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 FBI News Briefing

TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020 6:30 AM EDT

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THE BIG PICTURE

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

- Today's Events In Washington.

LEADING THE NEWS

First Circuit Overturns Tsarnaev's Death Sentence.

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Barry, 18.61M) reports the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit on Friday "overturned the death sentence of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was convicted of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, and ordered a new penalty-phase trial." The decision "concluded that the presiding judge in the 2015 trial, George A. O'Toole Jr., 'did not meet the standard' of fairness, because he did not sufficiently scrutinize sitting jurors for bias." In arguments during

December, attorneys for Tsarnaev “had pointed to 22 Twitter posts and retweets by the jury’s forewoman – one referring to Mr. Tsarnaev as ‘that piece of garbage’ – that had not been voluntarily disclosed as part of jury screening.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Sacchetti, 14.2M) reports the case is going to return “to the lower court for additional hearings, but the court’s overturning of the death sentences does not mean Tsarnaev will have an opportunity to get out of prison.” The court said, “Dzhokhar will remain confined to prison for the rest of his life, with the only question remaining being whether the government will end his life by executing him.” The Post adds, “Tsarnaev’s federal defenders said in a statement Friday that they were ‘grateful for the Court’s straightforward and fair decision.’”

The [AP](#) (7/31, Richer) reports, “A three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a new penalty-phase trial on whether the 27-year-old Tsarnaev should be executed for the attack that killed three people and wounded more than 260 others. ‘But make no mistake: Dzhokhar will spend his remaining days locked up in prison, with the only matter remaining being whether he will die by execution,’ Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson wrote in the ruling, more than six months after arguments were heard in the case.” Prosecutors “could ask the full appeals court to hear the case or go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court.”

[USA Today](#) (7/31, Garrison, 10.31M) reports, “Prior to his sentencing, attorneys for Tsarnaev, 19 at the time of the bombings, agreed their client was responsible for the deaths but contended he was less culpable than his accomplice, older brother Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who was killed by authorities following a four-day manhunt. A fourth victim, an MIT police officer, was shot and killed by the Tsarnaev brothers during the manhunt. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s defense attorneys argued during a December appeal hearing he did not receive a fair trial in Boston before he was sentenced to death, pointing to relentless media coverage in the city where the bombing occurred and city-wide trauma that ‘filtered’ into the jury pool. They said two jurors lied by concealing prejudiced remarks made on social media about the case before the trial.”

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Raymond) reports that Judge Thompson “said the trial judge ‘fell short’ in conducting the jury selection process and screening jurors for potential bias following pretrial publicity surrounding the high-profile case. Thompson said the pervasive news coverage of the bombings and their aftermath featured ‘bone-chilling’ photos and videos of Tsarnaev, now 27, and his brother carrying backpacks at the marathon and of those injured and killed near its finish line. Thompson said the judge deemed jurors eligible who had ‘already formed an opinion that Dzhokhar was guilty – and he did so in large part because they answered “yes” to the question whether they could decide this high-profile case based on the evidence.’”

[The Hill](#) (7/31, Moreno, 2.98M) reports, “Tsarnaev’s lawyers have argued that his sentencing trial should not be held in Boston, where jurors have been exposed to heavy local and national media coverage of the attack and its aftermath.”

The [AP](#) (8/1, Mustian, Ring) reports, “‘Boston Strong’ remains a ‘vibrant’ rallying cry more than seven years after the marathon bombing killed three people and injured more than 260 others, a federal appeals court noted as it threw out the death sentence of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev,” but “even as the ruling opened old wounds, it raised familiar questions about whether Tsarnaev can receive a fair hearing in the city where the bombs exploded – a community that may now be asked to relive unspeakable trauma.” The AP adds, “The Justice Department is expected to appeal. Legal observers predict prosecutors will turn straight to the U.S. Supreme Court without asking for a hearing before the full 1st Circuit. The U.S. government recently resumed federal executions following a 17-year pause and, under President Donald Trump, has pursued capital punishment in an increasing number of cases.” [The Hill](#) (8/2, Klar, 2.98M), the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (8/2, Croteau, 395K), and the [Boston Globe](#) (8/1, Crimaldi, 972K) also report.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Kamp, Randazzo, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) as well as brief [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 12, 0:19, O'Donnell, 3.97M) and [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 11, 0:20, Holt, 5.44M) broadcasts provided similar coverage.

Trump Demands Death Penalty For Tsarnaev. The [New York Post](#) (8/2, Sheehy, 4.57M) reports that in a [tweet](#) Sunday afternoon, President Trump “demanded the death penalty for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev – whose execution was taken off the table by an appellate court last week.” Trump wrote, “Rarely has anybody deserved the death penalty more than the Boston Bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. The court agreed that this “was one of the worst domestic terrorist attacks since the 9/11 atrocities”. Yet the appellate court tossed out the death sentence. So many lives lost and ruined. The Federal Government must again seek the Death Penalty in a do-over of that chapter of the original trial. Our Country cannot let the appellate decision stand. Also, it is ridiculous that this process is taking so long!”

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Schroeder) reports, “In a tweet, Trump said the federal government must challenge a Friday appeals court decision overturning the death penalty for the 2013 attack. ‘Rarely has anybody deserved the death penalty more than the Boston Bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev,’ tweeted Trump. ‘The Federal Government must again seek the Death Penalty in a do-over of that chapter of the original trial.’”

PROTESTS

Portland Protests Calmer After Federal Agents Stand Down.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Taylor, Rosenberg, 14.2M) reports that after “66 straight nights,” the protests in downtown Portland “may be reaching a turning point: The weekend brought none of the large-scale tear gas and firework-fueled clashes that marked the previous two months of unrest, a potential sign of calming tensions after the Trump administration pulled back federal law enforcement officers.” However, it is “not clear what direction the protests in the city, which show no sign of stopping, will take next.”

In a similar report headlined “With No Federal Agents On Streets, Portland Protests Turn Largely Peaceful,” the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, Caldwell, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says that since Thursday, the first night without a visible federal law enforcement presence, protests have been mostly peaceful. The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Baker, 18.61M) too reports that on Saturday night, “the crowd saw a third consecutive night of calm since the start of a plan to withdraw federal agents who had brought a militarized crackdown to the city.”

The [AP](#) (7/31, Flaccus) reports that in Portland, there has been a “dramatic change in tone outside a federal courthouse that’s become ground zero in clashes between demonstrators and federal agents...after the U.S. government began drawing down its forces under a deal between Democratic Gov. Kate Brown and the Trump administration.” According to the AP, “As agents from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Marshals Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement pulled back, troopers with the Oregon State Police were supposed to take over.” The AP says “there were no signs of any law enforcement presence outside the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse, however, where a protest lasted into early Friday.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Taylor, 14.2M) also reports that “as the Black Lives Matter-inspired vigil wound down early Friday morning, there was virtually no sign of the Oregon State Police officers who had taken over protection of the federal buildings at the center of the protests.” According to the Post, “Instead of being forcibly removed from downtown’s Lownsdale Square and the adjacent Chapman Square...the crowd thinned out on its own, with many protesters heading home of their own accord.” The Post says that “by a little after 1 a.m., only a relatively small crew remained, far down from the enormous crowd that had gathered four hours earlier to listen to speakers and chant anti-law enforcement slogans.”

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Bloom) reports that Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell “tweeted his thanks to protesters who stopped attempts to light fires and throw projectiles on the 63rd night of demonstrations, when there were no arrests.” While Reuters adds that acting Homeland Security Secretary Wolf indicated Friday morning that DHS agents “remained on standby and National Guard troops could be sent in should state police be overrun,” the [Wall Street Journal](#)

(7/31, Caldwell, Calfas, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says that officials in Portland expect the protests this weekend will be less violent given the drawdown of federal forces.

Trump: DHS Will Remain In Portland Until Police "Complete Cleanup Of Anarchists And Agitators." President Trump on Friday [tweeted](#), "Homeland Security is not leaving Portland until local police complete cleanup of Anarchists and Agitators!"

Wolf: Joint Federal-Local Policing Has "Worked Fairly Well" In Portland.

Appearing on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/31, 831K), Wolf said the developments in Portland "worked fairly well. What we saw is we saw a robust contingent of Oregon State Police come into the area yesterday afternoon together with Portland Police Bureau. They cleaned out the parks across the street from the courthouse and what we saw overnight is almost little to no criminal activity. And that really is how it should be. It reinforces the principle if you work with federal state and local law enforcement work together we can protect our communities. We can secure our communities. We can secure federal properties and protect law enforcement officers. This is what we have been asking for or over 60 days and I'm glad Oregon and Portland has finally accepted up to the challenge."

Cuccinelli Highlights Barr's House Testimony Regarding Portland Protests.

Speaking on [Chicago's Morning Answer](#) (7/31), Acting Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Cuccinelli discussed Attorney General Barr's recent House testimony regarding the presence of federal agents in Portland. Cuccinelli also discussed the DHS' role in protecting federal property, including the federal courthouse.

US Marshals Discuss Portland Protests, Role In Protecting Federal Courthouse.

Appearing on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 13, 1:58, Holt, 5.44M), US Marshals Service Director Donald Washington and US Marshall Russel Burger discussed the protests in Portland and their role in protecting the federal courthouse. Washington said, "People should be yelling, shouting from the courthouse steps their grievances, not trying to burn it to the ground." When asked by NBC's Erin McLaughlin, "Who are these people that are doing this?," Burger responded, "We have legitimate protesters that are out there expressing their First Amendment right, and we support that. But then you've got this other group, they want nothing more than to create chaos and injure people. And it's not a big group."

Judge Allows Release Of 18-Year-Old Accused Of Attempted Arson At Portland Courthouse. The [Oregonian](#) (7/31, Bernstein, 1M) reports Gabriel Agard-Berryhill, 18, "made his first appearance in federal court Friday on an attempted arson allegation, accused of lighting and throwing a large firework Tuesday over the fence that struck and set on fire protective wood covering the entrance to the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse." The Oregonian adds US Magistrate Judge Jolie A. Russo "allowed Agard-Berryhill to be released," but he "must not come within a five-block radius of the courthouse at any time of the day or night while his case is pending."

Judge May Order Federal Agents To Wear Numbered Jerseys. [Politico](#) (7/31, Gerstein, 4.29M) reports US District Court Judge Michael Simon on Friday suggested the uniforms of federal agents "responding to long-running protests and unrest in that city be emblazoned with easily visible numbers so officers can be easily identified if they commit abuses." Politico says Simon's comments came "in connection with a lawsuit he's overseeing that accuses city police and federal law enforcement officers of unjustified use of force against journalists and legal observers monitoring the protests, which have centered in recent weeks on the main federal courthouse in Portland."

Poll: 53% Support Deployment To Protect Federal Property, 47% Opposed. [The Hill](#) (7/31, Schulte, 2.98M) reports a Hill-HarrisX poll of 948 "registered voters" (7/26-7/27) found 53% "said they support sending federal agents to major cities in order to protect federal property despite the mayors of those cities not making a request for such action," while 47% "opposed the Trump administration's move." However, The Hill adds the survey "fell heavily along party lines with 76 percent of Republican respondents saying they agreed with the use of federal troops to protect federal property while 77 percent of Democrats said they disagree with

the move. Fifty-five percent of independent voters said they disagree with the move. The survey found 55 percent of white voters agree with federal agents and officers being deployed into major cities to protect federal property. Twenty-one percent of Black voters said they oppose the move along with 33 percent of Hispanic voters.”

DHS Official Whose Office Compiled Intelligence Regarding Journalists Gets Reassigned.

The [New York Times](#) (8/1, Kanno-Youngs, Goldman, 18.61M) reports Department of Homeland Security Acting Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis Brian Murphy was reassigned “after his office compiled reports about protesters and journalists covering the Trump administration’s response to unrest in Portland, Ore., last month.” Murphy was moved “to a new position in [DHS] after his office disseminated to the law enforcement community ‘open-source intelligence reports’ containing Twitter posts of journalists, noting they had published leaked unclassified documents, according to an administration official familiar with the matter.” The Times adds, “It was not clear what Mr. Murphy’s new position would be.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Harris, Miroff, 14.2M) reports the decision to remove Murphy from his job was made on Friday by Acting DHS Secretary Wolf. DHS “has been under mounting scrutiny from lawmakers and civil liberties groups over its use of federal law enforcement officers to quell protests in Portland and in light of President Trump’s threat to deploy federal personnel to other cities that he asserts are being overrun by violent criminals.”

DHS Stops Collecting Intel On Reporters Covering Portland Response. The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Kanno-Youngs, Tracy, 18.61M) reports DHS spokesman Alexei Woltornist “said on Friday that [Wolf] had shut down an intelligence examination of the work of reporters covering the government’s response to protests in Portland, Ore., beginning an investigation into what he suggested was an infringement on First Amendment rights.” Woltornist said, “The acting secretary is committed to ensuring that all D.H.S. personnel uphold the principles of professionalism, impartiality and respect for civil rights and civil liberties, particularly as it relates to the exercise of First Amendment rights.” Woltornist added Wolf ordered DHS to “immediately discontinue collecting information involving members of the press” once he learned of its actions.

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (7/31, Hosenball) reports all seven Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee on Friday “wrote to the Department of Homeland Security requesting details on its agents conducting intelligence monitoring of ongoing anti-racism protests in Portland.”

Cuccinelli Relaxed Oversight Of DHS Intel Office. [Politico](#) (8/2, Swan, 4.29M) reports that “several months ago, the leadership of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis asked” Acting DHS Deputy Secretary Ken Cuccinelli to limit “a department watchdog from regularly reviewing the intelligence products it produces and distributes.” Cuccinelli “signed off on the move, according to two sources familiar with the situation, which constrained the role of the department’s Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in approving the intelligence office’s work.” Since the change, however, “I&A’s work has drawn withering criticism. The Washington Post reported last week that the office distributed an intelligence report documenting communications between protesters over the Telegram messaging app. The Post also reported that I&A compiled intelligence reports on journalists covering DHS’s response to protests in Portland, Oregon against racism and police brutality.” A DHS spokesperson declined to comment.

DC Police Prevent Pro-Life Organizations From Painting “Black Preborn Lives Matter” On Street, Arrest Two Activists.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/1, Richardson, 492K) reports, “Police stopped pro-life groups Saturday from painting ‘Black Preborn Lives Matter’ on the street in front of a Washington, D.C., Planned Parenthood clinic and subsequently arrested two for writing the message in chalk on a

sidewalk, even though the activists said they had the District government's permission for the street painting." Leaders from Students for Life of America indicated that they told law enforcement "and city officials during the permit process that they would be painting the message on the 1200 block of 4th Street NE, citing the precedent of the protesters who painted 'Defund the Police' in June on 16th Street NW." In an email, Students for Life spokesperson Kristi Hamrick said, "We were told verbally that we would not be prevented from painting and what kind of paint to buy."

Jayapal Says Barr Perjured Himself During Testimony On Protests.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 932K) that Attorney General Barr "is not the President's personal attorney. He is supposed to be the attorney for all Americans and he is not acting that way. So, when there are protesters who are protesting the President, like the movement for Black Lives [Matter] protesters, then...a whole series of officers that come and push them out of the way just so that the President can get a photo-op. ... But when you have right-wing extremists...then somehow the Attorney General is nowhere to be found. And I believe he actually perjured himself because he said he wasn't even aware of those protests and that is impossible that as Attorney General he wouldn't be aware of those protests."

Trump Retweets Video Of Fox News Hosts Criticizing House Democrats'

Treatment Of Barr. President Trump retweeted a [post](#) from a Twitter user called The Dirty Truth who tweeted video of a segment from Fox News' Watters World during which host Jesse Watters said House Democrats' treatment of Barr during his testimony last week was "despicable," and Fox News host Mark Levin said, "I have never seen a senior official of any administration ever treated like that."

Arkansas Governor Confident In Investigation Into Morris Death.

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R), on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 954K), commented on a newly released video showing the death of Lionel Morris, who died in police custody. Hutchinson said, "I'm confident that the review by the Arkansas state police was thorough and the prosecuting attorney's office, any death like that in custody is a tragedy, but, in this case, one thing you didn't mention that he was very high on methamphetamine that was in his system and that was a large part of the reason that he died in custody because of that, as well as other contributing factors. I have confidence in the review that was done, in addition one thing that we are doing as a result of the George Floyd protests and the tragedy that was there, we do have an ongoing task force to review the advancement of law enforcement and what controls, changes need to be made there."

Nevada Legislature Votes To Ban Police From Using Chokeholds.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/2, Dibble, 448K) reports the Nevada state legislature over the weekend passed "a series of police reforms, including a ban on the use of chokeholds by officers." The state Senate and assembly "each passed separate policing reforms on Saturday" including restricting the use of chokeholds "unless the officer's life is in danger."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

UK Goes To Supreme Court To Fight Return Of IS Bride.

The [AP](#) (7/31, Kirka) reported the British government is going "to the UK's Supreme Court to challenge the return of a woman who ran away from home as a teenager in London to join the Islamic State group." A lower appeals court "ruled earlier this month that Shamima Begum had the right to come back to her home country to mount a legal challenge aimed at restoring her British citizenship, which was revoked on national security grounds." The three-judge Court of

Appeal panel "ruled that 'the only way in which she can have a fair and effective appeal is to be permitted to come into the UK.'" Britain's Home Office "challenged the decision, arguing that Begum doesn't have the right to repatriate." A lawyer for the Home Office, James Eadie, "said there were 'significant national security concerns' surrounding her return."

Afghan Troops Kill Senior Islamic State Militant.

The [AP](#) (8/2) reports Afghanistan's intelligence service "said the country's special forces killed a high-ranking official with the local Islamic State group affiliate in an operation in eastern Afghanistan." A statement late Saturday by the National Directorate of Security "said the slain militant was Assadullah Orakzai, an intelligence leader for the IS affiliate in Afghanistan." The statement "said he was killed near Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province." Orakzai was suspected of "being involved in several deadly attacks against both military and civilian targets in Afghanistan."

NYTimes A1: Case Of One Extremist Group Shows How Far-Right Infiltration Has Spread Throughout German Society.

In a roughly 3,200-word front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (8/1, A1, Bennhold, 18.61M) examines the creation of the German group Nordkreuz, or Northern Cross, and how its members began making plans to "round up political enemies and those defending migrants and refugees, put them on trucks and drive them to a secret location," and then kill them. The Times says, "The Nordkreuz case, which only recently came to trial after being uncovered more than three years ago, shows that the problem of far-right infiltration" in Germany "is neither new nor confined to...the KSK, or even the military. Far-right extremism penetrated multiple layers of German society in the years when the authorities underestimated the threat or were reluctant to countenance it fully, officials and lawmakers acknowledge. Now they are struggling to uproot it."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Judge Denies Bail For California Researcher Over China Ties.

The [AP](#) (8/2) reports from Sacramento, California, "A federal judge in California denied a bail request for a university researcher accused of lying about her ties to China's military and Communist Party to gain access to the United States." US Magistrate Judge Deborah Barnes "said Friday that 37-year-old Juan Tang 'would have every reason to leave' the country if released on bail. The former Chinese researcher at the University of California Davis has been held without bail at the Sacramento County Main Jail since July 23." Tang "was arrested by FBI agents when she left the Chinese consulate in San Francisco to visit a doctor, authorities said. Tang was considered a fugitive who sought refuge for a month inside the consulate after being questioned June 20." The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/31, 567K) reported Barnes said, "I just don't see sufficient conditions to overcome flight risk." [Law360](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 8K) reported Barnes "found it 'highly suspicious' that the defendant's daughter returned to China without the court's knowledge." Stanford University visiting scholar Chen Song is "one of a handful of scientists who the US has recently charged with visa fraud, claiming they concealed their active Chinese military duty status in their US visa applications in an orchestrated program by the Chinese government."

[Bloomberg](#) (7/31, Rosenblatt, 4.73M) reported Lexi Negin, the public defender representing Tang, "said in an email that she's disappointed by the decision." Negin said, "We will continue to work to try and find a suitable release package for Dr. Tang so that she can defend her case."

Woman Pleads Guilty To Plotting To Steal Trade Secrets From Ohio Hospital.

[WXIX-TV](#) Cincinnati (8/1, Fisher, Goffinet, 42K) reports, "The FBI division in Cincinnati is helping Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus with an investigation involving a woman who pleaded guilty Thursday to conspiring to steal scientific trade secrets from the hospital for her company in China and wire fraud, court documents states." According to WXIX-TV, "Court documents say, Li Chen, 46, from Dublin, Ohio, admitted to stealing scientific trade secrets related to exosomes and exosome isolation from Nationwide Children's Hospital's Research Institute. 'Li Chen was a trusted researcher at Nationwide Children's Hospital, conducting cutting-edge U.S. government-funded research,' stated FBI Cincinnati Special Agent in Charge, Chris Hoffman. 'With her guilty plea, she admits that she abused this trust to establish a company in China for her own financial gain.'"

WPost Examines Trump Campaign's Efforts To "Court QAnon."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, A1, Stanley-Becker, 14.2M) has a front-page feature on "how the Trump campaign came to court QAnon," writing that the President "and his campaign have courted and legitimized" adherents to "the viral online movement, which took root on Internet message boards in the fall of 2017 with posts from a self-proclaimed government insider identified as 'Q' [that] has triggered violent acts and occasional criminal cases. ... The Trump campaign's director of press communications, for example, went on a QAnon program and urged listeners to 'sign up and attend a Trump Victory Leadership Initiative training,'" and QAnon "iconography has appeared in official campaign advertisements targeting battleground states." White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications Dan Scavino "has gone from endorsing praise from QAnon accounts to posting their memes himself."

Op-Ed: The US And China Need To Find Ways To Manage The New Cold War.

In a commentary in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), David Shambaugh, the Gaston Sigur Professor of Asian Studies, Political Science and International Affairs and director of the China Policy Program at George Washington University, wrote that ties between the US and China are deteriorating quickly and that the two countries are essentially now engaged in a new Cold War. He contends the situation has been deteriorating for some time, but the recent Consulate closures in each country demonstrates the clear decline and the two countries need to find ways to deal with the new bilateral dynamic and deter the situation from getting even more serious.

Op-Ed: Communist China Puts Our Technology And Safety At Risk Every Day.

In an op-ed in [CQ Roll Call](#) (7/31, 154K), Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Rep. John Joyce (R-PA) wrote, "Communist China puts our technology and safety at risk every day. It's been a long time coming, but more and more Americans are waking up to the threat of Chinese influence in our technology. This is a reality we must face as a nation and one we need to get a handle on before it's too late." They contended, "The China Task Force is focused on equipping our scientists to win the race to 5G and remove Chinese telecom infrastructure from the US. To achieve lasting progress, America must continue and expand its prohibition of dangerous technologies originating from China, like Huawei and ZTE." They concluded, "In the 21st century, the US simply cannot afford to fall behind China's technology momentum. ... We must once again lead in innovation and ensure security for our telecommunications."

Johnson Says Agencies Are Not Cooperating With Investigation Of Russia Probe.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) said on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (8/2) about his investigation into the Russia probe. Johnson said, "We're trying to assemble a puzzle. I think we basically know what the picture is but we're trying to get all the pieces of the puzzle. Democrats have a huge advantage over us in our investigation. Some of them know exactly what they did. ... One of our problems is obtaining documents from these agencies. ... I can't tell you my frustration how difficult it is getting information out of agencies that are supposedly

controlled by this Administration but simply aren't. ... I'm actually hoping the White House gets engaged and gets into the agencies and makes sure that the American people finally get to understand and see the full picture of the corruption of the transition process that occurred."

Op-Ed: Confidentiality Was Never Part Of The Steel Dossier.

In an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (8/1, 2.98M), former FBI agent James Casey wrote, "Critics who claim that Attorney General Barr has recklessly declassified...FBI electronic communication, putting Danchenko and other sources – and future source operations – in peril are wrong. Steele was a 'non-US Person,' and not an FBI source when he was de facto working for...the Hillary Clinton campaign to develop opposition research. Steele subcontracted this work to Danchenko...who, by his own admission during the FBI interview, provided what he categorized as 'bar talk over beers' back to Steele. The fact that this kind of information in an FBI communication was classified as 'secret' in the first place is unexplainable." Casey concluded, "The information that Danchenko provided was the last nail in the coffin of the Steele dossier, and it created a serious dilemma for the FBI. ... How this all ends will be determined largely by US Attorney Durham's investigation."

Op-Ed: Barr May Try To Spin His "Investigation" Before The Election.

In an op-ed in the [Washington Post](#) (8/1, 14.2M), Joshua Geltzer And Ryan Goodman wrote, "One of William Barr's weaknesses is a godsend for the rule of law: The attorney general is not completely effective at lying. ... Barr's behavior in his prior career in government and in his current office reveals voluminous and specific examples in which he misled the public and Congress. ... And there's every reason to suspect Barr will soon try again to mislead – this time regarding...an investigation by his handpicked US attorney, John Durham – in an effort to skew the 2020 elections." They contended, "The problem is that there are two types of lies that Barr is willing to employ. One can be detected quickly. The other often takes time to uncover." They concluded, "It's essential that Congress, the media and the public refuse to accept what Barr says at face value. Wait till we see what Durham's investigation actually concludes."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump's Approach To Moscow Appears To Have Undergone "Little Or No Evolution" Since 2016.

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (7/31, Sanger, 18.61M) says President Trump's "approach to Moscow...has been consistent. With three months until Election Day, he is repeating a variant of lines that he uttered during his first campaign." For example, "it would be 'wonderful' if 'instead of fighting each other, we got along.' That he and Mr. Putin are working together to reduce the threat of nuclear war, even though both nations have spent the past four years developing nuclear weapons and scuttling treaties that limited their stockpiles. In recent days, he has begun deflecting questions about Russia's cyberactivities by repeating another line from 2016: that everyone turns a blind eye to China." The article says, "What is striking about all these comments is that they indicate little or no evolution in Mr. Trump's approach."

Op-Ed: Trump Is Committed To Defending The US, And Russia Knows It. In an op-ed in the [Washington Post](#) (8/2, 14.2M), Robert O'Brien, the national security adviser to President Trump, writes, "Like Reagan, President Trump strives for good relations with all nations, including Russia. But no nation, including Russia, should doubt the president's commitment to defending the US and our allies. President Trump has demonstrated to Russia that he means what he says about putting 'America First.' If recently reported allegations of Russian malign activity toward Americans in Afghanistan prove true, Russia knows from experience that it will pay a price – even if that price never becomes public." He concludes, "No president since Reagan has shown such resolve to Moscow. Like Reagan, President Trump seeks another path with Russia – one in which Russia refrains from aggression abroad and becomes a friendly partner to the United States and Europe. In such a world, sanctions on Russia would be unnecessary, and trade between our countries would flourish."

WPost Analysis: Dissonance Between Trump, National Security Team Shows Lack Of Strategic Approach To Russia. In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Deyoung, 14.2M) said, "The public dissonance between President Trump and his top national security team over Russia reached new heights in the past week," in some ways overshadowing what several experts describe as the Administration's lack of strategic approach to dealing with Moscow. For example, a former senior Administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said that to the extent President Trump "undermines US policy," it is not necessarily because of his lauding of Putin, but "because there is no coherent policy." The official added, "There is no devolution to fill out the details of the kind of deals he wants to make."

Detentions Of 33 Suspected Russian Mercenaries In Belarus Pits Minsk Against Moscow Just Before Election.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Khurshudyan, 14.2M) reported the detentions of "33 suspected Russian mercenaries near Minsk" earlier this week "have expanded an unusual run of tension between Belarus and Russia, once tight allies that have drifted apart as Belarus's president, Alexander Lukashenko, tests policies independent of Moscow's backing. The rare friction with Russia is now part of the backdrop for an Aug. 9 election that is expected to extend Lukashenko's 26-year authoritarian grip on power." However, "Lukashenko also appears to be using the showdown with Moscow to bolster his populist credentials and to try to discredit opposition candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, a newcomer who has led a surprisingly strong campaign. Belarus claims – without making any evidence public – that the alleged mercenaries are part of Russia's shadowy Wagner Group paramilitary outfit and were sent to Minsk to destabilize the country ahead of presidential elections."

CIA Declassifies Details Of 1970s Stealth Drone.

[Forbes](#) (7/31, Hambling, 9.71M) reported The CIA's Project Aquiline was "a drone with a ten-foot wingspan which would carry out spy missions deep into the Soviet Union." The CIA has "declassified a new stash of documents about the project from the early 1970s, revealing among other things, plans to fit nuclear propulsion and have it operating out of the celebrated Area 51." Project Aquiline never "became operational, for reasons which we will explore." But, as the CIA "notes in a preface to the new release, 'the concept proved invaluable as a forerunner to today's multi-capability UAVs [Unmanned Aerial Vehicles].'" The project originated "in the 1960s." After the shooting down "of Gary Powers U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union, manned flights were becoming politically too risky." Satellites could peer "over the Iron Curtain, but only provided grainy long-range photographs." What was needed was "a small, unmanned aircraft for strategic reconnaissance from close-up."

Retrial Of Accused CIA Leaker Josh Schulte Delayed At Request Of Defense Lawyers.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Blake, 492K) reported a federal court judge "pushed back proceedings Friday in the government's longstanding criminal case against Joshua Adam Schulte, a former CIA engineer suspected of leaking classified documents to WikiLeaks." Senior US District Court Judge Paul A. Crotty "agreed to postpone a status conference in the Schulte case previously scheduled for August 3 in light of defense layers recently asking for an adjournment." The conference has been "rescheduled for Oct. 17, per the judge's order, indicating Schulte's yearslong legal saga is unlikely to come to a conclusion anytime soon."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Maxwell Wins Court Ruling To Prevent Release Of 2016 Testimony As Reports Highlight Ties To Trump, Clinton.

According to [Bloomberg](#) (7/31, Hurtado, 4.73M), "Ghislaine Maxwell, the British socialite fighting sex-trafficking charges in the U.S., persuaded a federal appeals court in Manhattan to temporarily halt the release of sworn testimony she gave in April 2016 in a civil case." Bloomberg says the court on Friday "granted Maxwell's request to block the unsealing of documents that include her deposition testimony in that lawsuit," but "said it would consider the fight over the unsealing on an expedited basis and scheduled a hearing for Sept. 22."

In article titled, "Before President Trump Wished Ghislaine Maxwell 'Well,' They Had Mingled For Years In The Same Gilded Circles," the [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Helderman, Fisher, 14.2M) reports that "for at least 15 years" after meeting in 1989, President Trump and Maxwell "continued to mingle in the same gilded circles, attending the same parties in Florida and New York, sharing meals and flying together at least once on [Jeffrey] Epstein's private plane." The Post says "during those years, Trump socialized with Epstein, particularly after Epstein purchased a mansion in Palm Beach, Fla., in 1990, not far from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate." The Post says that while Trump said last year that he and Epstein "had had a falling out," he "as not made a similar effort to distance himself from Maxwell, Epstein's longtime companion."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Helderman, Jacobs, 14.2M) also reports that ██████████, "who has accused...Epstein of years-long abuse that began when she was a teenager, alleged in a newly unsealed deposition that...Maxwell, was both his chief accomplice and a participant in the sexual abuse." According to the Post, ██████████ "has claimed that Maxwell recruited her to serve as a traveling masseuse for Epstein after spotting her working a summer job as a locker room attendant 20 years ago at Mar-a-Lago, President Trump's private estate."

According to [Bloomberg](#) (7/31, Hurtado, 4.73M), ██████████ "has recounted how she had a job at 16 handing out towels in a spa locker room at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida before Maxwell lured her to work as a masseuse for Epstein, when he began sexually assaulting her." Bloomberg adds, "After that, ██████████ testified, Maxwell and Epstein began farming her out to powerful men, including directing her to have sex with Britain's Prince Andrew – a claim the prince has strenuously denied."

Meanwhile, Stephanie Gosk reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/31, story 12, 1:57, Holt, 5.44M), "In a 2011 transcript of a conversation with attorneys, ██████████ said she saw former President Bill Clinton on the island. According to this document, she told lawyers, 'I remember asking Jeffrey what's Bill Clinton doing here kind of thing. And he laughed it off and said, 'well, he owes me a favor.' He never told me what favors they were.' In a statement today, a Clinton spokesperson tells NBC News, 'The story keeps changing. The facts don't. President Clinton has never been to the island.' ██████████ has acknowledged to NBC News that she used drugs when she says she was abused by Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, his long-time friend who pleaded not guilty to federal charges earlier this month. But ██████████ pushes back on Maxwell and others who have questioned her credibility." Gosk added, "██████████ does not allege that Clinton engaged in any illegal sexual activity, nor has any other known Epstein accuser."

The [AP](#) (7/31) reports that US District Judge Alison J. Nathan "said Friday that her attorneys are not permitted to publicly identify accusers even if they've spoken in a public forum. 'Not all accusations or public statements are equal,' U.S. District Judge Alison J. Nathan wrote in her ruling in the case facing Ghislaine Maxwell. 'Deciding to participate in or contribute to a criminal investigation or prosecution is a far different matter than simply making a public statement "relating to" Ms. Maxwell or Jeffrey Epstein, particularly since such a statement might have occurred decades ago and have no relevance to the charges in this case.'" Judge Nathan "said the women 'still maintain a significant privacy interest that must be safeguarded.'"

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (7/31, Ross, 456K) reports, "Newly released documents in a lawsuit against Jeffrey Epstein's associate, Ghislaine Maxwell, shed new light on the late accused sex trafficker's friendship with Prince Andrew, including the claim that the British royal worked to help Epstein secure a reduced sentence in a child prostitution case in Florida in 2008." The Mercury News adds, "Andrew's reputation has already been tarnished by his long association with Epstein and by allegations that he had sex multiple times with ██████████"

██████, one of the teenage girls Epstein allegedly pimped out to his powerful friends. Andrew, who was asked to step down from his royal duties last year, has repeatedly denied having sex with ██████ but the new documents appear to challenge his assertion that he wasn't good friends with Epstein and only saw him infrequently through the 2000s before he claims he ended their friendship."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Paul, O'Brien, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) and a brief [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 14, 0:27, Llamas, 6.66M) broadcast provide similar coverage of the unsealed documents.

Pair Of Prisoners Apprehended After Escaping From Oklahoma Jail.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 15, 0:23, Llamas, 6.66M) reported on a "dramatic jailbreak in Oklahoma City. Authorities say 34-year-old Pablo Robledo and his cellmate busted out glass blocks and used bed sheets tied together to climb down from the 12th floor of the jail. The cellmate was arrested after breaking his leg. Robledo, who is facing a first degree murder charge...briefly got away but was arrested after a manhunt this afternoon."

FBI Probing Fatal Shooting In Washington Casino Parking Garage.

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (8/1, 402K) reports from Tacoma, Washington, "Puyallup Tribal Police responded to a report of a shooting at the south parking garage of the Emerald Queen Casino in Tacoma just before midnight Friday night. Tribal officers and Emerald Queen security performed CPR on the male victim." KOMO-TV adds, "The victim was pronounced deceased early Saturday morning. Tribal police say a male suspect fled the scene on foot. Police believe the shooting did not appear to be a robbery." According to KOMO-TV, "Following standard procedure for major crimes on the Puyallup reservation, the FBI is now investigating the shooting."

Arizona Man Arrested After Fleeing Shooting Scene.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (7/31, 32K) reports, "Flagstaff police, with the help of federal officials, made an arrest in a shooting on the 5200 block of East Cortland Boulevard in mid-July." Pedro Herrera, 35, of Flagstaff, Arizona, "was identified by victims and witnesses on July 18 after a shooting in the neighborhoods near North Country Club Drive in Flagstaff. The victim was shot in the leg and survived his injuries. Herrera has been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and attempted homicide." The Daily Sun adds, "On July 18, police believed Herrera was in the area of Flagstaff or Winslow and considered him armed and dangerous driving a Ford Fusion. The Marshal's Office's Flagstaff Violent Offender Task Force and Phoenix division, Flagstaff FBI and Navajo Department of Public Safety worked together to arrest Herrera."

Six Former Houston Officers Charged After Deadly Drug Raid.

The [AP](#) (7/31, Lozano) reports from Houston, Texas, "A grand jury has indicted six former Houston police officers whose work with a narcotics unit has been under scrutiny since a 2019 drug raid in which a couple was killed, prosecutors announced Friday." The AP adds, "Prosecutors allege that the former officers falsified documentation about drug payments to confidential informants, routinely used false information to get search warrants, and lied in police reports. The grand jury on Thursday brought indictments on a total of 17 felony charges against the officers. The indicted former officers are Gerald Goines; Steven Bryant; Sgt. Clemente Reyna; Sgt. Thomas Wood; Lt. Robert Gonzales; and Hodgie Armstrong. The charges, which include tampering with a government record and aggregate theft by a public servant, were first filed earlier this month by the Harris County District Attorney's Office, which then brought the case before a grand jury."

FBI Searching For Man Who Vandalized Chicago Church.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (7/31, Williams-Harris, 2.65M) reports, "The FBI is asking for the public's help identifying a man who brought a dog with him while he vandalized a church in the Pilsen neighborhood last fall." The Tribune adds, "On Oct. 15, about 1:30 p.m., the man attempted to gain entry to the Lincoln United Methodist Church, 2242 S. Damen Ave. After someone told the man the church was closed, he began to kick the glass doors, shattering both, the FBI said. When employees of the church confronted him, he made racist comments and performed a gesture described as a Nazi salute."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (7/31, Struett, 875K) reports, "The incident, which happened about 1:30 p.m. Oct. 15, 2019, was logged by Chicago police as a religious-motivated hate crime, according to a review CPD hate crime records. In 2019, the CPD recorded six other hate crimes at churches and nine at synagogues. The FBI did not detail the possible motivation behind the incident."

US Charges Arizona Man For Distributing Child Pornography.

[KOLD-TV](#) Tucson, AZ (7/31, Ramirez) reports from Tucson, Arizona, "A 34-year-old Lake Havasu City man faces up to 20 years in prison for child pornography distribution charges." Dale L. Bauwens II "was indicted by Matthew D. Krueger, a U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, July 21 on two counts of distributing child porn, which carries a minimum sentence of five years and maximum of 20 years in prison, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Wisconsin. Bauwens's arrest and subsequent indictment came as part of Operation Kick Boxer, a collaborative effort between the Milwaukee Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, aimed at apprehending sex offenders who target children."

Marine Corps Suspends Search For Missing Personnel Off Southern California.

[NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/2, story 8, 0:20, Snow, 4.12M) reported that the US Marine Corps "has suspended the search and rescue effort for seven missing Marines and one Navy sailor off the coast of southern California. The group was on a training mission Thursday when their amphibious assault vehicle sank." [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/2, story 6, 0:25, Llamas, 5.23M) reported, "All eight service members are presumed dead." A brief report on the [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (8/2, story 4, 0:15, Garrett, 1.32M) provided similar coverage.

FBI Investigation Results In Charges Against Hawaii Man Who Allegedly Sent Threatening Emails.

[Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (7/31) reported an O'ahu man was charged "in federal court with sending threatening interstate communications. Sean Michael Fujiwara, 43, of Kailua, Hawai'i is accused of sending at least 21 emails that were threatening in nature or contained references to foreign terrorist organizations, or both, according to the US Justice Department." He has since "been remanded to federal custody pending further proceedings." According to FBI Special Agent in Charge Eli S. Miranda, "The FBI takes these types of threats very serious especially when they reference schools and the killing of students and teachers. Many times these threats are more than words and are actually a precursor to violence. The men and women of the FBI work tirelessly to identify the author of such threats to ensure they are stopped before they act out. This arrest is an example of the FBI's dedication to justice and our goal of making Hawai'i a safer place for all."

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (7/31) reported among the alleged messages "were a Feb. 25, 2018 email to a personal Hawai'i Department of Education email address threatening to shoot and kill teachers and students; a June 8, 2020 email to a law enforcement agency threatening to plant a bomb at a specified police station; and multiple emails proclaiming Fujiwara's allegiance to ISIS." The case is being investigated by the FBI.

Indiana Girl Dies After Being Caught In Shootout.

The [AP](#) (7/31) reported a 2-year-old girl died Friday "two days after she was caught in crossfire and shot in the head while sitting in a car with her mother at a northwestern Indiana apartment complex, police said." Police said the girl's mother, "who was not injured in Wednesday night's shooting, did not know the people who traded gunfire in the parking lot at the Kennedy Crossing Apartment Complex in Hammond." Following the shooting, "police searched a wooded area nearby where one suspect had apparently fled. A police helicopter helped in that search while dogs scoured the area, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of Chicago, WLS-TV reported." Hammond detectives used a "fire truck to search the roof of an apartment building for evidence, while the FBI assisted police at the shooting scene, where police had marked at least 10 shell casings."

Omaha Bank Robber Sentenced Ten Years.

[Daily Nonpareil \(IA\)](#) (7/31, Pimper) reported an Omaha man convicted of "robbing a Council Bluffs bank was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment Wednesday." Brandon Bird had his sentence "levied by U.S. District Court Judge Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa." As part of his sentence, "the defendant is being required to serve three years of post-release supervision, court records show. It was also ordered by the judge that he pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victims' Fund." The case was investigated "by the Council Bluffs Police Department, Iowa State Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Great Plains Violent Crimes Task Force. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa."

Hawaii Man Sentenced For Possession Of Child Porn.

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (8/2) reports a Honolulu man was sentenced "to five years in prison for possession of child pornography, the Department of Justice reported last week." Tyler Pang was sentenced "on July 29 by United States District Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi." Pang is also required "to register as a sex offender in the jurisdiction(s) where he resides, is employed, or is a student." The case was investigated by the FBI. According to FBI Special Agent in Charge Eli S. Miranda, "Identifying predators who exploit the innocence of a child will always be a top priority for the FBI. Tyler Pang possessed sexual images of children and distributed the images over the internet. Today's sentencing highlights the hard work of the men and women of the FBI and puts a child predator offline."

FBI Believes Toledo Councilwoman Sought To Extort Local Business Owner.

The [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (8/1, 88K) reported that as part of a "sweeping bribery probe of four Toledo councilmen and a local attorney," the FBI believes Toledo City Councilman Yvonne Harper intended to extort a local gas station owner. Federal investigators in a criminal complaint "filed June 30 assert she said as much at those meetings in front of another elected official, a Toledo police officer, the leader of Toledo's NAACP chapter, a local bishop, and a member of the mayor's administration who is now the Ohio political director for Joe Biden's presidential campaign."

Three ND Tribal Officials Charged In Bribery Scheme.

The [Minot \(ND\) Daily News](#) (8/2, 61K) reports two current tribal government "officials and one former tribal government official of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation) were charged by criminal complaint unsealed on Thursday for their alleged acceptance of bribes and kickbacks from a contractor providing construction services on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, which is the home of the MHA Nation." The FBI investigated the case. Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian C. Rabbitt "of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney Drew H. Wrigley for the District of North Dakota, and Acting Special Agent in Charge Aubree M. Schwartz of the FBI's Minneapolis Field Office made the announcement."

Honolulu Managing Director Subject Of FBI Investigation.

[Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (8/1, Jedra) reported Honolulu Managing Director Roy Amemiya "is a 'subject' in a federal investigation and testified before a grand jury on Thursday, the city said on Friday." Amemiya is now the "highest-ranking, non-elected city official to become embroiled in a federal probe" and it is "unclear on what case he was called to testify." However, Amemiya's testimony "follows a recent visit to the grand jury by Max Sword, a former member of the Honolulu Police Commission appointed by Caldwell. Corporation Counsel Donna Leong received an FBI target letter in January 2019."

FBI Increases Reward Amount For Information Leading To Arrest And Conviction In Las Cruces Church Bombings.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (8/2, 58K) reports the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Friday "increased the reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the church explosions that occurred five years ago in Las Cruces." The FBI "increased its reward from \$20,000 to up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for the explosions." On Friday, James Langenberg, "special agent in charge of the Albuquerque FBI Division, said it's fortunate that the devices didn't hurt anyone five years ago. But – had they exploded a few minutes earlier or later – it could have been a different story." Langenberg said, "Investigators have conducted more than 700 interviews, and reviewed hundreds of files, tips and other pieces of information in this investigation. We are determined to solve this case."

Among other outlets reporting is the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (8/1).

Massachusetts Man Faces Federal Charges After FBI Says He Stole "Smart" Light Bulbs From Home Depot.

The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (8/2, Croteau, 395K) reports the theft of light bulbs and batteries "does not bring to mind an FBI investigation, but one Massachusetts man is accused of stealing thousands of dollars' worth of those items and has now found himself facing a federal charge." Justin Farinato, 39, of Groveland, "is facing a charge of transportation of stolen goods in a Massachusetts federal court after authorities say he made nearly \$400,000 from stealing 'smart' light bulbs, Nest thermostats and batteries from The Home Depot." He "appeared in federal court Friday." Farinato, according to "an affidavit filed by FBI Special Agent Andrea Sciolino, has stolen the special light bulbs, thermostats and other items from various Home Depot locations in New England since 2014."

Among other outlets reporting is the [Salem \(MA\) News](#) (8/1, Writer, 64K).

New York Man Pleads Guilty To Sexually Exploiting Child.

The [Schenectady \(NY\) Daily Gazette](#) (8/2, 82K) reports that Blake Spears, 39, of Guilderland, "pleaded guilty Friday to one count of sexual exploitation of a child." Spears "admitted to sexually exploiting the child Dec. 1, 2018 by using his phone to make a recording." He also "admitted to using a phone messaging application to distribute videos to others depicting the sexual abuse of other children, prosecutors said." The case "was investigated by the FBI and its Child Exploitation Task Force."

Police Arrest Pontiac Man In Homicide Of Susie Zhao.

The [Oakland \(MI\) Press](#) (8/2, 95K) reports police "have arrested a 60-year-old Pontiac man in the homicide of Susie Zhao, a 33-year-old Waterford Township resident who had worked as a professional poker player, a ClickonDetroit report said." Zhao's "badly burnt remains were found on Monday, July 13 at around 8 a.m. in a Department of Natural Resources parking area near the Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area at Maceday Lake and Cross roads, according to White Lake police." At about 9 a.m. Friday, detectives "were notified by the FBI task force about the

location of the suspect's vehicle and stopped it around I-275 and Michigan Avenue, where the search warrants were then executed."

Among other outlets reporting are the [Detroit \(MI\) Free Press](#) (8/1, 1.52M) and [ABC News](#) (8/1, News, 2.97M).

Task Force Arrests Grand Island Man On Drug Charges.

The [Grand Island \(NE\) Independent](#) (8/1, 52K) reported members of the Central Nebraska Drug and Safe Streets Task Force "arrested a 48-year-old Grand Island man Thursday afternoon on drug charges." Daniel Harp was arrested "for possession of a controlled substance (meth) with intent to distribute and possession of a controlled substance (Xanax)." Grand Island Police Capt. Jim Duering "said the FBI-sponsored task force does most of its investigations at the federal level."

Maryland Man Sentenced To 18 Months In Federal Prison For False Use Of A Passport.

The [Baynet \(MD\)](#) (7/31) reported that US District Judge George Hazel III "sentenced Arinze Michael Ozor, age 37, of Bowie, Maryland, a dual citizen of the United States and Nigeria, to 18 months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for forgery or false use of a passport, in connection with his use of false passports to open 'drop accounts' for a money laundering conspiracy." Judge Hazel also ordered Ozor to pay restitution of \$43,000. The sentence was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert Hur, who "commended the FBI and the DSS for their work in the investigation."

FBI: San Antonio Man Arrested, Charged With Distribution Of Child Pornography.

[KSAT-TV](#) San Antonio (8/1, Rodriguez, 198K) reported a 62-year-old San Antonio man "is now behind bars and charged with distributing child pornography, according to the FBI." Juan Benavidez "was arrested Thursday after federal authorities filed a federal complaint." An FBI release said, "A preliminary examination of the iPhone revealed the presence of multiple image files depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit activity as well as the use of the mobile messaging application named Kik to receive and distribute files depicting child pornography between April and June of this year."

Suspect Accused Of Fatally Beating Another Man In Tulsa Has Been Arrested.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (7/31, 205K) reported Tulsa police and the FBI "worked to arrest a man accused of fatally beating" Donald Thomas, 36, "to death with a water key late Thursday night." Kyle Freeman, 34, "was booked into the Tulsa County Jail on Friday morning on a hold for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a murder complaint." Thomas, "whose death is Tulsa's 46th homicide of 2020, was also a tribal citizen." The FBI and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police "were notified."

Woman Suspected Of Murder Of Former Springfield Couple Found In New Mexico.

The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (7/31, Brown, 183K) reported, "A 46-year-old woman was arrested in New Mexico on a fugitive warrant this week, for suspected involvement in a 2018 murder of a Grant County couple." The couple Terry and Sharon Smith "were former Springfield residents." On Wednesday, the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Police Department "notified Grant County Sheriff's office they had arrested Gabrielle Isabella Connery, 46, on a fugitive warrant stemming from a two-year investigation of the case." The Bend Office of the FBI "was involved in this case."

FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitive From Tacoma Tracked Down In Mexico.

[KIRO-TV](#) Seattle (7/31, 34K) reported a FBI "Ten Most Wanted Fugitive" from Tacoma "was tracked down in Mexico and was booked into the Pierce County Jail on Thursday." Santiago

Mederos is "accused of shooting Camille and Josh Love in what investigators believe was a case of mistaken identity."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

FBI Raids Legislative Office Of Former Ohio House Speaker.

The [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (7/31, Bischoff, 121K) reports, "Federal agents executed a search warrant on the Ohio House on Friday to seize items from state Rep. Larry Householder's office." The Dayton Daily News "obtained a copy of the search warrant and seizure inventory through a public records request. The House GOP caucus issued the following statement: 'The Ohio House of Representatives today received and fully cooperated with a federal search warrant for personal items at the Riffe Center belonging to Larry Householder. The House will continue cooperating with federal investigators as part of our effort to restore integrity and trust to the House.'"

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/31, Pelzer, 895K) reports from Columbus, Ohio, "FBI agents raided ex-House Speaker Larry Householder's legislative office on Friday, seizing a number of personal items, according to a House Republican spokeswoman." The Plain Dealer adds, "The move comes a day after a federal grand jury indicted the Perry County Republican and four allies on racketeering conspiracy charges for allegedly running a \$60 million bribery scheme using FirstEnergy money to pass a \$1.3 billion bailout of two nuclear power plants. Lawmakers also removed Householder as speaker on Thursday. The search warrant, approved Thursday evening, sought six boxes and four envelopes containing computers, storage devices, records, calendars, call lists, photographs, as well as evidence of who used the computers and how."

The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (7/31, Balmert, 223K) reports, "The FBI was searching for records or information related to allegations that Householder and four others participated in a nearly \$61 million scheme to help Householder win control of the House, pass a \$1.3 billion bailout for two nuclear plants in northern Ohio and upend an effort to block the law on the ballot. Householder and his alleged co-conspirators were indicted on racketeering charges Thursday."

FBI Visits Office Of Kentucky Official Who Gave Wife Bonuses.

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (7/31, Estep, 257K) reports, "It appears the FBI is following up after the state auditor's office found that a Kentucky county attorney gave his wife bonuses totaling \$126,500 in two years." According to the Herald-Leader, "The audit found that Lawrence County Attorney Mike Hogan gave a total of \$134,500 in bonuses to staff members between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019 from delinquent tax fees, but that nearly all the money went to Hogan's wife, a legal secretary in his office." The Herald-Leader adds, "The office referred the findings to the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, Attorney General Daniel Cameron, the state Revenue Department and the county ethics board. On Thursday, Katie Anderson, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Kentucky, confirmed agents were 'conducting judicially authorized activity' at the Lawrence County child support office."

FBI Searches Offices Of Philadelphia Firm In Fraud Probe.

The [Inquirer \(PA\)](#) (7/31, Distefano, Roebuck, Arvedlund, 347K) reports, "FBI agents have raided the Old City offices of Par Funding, the firm at the core of an alleged \$500 million investment scheme and the subject of a wide-ranging U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission complaint." The Inquirer adds, "The agents executed search warrants on Tuesday morning at locations that included a Par Funding office at 141 N. Second St., according to law-enforcement sources familiar with the matter who were not authorized to publicly discuss it. In its recent sweeping complaint against Par and others alleging financial fraud, the SEC relied on at least one recording in which an 'FBI confidential source' spoke with one of the pitchmen who raised money from investors in the scheme."

In a separate article, the [Inquirer \(PA\)](#) (7/31, Arvedlund, Distefano, 347K) reports, "In a sweeping new complaint, the Securities and Exchange Commission said that the couple who operated Par Funding out of Philadelphia, joined by others, raised almost \$500 million nationwide from 1,200 investors by selling 'unregistered, fraudulent securities offerings' with lies. Using undercover operatives posing as investors, and at least one FBI recording, regulators uncovered a web of pitchmen and women stretching from Philadelphia to Florida, who turned high-interest cash-advance loans to small businesses into an investment vehicle to gull investors. At the center of the multistate web were Joseph W. LaForte, 50, and his wife, Lisa McElhone, 40, the agency said."

New Jersey Woman Pleads Guilty To Prescription Fraud Ring.

[NJ News](#) (8/2, Satullo, 1.72M) reports, "A 38-year-old Phillipsburg woman has admitted her role in an insurance fraud scheme that bilked public and private health plans out of at least \$8.8 million by filling fake prescriptions for compounded medicines." Christine Myers "pocketed almost \$1.5 million in the scheme to get insurance reimbursements for phony prescriptions and faces up to a decade in prison, according to a news release. The former co-owner of a New Jersey marketing company last week pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit healthcare fraud via video conference before U.S. District Judge John Michael Vazquez. 'Christine Myers treated health insurance plans as a vehicle to line her own pockets when she engaged in an elaborate scheme that resulted in defrauding insurers out of at least \$8.8 million,' said Joe Denahan, the FBI Newark Acting Special Agent in Charge."

Kentucky Man Sentenced For Running Ponzi Scheme.

[WTVQ-TV](#) Lexington, KY (7/31, Rogers) reports from London, Kentucky, "A 58-year-old Somerset, Ky., man was sentenced to nine years in prison and ordered to repay more than \$2.4 million for running an Ponzi scheme and wire fraud for almost two years." US District Judge Claria Horn Book "ordered the sentence for Rodney Scott Phelps on charges of conspiring to commit wire fraud and committing wire fraud by perpetrating a complex Ponzi scheme." WTVQ-TV adds, "From January 2012 through October 2014, Phelps and co-defendant Jason Castenir defrauded 13 victims out of more than \$2.4 million, through three fake investment schemes. 'Abusing the trust placed in him by dozens of investors, Rodney Phelps engaged in multiple fraudulent investment schemes over the course of several years,' said Special Agent in Charge Robert Brown, FBI Louisville Field Office."

US Charges Florida Doctor In Fraud Probe.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (7/31, Isger, 223K) reports, "A Delray Beach doctor who once tried to distance himself from a sober home that federal investigators said preyed on young addicts and scammed insurers out of tens of millions of dollars is now facing charges that he was deeply involved in such schemes at 50 addiction treatment facilities – on a scale that reached \$681 million." The Post adds, "In what appears to be the largest such case to date, Dr. Michael J. Ligotti has been arrested and charged with conspiring to commit health care fraud and wire fraud for his alleged role in a nine-year scheme to fraudulently bill for tests and treatments of vulnerable patients seeking a path out of drug and alcohol addiction, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Friday. The case was investigated by the Palm Beach County office of the FBI with the assistance of the IRS, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office, as well as the Amtrak Office of the Inspector General." [WPEC-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (7/31, Lolo, 97K) also reports.

Defendant Admits Role In Insurance Fraud Scheme.

The [Lehigh Valley \(PA\) Express Times](#) (8/2, Satullo, 257K) reports Pennsylvania resident Christine Myers "has admitted her role in an insurance fraud scheme that bilked public and private health plans out of at least \$8.8 million by filling fake prescriptions for compounded

medicines." The Express-Times quotes "Joe Denahan, the FBI Newark Acting Special Agent in Charge," who said Myers "treated health insurance plans as a vehicle to line her own pockets when she engaged in an elaborate scheme that resulted in defrauding insurers out of at least \$8.8 million." Denahan added, "The FBI, in conjunction with our law enforcement partners, will continue to investigate and bring to justice criminals who defraud the system and cheat" US taxpayers.

CYBER DIVISION

Florida Teenager Facing Felony Charges Over Hack Of Celebrity Twitter Accounts.

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (7/31, A1, Conger, Popper, 18.61M) reports 17-year-old Graham Ivan Clark of Florida "faces 30 felony charges in the hack" of several celebrity Twitter accounts, including those of former President Barack Obama, Joe Biden, and Kanye West. Clark "was arrested in his Tampa apartment, where he lived by himself, early Friday, state officials said." The Times adds that he's "being charged as an adult." Moreover, "two other people, Mason John Sheppard, 19, of the United Kingdom, and Nima Fazeli, 22, of Orlando, Fla., were accused of helping Mr. Clark," with prosecutors indicating that they "appeared to have aided the central figure in the attack, who went by the name Kirk." While documents disclosed Friday don't provide Kirk's true identity, "they suggest that it was Mr. Clark."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 11, 1:03, Llamas, 6.66M), correspondent Pierre Thomas reported authorities asserted that Clark is "the mastermind" behind the attack. Hillsborough State Attorney Andrew Warren said, "Make no mistake, this was not an ordinary 17-year-old. This was a highly sophisticated attack and it could have destabilized financial markets both in America and across the globe." Thomas added, "More than \$100,000 was illegally raised using those Twitter accounts to urge victims to send money to bogus charities."

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 10, 1:41, Holt, 5.44M), correspondent Jo Ling Kent reported that Twitter "says the scam targeted a small number of employees by phone, enabling hackers to access [the] accounts and direct messages." Twitter on Friday said, "We appreciate the swift actions of law enforcement and will continue to cooperate." A front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, A1, McMillan, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) story says that according to the Warren, several law-enforcement agencies probed the attack, including the Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 11, 0:22, O'Donnell, 3.97M) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

[CNN](#) (7/31, O'Sullivan, 83.16M) reports, "Warren said his office was handling the prosecution because Florida law allows greater flexibility than federal law to charge a minor as an adult in a case like this. 'The FBI and Department of Justice will continue to partner with the office throughout the prosecution,' he said. 'These crimes were perpetrated using the names of famous people and celebrities, but they're not the primary victims here. This BitCon was designed to steal money from regular Americans from all over the country, including here in Florida. This massive fraud was orchestrated right here in our backyard, and we will not stand for that,' Warren said."

[Reuters](#) (7/31) reports, "Mason Sheppard, a 19-year-old British man who went by the alias Chaewon, was charged with carrying out the hack, as well as related wire fraud and money laundering crimes, according to a Justice Department statement. Orlando-based Nima Fazeli, 22, nicknamed Rolex, was charged with aiding and abetting those crimes." Reuters adds, "In a statement, Twitter said it appreciated the 'swift actions of law enforcement.' The FBI said that two of the accused had been taken into custody, without identifying them."

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (7/31, Fiallo, Talbot, 742K) reports, "Clark faces state charges and will be tried in Hillsborough County because he is a juvenile, federal authorities said. The other two men face federal charges in the Northern District of California." The Times adds,

"Clark's scheme was to steal the identities of prominent people, then post messages in their names directing victims to send Bitcoin to accounts he owned. The accounts received more than 400 transfers and he reaped more than \$100,000 in bitcoin in just one day, the state attorney's office said Friday."

The [AP](#) (8/1, Fischer, Bajak) reports, "In one of the most high-profile security breaches in recent years, bogus tweets were sent out on July 15 from the accounts of Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Mike Bloomberg and a number of tech billionaires including Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Tesla CEO Elon Musk. Celebrities Kanye West and his wife, Kim Kardashian West, were also hacked. The tweets offered to send \$2,000 for every \$1,000 sent to an anonymous Bitcoin address. The hack alarmed security experts because of the grave potential of such an intrusion for creating geopolitical mayhem with disinformation."

[Politico](#) (7/31, Matishak, 4.29M) reports, "The breach sparked a massive outcry from Capitol Hill, with lawmakers demanding the social media giant quickly come clean about the circumstances around the breach. Several Senate panels, including Intelligence, Commerce and Homeland Security, have been weighing if they should launch their own investigations into the incident."

Among news outlets also reporting are [SFGate \(CA\)](#) (7/31, Chamings, 2.13M), [ZDNet](#) (8/1, Cimpanu, 299K), the [Daily Beast](#) (7/31, Melendez, 1.39M), [Ars Technica](#) (7/31, Cox, Goodin, 1.36M), [Wired](#) (8/1, Barrett, 3.49M), [Bloomberg](#) (7/31, Mehrotra, Turton, 4.73M), and [Courthouse News](#) (7/31, Pickett, 2K).

Pompeo: Trump To Take Broad Action On Chinese Software.

The [AP](#) (8/2, Bussewitz) reports Secretary of State Pompeo said Sunday that President Trump "plans to take action on a what he sees as a broad array of national security risks presented by software connected to the Chinese Communist Party." Appearing on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#)^Y, Pompeo said, "These Chinese software companies doing business in the United States, whether it's TikTok or WeChat - there are countless more...are feeding data directly to the Chinese Communist Party, their national security apparatus. Could be their facial recognition patterns. It could be information about their residence, their phone numbers, their friends, who they're connected to. Those are the issues that President Trump has made clear we're going to take care of."

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Chiacu) quotes Pompeo as saying, "President Trump has said 'enough' and we're going to fix it and so he will take action in the coming days with respect to a broad array of national security risks that are presented by software connected to the Chinese Communist Party." The [Washington Times](#) (8/2, Glenn, 492K) reports Pompeo also warned, "These are true national security issues. For a long time, the United States just said, 'Goodness, if we're having fun with it - or if a company can make money off of it - we're going to permit it to happen.'"

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/2, Dunleavy, 448K) reports Treasury Secretary Mnuchin also signaled Sunday that Trump was close to taking action against Chinese-owned companies. Mnuchin, who is Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, "shed new light" into an investigation by the panel into TikTok on [ABC's This Week](#)^{Vi}. Said Mnuchin, "I will say publicly that the entire committee agrees that TikTok cannot stay in the current format, because it risks sending back information on a hundred million Americans." [Bloomberg](#) (8/2, Czuczka, 4.73M) reports the view that "there has to be a change" is shared by lawmakers including House Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Mnuchin said.

Microsoft To Continue Pursuit Of TikTok After Trump Speaks With CEO. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, A1, Bender, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports President Trump spoke by phone Sunday with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, sources said, as the Administration weighs whether to support a deal that would give the company control of TikTok in the US. The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Swanson, Crowley, Isaac, 18.61M) reports Microsoft said Sunday it would "continue to pursue the purchase of TikTok in the United States after consulting with President Trump, clearing the way for a potential blockbuster deal between the software giant and the

viral social media phenomenon." Sunday's call came as the President "has expressed repeated concerns about TikTok and concerns around national security in recent weeks." In a statement, Microsoft said it "fully appreciates the importance of addressing the president's concerns. It is committed to acquiring TikTok subject to a complete security review and providing proper economic benefits to the United States, including the United States Treasury."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Lerman, 14.2M) and [USA Today](#) (8/2, Tyko, 10.31M), among other news outlets, also report the phone call, while [Reuters](#) (8/3, Roumeliotis, Wang) reports exclusively that the President "has agreed to give China's ByteDance 45 days to negotiate a sale" of TikTok to Microsoft.

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Isaac, Swanson, 18.61M) says lawmakers "and the Trump administration have increasingly questioned whether TikTok is susceptible to influence from the Chinese government, including potential requests to censor material shared on the platform or to share American user data with Chinese officials." According to the Times, TikTok "has been under review since late last year by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a federal panel that examines foreign acquisitions of American firms for national security threats." However, the [Washington Post](#) (7/31, A1, Nakashima, Lerman, 14.2M) reports on its front page that TikTok "has continually insisted it does not hand over information to the Chinese government."

[USA Today](#) (7/31, Jackson, Subramanian, Fritze, 10.31M) reports that on Friday, the President "threatened" to "ban TikTok from operating in the U.S. over concerns about the social media platform's ties with China." The President said, "As far as TikTok is concerned, we're banning them from the United States."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) calls Microsoft's potential move to buy US owned operations of Chinese-owned video app TikTok a possible example of increasing business competition while also solving a political problem. The Journal concludes Microsoft has the resources to go through with the investment and would offer competition to social media giants.

Pompeo Criticizes China's Treatment Of Uighurs. Pompeo, on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 1.47M), also discussed China's treatment of the Uighurs, saying, "The risk to the people in that region has been great. I've talked about this as the greatest human rights violation to this date. If you want to participate in the world stage, you can't participate in behavior like this. We've begun to impose sanctions by companies and individuals involved in this. The most recent sanctions will put businesses operating there on notice, they have to change their behavior, stop using slave labor, stop participating in systems that have been connected to forced sterilization. ... We told US businesses take a real deep look into their supply chains and companies, some brand names in company, don't want to be connected to what's taking place there."

Canadian Attorney General Says Requirements Have Been Met To Extradite Huawei CFO To US.

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Warburton) reports Canadian Minister of Justice and Attorney General David Lametti "says the requirements for extraditing Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou to the United States on charges of bank fraud have been met, documents submitted in a British Columbia court show." The documents "are a precursor to the formal hearing on committal, or whether Meng should be extradited to the United States. Those hearings will take place in April 2021."

House Votes To Allot \$500M Toward Election Security.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Blake, 492K) reports the House of Representatives "voted Friday to allocate a half-billion dollars toward strengthening and securing U.S. elections as part of a giant spending bill unlikely to face similar success in the Senate." The "\$500 million to be given out in grants made available by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, or EAC," is included in

a \$1.3 trillion appropriations measure approved by the House. The measure additionally “calls for \$19.1 million to cover EAC operating expenses – an increase of \$3.9 million, and \$6 million more than the president requested.”

Coons Warns About Potential Fallout From There Being Uncertainty Surrounding Outcomes Of Upcoming Senate Elections. In a [Washington Post](#) (7/31, 14.2M) op-ed, Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) says he’s very concerned “that the alarm bells indicating risk to the soundness of an approaching election are ringing right here in our country.” The United States “is cruising toward a repeat of the election process of 2000, when it took more than a month to determine whether George W. Bush or Al Gore would ultimately become president.” Coons goes on to say, “This year, however, things could be worse.” In addition to the presidential election’s results being potentially “uncertain for weeks or even months; control of the Senate could be contested for just as long. If that uncertainty lasts until January or beyond, that could be destabilizing for our democracy.”

Russia Pledges Reciprocal Steps After EU Sanctions For Alleged Cyberattacks.

[Reuters](#) (7/31) reported Russia’s Foreign Ministry “said on Friday it would respond with reciprocal measures to EU travel and financial sanctions against a department of Russia’s military intelligence service for alleged cyberattacks.” The ministry said in a statement, “Of course this unfriendly action by the EU will not be left unanswered,” adding that the sanctions “were politically-motivated.” In its first ever sanctions “related to cybercrime, the EU targeted the department for special technologies of the Russian military intelligence service, known as Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.” It accused the Russian service of “having carried out two cyberattacks in June 2017, which hit several companies in Europe resulting in large financial losses.” The service is also “accused of two cyberattacks against Ukraine’s power grid in 2015 and 2016.”

China Denies US Accusations Of Hacking To Steal Coronavirus Vaccine Data.

[Fox News](#) (7/31, McFall, 27.59M) reported a US security official tracking Chinese hacking “revealed in an exclusive Reuters report Friday that hackers backed by the Chinese government attempted to steal coronavirus vaccination data from US-based biotech company, Moderna.” China “pushed back on this accusation and said, ‘Such allegations are pure slander.’” Wang Wenbin, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said in a press conference Friday, “Recently so-called sources from the US government have been accusing China of hacking to steal technology and data of U.S. vaccine research, but there has been no evidence whatsoever.” The spokesman “said that China in fact is worried about potential hacking from foreign actors attempting to steal their data in the race to find a vaccination for the coronavirus.” The Justice Department (DOJ) indicted “two Chinese nationals working for the Chinese intelligence agency, the Ministry of State Security (MSS), last week for alleged hacking US and international systems.”

Ransomware Attacks Against Local Voting Systems Feared As Elections Approach.

The [AP](#) (8/2, Tucker, Cassidy, Bajak) reports federal authorities “say one of the gravest threats to the November election is a well-timed ransomware attack that could paralyze voting operations. “The threat isn’t “just from foreign governments, but any fortune-seeking criminal.” Ransomware attacks targeting “state and local governments have been on the rise, with cyber criminals seeking quick money by seizing data and holding it hostage until they get paid.” The fear is that such attacks “could affect voting systems directly or even indirectly, by infecting broader government networks that include electoral databases.” Even if a ransomware attack “fails to disrupt elections, it could nonetheless rattle confidence in the vote.” Experts and officials “say ransomware is a particularly realistic possibility because the attacks are already so pervasive and lucrative.” The FBI and DHS have issued “advisories to local governments, including recommendations for preventing attacks.”

Data Breach At A Genealogy Site Has Privacy Experts Worried.

The [New York Times](#) (8/1, Murphy, 18.61M) reported GEDmatch, a longstanding family history site "containing around 1.4 million people's genetic information, had experienced a data breach." Brett Williams, the chief executive of Verogen, a forensic company that has owned GEDmatch since December, "said that the peculiar matches were not new uploads but rather the result of two back-to-back hacks, which overrode existing user settings." Scientists and genealogists "say the GEDmatch breach – which exposed more than a million additional profiles to law enforcement officials – offers an important window into what can go wrong when those responsible for storing genetic information fail to take necessary precautions." For many, the presence of "fake users in GEDmatch was as alarming as the breach itself." Genealogists know that a "user can easily upload someone else's genetic profile." But the breach "exposed that behind the scenes, hidden by privacy settings, were all kinds of profiles of people who were not even real."

CISA Hosts Table-Top Training Exercise To Aid In Protecting Elections.

[MeriTalk](#) (7/31, Weingarten) reported the Federal agency primarily responsible "for protecting elections held a training event to test its plans in advance of November's Election Day." The third 'Tabletop the Vote' exercise "hosted by DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), took place over a three day period from July 28 to 30, featuring 37 states and over 2,000 total participants, the majority of which participated remotely." CISA Director Chris Krebs, along with Federal, state, and local election officials, said in a statement, "In less than three months, millions of Americans will cast their vote. But for the state and local officials who administer elections, and the government and private sector partners who support them, the work has been ongoing for more than three years. We have made significant progress during that time, and this week's Tabletop the Vote exercise demonstrates the unprecedented levels of coordination between all levels of government and the private sector."

Travel Giant CWT Pays \$4.5M Ransom To Cyber Criminals.

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Stubbs) reported that, according to a record of the ransom negotiations seen by Reuters, US travel management firm CWT "paid \$4.5 million this week to hackers who stole reams of sensitive corporate files and said they had knocked 30,000 computers offline." The attackers used "a strain of ransomware called Ragnar Locker, which encrypts computer files and renders them unusable until the victim pays for access to be restored." The ensuing negotiations "between the hackers and a CWT representative remained publicly accessible in an online chat group, providing a rare insight into the fraught relationship between cyber criminals and their corporate victims." CWT "confirmed the attack but declined to comment on the details of what it said was an ongoing investigation." It said in a statement, "We can confirm that after temporarily shutting down our systems as a precautionary measure, our systems are back online and the incident has now ceased."

Several Solarium Commission Recommendations Successfully Included In House Defense Authorization Bill.

[Federal Computer Week](#) (7/31, Johnson, 263K) reported the Cyberspace Solarium Commission has "successfully lobbied the House to include nearly two dozen of its recommendations in the latest defense authorization bill." They're now working "to convince the Senate to adopt ideas like a new White House Cyber Director while also pushing the federal government and its allies to produce quicker attribution and joint sanctions for malicious cyberattacks." During a House Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats hearing, ranking member Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) "said at least 22 of the more than 50 legislative proposals from the report were included in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act passed by the House." Those provisions must still "survive a conference with the Senate and a potential

veto from the White House, which has already stated its opposition to numerous provisions in the House and Senate versions."

Google Announces Steps To Counter Spread Of Hacked Materials Before Election.

[Politico](#) (7/31, Nysten, 4.29M) reported Google announced Friday it will "penalize websites that distribute hacked materials and advertisers who take part in coordinated misinformation campaigns...in an effort to crack down on deception in the months ahead of the November US elections." Google "said the changes will go into effect on September 1 and will affect all advertising." The policy still allows "ads that mention or quote from leaked documents, but seeks to prevent ones that directly facilitate or advertise access to illegally obtained materials."

King Says "Two-Pronged Approach" Needed To Deter Cyber-Based Espionage Operations.

[Defense News](#) (7/31, Pomerleau, 21K) reported that, in testimony before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, Sen. Angus King (I-ME) "called for a two-pronged approach to deter cyber-based espionage operations, attempts to disrupt US banks, and widespread online influence campaigns." His recommendation included "increased international cooperation to call out and punish such activities, and for the US to create a stronger declaratory policy." The Cyber Solarium Commission "delivered a report in March advocating for multiple cyber deterrence efforts." King "said the US hasn't done a good job imposing costs against adversaries who conduct these cyber operations. We've become a cheap date in cyber."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

FBI Warns Of Faulty COVID-19 Tests In Texas.

[KTRK-TV](#) Houston (8/2, 431K) reports from New Braunfels, Texas, "The FBI headquarters in San Antonio is warning members who were tested for COVID-19 at a health care facility in New Braunfels in the last several weeks." According to KTRK-TV, "Authorities said they have reason to suspect the COVID-19 tests administered at Living Holistic Healthcare should not have been used to diagnose or rule out an active infection. Individuals who were tested at the facility are asked to contact the FBI at (210) 225-6741, prompt #1, or online on the FBI website."

[KIII-TV](#) Corpus Christi, TX (8/1) reports, "The warning applies to those who went to get tested at Living Health Holistic Healthcare in the Hill Country community. According to a tweet from local FBI authorities, law enforcement have 'reason to suspect the COVID-19 tests administered at the facility should not have been used to diagnose or rule out an active COVID-19 infection.'" [KSAT-TV](#) San Antonio (8/1, Rodriguez, 198K) and [KXAN-TV](#) Austin, TX (8/1, 495K) also report on their websites.

FBI Course Informs Attendees About Rights.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (8/2, Sanders, 307K) reports, "With tables 6 feet apart Saturday, FBI agents from Little Rock taught a public course in Jacksonville on federal civil rights and 'color of law' investigations as they pertain to law enforcement. The goal was to inform people about their constitutional rights and what to do if they believe their rights have been violated, FBI Supervisory Special Agent Ryan Kennedy said. 'It's to help people to understand what is or is not a civil-rights violation,' Kennedy said, 'and it's also to ... start having these really difficult conversations that people don't necessarily want to have on their own.' 'We help facilitate those conversations about public policing and community engagement, and how the community should be behaving and how law enforcement should be behaving,' he said."

WSJournal Analysis: Homicides Up 24% This Year.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, A1, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) analysis of crime statistics among the nation's 50 largest cities found that homicides are up 24% so far this year, to 3,612. In total, 36 of the 50 cities studied saw homicide rise at double-digit rates.

Along similar lines, the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/2, Dibble, 448K) reports that "crime statistics for the month of July painted a grim picture of Chicago as the city's murder rate more than doubled, with many of the victims being children." The total number of murders in July "climbed to 139% compared to the same month in 2019."

In New York City, [Fox News](#) (8/2, Betz, 27.59M) reports on its website, shootings so far this year "have surpassed the number of shootings for all of 2019, police confirmed to Fox News on Sunday." There were "776 total shootings for all of 2019, according to data compiled by the New York Post, which first reported the numbers."

Chicago Police: Homicides, Shootings In City Have Spiked This Year.

The [AP](#) (8/1) reports Chicago has seen a spike in homicides and shootings over "the first seven months of the year." During that time frame, "there were 440 homicides in Chicago and 2,240 people shot, including many of those who were killed, according to statistics released Saturday by the police department." The AP adds, "There were 290 homicides and 1,480 shootings, including people who were killed, in the first seven months of last year." July was particularly violent, with Chicago having "recorded 105 homicides and 584 shootings."

NYTimes Analysis: First Step Act Leaves Some Prisoners With Little Recourse When Resentencing Applications Are Denied.

A [New York Times](#) (8/1, Fuchs, 18.61M) analysis says the First Step Act has largely met its objective of lowering "federal sentences for nonviolent drug offenders, addressing a longstanding disparity in which crack cocaine convictions in particular led to far harsher penalties than other drug offenses and disproportionately increased imprisonment of Black men." However, "the law gives judges discretion in reducing sentences," thus resulting in some inmates not having a great deal of recourse when their resentencing applications are denied. The Times adds, "In those cases, activists and defense lawyers worry that the First Step Act gives too much authority to judges to determine who does and does not deserve early release."

Democrats To Press For "Structural Court Reforms."

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Hulse, 18.61M) reports Democrats intend to utilize their upcoming "party platform to push for 'structural court reforms' to counter what they describe as a concerted Republican campaign to pack the judiciary with 'unqualified, partisan judges.'" However, the platform's wording does not indicate what those changes ought to be. Nonetheless, supporters of the plank "said the broad statement represents a significant advance toward beginning a conversation among Democrats about how to respond to the substantial imprint that President Trump and his conservative allies have made on the federal bench."

Coronavirus Has Courts Rethinking Jury Trial. The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Marimow, Jouvenal, 14.2M) reports "many of the country's court systems are gradually reopening, having embraced technologies such as Zoom and YouTube to safely hold pleas, sentencings and even Supreme Court hearings." However, the jury trial continues to be largely stalled, and the Post adds that "prosecutors and the defense bar in many jurisdictions nationwide are racing to re-engineer" it "for the covid-19 era in the hopes of restarting the proceedings before the end of the year." According to the Post, "They face the tricky balancing act of protecting the health of jurors who are compelled by the law to serve, while also providing the constitutionally mandated right to a speedy and public trial to tens of thousands of defendants, some of whom have languished in jail for months awaiting their day in court."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Deutsche Bank Opens Probe Into Personal Banker for Trump, Kushner.

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Drucker, Enrich, 18.61M) reports Deutsche Bank "has opened an internal investigation" into Rosemary Vrablic, "the longtime personal banker" of President Trump and Jared Kushner, "over a 2013 real estate transaction between the banker and a company part-owned by Mr. Kushner." According to the Times, "Vrablic, and two of her Deutsche Bank colleagues purchased a Park Avenue apartment for about \$1.5 million from a company called Bergel 715 Associates" in June 2013. The Times cites "a person familiar with Mr. Kushner's finances" who "said he held an ownership stake in the entity at the time of the transaction." At the time, Trump and Kushner were Vrablic's clients at Deutsche Bank. Banks typically "restrict employees from doing personal business with clients because of the potential for conflicts between the employees' interests and those of the bank." A bank spokesman said, "The bank will closely examine the information that came to light on Friday and the fact pattern from 2013."

LAWFUL ACCESS

House Members Propose Encryption Bill Backed By Barr.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Blake, 492K) reports, "Encryption legislation being considered in the Senate spawned a companion bill proposed Thursday by Rep. Ann Wagner, Missouri Republican, quickly backed by the nation's top federal law enforcement official." Attorney General Barr "applauded Ms. Wagner for offering the House bill, the Lawful Access to Encrypted Data Act, and said he believed it is needed to keep criminals from evading authorities." The proposal "has previously received firm pushback from cybersecurity experts and Silicon Valley, however, who argue it would effectively require companies to build so-called 'back doors' into their products. Proponents of the proposal reason that encryption allows criminals to operate undetected online by making it difficult to impossible for authorities to intercept and decipher their digital communications."

[CyberScoop](#) (7/31, Vavra) reports, "It's just the latest series of GOP-backed bills introduced in the last year on Capitol Hill, including the EARN IT Act, that could degrade encryption's security and privacy benefits at the peril of all users, for the benefit of some law enforcement probes, security and privacy experts say. The EARN IT Act, which would make tech companies liable for content on their platforms, has already passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee." [Security Week](#) (7/31) also reports.

OTHER FBI NEWS

Justice Department Announces Dates For Two Executions.

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Zargham) reports the Justice Department on Friday "announced September execution dates for two inmates, in what could be the sixth and seventh federal executions this summer after a 17-year hiatus." In a statement, the department indicated that the execution of William LeCroy, who was convicted of killing a nurse in Georgia during 2001, will occur on September 22. Meanwhile, the agency indicated that the execution of Christopher Vialva, who was found guilty of killing a pair of youth ministers in Texas during 1999, will occur on September 24.

Ohio Officials Push For Relocation Of FBI HQ.

The [Youngstown \(OH\) Vindicator](#) (8/1, 171K) reports, "There's little chance President Donald Trump's request for \$1.8 billion for a new FBI headquarters will be approved by Congress in a

COVID-19 bill and virtually no chance it would be relocated far from Washington, D.C., but U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan and 10 Northeast Ohio mayors are asking it come to this area." According to the Vindicator, "In a Friday letter to the president, Ryan, D-Howland, and the mayors – including Youngstown's Jamael Tito Brown, Warren's Doug Franklin and Niles' Steven Mientkiewicz – made a request to have the building come to Northeast Ohio. 'The payroll these approximately 8,000 FBI jobs bring with them would go much further in Northeast Ohio than they currently do in the Washington, D.C., region and moving the building to the Midwest would show your commitment to creating opportunity in a region that desperately needs the economic stimulus that such a move would bring,' the letter reads." [WFMJ-TV](#) Youngstown, OH (7/31, 19K) also reports.

FBI Eyes Cloud Migration For Unclassified Data.

[ExecutiveGov](#) (7/31, Rivers) reports, "The FBI is planning to integrate its confidential, top-secret and secret networks with cloud platforms to improve intelligence sharing among personnel working from home, FedScoop reported Thursday." ExecutiveGov adds, "Gurvais Griss, assistant director of the FBI Laboratory's science and technology branch, said at an AFCEA event that the bureau is looking to move unclassified data from legacy systems to less-classified cloud environments. FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services unit is also working on efforts to move data from social media, communications platforms, mobile devices and system logs to a data lake to speed up analysis and response. 'At the lab ... we have systems, business processes, administrative actions that previously were done on the higher classification network – not necessarily because they require that level of protection,' he noted. 'It's just we organically designed it where people felt comfortable.'"

Conservatives Press For Federal Investigation Into Murder Of Milwaukee Trump Supporter.

The [AP](#) (7/31, Bauer) reports that "the shooting death in broad daylight of a Black man affectionately known in his Milwaukee neighborhood as 'The Ras' appears to have mystified police while spurring prominent conservatives in Wisconsin to speculate that he was killed because of his support for President Donald Trump." Bernell Trammell, "whose sometimes contradictory political views included supporting Black Lives Matter and many liberals, was killed outside his office in the eclectic and diverse Riverwest neighborhood of Milwaukee on July 23." According to the AP, "While police are saying little, prominent Republicans are calling for a federal investigation of the killing, which they say was politically motivated." The AP says the case "has gained attention in conservative media outlets and allegations that the case is being downplayed by Democrats because Trammell supported Trump."

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Meadows Says There Is "A Long Ways To Go" On Unemployment Benefit Negotiations.

Kate Snow said on [NBC Nightly NewsVi](#) (8/2, story 5, 1:05, 4.12M) that "25 million out-of-work Americans are waiting on Washington right now to reach an agreement that would restore federal unemployment benefits that expired this weekend. There's no deal yet, though." NBC's Kelly O'Donnell: "We know negotiations pick up [Monday] between the White House and Democratic leaders. They agreed that the extra federal unemployment money should continue, but the disagreement is over how much. Democrats insist it should remain \$600 a week on top of state benefits, which vary widely. Republicans want to use a percentage of the person's lost salary so it won't be more than their original paycheck. Separately, many Americans could get a second round of direct payments, just like back in April."

On the [CBS Evening NewsVi](#) (8/2, story 5, 1:45, Garrett, 1.32M), Nikole Killion said, "As President Trump hit the links Sunday, [there was] no hole-in-one for his negotiating team on a

coronavirus rescue package. ... Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin say talks with congressional Democrats have been productive, but they are still far apart on a deal." Meadows, on [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 2.67M), said, "We still have a long ways to go. I can tell you that we spent the last four days trying to get to some kind of consensus, at least to start negotiating. ... I'm not optimistic there will be a solution in the very near term, and that's why I think the effort that Sen. Martha McSally led on the Senate floor to extend the enhanced unemployment was the right move, and yet [Senate Minority Leader] Schumer and his Democratic colleagues blocked that." Mnuchin, on [ABC's This Week](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 2.52M), said, "The President is very concerned about the expiration of the unemployment insurance. We proposed a one-week extension at \$600 so that while we negotiate a longer-term solution at least all those people don't lose their money, and I'm surprised that the Democrats won't agree to that, they're insisting on having this as part of a larger deal."

Two top House leaders spoke for the Democrats on Sunday. House Speaker Pelosi said on [ABC's This Week](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 2.52M), "The \$600 is essential for America's working families and, again, to condescend, to disrespect their motivation, is so amazing, how insistent the Republicans are about working families and their \$600, and how cavalier they are about other money that's going out." Pelosi said on [MSNBC's AM Joy](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 866K), "We want to put money into the pockets of American people. ... They put \$200 forth the end of last week – \$200, very condescending to working families." House Majority Whip Clyburn said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 951K), "I don't know how close we are to a deal. ... The big problem to me was that people trying to put food on the table, people who are unemployed, people who are having their unemployment compensation supplemented by the \$600 and they want to cut it down to \$200 and at the same time give 100% tax deductions to business lunches. What kind of priority is that?" On [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 2.67M), Clyburn said, "Let's lay out some security in their lives, some stability in their lives."

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Chiacu, Ahmann) reports Meadows said "he was not optimistic on reaching agreement soon," arguing that "Democrats were standing in the way of a separate agreement to extend some federal unemployment benefits in the short-term while negotiations continue on an overall relief package." [USA Today](#) (8/2, Behrmann, 10.31M) reports Pelosi "remained steadfast in her desire to pass a larger bill and not take the gradual approach suggested by Republicans and the White House, such as a short-term extension of the unemployment benefit."

[Politico](#) (8/2, McCaskill, 4.29M) says the negotiators "couldn't even agree on what they agree on Sunday, indicating that Democrats and Republicans are still a ways away from clinching a deal." The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Werner, Rosenberg, 14.2M) reports Meadows, Mnuchin, and Pelosi "made clear in separate interviews Sunday that they remain far apart on a coronavirus relief deal that would restore expired unemployment benefits for millions of Americans," while the [New York Times](#) (8/2, Cochrane, 18.61M) says GOP leaders have conceded that "at least 20 Senate Republicans are unlikely to support any additional spending...in part because of concerns over the level of spending and its effect on the national debt." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, Zumbrun, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports an already-passed House bill would extend the \$600 federal jobless benefit through January.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), a vice-presidential prospect, said on [Fox News Sunday](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 1.01M), "The one-week extension is not enough. Americans across this country are hurting right now. There are families who don't know if they're going to be able to pay their rent. Today is the beginning of the month in August, and many families just missed the first rent payment or the first mortgage payment. Many families are not going to know if within two weeks their kids are going to go hungry."

[Bloomberg](#) (8/2, Bull, 4.73M) reports Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari told CBS on Sunday "that Americans are saving more because they aren't going out as much during the pandemic, and as a result there would be less need to borrow from abroad to

finance additional fiscal aid." Kashkari said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} (8/2, 2.28M), "While historically we would worry about racking up too much debt, we're generating the savings ourselves. That means Congress has the resources to support those who are most hurting."

[Axios](#) (8/2, Rummel, 521K) says "enhanced unemployment insurance expired for tens of millions of Americans on July 31, while those in talks to secure the next coronavirus stimulus package have made it clear that a deal is a long way off." [Bloomberg](#) (8/2, Litvan, House, Flatley, 4.73M), the [Washington Times](#) (8/2, Richardson, 492K), and [The Hill](#) (8/2, Chalfant, Elis, 2.98M) are among the other sources covering the Sunday show comments about the negotiations.

Birx Says Nation Has Entered A "New Phase" Of Pandemic.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Hawkins, 14.2M) reports White House Coronavirus Task Force Response Coordinator Deborah Birx warned in an appearance on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} that the country has entered a "new phase" of the pandemic. Birx said, "I want to be very clear what we're seeing today is different from March and April. ... It is extraordinarily widespread." Trevor Ault reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/2, story 2, 4:05, Llamas, 5.23M) that "22 states, DC, and Puerto Rico seeing their case numbers climb. ... July saw 1.9 million new cases of COVID-19 in this country, shattering the previous record." The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (8/2, story 2, 2:10, Garrett, 1.32M) reported that "the CDC predicts up to 11,000 people will die every week this month."

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Carey, 18.61M) says Birx "recommended that people living in communities where cases are surging should consider wearing a mask at home, if they live with someone who is especially vulnerable because of age or underlying medical conditions." Birx said, "If you have an outbreak in your rural area or in your city, you need to really consider wearing a mask at home, assuming that you're positive if you have individuals in your home with comorbidities." [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/2, story 4, 2:35, Snow, 4.12M) reported that Birx "had a new warning about house parties." NBC's Blayne Alexander added that she "pointed to those images we all keep seeing of those packed house parties and different events. She says it's not necessarily super spreading individuals, rather super spreading events, and she said those need to stop."

Pelosi Says She Has No Confidence In Birx. On [ABC's This Week](#)^{Vi} Sunday, [Reuters](#) (8/2, Chiacu) reports, House Speaker Pelosi "said...she does not have confidence in" Birx, "linking her to disinformation about the virus spread by President Donald Trump." Pelosi said, "I think the President has been spreading disinformation about the virus and she is his appointee so, I don't have confidence there, no." Similarly, [The Hill](#) (8/2, Bowden, 2.98M) reports that House Speaker Pelosi "said Sunday that the U.S. needs to get better control over the coronavirus outbreak before a widespread reopening of schools can occur safely." [Bloomberg](#) (8/2, Czuczka, 4.73M) says Pelosi "was asked about a Politico reports that she described Birx as a spreader of disinformation during a closed-door meeting Friday with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows." According to Politico, Pelosi said at the meeting, "Deborah Birx is the worst. Wow, what horrible hands you're in."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Hawkins, 14.2M) reports that on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi}, Birx "defended her decisions in responding to the crisis." Birx said, "I have tremendous respect for the speaker. I have tremendous respect for her long dedication to the American people. ... I have never been Pollyannaish or nonscientific or non-data driven."

Giroir: There Is No Evidence Hydroxychloroquine Is Effective Against Coronavirus.

[Politico](#) (8/2, Warmbrodt, 4.29M) reports that Assistant HHS Secretary for Health Adm. Brett Giroir "said Sunday there is no evidence that hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment for the virus, despite President Donald Trump's continued promotion of the anti-malaria drug." On [NBC's Meet The Press](#)^{Vi}, Giroir "said he could not recommend hydroxychloroquine" because

trials “do not show any benefit.” Giroir said, “We need to move on from that and talk about what is effective.” Giroir “suggested that doctors would be unlikely to prescribe the drug.” Giroir said, “There may be circumstances, I don’t know what they are, where a physician may prescribe it for an individual, but I think most physicians and prescribers are evidence-based and they’re not influenced by whatever is on Twitter or anything else. ... And the evidence just doesn’t show that hydroxychloroquine is effective right now.”

Researchers Fear Political Intervention In Vaccine Development.

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, A1, Lafraniere, Thomas, Weiland, Baker, Karni, 18.61M) reports that it “typically takes years to develop a vaccine,” so the timetable for Operation Warp Speed, which envisioned “broad access to the public by October 2020,” was “incredibly ambitious.” The Times adds, “It escaped no one that the proposed deadline also intersected nicely with President Trump’s need to curb the virus before the election in November.” The Times describes “constant pressure from a White House anxious for good news and a public desperate for a silver bullet to end the crisis,” that are making government researchers “fearful of political intervention in the coming months.” They are “struggling to ensure that the government maintains the right balance between speed and rigorous regulation, according to interviews with administration officials, federal scientists and outside experts.”

Officials Struggle To Determine Who Will Get Initial Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccine.

The [AP](#) (8/2, Neergaard) reports that US health officials “hope late next month to have some draft guidance on how to ration initial doses” of a COVID-19 vaccine “but it’s a vexing decision.” The AP adds that while “health workers and the people most vulnerable to a targeted infection” are “traditionally, first in line for a scarce vaccine,” NIH Director Collins “tossed new ideas into the mix: Consider geography and give priority to people where an outbreak is hitting hardest. And don’t forget volunteers in the final stage of vaccine testing who get dummy shots, the comparison group needed to tell if the real shots truly work.” The AP points out that despite “promises of the U.S. stockpiling millions of doses,” even if “a vaccine is declared safe and effective by year’s end, there won’t be enough for everyone who wants it right away.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, A1, Johnson, 14.2M) says “public health experts are discussing among themselves a new worry: that hopes for a vaccine may be soaring too high. The confident depiction by politicians and companies that a vaccine is imminent and inevitable may give people unrealistic beliefs about how soon the world can return to normal – and even spark resistance to simple strategies that can tamp down transmission and save lives in the short term.” The Post adds that a vaccine being “shown safe and effective will be a beginning, not the end. Deploying the vaccine to people in the United States and around the world will test and strain distribution networks, the supply chain, public trust and global cooperation. It will take months or, more likely, years to reach enough people to make the world safe.”

Despite Early Success Flattening Curve, San Francisco Seeing Surge In Cases.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, A1, Kelly, Lerman, 14.2M) reports that the San Francisco Bay Area “was one of the first metro areas in the United States to fully shut down to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.” But, “more than four months after the region put some of the nation’s first shelter-in-place orders in effect, the Bay Area is experiencing a surge in cases and counties are rolling back reopening plans.” While “leaders here tried to do everything cautiously and by the book, cases still eventually spiked over a month and a half, to an average of 877 cases a day at the end of July from 217 a day in mid-June. Medical experts say a slow but steady rise in complacency is worsening the case count.”

Trump Challenges Fauci Over Cause Of Increase In US Coronavirus Cases.

[Politico](#) (8/1, Semones, 4.29M) reports that President Trump “publicly rebuked Dr. Anthony Fauci on Saturday, forcefully rejecting the nation’s top infectious disease expert’s testimony on why the U.S. has experienced a renewed surge in coronavirus cases.” The President [tweeted](#),

"Wrong! We have more cases because we have tested far more than any other country, 60,000,000. If we tested less, there would be less cases. How did Italy, France & Spain do? Now Europe sadly has flare ups. Most of our governors worked hard & smart. We will come back STRONG!" Politico says the President's comments came in response to a [video](#) where Fauci on Friday "explained to a House subcommittee that the U.S. has seen more cases than European countries because it only shut down a fraction of its economy amid the pandemic."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/1, Concha, 2.98M) reports Tucker Carlson on Friday "slammed...Fauci as a 'total fraud' after the top infectious disease expert's Friday testimony on Capitol Hill, with the Fox News host asserting that 'there is nothing' Fauci 'won't opine on as long as it doesn't offend the popular and fashionable left.'"

Giroir: "Testing Does Not Replace Personal Responsibility." On the [CBS Weekend NewsVi](#) (8/1, story 4, 0:21, Bacchus, 2.37M), Danya Bacchus reported Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Brett Giroir on Friday "urged Americans to take precautions for themselves and others." Giroir: "We cannot test our way out of this or any other pandemic. Testing does not replace personal responsibility. It does not substitute for avoiding crowded indoor spaces or washing hands or wearing a mask."

FDA Expands Warning About Potentially Toxic Hand Sanitizers.

[ABC World News TonightVi](#) (8/2, story 10, 0:15, Llamas, 5.23M) reported that the FDA is again "expanding its list of potentially toxic hand sanitizers. The agency now warning against more than 100 products that may contain methanol, which could be toxic when absorbed through skin or ingested."

[USA Today](#) (8/1, Tyko, 10.31M) reports the Food and Drug Administration's "do-not-use list of dangerous hand sanitizer products" keeps growing, with the list, as of Saturday, now featuring 101 hand sanitizer varieties. The FDA said, "FDA continues to find issues with certain hand sanitizer products. FDA test results show certain hand sanitizers have concerningly low levels of ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol, which are active ingredients in hand sanitizer products." It added, "The agency urges consumers not to use these subpotent products and has expanded its list to include subpotent hand sanitizers, in addition to hand sanitizers that are or may be contaminated with methanol."

Rep. Grijalva Tests Positive For Covid-19.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports House Natural Resources Chairman Raul Grijalva on Saturday announced he became the tenth lawmaker in the House to test positive for Covid-19, although he said he was asymptomatic. The Journal says Grijalva self-quarantined after Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) announced his positive diagnosis on Wednesday, a day after they interacted at a committee hearing.

[NBC Nightly NewsVi](#) (8/1, story 8, 0:16, Diaz-Balart, 3.57M) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

More Players On St. Louis Cardinals Test Positive For Coronavirus.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Sheinin, 14.2M) reports Major League Baseball's hopes of saving the season in the midst of the pandemic "took another ominous turn Saturday, when the St. Louis Cardinals received word of additional positive tests for the novel coronavirus, requiring the postponement of the entire Cardinals-Brewers weekend series in Milwaukee and deepening the level of pessimism around the sport that the season can go on." After reporting a pair of positive tests on Friday, the Cardinals had an additional "four positives Saturday, one of which was a player, using rapid tests." In addition to the Cardinal's outbreak having arisen, the past week also saw 18 Miami Marlins players as well as two team coaches test positive. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1, Diamond, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that during a Friday call with MLB Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred signaled that the season could be shut down if conditions don't get better.

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/1, story 10, 1:58, Diaz-Balart, 3.57M), correspondent Kathy Park reported the Brewers' Lorenzo Cain "says he is opting out of the season and so is the Marlins' second baseman Isan Diaz, who wrote, 'This has been a tough week to see so many of my teammates come down with this virus and see how quickly it spreads.'" USA Today Sports Columnist Dan Wolken said, "You've already seen in a little bit more than a week of Major League Baseball how difficult it is to operate a league where teams are traveling across the country. What you've seen is baseball tried to adjust on the fly." Park added, "Pandemic planning for the NHL includes a bubble set up in Canada as players returned to the ice today."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/1, story 4, 0:14, Ault, 4.95M) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

Administration Reportedly Lacks Vaccine Distribution Plan.

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Cowan) reports that "as scientists and pharmaceutical companies work at breakneck speed to develop a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, public health officials and senior U.S. lawmakers are sounding alarms about the Trump administration's lack of planning for its nationwide distribution." According to Reuters, "The federal government traditionally plays a principal role in funding and overseeing manufacturing and distribution of new vaccines during pandemics." Reuters adds, "There won't be enough vaccine for all 330 million Americans right away, so the government also has a role in deciding who gets it first." However, Reuters says "right now, it is unclear who in Washington is in charge of oversight, much less any critical details."

House Panel Claims Administration Wasted \$500 Million On Ventilators.

[CNBC](#) (7/31, Higgins-Dunn, 3.62M) reports that the House Oversight Committee "accused the Trump administration of 'incompetent negotiating' for ventilators at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, saying it 'squandered' more than \$500 million in taxpayer funds for the essential equipment. "The waste of taxpayer funds caused by the Trump Administration's incompetent procurement efforts for ventilators could be as much as \$500 million or more," according to a report released Friday by Chairman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill." According to CNBC, the committee "said the Trump administration mismanaged an existing contract with Philips Respironics, agreeing to pay \$15,000 apiece for Trilogy EV300 ventilators this year after Philips repeatedly failed to deliver 10,000 Trilogy Evo Universal ventilators ordered in 2014 for \$3,280 apiece, the report said."

Survey: Americans Hesitant To Return To Daily Routines Among Increases In Coronavirus Cases.

[USA Today](#) (7/31, Morin, 10.31M) reports that amid an increase in coronavirus cases, "some Americans are losing confidence in resuming" their daily routines. USA Today adds, "Only 44% of Americans say they would send their child back to school if restrictions were lifted by public health officials, according to a survey from the Democracy Fund + UCLA Nationscape Project that was conducted the week of July 9. That is a 4 percentage point drop from June, when 48% of Americans said they would. In a July 16 survey, 44% of Americans who regularly engage in this activity said they would attend a religious service, a 5 percentage point drop from June. The largest drop was among those who said they would have dinner at a friend's house, with 59% saying they would, an 8 percentage point drop from June."

Numerous Municipalities Hardly Enforcing Mask Ordinances.

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Robles, 18.61M) reports that in excess of 30 states and a greater amount of cities have authorized "a hodgepodge of mask ordinances and executive orders, but many municipalities are barely enforcing them." The Times adds, "Several sheriffs in Colorado and New Mexico have openly defied local rules and publicly refused to carry them out." Meanwhile, a number of city officials in California openly warned about severe "penalties but

now acknowledge that no one has been ticketed.” The Times also reports that a Boston Police Department spokesman “stressed that it was not enforcing mask rules because Massachusetts has no law requiring masks, which is true. He did not respond when asked about the order the governor issued in May that provided for a \$300 fine for not wearing masks in stores, on mass transit and in taxis.”

Union Leader: Retail Workers Being Unjustly Burdened With Having To Enforce Mask Policies. The [Washington Post](#) (7/30, Bellware, 14.2M) reports “the head of the largest union representing retail workers said businesses have unfairly burdened their employees with enforcing mask-wearing policies, to the detriment of workers and customers alike.” It’s on employers “to provide a safe workplace, said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, who called for companies to hire security staffers to enforce a store’s mask policies or task members of management with the role.” On Thursday, Appelbaum told the Post, “Employees should not be expected to put their safety and their life on the line for the employer. That’s an unreasonable expectation.”

CDC: 260 Children, Staff At Georgia Sleep-Away Camp Infected With Coronavirus.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Janes, 14.2M) says that “a new report suggests that children of all ages are susceptible to coronavirus infection and may also spread it to others.” The report, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put out on Friday, “details an outbreak at a sleep-away camp in Georgia last month in which 260 children and staffers – more than three-quarters of the 344 tested – contracted the virus less than a week after spending time together in close quarters.” The median age of the children was 12. Moreover, all campers and staff members had been required “to provide documentation that they had tested negative for the virus before coming.” The Post adds, “Staff were required to wear masks, but children were not.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 7, 0:27, Oquendo, 6.66M) and the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 4, 0:33, Begnaud, 3.97M) provided similar coverage in brief broadcasts.

Supreme Court Signals Disinterest In Ruling On Virus-Related Election Matters.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that in multiple cases since April, the Supreme Court has rejected lower court orders to expand voting access during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hogan Faces Backlash Over Effort To Expand Voting Access In Maryland. The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Cox, 14.2M) said that when Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) last week “announced an all-of-the-above strategy to conduct ‘a normal’ election in November, he cast it as a decision to maximize voter access during the coronavirus pandemic,” but “a massive backlash ensued.” The Post described the reaction as “another example of the deadly pandemic weaving uncertainty through the presidential election process. As President Trump faces bipartisan rebuke for suggesting the election be delayed and undermining mail-in voting, Hogan is under withering criticism – and facing open revolt – from rank-and-file poll workers in his state.”

Politico Analysis: Push To Reopen Schools Is Latest Example Of Trump Reversing Course.

[Politico](#) (8/2, Kumar, 4.29M) reports in an analysis that throughout the coronavirus pandemic, President Trump “has fought everyone else as he pushed his own contentious plans...before later reversing course, backing away from his initial stance or simply moving on to the next issue and declaring victory.” Supporters and critics “say Trump wants to appear as if he is taking charge – even when he clearly lacks the authority to act – as he scrambles to find anything to latch onto while facing sinking poll numbers months before the election.” Politico says the latest example came amid his push to reopen schools. Trump “threatened to withhold

federal aid from districts that failed to offer in-person learning. But instead of fighting the many districts that defied him, he scaled back his combative rhetoric and toned down his demands.”

Some Colleges Offer Tuition Discounts After Deciding Not To Bring Students Back.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/2, story 7, 2:25, Snow, 4.12M) reported that with major universities “backing down on bringing students back to campus” in the fall, some are offering discounts on tuition and others “are not changing tuition fees, even as some students are suing for tuition refunds for spring semester.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, A1, Hartocollis, Hubler, 18.61M) reports that colleges that are planning to welcome students back this fall “face challenges unlike any other American institution – containing the coronavirus among a young, impulsive population that not only studies together, but lives together, parties together, and, if decades of history are any guide, sleeps together.” The Times adds, “It will be a hugely complex and costly endeavor requiring far more than just the reconfiguring of dorm rooms and cafeterias and the construction of annexes and tent classrooms to increase social distancing. It also crucially involves the creation of testing programs capable of serving communities the size of small cities and the enforcement of codes of conduct among students not eager to be policed.”

Trump Installs Tata As Official “Performing The Duties” Of Pentagon Undersecretary.

[Politico](#) (8/2, Seligman, 4.29M) reports President Trump has installed retired Army Brig. Gen. Anthony Tata “for a top Pentagon job in a senior Department of Defense post on a temporary basis after lawmakers abruptly canceled his confirmation hearing last week amid lingering questions about his fitness for the role.” Tata “withdrew Sunday from consideration to be undersecretary of defense for policy, a position that requires Senate confirmation, the Pentagon said in a statement emailed to Politico Sunday.” Tata “has been designated as the official ‘performing the duties of’ the deputy undersecretary of defense policy.” Politico says Tata “has been widely criticized for tweets calling former President Barack Obama a ‘terrorist leader’ and referring to Islam as the ‘most oppressive violent religion I know of,’ among other controversial statements.”

Trump Met Yoo At White House Last Week.

[The Hill](#) (8/2, Coleman, 2.98M) reports that UC Berkeley law professor John Yoo has confirmed that he and President Trump “met face-to-face at the White House for the first time on Thursday.” Yoo “told the Las Vegas Review-Journal on Saturday that he met with Trump in the Oval Office for about one hour.” Yoo, who said White House counsel Pat Cipollone was also present, said, “He was upbeat and energetic,” and that Trump was not “Nixonian in the bunker and paranoid and dark.” The Hill says the meeting came in the wake of a piece Yoo wrote for the National Review “asserting that the Supreme Court ruling, that blocked Trump’s plans to end the Obama administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), could help the president institute future policies without congressional approval.”

NYTimes Analysis Questions What Purpose McEnany Serves Beyond “Berating” Media.

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/2, Rogers, Haberman, 18.61M) reports that President Trump “is back to serving as his own primary spokesman,” which has left White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany “in a distinctly secondary role.” McEnany has “encountered flagging interest from television networks; only Fox News regularly carries her briefings live, and at least one network has declined a request to have her appear on one of its shows.” To the Times, “All of that is leaving it increasingly unclear what purpose Ms. McEnany is filling beyond berating the news media from the briefing room podium.” The Times adds that McEnany has “struggled to make the briefings compelling enough – or credible enough – to refocus the attention on what the administration hopes to highlight instead of the pandemic.”

Undocumented Workers, Families Running Out Of Options To Survive In US.

[Bloomberg](#) (8/1, Rockeman, Saraiva, 4.73M) reports undocumented workers and their families, "largely left out of federal relief programs" in the United States, "are running out of options to help them survive the coronavirus pandemic." They've primarily "relied on money from philanthropic organizations and local governments to help buy food and to pay their bills. But now some of those funds are drying up, exacerbating the public health crisis and further threatening an economic recovery that's become shakier with the recent surge in virus infections and a renewed wave of layoffs."

CREW Claims Miller Violated Hatch Act By Criticizing Biden.

[The Hill](#) (8/1, Gstalter, 2.98M) reports Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) filed a complaint with the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) that "alleges that President Trump's senior policy adviser Stephen Miller violated federal law when he made comments on Friday about presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden," and "calls for an investigation into Miller's comments criticizing Biden on Fox News." In a statement, CREW Executive Director Noah Bookbinder said, "It is well past time for those like Stephen Miller, who show an open disdain for ethics laws like the Hatch Act and who illegally use official resources to promote the president's re-election bid, to be held accountable for their actions." The Hill quotes Miller as saying Biden "is stuck in a basement somewhere, and he just emerges every now and again, and somebody hands him a notecard, and he says whatever his 23-year-old staffer tells him to say, and then he dutifully disappears to be seen a week later."

Politico Magazine Feature Examines How Horowitz "Cultivated" Miller. In a more than 3,800-word feature headlined "The Man Who Made Stephen Miller," [Politico Magazine](#) (8/1, Guerrero, 4.24M) recounts how Miller was "cultivated" by conservative activist David Horowitz. According to Politico, "The friendship between Miller and Horowitz began when Miller – who did not respond to interview requests for the book from which this article was adapted – was in high school and continued throughout his career. Tracing it reveals a source of Miller's laser focus on immigration restriction, which has over the past few years resulted in a ban on travel from mostly-Muslim countries and a policy that separated families crossing the border into the United States to seek asylum." Politico adds that to "understand the language Trump uses to talk about immigrants and his opponents, or the immigration policies he has put into place, often via Miller, you have to also understand David Horowitz, and the formative role he played in Miller's career and life."

"Large Club" Of Administration Alums Wrote Books Critical Of President.

In a more than 3,200-word article, the [New York Times](#) (8/1, Lyall, 18.61M) reports a "large club of Trump administration evictees...have turned their bracingly bad experiences into a new genre of political revenge literature." The Times says the books "paint a damning portrait of the 45th president of the United States. But the sheer volume of unflattering material they contain can have the paradoxical danger of blunting their collective impact." According to the Times, reading the books "is not pleasant, you might hurt yourself, and it leaves you covered in grime. The picture they paint of their protagonist – Mr. Trump – is so outrageous that if they were fiction they would be dismissed as too broad, too much of a caricature."

House Committee Subpoenas Pompeo Over Biden-Ukraine Investigation.

[Reuters](#) (7/31) reports House Foreign Affairs Chairman Eliot Engel on Friday issued a subpoena to Secretary of State Pompeo "demanding documents he provided to Republicans investigating...Joe Biden." According to Reuters, "A Republican-led U.S. Senate committee has been gathering information related to" Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, "a former board member of the Ukrainian energy company Burisma." Engel is quoted as saying, "I want to see the full record of what the department has sent to the Senate and I want the American people to see it too."

[Bloomberg](#) (7/31, Wainer, 4.73M) reports Engel charged, "Secretary Pompeo has turned the State Department into an arm of the Trump campaign and he's not even trying to disguise it." Bloomberg says the subpoena "directs Pompeo to turn over the records by Aug. 7." [Politico](#) (7/31, Cheney, 4.29M) reports that Engel "indicated he subpoenaed the documents because the department had ignored his initial request to share copies of any material being provided to the Senate." According to Politico, "Democrats view the Senate GOP investigation, led by Sen. Ron Johnson's Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, as an effort to smear Biden on false corruption allegations related to his diplomacy in Ukraine."

Appeals Court Upholds Ruling Throwing Out Lawsuit Filed Against Trump By Stormy Daniels.

[Politico](#) (7/31, Gerstein, 4.29M) reports the President "scored a legal victory Friday as a federal appeals court upheld a lower court ruling tossing out a libel lawsuit filed against him by adult film star Stormy Daniels over a tweet Trump fired off about her in 2018." The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "accepted arguments by Trump's lawyers that he was merely offering his opinion and not leveling any factual claims of his own when he issued the tweet casting doubt on her claims that she faced intimidation as she prepared to go public with allegations that she and Trump had a sexual encounter." It was decided unanimously by a three-judge panel that the tweet was tantamount "to an opinion about another Twitter user's message suggesting that a sketch Daniels helped prepare of a man who allegedly intimidated her in a casino parking lot looked much like a photo of Daniels' ex-husband."

Legislators Call For FTC Investigation Into Practice Employed By Mobile Advertising Sector.

In an exclusive, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Tau, Haggin, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports several members of Congress are requesting the Federal Trade Commission to commence a probe concerning the mobile advertising sector's practice of utilizing digital display ads to track consumers.

Acting ICE Director To Retire.

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Hesson) reports US Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting Director Matthew Albence on Friday announced that he is retiring, Reuters says Derek Benner, "executive associate director for ICE's homeland security investigations division, is the next highest ranking official." Reuters also reports that Kathy Nuebel Kovarik, "a Trump appointee at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which administers the legal immigration system, is expected to move to ICE on Monday," and "take over as the chief of staff."

According to [Politico](#) (7/31, Cohen, 4.29M), "Trump officials accused Albence of favoring humanitarian concerns about the treatment of immigrants over the chance to take more aggressive action," and Albence also "angered White House officials when he refused to install a number of political appointees at his agency."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Miroff, 14.2M) reports that Albence "had directed ICE agents to back off some enforcement activity during the pandemic, frustrating some at the White House, but there was no indication that his decision to step down was intended as a statement of protest." According to the Post, Albence's retirement "had been rumored for months." The Post says Albence is "well-liked by his workforce," and "known for his fierce defense of the agency and his unsentimental views on immigration enforcement."

Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner Earned At Least \$36 Million In Outside Income Last Year.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Lee, Narayanswamy, 14.2M) reports Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner "earned at least \$36.2 million as they served in the White House last year, reporting a boost in income from some companies they own that hold residential and commercial

properties, new disclosures released Friday show." The Post says the pair "reported a minimum combined income that was at least \$7 million higher than in 2018, when they reported making at least \$29 million, according to their personal financial disclosures, which they are required to file annually." However, according to the Post, their minimum income "was lower last year than it was in 2017, the year they entered government service, when they reported earning at least \$82 million, the disclosures show."

Trump Releases 2019 Financial Disclosure Report.

[Bloomberg](#) (7/31, Dennis, 4.73M) reports President Trump on Friday "released his 2019 financial disclosure report, after getting an extension on his original due date." Bloomberg says the 78-page report shows "revenue dipped slightly at two iconic Trump properties – the hotel at the Old Post Office near the White House and his Florida golf resort Mar-a-Lago." According to Bloomberg, "Trump reported \$40.5 million in revenue for the Washington hotel last year, down from \$40.8 million a year earlier, while Mar-a-Lago revenue dipped to \$21.4 million from \$22.7 million. A third major Trump property, Trump's Doral golf course in Florida, fared better, with revenue rising to \$77.2 million from \$76 million."

Knight First Amendment Institute Files New Lawsuit Against Trump For Blocking Twitter Critics.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Paul, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University has filed a lawsuit on behalf of five individuals against President Trump, who blocked them on Twitter for criticizing him.

OCE: Rep. Bishop Allegedly Misused Campaign, Official Funds.

[Politico](#) (7/31, Bresnahan, 4.29M) reports Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) "allegedly improperly spent more than \$90,000 in official funds and campaign funds on personal expenses, including "fuel, golf expenses, meals, travel, tuition and entertainment," according to a newly released report from the Office of Congressional Ethics." Politico adds OCE "recommended that the House Ethics Committee launch a full-scale investigation into Bishop, who was first elected to office in 1992. The secretive panel announced on Friday that it was still reviewing the matter; there is no deadline for the Ethics Committee to act."

WPost A1: Supreme Court Has Yet To Return To Normal Summer Silence.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, A1, Barnes, 14.2M) reports on its front page that the Supreme Court had "seemed to wrap up its work July 9 with a traditional flourish of big opinions, including a blockbuster finale: that President Trump was not immune to demands for his personal financial records from a state prosecutor and congressional investigators. But the court's customary summer lull? It never arrived." The Post discusses some of the cases and says "other factors have kept the Supreme Court squarely in the public eye. Most notable was Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's announcement in mid-July that she is again battling cancer, sharpening focus on how important November's presidential election will be in determining the court's future."

Supreme Court: Ginsburg Has Been Released From Hospital. [Bloomberg](#) (7/31, Stohr, 4.73M) reports Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg "was released from a New York hospital Friday after undergoing a non-surgical procedure earlier in the week, the Supreme Court said." According to Bloomberg, "Ginsburg, 87, was hospitalized on Wednesday when doctors performed an endoscopic procedure to address an issue with a stent in her bile duct."

One Marine Dead, Eight Service Members Missing After Training Accident Near San Diego.

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Hauser, Fazio, 18.61M) reports, "One Marine died, two service members were injured and eight others were missing after an accident involving an amphibious

assault vehicle off the coast of Southern California on Thursday, the authorities said." Search and rescue efforts for those missing "-- seven marines and one sailor who were aboard the vehicle when it sank -- continued on Friday afternoon, the First Marine Expeditionary Force said." The Times adds, "The service members were assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Pendleton, in the San Diego area." The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Armus, 14.2M) reports authorities "said the mishap occurred at about 5:45 p.m. Thursday during a routine activity near San Clemente Island, when the vehicle began taking on water." The vehicle, "known as an AAV...is meant to carry troops from ship to shore, particularly through rough water." [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 10, 1:29, Llamas, 6.66M) reported that as search and rescue efforts continue, "the Marines have decided to stop using that vehicle on water until they can figure out exactly what went tragically wrong."

The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 8, 1:25, O'Donnell, 3.97M) and [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (7/31, story 9, 1:01, Holt, 5.44M) broadcasts provided similar coverage of the accident.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Trump: "Fake News" Media Not Covering "Big China Virus" Outbreaks In Other Countries.

President Trump [tweeted](#) Sunday morning, "Big China Virus breakouts all over the World, including nations which were thought to have done a great job. The Fake News doesn't report this. USA will be stronger than ever before, and soon!" Trump included a [tweet](#) from Twitter Moments Australia, which wrote, "A State of Disaster has been declared in Victoria over the COVID-19 outbreak and Melbourne residents face strict new restrictions including a nightly curfew and limits on movement outside of the home."

Nations Around The World See Increases In Coronavirus Cases.

The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (8/2, story 8, 1:55, Garrett, 1.32M) reported, "The number of COVID-19 cases worldwide stands at nearly 18 million, with the highest case totals outside the United States in Brazil, India, and Russia." CBS (Palmer) added, "Southern Australia, grappling with a big spike in COVID cases, declared a state of disaster this weekend and ordered a fresh lockdown with an 8 p.m. curfew. Across Europe too there have been upticks in infections. In Britain, where life and summer had been getting back to normal, the government reversed direction and tightened up the rules. French and German officials are so worried about local surges." In the developing world, "countries like India, which is seeing 50,000 new cases a day, the virus thrives in the slums. India is now on course to overtake the United States in having the worst outbreak on Earth."

Australia Imposes Curfew In Melbourne To Stem Rising Cases.

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, 18.61M) reports officials in Melbourne, Australia, "announced stricter measures on Sunday in an effort to stem a coronavirus outbreak that is raging despite a lockdown that began four weeks ago." For six weeks starting on Sunday, residents of Melbourne "will be under curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. except for purposes of work or giving and receiving care." In explaining the new measures, Premier Daniel Andrews said the high rate of community transmission "suggested that the virus was more widespread than known."

Cases Continue To Rise In Europe Driven By Young People Flooding Into Bars, Beaches.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, Bisserbe, Pancevski, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that cases of coronavirus continue to rise in Europe as young people appear to ignore social distancing rules and flood into bars, beaches, parks, and other public spaces.

Russia Plans To Launch Nationwide Vaccination Campaign In October.

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Kramer, 18.61M) reports "Russia plans to launch a nationwide vaccination campaign in October with a coronavirus vaccine that has yet to complete clinical trials, raising international concern about the methods the country is using to compete in the global race to inoculate the public." Health Minister Mikhail Murashko "said Saturday that the plan was to begin by vaccinating teachers and health care workers." Murashko "also told the RIA state news agency that amid accelerated testing, the laboratory that developed the vaccine was already seeking regulatory approval for it."

Kosovo Prime Minister Self-Quarantines After Testing Positive.

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Bytyci) reports Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti said Sunday he has contracted COVID-19 and will self-isolate at home for two weeks. On his Facebook page, Hoti said, "I don't have symptoms expect a very mild cough."

Indian Home Minister Hospitalized After Testing Positive.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, Spindle, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports Indian Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said he has tested positive for coronavirus and been admitted to a hospital on the same day. Shah's announcement came on the same day the country reported its highest daily number of new cases to date.

Militants Attack Afghan Prison As Ceasefire Expires.

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Ghazi, Mashal, 18.61M) reports militants attacked "a major prison in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, detonating a car bomb and waging a gun battle against guards for hours, as dozens of inmates managed to escape, Afghan officials said." The attack in Jalalabad came "at a time when the issue of releasing insurgent fighters from prison has moved to the forefront of efforts to strike a peace deal" between the Taliban and the Afghan government. The Islamic State, which is not part of the peace talks, claimed responsibility for the attack on Sunday. The attack also came "during the final hours of a three-day cease-fire between the Taliban and the Afghan government for the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha."

Netanyahu Rejects Protesters' Call For His Resignation.

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Heller) reports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "struck back on Sunday at demonstrations calling for his resignation, accusing protesters of trampling democracy and the Israeli media of encouraging them." Criticizing the protests and media at his weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said that while demonstrators portray their campaign as an attempt to "preserve Israeli democracy, I see it as an attempt to trample democracy." He added, "These demonstrations are fueled by a media mobilization, the likes of which I can't remember," accusing the Israeli press of "North Korean-like" uniformity in its alleged bias against him. Said Netanyahu, "They do not report the demonstrations – they participate in them. They add fuel."

Israeli Court Rebukes Netanyahu's Son Over Harassing Protest Leaders. The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Rasgon, 18.61M) reports that an Israeli court on Sunday ordered Netanyahu's son "to stop harassing three people helping to lead protests against his father's administration after he tweeted out their home addresses and cellphone numbers." Judge Dorit Feinstein of the Jerusalem Magistrates Court ordered Yair Netanyahu "to refrain for the next six months from harassing the petitioners in every shape, way and form."

Mexico Arrests Santa Rosa De Lima Cartel Chief.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Sieff, 14.2M) reports Mexican authorities on Sunday arrested José Antonio Yépez Ortiz, "one of the country's most wanted criminals, whose reign helped transform one of Mexico's most peaceful states into its deadliest." Yépez Ortiz, known as "El Marro," was the leader of the Santa Rosa de Lima cartel, "a group based in the central state of Guanajuato

that has specialized in oil theft, stealing billions of dollars from the country's pipelines and refineries in recent years." Guanajuato Gov. Diego Sinhué Rodríguez Vallejo said the operation that led to Yépez Ortiz's capture Sunday was conducted by both state and federal law enforcement.

Richardson: Two Of Six Citgo Executives Detained In Venezuela Have Been Moved To House Arrest.

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Buitrago, Cohen) reports Gustavo Cardenas and Jorge Toledo, "two of the six former Citgo Petroleum Corp...executives detained in Venezuela," have been "moved to house arrest, veteran U.S. diplomat Bill Richardson said late on Thursday, weeks after he visited the country to seek their release." In a [tweet](#), Richardson said, "This is a positive and important first step. We are grateful to President Nicolás Maduro and Vice President Jorge Rodríguez for this gesture and for continuing to engage in the productive dialogue on the American detainees." Likewise, US Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott Abrams "called the move a 'positive step that we are glad to see.'" He said in a statement, "Of course, we hope others follow."

Japan's Ruling Party Proposes Granting Military Pre-Emptive Strike Capabilities.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Tsuneoka, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party released a proposal on Friday that would give the military the ability to strike foreign missile-launch sites in order to improve deterrence against potential attacks from China and North Korea. Japan's National Security Council will consider the proposal in August.

Relatives Forming Collectives To Find Remains Of Missing In Mexico.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (8/1, Fry, 755K) reported that Barbara Martinez, whose son disappeared in 2018, is "among thousands of parents and family members who have formed collectives throughout Mexico to help each other search for the remains of their missing children." People who belong to the collectives have criticized the Mexican government for not doing more to prevent or solve such cases, according to the Union-Tribune article, which quoted "Michael Lettieri, Ph.D, Senior Fellow for Human Rights at the Center for US-Mexican Studies at the University of California San Diego." Lettieri said the "nature of the drug war in Mexico" is responsible for many disappearances in Mexico.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Microsoft Aims For A Deal To Buy TikTok's US Business](#)

[Fed Weighs Abandoning Pre-Emptive Rate Moves To Curb Inflation](#)

[Consumers, Flush With Stimulus Money, Shun Credit-Card Debt](#)

[If Oxford's Covid-19 Vaccine Succeeds, Layers Of Private Investors Could Profit](#)

[Homicide Spike Hits Most Large US Cities](#)

New York Times:

[Scientists Worry About Political Influence Over Coronavirus Vaccine Project](#)

["Thanks For Flying SpaceX": NASA Astronauts Safely Splash Down After Journey From Orbit](#)

[Elizabeth Warren's Evolution On Race Brought Her Here](#)

[Covid Tests And Quarantines: Colleges Brace For An Uncertain Fall](#)

[From Minecraft Tricks To Twitter Hack: A Florida Teen's Troubled Online Path](#)

[TikTok Ban? Creators And Fans Are Big Mad](#)

Washington Post:

[Biden's Delay On VP Stirs Worries](#)
[High Hopes For Instant Vaccine Fix Unrealistic](#)
[Bay Area's Virus Strategy Worked – Until It Didn't](#)
[Trump, Aides Lift Extreme QAnon Group From Fringes](#)

Financial Times:

[Russia's Far-East Anti-Putin Protests: "We Are The Power Here"](#)
[US To Widen Action Against Chinese Tech Groups Beyond TikTok](#)
[Siemens Healthineers To Buy Varian In \\$16.4BN Deal](#)
[France To Push For Rule-Of-Law Sanctions As Part Of EU Recovery Plan](#)

Washington Times:

["Law And Order": Trump Counts On Riots, Looting To Help Him Win In Suburbs](#)
[Clinton Accuser Burned Personal Journal; Kept Infamous Photo Of Prince Andrew](#)
[Doctor Goes On Offensive After Coordinated Attacks On Hydroxychloroquine](#)
[Experts Cast Doubt On Trump Census Order: "It's Not Possible To Do It Accurately"](#)
[Heir Apparent: Would-Be Biden Running Mates Sprint To Veepestakes Finish](#)
[Base Politics: US Struggles To Preserve Access To Diego Garcia](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Tropical Storm Isaias; Coronavirus-Rising US Cases; California-Apple Fire; SpaceX Dragon; East Coast Shark Sightings; California-Search For Missing Marines; Death of Actor Wilford Brimley; Washington-Missing Teen Found In Woods; MLB-Mets Player Quits Season; FDA-Hand Sanitizer; Kansas-Child Gets Cochlear Implants And Hears Mom For First Time.
CBS: SpaceX Dragon; Coronavirus-Rising US Cases; California-Apple Fire; California-Search For Missing Marines; Congress-Relief Bill; Biden-VP; Tropical Storm Isaias; Coronavirus-Worldwide; NHL-Playoffs; Death of Actor Wilfor Brimley; Boeing-747; Rome-Opera At The Circus Maximus.
NBC: Tropical Storm Isaias; Weather Forecast; California-Apple Fire; Coronavirus-Rising US Cases; Congress-Relief Bill; SpaceX Dragon; Coronavirus-College Tuition Costs; California-Search For Missing Marines; Death of Actor Wilford Brimley; African American Women & Running Safety; Brides Across America.

Network TV At A Glance:

Coronavirus – 13 minutes, 20 seconds
 Tropical Storm Isaias – 6 minutes, 50 seconds
 SpaceX Dragon – 6 minutes, 5 seconds
 California-Apple Fire – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
 California-Search For Missing Marines – 1 minute, 0 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Coronavirus-Rising Cases; Congress-Relief Bill; Tropical Storm Isaias; California-Apple Fire; SpaceX Dragon.
CBS: SpaceX Dragon; Coronavirus-Rising Cases; Congress-Relief Bill; Tropical Storm Isaias; Biden-VP; Stocks.
FOX: SpaceX Dragon; Tropical Storm Isaias; Congress-Relief Bill; Microsoft-TikTok.
NPR: Congress-Relief Bill; Coronavirus-Rising Cases; Lorde & Taylor-Bankruptcy; Pompeo-TikTok.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Trump — Meets with U.S. Tech Workers and signs an Executive Order on Hiring American; has lunch with the Vice President
- Vice President Pence — Has lunch with the President

US Senate:

- Senate aims to end debate on deputy energy secretary nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Mark Wesley Menezes to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, with agenda including vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 3:00 PM

US House:

- House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the Rohingya crisis – Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee hearing on 'An Update on the Rohingya Crisis', with testimony from Refugees International President Eric Schwartz * Held via Cisco WebEx and in Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Building; *2:00 PM*
- House Oversight subcommittee hybrid hearing on the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act – Government Operations Subcommittee hybrid hearing on 'FITARA 10.0', with testimony from Office of Personnel Management CIO Clare Martoana; Department of Education CIO Jason Gray; Deputy Federal CIO Maria Roat; Government Accountability Office Director of IT Management Issues Carol Harris; The MITRE Corporation Director of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships David Powner; Emerald One CEO LaVerne Council; and Richard A. Spires Consulting Principal Richard Spires * Held via WebEx and in Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Building; *2:00 PM*
- House of Representatives on recess from 31 Jul – 7 Sep

Cabinet Officers:

- No public schedules released

Visitors:

- No visitors scheduled

This Town:

- CSIS hosts online discussion on the role of the U.N. in Venezuela – 'Understanding the Role of the United Nations in Venezuela' online discussion hosted by the Center for Security and International Studies Future of Venezuela Initiative, with panelists exploring 'how the U.N. can better respond to the humanitarian situation within the country and the Maduro regime's human rights violations, and facilitate efforts to resolve the country's ongoing political crisis'. Speakers include Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Cuba and Venezuela Carrie Filipetti, Human Rights Watch Americas Division Acting Deputy Director Tamara Taraciuk-Broner, and Interim Government of Venezuela Commissioner for the United Nations and Humanitarian Assistance Miguel Pizarro; *11:00 AM*
- President Trump interview airs on HBO – 'AXIOS', including exclusive interview with President Donald Trump, speaking with Axios National Political Correspondent Jonathan Swan on topics including the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement, the November election, and U.S. foreign policy in Afghanistan, China, and Russia * 'AXIOS' is a co-production of HBO Documentary Films, AXIOS, and DCTV; *11:00 PM*

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