchanged gunfire with the FBI in Lexington last week.” WDRB-TV adds, “According to a statement from FBI Louisville, agents were going to serve Antonio ‘Tony’ Cotton with a fugitive warrant in Lexington, when ‘the FBI exchanged gunfire with Cotton.’ The FBI says Cotton is wanted for zip tying two employees at two Dollar Tree stores in Michigan and robbing them at gunpoint. Police say Cotton got away with nearly \$12,000 and removed security cameras at one of the stores on his way out. Cotton is ‘armed and dangerous,’ according to the FBI. ‘We believe he has ties to a number of different locations across metro

Detroit, and he also has family and colleagues down in Kentucky. So he may be traveling between here and there,' FBI Special Agent Mara Schneider said."

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Tosses Cosby's Sexual Assault Conviction.

The AP (6/30, Dale) reports, "Pennsylvania's highest court threw out Bill Cosby's sexual assault conviction and released him from prison Wednesday in a stunning reversal of fortune for the comedian once known as 'America's Dad,' ruling that the prosecutor who brought the case was bound by his predecessor's agreement not to charge Cosby." Cosby was released "after serving nearly three years of a three- to 10-year sentence for drugging and violating Temple University sports administrator Andrea Constand in 2004." According to the AP, "Cosby was arrested in 2015, when a district attorney armed with newly unsealed evidence...filed charges against him just days before the 12-year statute of limitations was about to run out," but "the Pennsylvania Supreme Court said Wednesday that District Attorney Kevin Steele, who made the decision to arrest Cosby, was obligated to stand by his predecessor's promise not to charge Cosby, though there was no evidence that agreement was ever put in writing."

ABC World News Tonight (6/30, lead story, 4:25, Davis, 5.83M) reported, "Their 79-page decision stating, in accordance with the advice of his attorneys, Cosby relied upon DA Castor's public announcement that he would not be prosecuted. But Castor's successor used Cosby's testimony as a key piece of evidence, more than a decade later, to file criminal charges against the comedian. Cosby later convicted of drugging and sexually assaulting Constand, serving two of his three to ten-year sentence before his release today. The court also barring further prosecution against Cosby in the Constand case."

ABC World News Tonight (6/30, story 2, 1:25, Davis, 5.83M) reported that ABC News chief legal analyst Dan Abrams said that the court "made no judgment about the facts of the case. The underlying truth of what happened here. What they did say is that that assurance made by the DA, the first DA, led Bill Cosby to answer questions in the civil case that he wouldn't have otherwise answered. He would have, might have invoked his right against self-incrimination. New DA comes in, says, we want to use those statements, uses the statements and the Pennsylvania supreme court ruled that the entirety of that was fundamentally unfair, so much so that they weren't going to just order a new trial, they were literally going to dismiss the charges and say that Bill Cosby cannot be retried again for these charges."

Montana Police Chief Denies Child Porn Charges.

The AP (6/30) reports that in federal court on Tuesday, William Daly Harrington, the former chief of the East Helena Police Department in Montana, pleaded not guilty "to three counts of distributing and one count of possessing child pornography." The AP says that "according to the criminal complaint, an FBI agent received a tip from Facebook in September 2020 that an account that was later determined to belong to Harrington shared a sexually explicit image involving a girl who was about 10 years old."

Alabama Men Appear On Charges In Seven-Person Homicide.

WHNT-TV Huntsville, AL (6/29, 351K) reports that on Tuesday, Frederic Allen Rogers and John Michael Legg appeared in court to face charges for their roles in the murders of seven people in Morgan County, Alabama. Rogers pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental defect while Legg did not enter a plea. WHNT explains that Rogers and Legg shot and killed William Zane Hodgin, Jeremy Roberts, James Benford, Roger Jones Jr., Emily Payne, Tammy England Muzzey, and Dakota Green after they became spooked that Roberts "had committed a crime that would get them in trouble." An FBI agent "testified in their preliminary hearing that Rogers said after his arrest that he and Legg went to the home, killed everyone, set the house on fire and then left to go get some marijuana."

FBI Investigating Of Shooting Death Of USNA Mother.

The AP (6/30) reports that early on Tuesday, Michelle Cummings, a Houston resident, was killed

by "a stray bullet" outside the Graduate Hotel in Annapolis shortly after she dropped off her son, Midshipman Candidate Leonard Cummings III, at the US Naval Academy. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (6/30, Dubose, 629K) explains that according to police, "The intended targets of the shooting were two people sitting in a parked SUV, both of whom were unharmed. ... Cummings, who was not the intended target, was struck at least once by gunfire." [WTIG-TV](#) Washington (6/30, Ramirez, 168K) reports that the FBI and ATF "are joining the effort to find the suspect – or suspect – responsible for the stray bullet that killed the mother of a prospective US Naval Academy Midshipman." [Fox News](#) (6/30, 23.99M) adds that on Wednesday, the two agencies "announced...a \$20,000 reward for information leading to an arrest." [USA News Lab](#) (6/30) also reports on the incident.

Continuing Coverage: FBI Says Amateur Football Team Debts Prompted Indiana Bank Robbery That Left Guard Dead.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (6/30, 970K) reports according to federal prosecutors, Hailey Gist-Holden and James Anthony King Jr. killed security guard Richard Castellana because they needed \$10,000 "to pay off bills of an amateur football team." Both men face charges "of armed bank robbery, using a firearm during the robber, and causing death." The [Tinley Park \(IL\) Patch](#) (6/30, 1.44M) also reports on the case.

Arizona Man Arrested In Foiled Bank Robbery Attempt.

[KTAR-FM](#) Glendale, AZ (6/30, 37K) reports that on Wednesday, local police in Glendale, Arizona arrested Anekin Genesis after he "allegedly attempting to rob a bank by telling employees he had a bomb." KTAR says that bank employees hid during the incident and Genesis left without any money, but was found by police in bushes near the bank. KTAR notes that the FBI's Phoenix field office assisted with the investigation.

Six Minnesota Men Charged With Conspiracy To Distribute Marijuana.

The [AP](#) (6/30) reports Minnesota residents Danny Gehl Jr., David Gehl, Douglas Finch, Frank Kittleson, Patric Maykoski and Daniel Thomas "have been arrested for allegedly distributing" a large amount marijuana that was shipped to their state from California. The suspects "are charged with conspiracy to distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (6/30, Mannix, 855K) reports the suspects allegedly participated "in a sophisticated trafficking operation that federal authorities say may be responsible for importing thousands of pounds of marijuana products into Minnesota."

Drug Investigation In State Of Washington Leads To 12 Arrests.

An online [KING-TV](#) Seattle (6/30, 417K) article covers the FBI's involvement in a drug investigation that included a warrant operation in the state of Washington. The 12 people who were arrested during Wednesday's operation are "suspected of drug trafficking and other crimes." On its website, [KCPC-TV](#) Seattle (6/30, 148K) quotes "Donald M. Voiret, FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Seattle Field Office." Voiret stated, "Over the course of two years, more than 250 FBI employees have contributed to this investigation to fight back against this widespread drug-dealing conspiracy." Voiret added, "I am incredibly proud of the hard work of my office and our partners to remove dozens of firearms and toxic drugs such as fentanyl and cocaine from our communities." The [Kent \(WA\) Reporter](#) (6/30, Hunter, 90K) also highlights Voiret's remarks.

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Trump Organization, CFO Indicted By New York Grand Jury.

The [AP](#) (6/30, Sisak) reports the Trump Organization, former President Donald Trump's namesake company and Trump's "longtime finance chief" Allen Weisselberg, "have been indicted on charges stemming from a New York investigation into the former president's business dealings, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press." The charges "remained sealed Wednesday night, but were expected to involve alleged tax violations related to benefits the company gave to

top executives, possibly including use of apartments, cars and school tuition, people familiar with the case said."

The Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M) cites "two people familiar with the plan" who said Weisselberg "is expected to surrender Thursday morning at the office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. (D). ... He is expected to be arraigned later in the day in front of a state court judge. The Trump Organization will also be arraigned, represented in court by one of its attorneys." The charges "are the first to result from the investigations by Vance and New York Attorney General Letitia James (D) and represent a dramatic turn in the long-running probes." The Post says while Trump "is not expected to be charged this week," the indictments "could mark a significant escalation in his legal problems — both by exposing his company to potential fines and by raising the pressure on Weisselberg," who prosecutors hope will offer testimony against the former President "in exchange for lessening his own risk, according to another person familiar with the case."

The New York Times (6/30, Rothfeld, Bromwich, Protess, 20.6M) calls the charges "a blow to Mr. Trump, who has denounced the investigation as political persecution. Although he could rally supporters around the idea that he is the victim of what he has called a 'witch hunt,' defending his company on criminal charges could be an expensive distraction as he considers another presidential run." The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Ramey, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and Reuters (6/30) provide similar coverage, and in their broadcasts Wednesday evening, ABC World News Tonight, NBC Nightly News (6/30, story 8, 0:45, Holt, 5M) and CBS Evening News (6/30, story 5, 1:45, O'Donnell, 3.63M) all mentioned that indictments were expected.

Dallas Housing Developer Convicted Of Bribery And Conspiracy.

Bisnow (6/30, 18K) reports that Ruel Hamilton, president of AmeriSouth Realty Group, was convicted of "of one count of conspiracy and two counts of bribery of an agent of a local government." Hamilton "paid tens of thousands of dollars in bribes to Carolyn Davis, a member of the Dallas City Council who was then serving as chair of the city's Housing Committee. Hamilton also promised Davis a job once she left the council and in that position paid her more than \$145K." Hamilton now faces up to 25 years in prison.

Former Columbia Mayor Sentenced To Two Years Probation.

AdVantage News (IL) (6/30, Ellebracht) reports Kevin Hutchinson, 56, the former mayor of Columbia, Illinois, was "sentenced to two years probation after pleading guilty to lying to federal investigators." Hutchinson, a licensed insurance agent, falsely told authorities that he "did not have a financial interest in the city insurance contract."

FBI Probing Alleged Link Between Former Kentucky Governor's Pardon And Fundraiser.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (6/29, Wolfson, 554K) reports, "Two years after then-Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin pardoned a convicted killer whose family hosted a political fundraiser for the governor, the FBI and federal prosecutors are investigating the executive action." Assistant US Attorney Jenna Reed "told a federal judge during a hearing June 22 her office is conducting an "ongoing investigation" of Bevin's pardon of Patrick Baker, whose family hosted a fundraiser at their home in Corbin that raised \$21,500 to retire the debt from Bevin's 2015 campaign." Bevin "has adamantly denied he pardoned Baker because of the fundraiser hosted by Baker's brother Eric and his wife, but the revelations show the former governor still faces possible criminal liability. At the June 22 hearing, FBI Task Force Officer Mark Mefford testified he and other investigators interviewed Baker's ex-girlfriend Dawn Turner last Dec. 28 about the fundraiser."

CYBER DIVISION

Law Enforcement Agencies Take Down DoubleVPN, Allegedly Used By Ransomware Gangs.

CNN (6/30, Fung, 89.21M) reports that a group of international law enforcement agencies have

shut down DoubleVPN, a virtual private networking service accused of being used by ransomware gangs. Edvardas Šileris, head of the European Cybercrime Center, said, "Today's announcement sends a strong message to the criminals using such services: the golden age of criminal VPNs is over."

Justice Department Files More Charges Against Capital One Hacker.

CNN (6/30, Ritter, 89.21M) reports the Justice Department filed additional charges against Paige Thompson, a former Amazon engineer "accused of illegally accessing more than 100 million Capital One customers' accounts and credit card applications in 2019." Thompson "now faces six counts of computer fraud and abuse, one count of access device fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft in addition to the original two charges," and could serve up to 20 years in prison. After the breach, "Capital One entered into consent orders with the Fed and the Office of the Comptroller of Currency," followed by a cease and desist order by the Fed and an \$80 million fine against the bank by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

TechCrunch (6/30, Page, 502K) reports Thompson "remains accused of using her knowledge from her previous employment as a software engineer at Amazon to create a program that identified which customers of a cloud computing company (the indictment doesn't name the company, but it has been identified as Amazon Web Services) had misconfigured firewalls. Once the tool found its target misconfiguration, Thompson allegedly exploited it to extract privileged account credentials."

Also reporting are SiliconANGLE (6/30), Bank Info Security (6/30), and KCBS-TV Los Angeles (6/30, 5:24 p.m. PDT, 114K).

FBI Gets More Aggressive In Trying To Thwart Cyberattacks.

Bloomberg (6/30, Mehrotra, Sebenius, 3.57M) reports, "For the last several years, FBI agents debated turning the tables on hackers by remotely accessing breached computer networks and booting out the attackers caught in mid-hack. They got their chance earlier this year after state-backed Chinese hackers compromised thousands of private Microsoft Exchange email servers with the press of a button. In response, an FBI special agent petitioned a Houston federal judge on April 9 for authorization to remotely access hundreds of hacking victims' to topple the attackers' digital points of entry. Put more simply, the FBI out-hacked the hackers." Bloomberg adds that "the FBI operation signaled the public unveiling of a more aggressive, all-of-government approach toward cybersecurity. 'The FBI has definitely decided to be more aggressive,' said Elvis Chan, the assistant special agent in charge of cyber investigations in the FBI's San Francisco field office, in an interview. 'Our toolkit hasn't changed. We're just using the tools a little bit more.'"

Israeli Charged In Global Hacker-For-Hire Scheme Seeks Plea Deal.

Reuters (6/30, Satter, Bing, Schectman) reports, "An Israeli private detective detained in New York since 2019 on charges of involvement in a hacker-for-hire scheme wants a plea deal, according to a letter filed in court by his lawyer." According to Reuters, "The unusual case has revealed the impacts of a secretive but thriving cyberespionage industry in India." Federal prosecutors "say the jailed detective, Aviram Azari, organized a series of hacking missions through unnamed third parties against American companies based in New York, using fake websites and phishing messages to steal email account passwords. While the indictment does not identify the hackers by name, five people familiar with the case say that Azari is being charged in relation to New Delhi-based BellTroX InfoTech Services, which Reuters last year reported was behind a hacking campaign that targeted lawyers, government officials, businessmen, investors and activists around the world."

Neuberger Hints White House To Formally Attribute Microsoft Exchange Hack Soon.

ExecutiveGov (6/30, Leishman) reports Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber and Emerging Technology Anne Neuberger "hinted that the White House will release a formal attribution for the hack of Microsoft's Exchange email service in the coming weeks and what steps the government

will take in response to the cyberattack, Nextgov reported Tuesday." She also "said at a Silverado Policy Accelerator-hosted virtual event the Biden administration seeks to transform how the federal government buys software as part of the Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity." Gov Info Security (6/30, Ferguson) reports Neuberger said, "I think you saw the national security adviser Jake Sullivan say that we will attribute that activity," adding, "And along with that, [the administration] will determine what [we] need to do as a follow-up to that. You'll be seeing further on that in the coming weeks."

Gen. Nakasone: US Navy-Marine Corps Integration Key To Repelling Cyberattacks.

ExecutiveGov (6/30, Edwards) reports NSA Director and US Cyber Command head Gen. Paul Nakasone "said cybersecurity is national security and the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps must be ready to address cyberattacks, USNI News reported Tuesday." Speaking at a conference Tuesday, Nakasone said, "Continuing Navy-Marine Corps integration must account for the information environment, especially adversary intrusions, information operations and next-gen cryptography," He said a "unity of effort" is, ExecutiveGov writes, "needed to fight cyberattacks and protect weapons systems and military data amid the increasing sophistication of cyberthreats from Russia, China and other near-peer competitors."

Nevada University Medical Center Confirms Data Breach.

The AP (6/30) reports a Nevada hospital has "confirmed its data servers had been breached after a hacking group posted images of personal information online it apparently acquired in a cyber theft." The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported "that University Medical Center issued a statement confirming that cybercriminals in mid-June accessed a hospital server used to store data and that law enforcement was investigating." The nonprofit public hospital "said there is no evidence that any clinical systems were breached." UMC also "said it was notifying patients and employees that their personal information may be at risk and will offer identity protection and credit monitoring services."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

FOP Urges Lawmakers To Keep Working On Police Reform Bill.

Politico (6/30, LeVine, 6.73M) reports that on Wednesday, the Fraternal Order of Police "deemed negotiations on police reform legislation on the brink of collapse and urged lawmakers not to give up on a potential bipartisan deal. 'Given the politics of the moment, we seem to be poised to undo more than a year's worth of work toward common sense criminal justice reform,' said Patrick Yoes, the group's president, in a statement." According to Politico, "The statement comes after negotiators punted a June deadline for reaching an agreement on a bill that would overhaul American policing." Politico says that "among the greatest points of contention in lawmakers' discussions is how to address qualified immunity, the legal doctrine that shields officers from civil liability for misconduct on the job."

GAO Report Shows Widespread Use Of Facial Recognition Tech Among Federal Agencies.

CNN (6/30, Metz, Business, 89.21M) says that a report from the Government Accountability Office shows that long before law enforcement agencies used to facial recognition technology to identify individuals who committed crimes during the Floyd protests, the technology had already "spread throughout the US government, with uses ranging from conducting criminal investigations to identity verification." BuzzFeed News (6/30) adds that GAO's report "may have overlooked some organizations' use of popular biometric identification software Clearview AI, calling into question whether authorities can understand the extent to which the emerging technology has been used by taxpayer-funded entities."

Maine Imposes Statewide Restrictions On Facial Recognition Technology. The AP (6/30) reports that Maine has adopted a law that regulates the use of facial recognition technology

across the state. "Under the law, police may request a facial recognition search from the FBI and Bureau of Motor Vehicles databases if they have probable cause to believe an unidentified person in an image has committed a serious crime" and clarifies that "a facial recognition match doesn't constitute probable cause to make an arrest." The law also creates a right of action for individuals "to sue if they believe a government agency or official has violated the law." The AP says the measure is "the country's strictest statewide regulation on the use of facial recognition technology."

At Least 17 Hurt In Explosion During Los Angeles Police Detonation Of Illegal Fireworks.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/30, Miller, 3.37M) reports, "A major explosion in South Los Angeles on Wednesday evening damaged buildings and injured at least 17 people, including police officers, as a bomb squad attempted to safely detonate improvised explosive devices that had been seized from a home along with thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks." The Times adds, "The blast damaged cars in a residential neighborhood and left debris on the streets, video on social media showed. At a news conference, Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said officials responding to a home on the 700 block of East 27th Street had found several thousand pounds of illegal fireworks as well as improvised explosive devices that were 'more unstable.' An LAPD bomb squad transferred the improvised devices into the iron chamber of a 'total containment vehicle' that's meant to contain such explosive material, he said. Police detonated the devices at 7:37 p.m., believing that the vehicle would be able to contain the explosion, but there was a 'total catastrophic failure of that containment vehicle,' Moore said."

Op-Ed: Biden Must Fulfill Promise To End Federal Death Penalty.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Racine, Dehghani-Tafti, Krinsky, 10.52M), Karl Racine, attorney general of the District of Columbia, Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County, and Miriam Krinsky argue that the racism plagues the country's capital punishment scheme and argue that Biden must "end the federal death penalty now by commuting all federal capital sentences, directing the Justice Department to no longer seek these sentences and dismantling the government's machinery of death." They continue, "This is a necessary step on the road to addressing systemic racism. If we can do this, we will finally begin building the justice system that we all deserve: one grounded in equity, fairness and proven strategies to keep communities safe."

Psaki Unable To Name A Republican Who Backs "Defund The Police."

[Fox News](#) (6/30, McFall, 23.99M) reports on its website that when White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki was questioned about her claim that Republicans want to "defund the police," she was "unable to name a single GOP member who supported the controversial line." Psaki "suggested that in not voting for the American Rescue plan...Republicans were the true opponents of police funding." Psaki said that "Republicans spent decades trying to cut the COPS program." She added that Republicans "stood in the way of crucial funding needed to prevent the laying off of police officers as crimes increased." But "when pressed on which Republicans in Congress rejected the bill on the grounds of seeking to 'defund the police,' Psaki was drawn up short." She said, "If you oppose funding for the COPS program...and then you vote against a bill that has funding for the COPS program, we can let other people evaluate what that means."

McArdle: US Overprisoned By Underpoliced.

Megan McArdle writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/30, 10.52M) that the United States "is radically overprisoned but actually underpoliced, especially in our most vulnerable communities. As a share of gross domestic product, total prison spending here is high, but police spending is low compared to many peer nations, even though our homicide rate is dramatically higher." McArdle argues that "the best policing is deeply embedded in a community, responding to local conditions. Jurisdictions should learn best practices from each other, but ultimately their solutions have to be home-grown. Which means we should all spend less time demanding the impossible from 'Uncle Joe' and more time asking our mayors what their plan is to get more and better cops on the streets while putting

fewer people in prison.”

OTHER FBI NEWS

New Pittsburgh SAC Discusses Priorities.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (6/30, Guza, 245K) reports, “Newly appointed Special Agent in Charge of the Pittsburgh FBI field office Michael Nordwall spoke on a range of topics in a news conference Wednesday, including the bureau’s priorities in Pittsburgh and the importance of help from the public.” Nordwall “comes from Washington, D.C. where he’d been serving as the chief of the Transnational Organized Crime Global Section, a unit that took on cybercrime organizations in Asia and Africa as well as narcotics trafficking by Mexican cartel. He’s done several stints in Washington on different assignments, and he spent time in the Tampa, Denver and Phoenix field offices. In all, he estimated he’s moved about eight times, and he said he is pleased to be able to put roots in Pittsburgh.” The Tribune-Review adds, “The small-town feel of Pittsburghers’ relationships lends itself to the constant coordination the FBI must do with state and local law enforcement, he said.”

Navarro: Five Traits Distinguish “Extraordinary” People.

In a piece for CNBC (6/30, 7.34M), Joe Navarro, a former FBI agent, writes that there are five traits that “set exceptional individuals apart from everyone else.” These are: self-mastery, observation, communication, action, and psychological comfort.

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Delta Variant Identified In All 50 States.

NBC Nightly News (6/30, story 7, 1:25, Holt, 5M) reported that the COVID delta variant “is now in all 50 states,” and it is “threatening to explode in pockets of the country where vaccination rates are low,” so the strain “remains the nation’s most serious threat.” CBS Evening News (6/30, story 4, 2:30, O’Donnell, 3.63M) reported that the delta variant “is responsible for 26% of cases in the United States,” and it “makes vaccinations all the more urgent” with growing focus on unvaccinated populations in southern states.

ABC World News Tonight reported that while the “highly contagious” variant is now present nationwide, the CDC “is not changing its guidance” regarding masks for the time being.

Administration’s International Vaccine Distribution Plan Facing Challenges.

The New York Times (6/30, Weiland, 20.6M) examines the Biden Administration’s bureaucratic hurdles as it organizes the international COVID vaccine donation program, which has “fulfilled the president’s pledge to share an initial 80 million doses by June 30.” 80 million vaccines “have been formally offered to about 50 countries, the African Union and the 20-nation Caribbean consortium, with around half already shipped and the rest to be scheduled in the coming weeks.” The effort “has evolved into a constant churn of activity across the federal government, with deputy-level meetings several times a week and daily operations calls,” and the White House “can hold as many as 15 country-specific calls a day, beginning at 7 a.m. and often involving the National Security Council, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State and Defense Departments and other agencies.”

Anheuser-Busch InBev Announces Plan To Unlock Free Beer Promotion As Biden Administration Prepares July 4 Celebration.

Roll Call (6/30, Lesniewski, 130K) reports that Anheuser-Busch InBev “said Wednesday that the Budweiser producer will unlock its free beer promotion in conjunction with the Biden Administration to celebrate progress in getting people vaccinated against COVID-19, regardless of whether the 70 percent mark is hit.” The company said, “While the country is still working to achieve that

milestone, in line with the White House's encouragement to be back together again this weekend in celebration of our progress as a nation, the company is making good on its promise to reward the country for its vaccination progress by giving consumers 'a round on us' this holiday weekend."

CureVac Publishes Vaccine Study Results.

The Washington Post (6/30, Johnson, 10.52M) reports that CureVac published its final vaccine result, which "revealed that the two-dose regimen was only 48 percent effective overall in preventing people from falling ill with at least one symptom in a trial." While the results are "falling short of the 50 percent efficacy threshold for success defined by some regulators," the company "laid out a possible path to salvage its vaccine, emphasizing its utility in people 18 to 60 years old" because the vaccine "offered 77 percent protection against moderate and severe cases" in that age bracket.

Walensky Defends New WHO Mask Guidance.

The New York Times (6/30, Slotnik, Levin, 20.6M) says the World Health Organization "recently reiterated longstanding guidance that everyone, vaccinated or not, wear masks and take other precautions, following a global surge in infections of the highly contagious Delta variant." The Times says that on Wednesday, CDC Director Walensky explained that the WHO's "blanket suggestion that both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear masks was informed by its global purview. 'The W.H.O. really does have to make recommendations for an entire world,' and many countries have far less access to vaccines than the United States, she said."

FEMA Overhauls Funeral Assistance Policy.

Politico (6/30, Banco, 6.73M) reports that FEMA "has changed its pandemic funeral assistance policy to allow family members of those who died from Covid-19 to submit for reimbursement even if the death certificate does not identify the illness as the cause of death." The change "could allow thousands of people whose relatives died early in the pandemic, before reliable testing was commonplace, to access the funeral aid program," which initially generated extensive outcry because eligibility "had been limited to those who have death certificates stating that their family member's death was caused by, 'may have been caused by' or 'was likely a result of' Covid-19 or Covid-19-like symptoms."

CDC Researchers Find Vaccinated Breakthrough Infections Are Weaker.

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Hopkins, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that, according to a new CDC study, breakthrough infections in vaccinated individuals resulted in less viral loads as well as shorter period of symptoms. The study, which studied 16 vaccinated individuals and 155 unvaccinated individuals, found vaccinated breakthrough infections had 40 percent less viral load in noses.

Environmental, Racial Justice Impacts Considered In Awarding Infrastructure For Rebuilding America Grants.

The Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M) reports federal transportation officials have, for the first time, "judged projects seeking multimillion-dollar grants from a highway, rail and port infrastructure fund based on how they might tackle climate change and racial injustice." Transportation Secretary Buttigieg on Wednesday "announced his choices for the \$900 million fund...backing projects that he said also would spur the economy." The Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program "is not new, but projects were judged this year on their environmental effects and impact on disadvantaged communities, alongside long-standing economic development goals." The Post says Buttigieg's decisions "offer a preview of how the Biden administration's infrastructure policy might reshape road and rail networks if Congress agrees on a major spending package."

Tlaib, Suplicy Argue For Monthly Payments To Americans.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (6/30, 20.6M), Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Eduardo

Suplicy, a former member of the Federal Senate of Brazil, say the pandemic "has highlighted the harsh realities of food insecurity, lack of income and inadequate public health infrastructure." They say "we have the opportunity to establish programs that help people thrive long after the pandemic ends." Brazil's Bolsa Família program "provides monthly cash payments to low-income parents who educate and vaccinate their children." They say the program "has helped reduce the percentage of Brazilians living below the World Bank's poverty line from over 9 percent to just under 3 percent." They argue "similar gains can be achieved in the United States," and highlight Tlaib's Automatic Boost to Communities (A.B.C.) Act, which "would provide a \$2,000 monthly payment to every person in America, including dependents, throughout the pandemic's economic downturn," and then "\$1,000 per month for up to a year after the pandemic ends."

Private Payrolls Rose More Than Expected; Sales Of Previously Owned Homes Rebound.

Reuters (6/30) reports growth in private payrolls was "more than expected in June as companies rushed to boost production and services amid a rapidly reopening economy." Private payrolls "increased by 692,000 jobs in June. Data for May was revised lower to show 886,000 jobs added instead of the initially reported 978,000. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast private payrolls would increase by 600,000 jobs." Also Wednesday, a report from the National Association of Realtors on Wednesday "showed contracts to buy previously owned homes rebounded 8% in May." A report from the Mortgage Bankers Association said "applications for loans to buy a home fell last week. ... Home purchase loans were down 17.3% compared to same period last year."

Administration Preparing Executive Order To Increase Business Oversight.

The AP (6/30, Boak) reports the Administration "is preparing an executive order to improve opportunities for consumers and small businesses by stepping up oversight of areas of the economy that are dominated by a select few companies, such as meatpacking and internet service providers." The AP cites "a person familiar with order" who said that while it has not been finalized, "the overarching goal is to promote a sense of competition that the administration believes is central to capitalism." The order "would direct federal agencies to enforce existing rules to help competition." The AP says it "could be controversial among conservative lawmakers who favor less government intervention into the economy."

Robinhood Financial Will Pay \$70M To Settle Regulatory Probe.

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority announced Wednesday that Robinhood Financial has agreed to pay nearly \$70 million to settle claims it failed to comply with a series of regulations.

Trump Visits Texas Border With Gov. Abbott, Attack Biden Administration.

The New York Times (6/30, Astor, 20.6M) reports former President Donald Trump and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) "denounced the Biden Administration during a visit to the border on Wednesday," saying that the Administration has failed the country and its citizens. Abbott said, "The people of Texas have been pleading for us to be able to step up and help restore safety and security in their lives." He added, "That is exactly why Texas is stepping up and doing a job that is truly the federal government's job, a job that you did but a job that the Biden administration is completely failing." Trump followed Abbott, and he "delivered a rambling speech defending his handling of the border while president and falsely claiming that the wall he repeatedly promised to build across the 2,000-mile border had been months away from completion when he left office." Reuters (6/30) reports that Trump's visit comes as he "has struggled to maintain a high profile following his loss to Biden in November and after being permanently banned from Twitter and suspended for two years by Facebook for making false claims of election fraud."

The Washington Post (6/30, Pager, 10.52M) reports Trump "attend[ed] a border security briefing with state officials and law enforcement Wednesday morning," which was "followed by a tour of the 'unfinished border wall.'" Trump had "made immigration a signature part of his agenda, promising to build a wall that Mexico would pay for." However, he "failed on that promise, as the government largely focused on replacing existing structures — efforts paid for by U.S. taxpayers —

during his presidency.”

Politico (6/30, Beavers, 6.73M) reports that Republicans “hammer[ed] the Biden Administration for policies they say have escalated a dangerous environment at the border, including empowering drug cartels and putting unaccompanied migrant children at risk.” Democratic National Committee Rapid Response Director Ammar Moussa responded to criticisms, saying, “If Republicans were serious about addressing issues at the border, they’d join President Biden and Democrats in working to clean up the mess they left behind, create a safe and humane immigration system, and finally pass immigration reform.”

Analysis: Rep. Bank’s Visit Highlights Growing Political Clout In The GOP. The AP (6/30, Slodysko) reports Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN), who joined Trump at the border, “is working aggressively” to grow his place in the future Republican Party, and his visit “punctuated a political journey from a county council seat in small-town northeast Indiana to prominence in Congress in little more than a decade.” Former congressman Luke Messer (R-IN) said of Banks, “Jim understands there’s no future for the Republican Party without Trump supporters. But he also understands traditional movement conservative principles need to have a future.” He continued, “He is trying to work both halves of that equation and his colleagues recognize his talent.”

DACA Advocates Warn Of Slow Processing Of Applications.

Roll Call (6/30, Simon, 130K) reports that DACA advocates are growing increasingly critical of the latest Citizenship and Immigration Services data, which shows that only 763 new DACA applicants “were approved from January through March of this year” despite “tens of thousands of new applications.” Senate Judiciary Chairman Richard J. Durbin said, “The slow rate of processing DACA applications — both initial requests and renewals— is simply unacceptable.” United We Dream National Communications Manager Jose Munoz “said he was encouraged to see how many DACA applications were submitted since President Joe Biden took office on Jan. 20,” but he “signaled concern over how many so far have been approved.”

Analysis: Republicans Organize Around Immigration As Mid-Term Election Weapon.

Politico (6/30, Siders, 6.73M) examines Republican political efforts to nationalize immigration as a political weapon ahead of the 2022 mid-term elections as well as the 2024 presidential election. GOP strategists “have reason to be optimistic about the potential of immigration as a voting issue — and a potential point of weakness for the Democratic Party” after a new CAPS-Harris poll participants “rated immigration just behind the economy and jobs on issues of importance, a finding in line with Republicans’ internal polling.”

South Dakota State Officials Question Usage Of Private Funding For National Guard Deployment.

The New York Times (6/30, Epstein, 20.6M) reports that bipartisan South Dakota state officials and military historians are questioning South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem’s (R) decision to deploy National Guardsmen to the US-Mexico border using private funding, and they “cited legal and ethical worries.” The questioning “comes as Ms. Noem is busy building a national profile ahead of the 2024 Republican presidential primary contest.”

Politico Describes “Dysfunction” Inside Harris’ Office.

Politico (6/30, Cadelago, Lippman, Daniels, 6.73M) reports Vice President Harris’ team “is experiencing low morale, porous lines of communication and diminished trust among aides and senior officials. Much of the frustration internally is directed at Tina Flournoy, Harris’ chief of staff.” Politico cites interviews with “22 current and former vice presidential aides, administration officials and associates of Harris and [President] Biden” who “described a tense and at times dour office atmosphere. Aides and allies said Flournoy, in an apparent effort to protect Harris, has instead created an insular environment where ideas are ignored or met with harsh dismissals and decisions are dragged out.” Politico adds that “two administration officials said the VP herself also bears responsibility for the way her office is run.” This “dysfunction,” is “pronounced enough that members of the president’s own team have taken notice and are concerned about the way Harris’

staffers are treated.”

Administration Scrambles To Get Aid To Renters Before Eviction Moratorium Ends.

Bloomberg (6/30, Capps, 3.57M) reports Congress provided “tens of billions of dollars in the last two relief packages to help renters, authorizing nearly \$47 billion all told in emergency rental assistance.” But across the country, “the funds have been stymied by a lack of awareness among renters, obstacles with landlords and red tape at the state and local levels.” Now that the CDC has announced a final one-month extension of the federal eviction moratorium, the Biden Administration “is scrambling to prevent millions of tenants from going over the cliff at the end of July.” The White House is taking “an all-hands-on-deck approach” to the “looming crisis. Officials from the Treasury, Justice and Housing departments are working with state courts and agencies to push back eviction proceedings as they seek to speed up bailouts for renters.”

Former Secretary Of Defense Donald Rumsfeld Dead At 88.

The AP (6/30, Burns) reports that Donald Rumsfeld, “the two-time defense secretary and one-time presidential candidate whose reputation as a skilled bureaucrat and visionary of a modern U.S. military was unraveled by the long and costly Iraq war, died Tuesday. He was 88.”

Rumsfeld’s death was noted by numerous media outlets, many of which highlighted his significant impact on the DOD, as well as his oversight of the Iraq and Afghan wars. For example, the Washington Post (6/30, Graham, 10.52M) says his “roles overseeing the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and efforts to transform the U.S. military made him one of history’s most consequential as well as controversial Pentagon leaders.” Reuters (6/30, Dunham) says that Rumsfeld, “who ranks with Vietnam War-era defense secretary Robert McNamara as the most powerful men to hold the post, brought charisma and bombast to the Pentagon job, projecting the Bush administration’s muscular approach to world affairs.”

ABC World News Tonight, NBC Nightly News (6/30, story 11, 1:20, Holt, 5M), and The CBS Evening News (6/30, story 6, 1:20, O'Donnell, 3.63M) all ran short pieces on Rumsfeld.

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says that Rumsfeld was a patriot willing to take on bureaucracies, which the paper says we could use more of today.

Adams Suing NYC Board Of Elections Over Erroneous Mayoral Voting Results.

Politico New York (6/30) reports New York City mayoral candidate Eric Adams’ campaign “has filed a preliminary lawsuit a day after” New York City’s Board of Elections “put out erroneous results for the first run of ranked-choice votes” in the city’s Democratic mayoral primary. According to Politico, “The erroneous results posted Tuesday have sown further uncertainty into the electoral process on the heels of New York’s first citywide, ranked-choice primary.”

Meanwhile, Bloomberg (6/30, Korte, Goldman, 3.57M) says Adams “saw his lead narrow in a corrected tally” Wednesday. Following “the botched release of erroneous ranked-choice voting results” that “plunged the count into chaos” on Tuesday, elections officials “issued a new result which showed Adams leading with 51.1%, compared to 48.9% for city Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia. Civil rights lawyer Maya Wiley was eliminated after the eighth round. Those new results are far closer than Adams’s lead in the first round of counting on Election Day last week.”

The Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M) reports the Board of Elections “apologized for what it called an ‘unacceptable’ human error after 135,000 test vote records were mistakenly included in an initial tally.” In a statement early Wednesday, the board said, “Yesterday’s ranked choice voting reporting error was unacceptable and we apologize to the voters and to the campaigns for the confusion.” The New York Times (6/30, Glueck, 20.6M) says the board’s statement “stressed that the fault for the initial error did not lie with ranked-choice voting.” The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Honan, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage, while a Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial casts the problems as proof that progressive voting designs cause more problems than they resolve.

The New York Times (6/30, 20.6M) editorialized against the New York City Elections Board,

"New Yorkers have endured the incompetence of the city's Board of Elections for so long that complaints on the subject blend into the background noise" adding that this week, "somehow the board found a new way to humiliate itself" by including 135,000 test votes in the totals it reported to the public. The Times adds that while "some" blame the errors on the adoption of ranked voting, "the real culprit is the same old one: a decrepit, self-dealing political machine that refuses to release its stranglehold on the city's elections."

New York Assembly Panel To Begin Issuing Subpoenas In Cuomo Impeachment Probe.

Politico New York (6/30) reports a New York State Assembly committee "looking into a possible impeachment of Gov. Andrew Cuomo [D] will begin issuing subpoenas as part of its investigation." Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Lavine (D) "made the announcement at the end of a meeting in Albany on Wednesday." Subpoenas will likely be sent to "a whole wide range of categories of people," Assemblymember Tom Abinanti (D) said after the meeting.

Cuomo Holds First Fundraiser since State, Federal Investigations Began. The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Vielkind, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Cuomo on Tuesday held his first campaign fundraiser since the state and federal investigations into sexual harassment allegations began. The \$10,000-a-head event at Rockefeller Center drew more than 150 guests and was expected to take in more than \$1 million for Cuomo's re-election campaign.

State Department Allows Gender Self-Identification On Passports.

The New York Times (6/30, Jakes, 20.6M) reports that on Wednesday, the State Department announced a new rule that allows Americans "to declare their self-identified gender on their U.S. passports without providing medical documents." Previously, the State Department "required a doctor's certificate stating that a passport applicant had either transitioned, or was in the process, to change their gender on official consular documents." The Times says the policy change represents "the first step toward creating a gender marker on U.S. passports and citizenship certificates for people who identify as nonbinary or intersex, or otherwise do not conform to gender roles."

IRS Tax Return Backlog Swells To 35 Million.

The Washington Post (6/30, Stein, 10.52M) says that a Wednesday report by Erin Collins, the National Taxpayer Advocate, shows that amid "a 'perfect storm' of challenges" related to the pandemic and President Biden's economic relief measures, the Internal Revenue Service "closed the most recent filing season with more than 35 million in unprocessed tax returns." The backlog "represents a fourfold increase from 2019 – the most recent year before the coronavirus pandemic – when the IRS closed its filing season with 7.4 million unprocessed returns." The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Rubin, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) explains the backlog is impacting amended returns, paper returns, and cases of identity-theft – with the bulk of these requiring human hands to process.

CNN (6/30, Lobosco, 89.21M) adds that despite its challenges, the IRS has already "processed 136 million individual tax returns and issued 96 million refunds totaling \$270 billion during the 2021 filing season. It also successfully delivered three rounds of stimulus checks, for a total of about 475 million payments worth \$807 billion."

Congressional Black Caucus Pushes Democratic Leaders For Voting Rights Action.

The Hill (6/30, Lillis, 5.69M) reports that members of the Congressional Black Caucus are pressing Democratic leaders "to expedite a vote on a nascent proposal, named after the late civil rights icon John Lewis, to update the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act after the Supreme Court gutted the law's central protections almost a decade ago." The Hill says the lawmakers' push "comes as states around the country, virtually all of them led by Republicans, are racing to adopt new voting restrictions amid a torrent of false claims from former President Trump that the 2020 election was 'stolen' by Democrats and corrupt election officials."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New COVID Wave Spreading Across The Planet.

The New York Times (6/30, Beech, Albeck-Ripka, 20.6M) reports that a COVID surge "is on the rise again in vast stretches of the world, driven largely by the new variants, particularly the highly contagious Delta variant first identified in India." Scientists "believe the Delta variant may be twice as transmissible as the original coronavirus, and its potential to infect some partially vaccinated people has alarmed public health officials" because unvaccinated populations "may serve as incubators of new variants that could evolve in surprising and dangerous ways, with Delta giving rise to what Indian researchers are calling Delta Plus."

Pan American Health Organization Warns Of New COVID Surge Risk. Reuters (6/30, Boadle) reports that the Pan American Health Organization is warning that Latin America is facing a worsening COVID outlook in the near future. PAHO director Carissa Etienne said to reporters, "While we are seeing some reprieve from the virus in countries in the Northern Hemisphere, for most countries in our region, the end remains a distant future." Agency data shows that only 10 percent of Latin American residents are vaccinated.

World Bank Announces COVID Funding Boost To \$20B.

Reuters (6/30) reports that the World Bank "pledged to boost available funding for COVID-19 vaccine purchases and deployment to \$20 billion from a previous target of \$12 billion, citing a sharp increase in overall financing demand from developing countries." World Bank President David Malpass "said the global development bank had already provided more than \$4 billion to 51 developing countries for the purchase and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, and would add billions for 25 more countries soon."

US International Development Finance Corporation Announces New Fund To Counter Chinese Vaccine Diplomacy.

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Wexler, Woo, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the US International Development Finance Corporation has announced a new investment program as part of the Biden Administration's efforts to neutralize Chinese vaccine diplomacy efforts across the world. The IDFC will lend \$118.5 million to Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Ltd, which "has a deal with J&J to fill into vials and package the U.S. company's single-dose Covid-19 shot." The loan will enable the company to produce 500 million J&J vaccine doses by the close of 2022.

Chinese COVID Lockdown Efforts Have Undermined Origin Investigations.

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, A1, Page, McKay, Hinshaw, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that an ongoing WHO investigation into the origins of COVID has been hindered by China, which rapidly purged local wild animal stocks owned by Chinese farmers and trappers. The WHO investigators are looking into the possibility of a natural viral jump from an animal to a human, but Chinese farmers are saying that Chinese government officials have orchestrated a massive culling program to eliminate any additional risks.

France Announces Delays To COVID Restriction Lifting Plan.

Reuters (6/30, Gazzane, Protard, Vidalon) reports that France "decided on Wednesday to delay the unwinding of COVID-19 restrictions in a southwestern region of the country" because French Health Minister Olivier Veran "said a fourth wave of the virus was likely to the emergence of the Delta variant." French government spokesman Gabriel Attal said of the decision, "We do not want to take the risk of having a re-start of the epidemic. This means the easing of restrictive measures taking place today at a national level is delayed in Les Landes to at least July 6."

Mexican Health Ministry Warns Actual Death Toll Could Be 60 Percent More Than Official Data.

Reuters (6/30) reports that the Mexican Health Ministry published a new report, which said that COVID-linked death "likely exceed the confirmed toll by about 60%." Mexico had "registered 351,376 excess deaths associated with COVID-19 from the start of the pandemic through the 20th week of this year."

White House Official Urges G7 To Better Prepare For Biothreats.

Reuters (6/30) reports that "senior White House official" Daleep Singh, "who serves as the U.S. sherpa for the G7 and G20," made the case on Wednesday that "the Group of Seven advanced economies must do more to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates around the world, and should start setting up early warning systems for the next biothreat."

International Pew Survey Finds Broad Confidence In Biden.

Reuters (6/30) reports that a Pew Research Center "survey of 17 advanced economies released on Wednesday shows views about China have remained broadly negative and confidence in its leader Xi Jinping near historic lows, even as the image of the United States has rebounded since President Joe Biden replaced Donald Trump." According to Reuters, "This year, confidence in Xi remained at or near historic lows, while 'in contrast, views of Biden are much more positive than they were of Trump.' The summary said that in all places, 'a majority say they have confidence in Biden to do what is right in world affairs.'"

Most European Troops Already Out Of Afghanistan.

The AP (6/30, Moulson, Gannon) reports that "most European troops have already pulled out of Afghanistan, quietly withdrawing months before the U.S.-led mission was officially expected to end." Announcements "from several countries analyzed by The Associated Press show that a majority of European troops has now left with little ceremony — a stark contrast to the dramatic and public show of force and unity when NATO allies lined up to back the U.S. invasion" after the 9/11 attacks.

Local Groups Forming To Counter Taliban. Reuters (6/30) reports that there are "hundreds of former 'mujahideen' fighters and civilians who have felt compelled to take up arms to help the army repel a growing Taliban insurgency." Ajmal Omar Shinwari, "a spokesman for the Afghan defence and security forces, said Afghans keen to take up arms against the Taliban were being absorbed into the structure of territorial army forces." However, "some political analysts warn of the growing risk of a return to civil war as more groups took up arms."

Russia Rules Out Effort To Open Second Border Crossing For Syria Aid.

Reuters (6/30, Nichols) reports that Vassily Nebenzia, the Russian ambassador to the UN, on Wednesday "described as a 'non-starter' a bid to reopen a second border crossing into Syria from Iraq for aid deliveries and he is only discussing a possible extension of U.N. approval for a crossing from Turkey." The UN Security Council "is negotiating a resolution, drafted by Ireland and Norway, that aims to authorize aid deliveries through two crossings: one from Turkey and one from Iraq."

Meanwhile, Reuters (6/30, Nebehay) reports that "hundreds of children are incarcerated in adult prisons in northeastern Syria, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Wednesday, disclosing their plight as inmates for the first time." The children "have been removed to prisons from al-Hol, a desert camp run by Syrian Kurdish forces for 60,000 people from more than 60 countries, the aid agency said."

Fifteen Wounded As Bomb Explodes In Baghdad Suburb.

The AP (6/30, Kullab) reports that Iraq's military said at least 15 people were injured when an improvised explosive device exploded on Wednesday at the Maridi market in Sadr City, a suburb of Baghdad. "There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the Islamic State group has claimed similar attacks in the area before." The AP adds, "It was the second time this year that a bomb hit a market in the densely populated neighborhood. In April, at least four people were killed in a car bomb attack" in the same area.

NYTimes: Administration Officials Split Over Genocide Designation For Burma.

The New York Times (6/30, Jakes, 20.6M) says some "current and former American officials and human rights activists are demanding that President Biden do what the Trump administration would not: Formally hold the [Burma's] military accountable for genocide and compel international protection of the Rohingya." The Times notes that "some American allies – including Canada, France and Turkey – have already declared the monthslong rampage in 2017 against the Rohingya as genocide." According to the Times, earlier this month, Secretary of State Blinken "described a 'very much actively ongoing' review," but "would not predict when it might be resolved." The Times says President Biden "has stopped short of a genocide designation on behalf of the Rohingya because of a continuing internal debate that has left the administration torn."

Burma Releases Thousands Of Political Detainees. Reuters (6/30) reports that Burma "freed more than 2,000 detainees on Wednesday, among them journalists and others who the ruling military said had been held on incitement charges for taking part in protests, local media reported." However, the move "was described by some activists as a ploy by the ruling military to divert attention from an ongoing security crackdown."

Putin Portrays US As Declining Power.

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Kantchev, Grove, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin, at an event in which he answered questions from normal Russians, argued that the era of US hegemony in the realm of international affairs has come to an end, portraying the US as a waning partner and Russia as growing more consequential. Putin said, "The world is changing dramatically. On the one hand, our partners in the United States understand this, therefore there was a meeting in Geneva. On the other hand, they are trying at all costs to maintain their monopoly position."

Putin Claims US Cooperated With UK On Black Sea "Provocation." The AP (6/30, Litvinova, Isachenkov) reports that during the event, Putin "said...that an incident involving a British destroyer in the Black Sea couldn't have triggered a global conflict even if Russia had sunk the warship because the West knows it can't win such a war." The AP says Putin, "speaking in a marathon call-in show," was "asked about the June 23 incident in the Black Sea, in which Russia said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of Britain's HMS Defender to force it from an area near Crimea that Moscow claims as its territorial waters." Putin "said a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft had also joined what he described as a 'provocation' to test Russia's response."

Bloomberg (6/30, Meyer, Rudnitsky, 3.57M) also reports that Putin "accused the U.S. of involvement in what he termed a 'provocation' by a British destroyer in the Black Sea last week. ... The aim of the exercise was to test Russian defenses, he said. 'This provocation was full-scale, it was carried out not only by the British but by the Americans too,' he said." Reuters (6/30) notes that the British government has "denied that a stand-off with Russian forces took place."

Turkey Quits Treaty Protecting Women From Violence.

Reuters (7/1, Toksabay, Butler) reports that Turkey "officially withdrew on Thursday" from the Istanbul Convention, "an international treaty to prevent violence against women, enacting a decision that drew condemnation from many Turks and Western allies when President Tayyip Erdogan announced it in March." The move "triggered condemnation from both the United States and the European Union, and critics say it puts Turkey even further out of step with the bloc that it applied to join in 1987."

Abbas Faces International Criticism Over His Security Forces' Conduct.

Reuters (6/30) reports that "pressure is mounting on Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas over his security forces' handling of protesters demanding his resignation since one of his biggest critics died in custody." Reuters says that on Tuesday, the US Embassy in Jerusalem "said...it was 'deeply disturbed' by reports that protesters had been intimidated and beaten by plain-clothes officers, and the United Nations condemned what it called 'totally unacceptable' attacks." Reuters

adds that "criticism of the security forces' methods has mounted since [Nizar] Banat's death and Abbas's Fatah party has accused Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas and other rival political factions of being behind them."

Group's Investigation Traces Disinformation Campaign Targeting Israelis To Iran.

The New York Times (6/30, Frenkel, 20.6M) reports on an investigation by Israeli disinformation watchdog group, FakeReporter, which tracked an effort to target Israel on social media that originated in Iran. The "first-of-its-kind discovery...offers insight into how countries have miniaturized their disinformation campaigns in an effort to stay under the radar of tech companies that have become more aggressive in rooting them out." The campaigns "stir up antigovernment sentiment and gather information about activists' protests and organization by focusing on smaller and more private communications on WhatsApp, Telegram and other encrypted chat apps."

Zuma's Organization Condemns His Sentencing.

Reuters (6/30, Kumwenda-Mtambo) reports that former South African President Jacob Zuma's foundation condemned the court that sentenced to him to 15 months in jail, saying it was "an 'emotional and angry' unconstitutional decision, the former president's foundation said on Wednesday."

WPost: Airstrikes Should Encourage Congress To Act On War Powers.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M) argues that the airstrikes order by the President on Iran-backed Militias in Iraq and Syria "gave more impetus to an ongoing discussion in Congress about the limits of presidential war-making powers." In particular, the Post says that the "repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF would be a step toward restoring Congress's proper role in military affairs. Its proponents say they lack only a handful of Republican votes to overcome a potential filibuster; GOP senators who do not wish to hand Mr. Biden or future presidents a blank check in the Middle East should step forward."

Venezuelan Opposition Leader Says Maduro Is Whitewashing Image Through Concessions.

Reuters (6/30) reports that on Wednesday, Venezuela's opposition leader Juan Guaido claimed that his country's president, Nicolas Maduro, is attempting "to 'whitewash' his image abroad" by implementing political changes before state and local elections in November. Reuters explains that the changes include the electoral council's rescission of "a ban on a major opposition coalition from participating in elections" and an announcement that Maduro "would no longer appoint 'protectors' loyal to the ruling socialist party in states led by opposition governors."

US Condemns Violence In Haiti, Alleges Human Rights Violations.

Reuters (6/30) reports that on Wednesday, the US "condemned what it described as a systematic violation of human rights, fundamental freedoms and attacks on the press in Haiti, urging the government to counter a proliferation of gangs and violence." Reuters explains, "Violence has spiked in the impoverished Caribbean nation as rival gangs battle with one another and the police for control of the streets, displacing thousands and worsening a humanitarian crisis." According to human rights groups like the nonprofit Center for Human Rights Analysis and Research, "armed groups have become increasingly powerful in Haiti in recent years because of political unrest, growing poverty and a sense of impunity."

Xi Promotes Chinese Communist Party As It Celebrates Centennial.

Reuters (6/30) reports that in an hour-long address commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party on Thursday, China's President Xi Jinping "hailed a 'new world' created by the country's people...and warned foreign forces attempting to bully the nation will 'get their heads bashed.'" According to Reuters, Xi also indicated that China "will build up its military to safeguard its sovereignty, security and development, elevating it to world-class standards." The

New York Times (6/30, Buckley, 20.6M) adds that while many in China had expected Xi to be a "milder figure," he is making it "increasingly clear that he sees himself as a transformative leader – in the footsteps of Mao and Deng – guiding China into a new era of global strength and rejuvenated one-party rule."

WSJournal: At Centennial, Chinese Communist Party Threatens Democratic World.

The Wall Street Journal (6/30, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes that as the Chinese Communist Party celebrates its 100th anniversary, it is important to remember the party's violent history and its reliance on Orwellian tactics to maintain power. The Journal warns the party is the most serious threat to the free world since the USSR.

WPost: As China Expands Silos, Arms Control Talks Become Vital.

The Washington Post (6/30, 10.52M) editorializes that "the report that China is building 100 or more silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles that can reach the United States marks a concerning waypoint in China's expansion and modernization of its nuclear forces." If China actually deploys missiles in the new silos, "they would represent a blossoming arms race that is a serious challenge to the Biden Administration, already facing competition from Beijing across many fronts." The Post says the answer is arms control. "The signs of an accelerating competition are clear, and talks at the outset could encompass nuclear crisis management, new-generation weapons such as hypersonic gliders and anti-satellite weapons."

Slovenia Assumes EU Presidency Amid East-West Tensions On Values.

Reuters (6/30, Siebold) reports that "amid high tension between east and west over democratic values, the European Union's presidency passes on Thursday to Slovenia" – whose nationalist prime minister, Janez Jansa, "has a history of crossing swords with the EU executive in debates" over social issues such as gay and lesbian rights. Reuters says that while Slovenia's "priorities for its Presidency of the Council of the EU include bolstering Europe's post-pandemic recovery, and its resilience, strategic autonomy and rule of law," the "turn at the helm...may also put a spotlight on the growing rift within the bloc over its common values."

UN Court Convicts Two Serbians For Bosnian War Crimes.

The AP (6/30, Corder) reports that on Wednesday, a United Nations court convicted, Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic – both "former allies" of late Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic – of aiding and abetting violent "crimes committed by Serb paramilitaries" in Bosanski Samac, a Bosnian town, in 1992. The court sentenced both men to 12 years in prison. The AP says "it is the first time that Serbian officials have been convicted by a U.N. court of involvement in crimes in Bosnia."

Polish Minority Leader's Health Deteriorating In Belarusian Prison.

The AP (6/30) reports that on Wednesday, "an official in Poland said...that the health of" Andzelika Borys, the head of the Union of Poles in Belarus – an organization that has been critical of the Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko – "has deteriorated," but authorities are not permitting her to leave the country. The AP explains that Borys and four other members of the Union of Poles "were imprisoned in March in a crackdown on ethnic Poles amid rising tensions with Poland, which backs sanctions against Lukashenko's regime."

Op-Ed: Irish Unification May Be On The Horizon.

In an opinion for the New York Times (6/30, McKay, 20.6M), Susan McKay, an Irish journalist, writes that amid the British government's placement of "a new border in the Irish Sea" as part of Brexit, demographic changes favoring Catholics, and the decline of unionism, "one thing seems certain: There isn't going to be a second centenary for Northern Ireland. It might not even last another decade." McKay continues that "while the process by which Ireland could become unified is complicated and fraught," a growing number of Northern Ireland's Protestants "are tentatively contemplating what for previous generations was unthinkable: that a unified Ireland might not

actually be the end of the world.”

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Robinhood Agrees To Pay \\$70 Million To Settle Regulatory Investigation](#)
[Stock Markets Cruise To Records In First Half, But Investors Grow Uneasy](#)
[Search For Covid's Origins Leads To China's Wild Animal Farms—And A Big Problem](#)
[Trump Organization And CFO Allen Weisselberg Indicted On Tax Charges](#)
[Amazon Seeks Recusal Of FTC Chairwoman Lina Khan In Antitrust Investigations Of Company](#)

New York Times:

[NYC Mayor's Race Remains Tight With Adams Leading In Revised Tally](#)
[Trump Organization And Top Executive Are Indicted In Tax Investigation](#)
[Bill Cosby Freed As Court Overturns His Sex Assault Conviction](#)
[Donald Rumsfeld, Defense Secretary During Iraq War, Is Dead At 88](#)
[Infighting And Poor Planning Leave Condo Sites In Disrepair](#)
[Target Store Closings Show Limits Of Pledge To Black Communities](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump's Firm, CFO Said To Be Indicted](#)
[House, In Partisan Split, Votes To Create Panel To Probe Jan. 6](#)
[Signs That China Is Busy Building Silos For ICBMs](#)
[Squabbles Over Repairs Had Roiled Fla. Condo Association](#)
[Divisive Pentagon Chief Oversaw Two Wars](#)
[Cosby Assault Conviction Is Overturned](#)

Financial Times:

[US And Japan Conduct War Games Amid Rising China-Taiwan Tensions](#)
[Amazon Calls On FTC Chair Khan To Step Aside From Probes](#)
[Black Market Traders Cash In On Chinese Communists' 100th Anniversary](#)
[Microsoft And Google End Six-year Truce On Legal Battles](#)
[Didi Shares Rise In Biggest US Listing Of A Chinese Company Since Alibaba](#)
[US Drone Operator Zipline Doubles Valuation To \\$2.75bn](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Bill Cosby Released; Extreme Weather; Surfside Condo Collapse; COVID Update; Trump Organization-Tax Fraud Charges; NCAA Board-Athletes Compensation; Donald Rumsfeld Dead.

CBS: Bill Cosby Released; Extreme Weather; Surfside Condo Collapse; COVID Update; Trump Organization-Tax Fraud Charges; Donald Rumsfeld Dead; NYC Mayor Results.

NBC: Bill Cosby Released; Extreme Weather; NCAA Board-Athletes Compensation; Surfside Condo Collapse; COVID Update; Trump Organization-Tax Fraud Charges; Border-Trump, Abbott; Teen Employment; Donald Rumsfeld Dead.

Network TV At A Glance:

Bill Cosby Released – 17 minutes, 30 seconds
Surfside Condo Collapse – 7 minutes, 5 seconds
Extreme Weather – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
COVID Update – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
Trump Organization-Tax Fraud Charges – 3 minutes, 55 seconds
Donald Rumsfeld Dead – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Biden — No public schedule.
- Vice President Harris — No public schedule.

US Senate:

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

US House:

- House Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'FY 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill' and 'FY 2022 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill'
Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC; 9:00 AM
- House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including 'H.R. 3005 – To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to replace the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the United States Capitol with a bust of Thurgood Marshall to be obtained by the Joint Committee on the Library and to remove certain statues from areas of the United States Capitol which are accessible to the public, to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 2662 – IG Independence and Empowerment Act', 'H.R. 3684 – INVEST in America Act', and legislation establishing a select committee to investigate the attacks on the U.S. Capitol on 6 Jan
Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 9:00 AM
- Sophia Bush testifies to House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis – Hybrid hearing on 'Building Trust and Battling Barriers: The Urgent Need to Overcome Vaccine Hesitancy', with testimony from actress, activist, and entrepreneur Sophia Bush; American Public Health Association Executive Director Dr Georges Benjamin; The Wharton School of Business Professor of Operations, Information, and Decisions Dr Katy Milkman; former U.S. Surgeon General Dr Jerome Adams; and coronavirus (COVID-19) survivor Joshua Garza *
Held virtually and in-person; 9:00 AM
- Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Colombia – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission virtual hearing on 'Protests in Colombia', held via Cisco WebEx, with witnesses – International Crisis Group Senior Analyst for Colombia Elizabeth Dickinson, University of the Andes Agri-food Initiative Director Angela María Penagos, Human Rights Watch Americas Division Director Jose Miguel Vivanco, former State Department official Jose Cardenas, and U.S. Institute for Peace Regional Deputy Director Steve Hege – discussing the underlying causes of the protests in the country and the govt's response and offering policy recommendations for Congress
Location: Virtual Event; 1:00 PM

Cabinet Officers:

- Secretary of State Blinken meets visiting Tajik and Uzbek counterparts – Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin and meets Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov, both at the State Department
Location: State Department, Washington, DC

General Events:

- CSIS discussion on U.S. energy innovation with Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk – ‘Accelerating U.S. Energy Innovation’ Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion with Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk, on how the Department of Energy is accelerating energy innovation in the U.S. and around the world, the administration’s approach towards innovation, and the department’s Earthshots Initiative, a new project aimed at advancing innovation in critical technologies needed to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions
Location: Virtual Event; 11:00 AM
- NPC Headliners Newsmaker event on Austin Tice with bipartisan Reps. Al Green and Michael McCaul – NPC Headliners Newsmaker event with Democratic Rep. Al Green and Republican Rep. Michael McCaul discussing the situation of McClatchy and Washington Post freelance journalist and Marine veterans Austin Tice, who has been held in Syria for nearly nine years, and call on the Administration to bring him home
Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC; 11:00 AM
- CBO releases ‘An Update to the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2021 to 2031’ – Congressional Budget Office releases ‘An Update to the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2021 to 2031’, briefly describing CBO’s latest 10-year budget and economic projections, which incorporate the effects of legislation (including the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) enacted through 18 May.

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b7E -3

From: [redacted] OGC) (FBI)
Subject: Re: BWC Policy/Plan
To: [redacted] OGC) (FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: July 2, 2021 10:45 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

I have reviewed and did not see any issues.

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 18:02
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Fw: BWC Policy/Plan

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Hi Stephen,

DAD Dunham sent the draft BWC policy/plan to the exec staff of EAD Turner for his review and a briefing. Do you know if the comments the CLUs sent on 06/23 were passed to DAD Dunham or incorporated into the draft?

Thanks.

[redacted]

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

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[redacted]

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From: Delbagno, 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]

b6 -1
b7C -1

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 [Redacted]

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: Re: BWC Policy/Plan
To: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: July 2, 2021 10:58 AM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

Thanks for reviewing so quickly.

On Jul 2, 2021 10:44 AM, [redacted] wrote:
I have reviewed and did not see any issues.

[redacted]
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Investigative Law Unit
Room 7919 JFH

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Thanks.

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

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

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FBI (22-cv-00149)-6578

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

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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, [REDACTED]

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Thanks,
Tim

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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