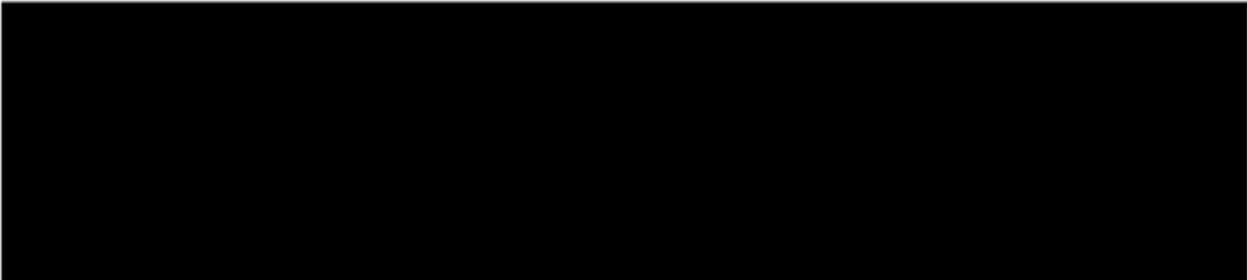


From:
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Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs News Briefing Friday, October 09, 2020

Date: Fri, 09 Oct 2020 10:29:05 +0000

Importance: Normal

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 6:28:37 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: FBI@BulletinIntelligence.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs News Briefing Friday, October 09, 2020

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 FBI News Briefing

TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2020 6:30 AM EDT

Holiday Message

In observance of the U.S. federal Columbus Day holiday, we will not publish on Monday, October 12, 2020. Service will resume on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

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LEADING THE NEWS

Thirteen Arrested In Alleged Plot To Kidnap Michigan Governor.

All three broadcast networks opened their evening newscasts with what Lester Holt of [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, lead story, 2:35, 5.56M) called "a stunning domestic terror plot to storm the Michigan statehouse and kidnap" Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D). Federal and state prosecutors announced the arrests "of more than a dozen men who they say targeted the governor over what they saw as her uncontrolled power. The men, according to authorities, are linked to militia groups and are ready to instigate civil war." NBC's Pete Williams said Whitmer said "President Trump's refusals to criticize white supremacist groups have been heard by them as a rallying cry." Whitmer: "When our leaders meet with, encourage, or fraternize with domestic terrorists, they legitimize their actions, and they are complicit."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (10/8, lead story, 4:05, 6.7M), David Muir said Whitmer, who "has been the target of protests since last spring over restrictions aimed to stop the spread of COVID amid one of the early outbreaks...thank[ed] authorities for protecting her and her family, but went on to talk about white supremacists in this country and the President." ABC's Pierre Thomas: "The FBI and state police...took action after the men met this week to exchange tactical gear and to pool their money to allegedly buy explosives. The mission: Attack the governor before Election Day. Authorities claim the planning was months in the making, with the men even going to the governor's vacation home twice to conduct surveillance."

Jeff Pegues reported on the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, lead story, 3:35, O'Donnell, 4.22M), "The militia members spent the summer trying to recruit like-minded members and preparing for that attack. ... According to court papers, the militia members discussed the need for 200 men to storm the Michigan Capitol building [and] take hostages, including the governor, who they would try for treason in a kangaroo court." The [AP](#) (10/8) reports six men "were charged in federal court with conspiring to kidnap the governor in reaction to what they viewed as her 'uncontrolled power,' according to a federal complaint. Separately, seven others were charged under the state's anti-terrorism laws for allegedly targeting police and the state Capitol."

The [Detroit News](#) (10/8, Snell, 825K) reports, "The federal court filing alleges the conspirators twice conducted surveillance at Whitmer's personal vacation home in northern Michigan and discussed kidnapping her to a 'secure location' in Wisconsin to stand 'trial' for treason prior to the Nov. 3 election." [USA Today](#) (10/8, Egan, Baldas, 1.52M) reports, "Members

of the group, who were in the Kent County, Michigan, area, talked about 'murdering...tyrants' or 'taking' a sitting governor."

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/8, Egan, 1.52M) reports Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel (D) "referred to the accused as 'extremists' who are hoping to recruit new members 'by seizing on a moment of civil unrest' to wreak havoc on the country. She identified the militia group as the Wolverine Watchmen, whose members are accused of, among other things, conducting surveillance outside Whitmer's vacation residence, using code language and encrypted messages to throw off police and planting a bomb under a bridge to divert law enforcement."

[Reuters](#) (10/8, Layne, Borter) reports, "Thirteen men, seven of them associated with an anti-government militia group called the Wolverine Watchmen, have been arrested on charges of conspiring to kidnap the Michigan governor, attack the state legislature and threaten law enforcement, prosecutors said on Thursday." Prosecutors "said the conspirators discussed recruiting a force of 200 supporters to storm the state capitol building in Lansing and take hostages, but later switched to a plan to kidnap Whitmer at her vacation home." Reuters adds, "Internal U.S. security memos in recent months have warned that violent domestic extremists could pose a threat to election-related targets, a concern heightened by political tensions, civil unrest and foreign disinformation campaigns." FBI Director Wray "said in September that his agency was conducting investigations into domestic extremists, including white supremacists and anti-fascist groups."

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/8, Egan, Baldas, 1.52M) reports, "Authorities said Thursday that the Wolverine Watchmen group planned on storming either the capitol or Whitmer's vacation home as part of a broader mission to instigate a civil war. The FBI and Michigan's attorney general outlined felony domestic terrorism charges against the group's organizers, who planned on hurling molotov cocktails at any police officers who tried to stop the kidnapping, a federal affidavit said." USA Today adds, "The FBI became aware early in 2020, through social media, that a militia group was 'discussing the violent overthrow of certain government and law enforcement components' and 'agreed to take violent action,' according to a sworn affidavit. Organizers of the domestic terror plot talked about 'murdering ... tyrants' or 'taking' a sitting governor, according to the affidavit. The FBI monitored a meeting June 20 in Grand Rapids, the affidavit says."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Bogel-Burroughs, Dewan, Gray, 18.61M) reports that FBI Special Agent Richard J. Trask "said in the criminal complaint...that one of those arrested had bought a Taser for the mission last week and that the men had been planning to buy explosives on Wednesday. Court records indicated that at least five of the men had been arrested on Wednesday in Ypsilanti, Mich."

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/8, Egan, 1.52M) reports that Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel "referred to the accused as 'extremists' who are hoping to recruit new members 'by seizing on a moment of civil unrest' to wreak havoc on the country. 'There has been a disturbing increase in anti-government rhetoric and the re-emergence of groups that embrace extremist ideologies,' Nessel said at a press conference Thursday. 'This is more than just political disagreement or passionate advocacy, some of these groups' mission is simply to create chaos and inflict harm upon others.'"

The [Detroit News](#) (10/8, Snell, 825K) reports, "Organizers allegedly met starting in June, including at a Second Amendment rally in Lansing and in a Grand Rapids shop basement accessed through a secret door hidden under a rug." The federal affidavit "was filed hours after a team of FBI agents raided a Hartland Township home Wednesday and comes amid an investigation into the death of a Metro Detroit man killed during a shootout with FBI agents."

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/8, Pratt, 2.65M) reports, "The six men charged in federal court plotted for months, consulting and training with members of a group that federal authorities described as a militia, and undertaking rehearsals in August and September, according to an FBI affidavit. They were arrested Wednesday night and face up to life in prison if convicted."

Four planned to meet Wednesday to 'make a payment on explosives and exchange tactical gear,' the FBI said in the court filing. The FBI quoted one of the accused as saying Whitmer 'has no checks and balances at all. She has uncontrolled power right now. All good things must come to an end.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (10/8, Mordock, 492K) reports, "Federal prosecutors announced Thursday that they had charged six militia members with conspiring to kidnap Ms. Whitmer, a Democrat. If convicted, all six could face life in prison. Separately, Michigan State Attorney General Dana Nessel filed charges against seven other members accused of having roles in the plot. Those seven face 19 felony charges, including state terrorism counts, that could land each in prison for more than 20 years. It is not clear what role the defendants facing state charges are accused of played in the kidnapping plot."

[CNN](#) (10/8, Carrega, 83.16M) reports, "The arrests are likely to draw additional attention to the political tensions roiling the nation in the closing weeks of the 2020 election season, and underline warnings from law enforcement officials, members of Congress and groups that track extremism about the increasing threat of extremist and far-right groups. Whitmer at times has been the focus of extreme vitriol from far-right groups over her handling of the coronavirus pandemic." CNN adds, "In an interview on CNN's 'Erin Burnett OutFront' on Thursday night, Whitmer thanked law enforcement for making the arrests. 'This is unlike anything we have seen before. The brave men and women of these two police organizations put their lives on the line to keep me and my family safe,' she said. 'I'm incredibly grateful and humbled by the work they do.'"

[Fox News](#) (10/8, Barrabi, 27.59M) reports, "Whitmer, a Democrat, has enacted strict lockdown measures during the coronavirus pandemic. Local Democrats have praised the measures as a necessary step to protect state residents, while critics, including Trump, have argued her plan was too restrictive and infringed on individual freedoms and the state economy. The Michigan governor said she has made 'tough choices to keep our state safe' and expressed sympathy for losses suffered by local residents and businesses."

[The Hill](#) (10/8, Budryk, 2.98M) reports, "Whitmer, who imposed some of the nation's strictest measures to mitigate the coronavirus pandemic, said in May that she saw an 'explosion' of threats as a result. The governor's residence implemented a \$1.1-million security upgrade in September, which a spokesperson for her office said was part of 'routine maintenance and upgrades.'" The Hill notes that in May, Robert Sinclair Tesh, "a 32-year-old Detroit man, was charged with threatening to kill both Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel (D)."

The [Lansing \(MI\) State Journal](#) (10/8, Thompson, 206K) reports, "The arrest of six militia members accused of plotting to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and take her to Wisconsin for a 'trial' did not come as a shock to some of her Lansing neighbors. Though chilling, the plot felt like an escalation of the protests that have become common in the wealthy and usually tranquil neighborhood near Moores River Drive since spring. 'It's a shame that it's not a surprise, but it's not a surprise,' said James Perkins, a retired professor who lives a few doors down from the Michigan governor's residence where Whitmer and her family live." The State Journal adds, "Protesters demonstrating against coronavirus lockdown measures have periodically gathered outside the governor's residence, gridlocking the streets with cars, carrying weapons, shouting into bullhorns."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Timberg, Stanley-Becker, 14.2M) reports, "In June, one of the suspects in the plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer took to the relative privacy of a Facebook group to make clear his brewing hatred. Adam Fox called Whitmer a 'tyrant bitch,' according to an FBI affidavit, and declared, 'I don't know boys, we gotta do something... give me some ideas of what we can do.' Such online declarations, brimming with anger and potentially violent intent, have become staples of extremism-fueled crime news in recent years, from police killings to synagogue massacres to bombing plots. Before they become real, they

percolate online, courtesy of a social media ecosystem that's ubiquitous, barely moderated and well suited to helping aggrieved people find each other."

[Bloomberg](#) (10/9, Wagner, Berthelsen, 4.73M) reports, "Facebook Inc. first approached the FBI six months ago about activity on its platform that led to 13 men being charged in Michigan with planning to storm the state capitol and kidnap the governor." Facebook "alerted" the FBI "that there were discussions happening on its social network about overthrowing the government and law enforcement, according to a person familiar with the tip who asked not to be identified discussing the confidential probe. The FBI was already investigating a Facebook Group for a Michigan militia, called the Wolverine Watchmen, and the company ultimately removed the group in late June." Facebook "confirmed that it worked with the FBI, and said in a statement that it removes content and accounts immediately when they are reported to law enforcement authorities if there is a 'credible threat of imminent harm to people or public safety.' 'We proactively reached out and cooperated with the FBI early in this ongoing investigation,' a company spokesperson added."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Ailworth, Levy, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), the [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/8, Wisely, 1.52M), [Deadline Detroit](#) (10/8, Ikononova), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/8, Agar, 925K), the [Lansing \(MI\) State Journal](#) (10/8, Thompson, 206K), the [Oakland \(MI\) Press](#) (10/8, 95K), the [Daily Beast](#) (10/8, Melendez, 1.39M), [BuzzFeed News](#) (10/8, Jamieson), and [Fox News](#) (10/8, Barrabi, 27.59M) websites are among the other outlets covering the story.

Trump: Whitmer "Complaining," Doing "Her Political Act." Trump said in an interview on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/8, 535K), "I see Whitmer today, she's complaining, but it was our Justice Department that arrested the people that she was complaining about. It was my Justice Department that arrested them. But instead she goes and does her political act."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says in an editorial that federal agencies quickly moved against the plotters, and that Whitmer owes a debt of gratitude to the Justice Department and the FBI.

FBI Warned Over The Summer About Reenergized Militia Movement. [Yahoo! News](#) (10/8, Winter, 12.82M) reports, "Almost four months before the FBI arrested six men for plotting to kidnap Michigan's governor, the bureau warned local and state law enforcement about a surge in militia extremists seeking to target government officials, particularly those they blamed for pandemic restrictions, according to an intelligence bulletin obtained by Yahoo News. 'Militia extremists likely pose an increased threat to state and local law enforcement, government personnel and associated facilities due to a perceived resurgence in recent months of activity surrounding state-level gun control legislation, as well as concerns specific to state and local government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic,' the FBI said in an intelligence bulletin dated June 18 and produced jointly with the National Counterterrorism Center."

In an opinion piece for the [New York Times](#) (10/8, 18.61M) , former acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary B. McCord writes, "In the swirls of disinformation that now pollute our political discourse, one is particularly dangerous: that private militias are constitutionally protected. Although these vigilante groups often cite the Second Amendment's 'well regulated militia' for their authority, history and Supreme Court precedent make clear that the phrase was not intended to – and does not – authorize private militias outside of government control. Indeed, these armed groups have no authority to call themselves forth into militia service; the Second Amendment does not protect such activity; and all 50 states prohibit it."

More Commentary. In an opinion piece for the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, 14.2M) , Greg Sargent writes, "There are two immediate points here: First, this should be another case in which Trump realizes that he needs to be a lot more careful with his language of incitement, though of course he will not for a second treat this as a teachable moment. Second, this may bode very badly for this fall, since it heralds the possibility of more right-wing violence should Trump lose the election, declare it rigged and mobilize his supporters against it in some way. Both these points come to me by way of Elizabeth Neumann, the former senior official at the

Department of Homeland Security who recently stepped down and has since been pointedly critical of Trump.”

In an opinion piece for the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, 14.2M) , Kathleen Belew writes, “This isn’t just a one-off event or the work of a few mad actors — it’s part of a rising tide of white power activity, one that poses an imminent danger to American democracy. The Department of Homeland Security’s threat assessment report, released earlier this week after a long wait, made that clear: White power movement violence and affiliated extremism is, by far, the greatest terrorist threat to our nation.” Belew adds, “Not only does this kind of extremist violence outstrip any violence carried out by what President Trump has referred to as ‘antifa and the left,’ but white power violence now also exceeds the threat of radical Islamist terror. The DHS assessment makes clear that ‘2019 was the most lethal year for extremism in the United States since the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.’”

PROTESTS

Texas Police Officer Charged With Price Murder Fired.

[CNN](#) (10/8, Razek, Chavez, 83.16M) reports on its website that Wolfe City, Texas, officials on Thursday said police officer Shaun Lucas was terminated from his position “for his egregious violation of the City’s and police department’s policies” in the fatal shooting of 31-year-old Black man Jonathan Price. CNN says Lucas was charged with murder earlier this week. He “was responding to a report of a disturbance and a possible fight in progress Saturday at a convenience store in Wolfe City when he shot Price four times in the torso, the probable cause affidavit released by the Hunt County District Clerk said.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Berman, 14.2M) calls Lucas “one of the rare law enforcement officers to face criminal prosecution for shooting and killing someone while on duty.”

Cole’s Family Vows To Continue Fight Against Officer Who Killed Him.

The [AP](#) (10/8, Richmond) reports Kimberley Motley, an attorney for the family of Black teen Alvin Cole, who was killed by Wauwatosa Police Officer Joseph Mensah, “vowed Thursday to keep fighting and working to prove racism pervades the officer’s department, after a prosecutor declined to file charges in the case.” Motley said she intends to file a federal lawsuit against Mensah, and “sued in state court on Tuesday seeking department documents that she believes will show Mensah’s supervisors are racist and that officers have racially profiled Black drivers for years.” She also seeks to have both Mensah and Police Chief Barry Weber fired. In addition, Cole’s sister Taleavia said to protesters Wednesday that Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, who is white, must step down; she “said he has shown bias against Black families in his more than 20 years as a prosecutor,” though “she didn’t cite examples.”

Protests Continue After Security Footage Released Of Kansas City Arrest Of Pregnant Woman.

The [Kansas City Star](#) (10/8, Rice, Kite, 549K) reports the office of Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker is reviewing the arrest of Deja Stallings, a pregnant Black woman, and is asking the Kansas City Police Department to conduct its own investigation. According to the Star, the arrest – during which a police officer put his knee on Stallings’ back “with her belly on the ground” – has “led to protesters occupying the lawn in front of City Hall in Kansas City for the past week.” On Thursday, the KCPD “said they have been in touch with the prosecutor’s office regarding the incident,” though “the officers involved in the arrest remain on duty.”

[CNN](#) (10/8, Toropin, Lee-Johnson, 83.16M) reports on its website that security camera video released by the KCPD of the arrest “shows as many as a dozen people gathered” around a gas station and convenience store, “some pushing each other.” Police attest Stallings “and man tried to pull [a] suspect away” from officers, but Stacy Shaw, Stallings’ attorney, “disputes

the police's assertion." According to CNN, "The security video shows Stallings briefly step between an officer and the man he was moving to arrest, but the officer quickly pushes past her to chase after the suspect, catching up with him just a few feet later."

Analysis: Release Of Chauvin Illustrates Complicated Minnesota Bail Reform Debate.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (10/8, Mannix, 1.04M) reports, "For the second time since the death of George Floyd, Minnesota is reckoning with questions over the transparency of its bail system." The release of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin this week on \$1 million bond "was so contentious it prompted the governor to activate 100 National Guard members in anticipation of violent protests." Hundreds "marched down south Minneapolis streets Wednesday evening, many calling Chauvin's release pending trial another example of inequality in the justice system." The protests "come a few months after President Donald Trump's re-election campaign leveled attacks against the Minnesota Freedom Fund, a charitable organization that posts bail for people who cannot afford it." According to the Star Tribune, the "two cases illustrate the complicated politics of a bail reform debate that other states have wrestled with for years, but Minnesota has mostly avoided up until now."

NYTimes Reviews Facts Known About Prude Case.

In a piece headlined "What We Know About Daniel Prude's Case And Death," the [New York Times](#) (10/8, Gold, 18.61M) reports, "Against the background of a national discussion over police brutality and racism, the family of Daniel Prude held a news conference in September to highlight disturbing video footage of the police encounter that preceded his death in Rochester, NY." The video, in addition to police reports released by local activists, "brought renewed attention to the case of Mr. Prude, a 41-year-old Black man who died in March after a confrontation in which officers put a mesh hood over his face and pressed his head into the pavement." Since the release of the footage, "Prude's family has accused officials of covering up his death to protect the police officers involved."

Washington Supreme Court Dismisses Effort To Recall Seattle Mayor.

The [Seattle Times](#) (10/8, Gutman, 935K) reports, "A unanimous Washington State Supreme Court tossed out the effort to recall Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan," ruling that accusations Durkan allowed the Seattle Police Department to use tear gas in June "did not rise to the level that would allow a citizen initiative to remove her from office." The decision "kills the push to recall the mayor and means that, barring unforeseen circumstances, voters in 2021 will have the final say on Durkan's job performance, should she choose to run for a second term." In a brief order, Chief Justice Debra Stephens said, "The allegations in this case are deeply troubling and our review requires that we treat the factual allegations as true. ... Nevertheless, after carefully considering the issues presented, the court concludes that the recall charges presented in this case are factually and legally insufficient."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

US, States Ready For Election-Related Conflict.

[USA Today](#) (10/8, Phillips, Johnson, 10.31M) reports, "A season of unrest is quickly giving way to urgent preparations for possible conflict aimed at next month's contentious election, which President Donald Trump has already repeatedly cast as illegitimate." According to USA Today, "Federal, state and local law enforcement officials have been bracing for possible clashes at local polling places, violence and larger demonstrations similar to the summer-long social justice protests that spilled into the streets of dozens of American cities. Across the country, authorities have been considering their role in securing an election at a time when public confidence in law enforcement has been threatened by a series of fatal shootings involving

police, prompting sustained protests in Portland, Minneapolis, Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C.”

The [AP](#) (10/8, Balsamo, Kunzelman, Long) reports, “Federal and state law enforcement officials have begun expanded preparations for the possibility of widespread unrest at the polls on Election Day, a response to extraordinarily high tensions among voters and anxieties about safety stoked in part” by the President. FBI and local officials “have been conducting drills, running through worse-case scenarios, setting up command centers to improve coordination on reports of violence and voter intimidation, and issuing public warnings that any crime that threatens the sanctity” of the election “will not be tolerated.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Gardner, Bade, Viebeck, 14.2M) reports House Speaker Pelosi “has recently spoken in multiple meetings about preparing for a situation in which neither candidate attains the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency, according to multiple Democrats familiar with her remarks,” and “has also directed some of her members to be ready if GOP legislatures in states with narrow margins or unfinished counts seek to appoint their own electors.”

Portland, Oregon City Council Urged To End FBI JTTF Cooperation.

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (10/8, Redden, 92K) reports, “Pressure is growing for the City Council to end Portland police cooperation with all federal law enforcement organization, including the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. The issue is being fueled by the ongoing controversy over the 58 Portland officers who were federally deputized ahead of dueling political protests on Saturday, Sept. 26.” The Tribune adds, “Five people testified against further cooperation with the JTTF before the council on Wednesday, Oct. 7. They included Brandon Mayfield, the local Muslim lawyer who was illegally spied on and arrested by the FBI in 2004, resulting in a \$2 million settlement. Mayfield criticized the U.S. Department of Justice for deputizing the Portland officers through the end of the year. Mayor Ted Wheeler, who oversees the Portland Police Bureau, said he and Police Chief Chuck Lovell were not told the officers were being deputized and have told the federal government that they no longer are.”

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

FBI Norfolk Office Prioritizing Election Security.

[WVEC-TV](#) Hampton Roads, VA (10/8, 49K) reports the FBI, DHS, “and other agencies are actively working to make sure the U.S. has a secure election.” FBI Norfolk Supervisory Special Agent Scott Zmudzinski “said this time around intelligence agencies are on high alert. Zmudzinski is leading the local effort to investigate election crimes.” The article quotes Zmudzinski saying, “One of the biggest threats that the American public faces are foreign influence. Foreign countries that are trying to influence our election cycles through misinformation and sometimes cyber intrusions.”

FBI Warns Of Phony Election Websites.

[Business Insider](#) (10/8, Holmes, 3.67M) reports the FBI announced last week that “cybercriminals are setting up fake voting websites to spread misinformation and confuse people” in the runup to the election. “Some of the fake sites aim to mislead voters to influence the election, while others try to use interest around voting to steal people’s passwords.”

Trump Expresses Frustration With Administration For Not Prosecuting Democrats.

[Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Wingrove, Kinery, 4.73M) reports that in a call to Fox Business Thursday morning, President Trump “lashed out at two of his most loyal Cabinet members – Attorney General Bill Barr and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo – and threatened to personally intervene in federal investigations into Democrats over controversies stemming from the 2016 election.” President Trump said on [Fox Business Mornings with Maria](#) (10/8) that unless Attorney General

Barr "indicts these people for crimes – the greatest political crime in history – then we are going to get little satisfaction unless I win...because I won't forget it. But, there people should be indicted. This was the greatest political crime in the history of our country and that includes Obama and it includes Biden." Trump later said in an interview on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/8, 535K), "We caught them spying on our campaign. This is treason. We caught them trying to take down a duly elected Administration/President and we have all the evidence now. We have to see what the law enforcement is going to do with it, but we caught them spying – as sure as you are sitting there."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Baker, Haberman, 18.61M) reports Trump "berated his own cabinet officers on Thursday for not prosecuting or implicating his political enemies, lashing out even as he announced that he planned to return to the campaign trail on Saturday just nine days after he tested positive for the coronavirus." The President "has not been seen in person since returning from the hospital on Monday, but he sought to reassert himself on the public stage with a pair of telephone interviews with Fox News and Fox Business, a video and a series of Twitter messages." The President "castigated his own team, declaring that" Barr "would go down in history 'as a very sad, sad situation' if he did not indict Democrats" like former Vice President Biden and former President Obama. Trump "complained that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had not released Hillary Clinton's emails, saying, 'I'm not happy about him for that reason.'" He also targeted FBI Director Wray, saying, "He's been disappointing."

The [AP](#) (10/8, Balsamo, Miller, Tucker) reports President Trump "is increasingly at odds" with Barr "over the status of the Justice Department's investigation into the origin of the Russia probe, with the president increasingly critical about a lack of arrests and Barr frustrated by Trump's public pronouncements about the case, according to people familiar with the matter." The President "and his allies had high hopes for the investigation led by Connecticut US Attorney John Durham, betting it would expose what they see as wrongdoing when the FBI opened a case into whether the Trump campaign was coordinating with Russia to sway the 2016 election." However, "a year and a half into the investigation, and with less than one month until Election Day, there has been only one criminal case." Barr "has privately expressed frustration over the public comments, according to a person familiar with his thinking."

Durham Reportedly Seeking Grand Jury Testimony To Investigate New Front In Russian Probe. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/8, 716K) reports, "US Attorney John Durham has reportedly opened a new front in his investigation into the origins of the Trump-Russia probe." According to a report by The New Yorker, the Caller says, "Durham is seeking grand jury testimony from computer scientists behind an allegation that Donald Trump's real estate company had a secret communications channel with Alfa Bank." The theory "was first floated in October 2016, but was debunked in the Justice Department inspector general's report on the FBI's investigation of the Trump campaign." Durham "is also reportedly seeking the testimony of Daniel Jones, a former Senate Intelligence Committee investigator who partnered with Fusion GPS and Christopher Steele in 2017."

Former Trump Fundraiser Charged With Illegally Lobbying For Malaysian Fugitive.

The [AP](#) (10/8) reports that Elliott Broidy, "a prominent fundraiser for President Donald Trump and the Republican Party, has been charged in an illicit lobbying campaign aimed at getting the Trump administration to drop an investigation into the multibillion-dollar looting of a Malaysian state investment fund." According to the AP, Broidy is "the latest person accused by the Justice Department of participating in the covert lobbying effort."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Vogel, 18.61M) reports Broidy "was charged with a single count of conspiring to violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act as part of an influence operation that prosecutors say sought to use his political ties to help Malaysian and Chinese interests, according to federal court filings that became public on Thursday." The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Zaptosky, 14.2M) reports prosecutors "believe he took millions in undisclosed money to end a US investigation into a billion-dollar embezzlement of a Malaysian state

investment fund and, separately, to return outspoken Chinese exile Guo Wengui to his home country." According to the Post, the charges "are the latest blow to the RNC's fundraising leadership under Trump."

[Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Melby, Voreacos, 4.73M) describes Broidy as "a former top political fundraiser" for President Trump, and says he is accused of having "participated in a scheme to illegally lobby the Trump administration to stop investigating the embezzlement scandal at the 1MDB Malaysian state investment fund." Bloomberg reports that Jho Low, "a Malaysian fugitive and the accused mastermind of the 1MDB fraud, initially paid Broidy \$6 million to lobby the Justice Department to stop its investigation and promised an additional \$75 million if the lobbying succeeded." Broidy has been "charged with conspiring to lobby for a foreign national without registering." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says cases emerging from the investigation into the 1MDB fraud exposed an extensive effort by Low to attempt scaling back the US investigation by hiring top GOP consultants and lawyers with ties to the President.

The [Daily Beast](#) (10/8, 1.39M) reports prosecutors "say Broidy conspired in the scheme with a Hawaii businesswoman named Nickie Lum Davis, who pleaded guilty in August to one count of conspiracy to violate FARA, and an unnamed co-conspirator who, based on previous reporting, is believed to be Pras Michel, best known as a founding member of the Fugees." The government "is also seeking to seize any assets derived from the lobbying campaign."

NCSC Director Warns Of COVID-19 Disinformation Before Election.

[Hearst Television](#) (10/8, Albert) reports National Counterintelligence and Security Center Director Bill Evanina "warned in a rare interview that 'more aggressive activity' to spread coronavirus disinformation is expected before the Nov. 3 election – and beyond – and acknowledged the government needs to do a 'much better job' to protect Americans from being fooled." Evanina "told the Hearst Television National Investigative Unit in a more than hour-long interview this week he 'absolutely' expects more foreign influence operations targeting American audiences with false information about COVID-19, the pandemic and President Donald Trump's infection with the virus."

Evanina: Foreign Adversaries Exploiting Trump's False Claims To Influence Election. [CNN](#) (10/8, Marquardt, 83.16M) reports Evanina told Hearst Television "that foreign adversaries are exploiting lies by President Donald Trump in their campaigns to influence the 2020 election." Evanina "agreed...that foreign powers are using the numerous exaggerated and false claims Trump has made about mail-in voting, voting multiple times and 2020 being the most fraudulent election in history." CNN quotes Evanina saying, "If they see a reference made by the President of the United States, a prominent US Senator, a business person, someone who America looks at as a voice of reason, and they believe it suits their interests, they will amplify that by a thousand to make sure that the most amount of people see it."

Ratcliffe Accused Of Politicizing Intelligence.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Harris, 14.2M) reports Director of National Intelligence Ratcliffe, "failed to meet his commitments when he recently declassified documents that included sensitive intelligence about Russians discussing Hillary Clinton and her 2016 presidential campaign, current and former officials said." The disclosures, "which he told lawmakers came 'at the direction of the president of the United States,' amount to a disinformation operation run by the nation's top intelligence official, in service of a president who has long accused the intelligence agencies of conspiring against him, the current and former intelligence officials said." Former CIA Officer Marc Polymeropoulos said Ratcliffe "is cherry-picking intelligence, and seriously risks exposing sources and methods for absolutely no reason other than to promote and protect the president before the election." Ratcliffe's defenders "said he has been careful to balance the president's direction to declassify more information with the need to protect

intelligence operations,” and Assistant DNI for Strategic Communications Amanda Shoch said Ratcliffe’s “top priority is our nation’s security.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (10/8, Blake, 492K) reports Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), who before being elected to Congress served in the CIA and in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, wrote to Ratcliffe criticizing him “over concerns about his recent handling of classified information.” Slotkin asked Ratcliffe to testify about the issue, and “pointed out Mr. Ratcliffe seems to be politicizing intelligence for Mr. Trump’s benefit, particularly with respect to intelligence regarding the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections.”

Johnson: Intelligence Committee Covering Up Coup Attempt. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) says actions against President Trump by unelected bureaucrats and members of the intelligence community amount to a constitutional crisis. Johnson says not complying with Trump’s directive to declassify information relevant to the Senate Select Subcommittee on Intelligence’s investigations will continue the coverup.

Commentary: Clinton, Obama “Colluded” In 2016, But No Crime.

In commentary for [The Hill](#) (10/8, 2.98M), National Review Institute Senior Fellow Andrew C. McCarthy writes President Trump “did himself no favors with Wednesday’s ALL-CAPS tweet about how the latest disclosures from Director of National Intelligence (DNI) John Ratcliffe implicate President Obama, Vice President Biden and Hillary Clinton in a ‘TREASONOUS PLOT.’” McCarthy writes that the documents “corroborate Ratcliffe’s revelation, in a Sept. 29 letter to Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham, to wit: In late July 2016, Russian intelligence assessed that Mrs. Clinton approved her campaign advisers’ proposal to blame Moscow’s hacking of Democratic National Committee (DNC) emails on a conspiracy between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin.” However, even if true, “what is the crime?” McCarthy argues that the “real ‘collusion’” was between Clinton and the Obama administration, but stresses that no crime has been proven.

Grassley, Johnson Accuse CIA Director Of Withholding Trump-Russia Intel.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/8, Ross, 716K) reports on a letter in which Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) “have accused CIA Director Gina Haspel of withholding documents regarding intelligence the spy agency provided the FBI in its investigation of the Trump campaign.” The Senators “said that CIA officials have refused to schedule a phone call to discuss the document request.” The article says the letter is “a follow up to one the senators sent Haspel on July 28 requesting any CIA documents provided to the FBI as part of Crossfire Hurricane, the bureau’s investigation of Trump associates’ possible links to Russia.”

Declassified Russia Investigation Documents Cataloged.

[Fox News](#) (10/8, Singman, 27.59M) reports President Trump has “fully authorized the total declassification’ of any and all documents related to the Russia investigation.” In May, Trump “told Attorney General Bill Barr to begin a declassification process of documents related to surveillance of the Trump campaign in 2016.” The article lists the documents that have thus far been declassified.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Experts Say Ballistics Report Shows Officer Was Shot By Taylor’s Boyfriend, Not Friendly Fire.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/8, Wolfson, 368K) reports, “Firearms experts say a ballistics report from Kentucky State Police shows Breonna Taylor’s boyfriend fired the shot that wounded a Louisville officer and prompted police to return fire, killing Taylor.” According to the

Courier-Journal, "The authorities said the four-page report dismisses the theory that Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly was hit by "friendly fire" from his own officers and supports Attorney General Daniel Cameron's conclusion that the 9 mm round came from the gun fired by Kenneth Walker, Taylor's boyfriend." The ballistics report, "part of the investigative file released Wednesday by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, shows that only one 9 mm bullet was found at Taylor's apartment. Walker had previously acknowledged firing one shot from his legally owned Glock 9 mm handgun. The rest of the rounds found at the apartment were 40-caliber shells that matched the caliber of weapons fired at Taylor's apartment by three officers."

Body Camera Videos Of Taylor Shooting Released. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/8, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 6.7M) reported that on Thursday "more than 50 body camera videos" involved in the Breonna Taylor case were "made public, including a SWAT team moving through Taylor's apartment after she was shot and motionless on the floor. Four minutes in, someone checks her pulse. A judge says she will soon decide whether to allow a grand juror to speak publicly. The state AG now arguing against that."

Fifteen Charged In Connection With Midwest Drug Ring.

[KSDK-TV](#) St. Louis (10/8, Clancy, 493K) reports from St. Louis, "Fifteen people, including nine from the St. Louis area, were arrested and charged after federal investigators said they were involved in a multi-state drug trafficking ring." KSDK-TV adds, "According to a press release from the U.S. State's attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, federal agents worked with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to arrest the 15 people they say were involved in the long-running drug ring in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas. According to an unsealed indictment from Sept. 16, the ring operated in Missouri, Illinois and Kansas. Investigators said they recovered 1.7 kilograms of fentanyl, 250 grams of fentanyl analogues, eight kilograms heroin and 13 kilograms of methamphetamine. They also found more than \$150,000 in cash and 15 firearms. The press release said 15 people were charged in connection with the drug trafficking conspiracy."

Reputed MS-13 Member Arrested In Texas.

The [Laredo \(TX\) Morning Times](#) (10/8, Rodriguez, 115K) reports, "U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested a member of the MS-13 criminal gang who was illegally present in the country, authorities said." The Morning Times adds, "At about midnight Thursday, agents detained 27 people on Texas 285 near Hebbronville. All were determined to be immigrants who had crossed the border illegally. Authorities identified one immigrant as Andres Omar Quintanilla-Sanchez, a 31-year old from El Salvador. A records check revealed that Quintanilla-Sanchez is a member and affiliate of the MS-13 gang. Agents said he too had an extensive criminal record that includes criminal activity with a juvenile, assault or battery by mob, robbery and abduction by force without justification."

FBI Confirms Person Abducted From New Jersey Bodega Is Now Safe.

The [Bergen \(NJ\) Record](#) (10/8, Katzban) reports, "An individual was abducted from a bodega in Paterson on Thursday morning, the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed. He was safely returned by law enforcement later that same day." The Record adds, "The FBI released little information on the kidnapping but stated one suspect was in custody and that both the Newark and New York City offices were involved in the investigation. The FBI also thanked the Paterson and New York police departments, as well as the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and the Passaic County Sheriff's Office."

New Hampshire Man Sentenced For Buying Military Hand Grenades.

[Foster's Daily Democrat \(NH\)](#) (10/8, 17K) reports from Concord, New Hampshire, "Daniel Musso of Brentwood was sentenced to 31 months in federal prison for unlawfully possessing fragmentation grenades and explosive material, U.S. Attorney Scott Murray announced

Thursday. He also was ordered to pay a \$7,500 fine." The Daily Democrat adds, "At a week-long jury trial in August, Musso, 56, was found guilty of four counts of receiving and possessing unregistered firearms (fragmentation grenades) and one count of receiving explosive material. According to evidence presented at the trial, beginning in the summer of 2015, Musso engaged in a series of efforts to obtain ammunition and military weapons and explosives, including hand grenades. After Musso told a firearms dealer about his desire to obtain these items, the FBI arranged for Musso to be introduced to an undercover agent who told him he could obtain illegal hand grenades."

California Women Charged With Federal Robbery Had Shoplifted Six Bottles Of Body Wash.

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/8, Gartrell, 456K) reports from San Francisco, "Last April, the Northern California U.S. Attorney's office announced it had charged two women with robbery charges that carry a maximum 20-year sentence because they allegedly yelled 'we have COVID' and coughed on a Walgreens manager who interrupted their shoplifting." The Mercury News adds, "Both the special agent in charge of the San Francisco division of the FBI and the Bay Area's top federal prosecutor took the rare move of issuing public statements on the case, the former calling it an intolerable act," but "in recent court records the attorney for one of the women has accused federal authorities of misleading the public, in part because the government's news release left out this detail: the women — one of whom was homeless — were accused of shoplifting six bottles of body wash, with an value of \$76.50."

Investigation Leads To Indictment Of 13 People On Federal Drug Charges In Louisiana.

In online coverage, [KTBS-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (10/8, 68K) reports 13 "people have been indicted on federal drug charges and 27 arrested on state charges in connection with" an investigation "that targeted drug trafficking activities in" Louisiana. The FBI was involved with the investigation, which "was conducted by the DEA's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force." That task force "is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers working jointly on drug trafficking cases in the Western District of Louisiana." In other website coverage, [KSLA-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (10/8, Gibson, 17K) reports the DEA's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force conducted an investigation that was "called Operation Hustle City."

An online [KTAL-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (10/8) article quotes DEA Special Agent in Charge Brad L. Byerley, who said Operation Hustle City demonstrates "the combined strength that federal, state, and local law enforcement" organizations "bring to bear in the battle against" drug traffickers. Byerley added, "We are leveraging our respective resources and expertise to achieve results that we could not accomplish on our own. Our combined, concentrated efforts are making communities safer by disrupting the flow of dangerous drugs to our neighborhoods."

Additional Operation Hustle City results coverage is run by the [Shreveport \(LA\) Times](#) (10/8, 128K) and the [KEEL-AM](#) Shreveport, LA (10/9) website.

Currency Exchange Case Defendant Pleads Guilty.

The [AP](#) (10/8) reports Las Vegas resident Liang Zhou "has pleaded guilty in federal court to operating an unlicensed money transmitting business." The plea was the result of "an investigation into an illegal exchange operation involving US and Chinese currency." The AP adds, "Federal agents from Homeland Security Investigations," the IRS and the DEA were involved with the investigation of this case. The AP article is picked up by a number of well-known media outlets, including [US News & World Report](#) (10/8, 2.4M) and the [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/8, 730K).

Montana Man Pleads Guilty To Stealing Firearms.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (10/8, 114K) reports, "A Great Falls man on Thursday admitted to stealing firearms during a burglary of an outfitting store, federal officials said." Carlyle Ray Wells, 25, "pleaded guilty to theft of a firearm from a federal firearms licensee. Wells faces a maximum 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and three years of supervised release, U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme said. Chief U.S. District Judge Brian M. Morris set sentencing for Feb. 4. Wells was detained."

Leader Of Conspiracy To Sell Drugs On Dark Web Gets Long Prison Sentence.

The [New York Post](#) (10/8, Rosenberg, 4.57M) reports Richard Castro has been sentenced to 17 years and six months in prison "for peddling powerful narcotics on the dark web." According to federal prosecutors, Castro "headed a conspiracy that sold fentanyl, a narcotic that's 50 times stronger than heroin, and carfentanil, which is 100 times stronger than fentanyl."

Montana Meth Case Defendant Sentenced To 121 Months In Prison.

In website coverage, [KBOI-TV](#) Boise, ID (10/8) reports Montana resident Robert Patrick Chiefstick has been "sentenced to 121 months in federal prison for possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute." The story says the investigation that led to Thursday's sentence was conducted by the FBI and several other organizations.

Connecticut Couple Arrested On Drug Charges.

The [Stratford \(CT\) Patch](#) (10/8, 1.03M) reports Kevin M. Lopez and "his girlfriend, Stephanie Gonzalez," were recently "arrested and charged with operating a drug factory, possession with intent to sell, risk of injury to a minor and numerous firearm violations." The arrests were the "result of a joint police operation involving Bridgeport officers assigned to the Connecticut State Police Gang Unit and the FBI's Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Force, as well as the Stratford Police Narcotics Unit and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives."

Nevada Bank Robbery Suspect Arrested.

[KRNVTN](#) Reno, NV (10/8) reports from Reno, Nevada, "An alleged member of a bank robbery crew, who was wanted by law enforcement for a bank robbery in Carson City, made his initial appearance yesterday in Reno federal court." KRNVTN adds, "According to U.S. Attorney Nicholas A. Trutanich for the District of Nevada, 29-year-old Antron Dwayne Mouton of Houston, Texas, is alleged to be a member of a bank robbery crew that traveled to Nevada to rob ATMs. He was indicted by a grand jury in June 2020, with one count of conspiracy to commit bank robbery and one count of bank robbery." Mouton "had escaped from authorities and remained a fugitive until his arrest on July 31, in Sealy, Texas, by the FBI's Criminal Apprehension Team."

FBI Seeks Florida Bank Robber.

[WFOR-TV](#) Miami (10/8) reports from Dania Beach, Florida, "The FBI is releasing photographs of a female bank robber wanted for stealing money from a Dania Beach bank at gunpoint." According to WFOR-TV, "The female bandit, wearing a white shirt, black sweater and white visor, walked into the Wells Fargo Bank branch, located at 5991 Ravenwood Road, around 11:56 a.m. on Thursday, October 8. After entering the bank, she pulled out a gun and demanded money from a bank employee. Nobody was hurt and the FBI has not released the amount of money taken."

Oklahoma City Man Pleads Guilty To Child Pornography, Sex Trafficking.

[KOKH-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/8, Washington, 28K) reports US Attorney Timothy J. Downing announced this week that Roderick Glen Houston Jr. of Oklahoma City "pleaded guilty to child sex trafficking," having been indicted "with child sex trafficking, production of child pornography, and transportation of child pornography." Houston "faces not less than 10 years and up to life in federal prison."

Missouri Man Pleads Guilty To Child Pornography Charges.

The [Missourian](#) (10/8, 41K) reports Gabriel Trevino of Franklin County, Missouri, pleaded guilty to producing child pornography on Wednesday. Court records show Trevino "was arrested in November 2019 after his then-girlfriend noticed a red light on the side of a picture frame in her children's bathroom. The woman, who was not identified in public court documents, took the frame apart and found a hidden camera with an SD card in a slot on the side of the picture frame."

Alabama Man Faces Federal Charges For Targeting Military, Police Aircraft With Laser.

[WDHN-TV](#) Dothan, AL (10/8) reports according to the Dale County, Alabama, Sheriff's Office, Jacob Moseley of Daleville on Tuesday night "was shining lasers and high-powered spotlights at military aircraft around Cairns Army Airfield. The lights were being shined into the cockpits while the aircraft were moving in a traffic pattern outside the airfield." Aircraft crew "tracked the light to a home near the airfield, landing near it while the suspect, Jacob Moseley of Daleville, tried to run on foot. However, the tactical flight officer chased the 44-year-old into a wooded area, taking him into custody. The Federal Aviation Administration and FBI will now handle further prosecution."

Texas Man Convicted Of Child Pornography In 2009 Pleads Guilty To New Charges.

[KYTX-TV](#) Tyler, TX (10/8) reports William Johnson Springer of Bowie County, Texas, "pleaded guilty Thursday to possessing child porn. And it's not the first time he's been in trouble for it." Springer "faces between 10 and 20 years in prison. As part of his plea, he agreed to pay restitution to his victims, register as a sex offender and be sentenced to a lifetime of supervised release after he's out of prison." In 2009, "Springer was convicted of possessing child porn in Oklahoma."

FBI Probes Lead To Charges For 18 Individuals.

[GoLocalProv \(RI\)](#) (10/8, Fenton) reports a "series of FBI Safe Streets Task Force Project Safe Neighborhoods investigations" led to charges for 18 individuals. Those individuals "have been charged in federal court in Providence with trafficking drugs and/or firearms." The [WLNE-TV](#) Providence, RI (10/8) website also covers this story.

FBI Offers \$8,000 Reward In Texas Painting Heist.

[KCBD-TV](#) Lubbock, TX (10/8, Staff, 51K) reports the FBI "is offering a reward of up to \$8,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the theft of six paintings that were stolen in Dallas, Texas, on or about March 26, 2019 while they were being transported from Santa Fe to Louisiana."

Indiana Man Charged In 2014 Murder Of Illinois Teen.

[NBC News](#) (10/8, 6.14M) reports Brodey Ian Murbarger of Evansville, Indiana, "man was arrested Wednesday for the 2014 murder of an Illinois teen whose body was found nearly three years ago in a shallow grave." Authorities also executed a search warrant at Murbarger's home. "Murbarger faces a murder charge after an Illinois grand jury indicted him on September 25, 2020, in connection with Megan Nichols' disappearance and murder." Nichols was featured on NBC's Dateline. "The FBI, along with many law enforcement organizations, including the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office and the Evansville Police Department, continue to investigate Megan's case."

Nebraska Principal Arrested On Child Pornography Charges Claims Mistaken Identity.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (10/8, Conley, 641K) reports a number of educators in Beatrice, Nebraska, say the man depicted on an FBI wanted poster in a child pornography case is "Marlan

Burki, who had served as the school's principal for the 2019-20 school year." A local police officer agreed, and "Burki, 62, was charged Oct. 2 in U.S. District Court with one count of production of child pornography." However, "Burki's attorney, his relatives and a top law enforcement official argued that it's a case of mistaken identity. ... Sarpy County Sheriff Jeff Davis said during Thursday's hearing that he has known Burki for 20 years through the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization."

FBI Offers \$5,000 Reward For Killer Of Virginia Teen.

[WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (10/8, 166K) reports the FBI's Richmond, Virginia, office "is offering a \$5,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of an Emporia teenager. K-Ron Surratt, 14, was shot and killed near his Emporia home in the early morning hours of September 5." The FBI has suggested that the teen could have fallen victim to shooting between gang factions. [WWBT-TV](#) Richmond, VA (10/8, Pegram, 48K) and [WRIC-TV](#) Richmond, VA (10/8, 36K) also cover this story.

Indiana Man Faces Federal Charges For Sexually Assaulting Sleeping Teen During Flight.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (10/8, 633K) reports according to an FBI statement, Ian Wagner of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is "accused of sexually assaulting a sleeping teen aboard a flight from Indianapolis." Wagner faces "two counts of sexual assault and one count of indecent exposure in connection to an incident that happened on Oct. 6, 2017, on a Frontier Airlines flight from Indianapolis to Denver."

Massachusetts Man Pleads Guilty To Bank Robbery.

The [North Andover \(MA\) Eagle Tribune](#) (10/8, 78K) reports Seamus Murphy, formerly of Milford, Massachusetts, "has pleaded guilty in federal court for robbing a Derry bank earlier this year." Murphy "is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 14, 2021, United States Attorney Scott W. Murray announced in a statement." Murphy "on Jan. 8 of this year, Murphy entered the People's United Bank on Crystal Avenue in Derry and gave a note to the teller, indicating he had a gun and demanding money." The paper notes that the FBI took part in the investigation.

Idaho Man Accuses Police Of Framing Him In Colorado Cold Case.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (10/8, Matthews, 70K) reports Twin Falls, Idaho, resident Steve Pankey, who "unsuccessfully ran for Idaho governor twice," says he plans to "go before a Colorado grand jury Friday in a nearly 36-year-old homicide case." Pankey "told the Times-News he is scheduled to testify in the unsolved murder of Jonelle Matthews, a 12-year-old Greeley, Colorado, girl who disappeared just days before Christmas in 1984. Pankey, a longtime "person of interest" in the case, says he's been framed by police because of his sexuality." Deep within the article, the paper reports Pankey "said he distrusted the Greeley Police Department, so he told his story to an FBI agent in Fort Collins in January 1985, but his story was ignored."

FBI Seeking Information In Indiana Bank Robbery.

[WXIN-TV](#) Indianapolis (10/8, 434K) reports the FBI Indianapolis Field Office "is asking for help in identifying a bank robbery suspect" in an September 5 robbery. [WISH-TV](#) Indianapolis (10/8, 33K) reports the bureau "has released surveillance photos of a man suspected of robbing an Indianapolis bank. ... He's described as a white male with reddish hair in his mid-30s to early-40s. He was wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses." Also reporting are [WTHR-TV](#) Indianapolis (10/8, 465K) and [WTTV-TV](#) Indianapolis (10/8, 37K).

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Florida Rapper Allegedly Bought Ferrari With COVID-19 Relief Money.

The [New York Post](#) (10/8, Salo, 4.57M) reports, "A Florida rapper allegedly pocketed more than \$1 million in COVID-19 relief funds, which he used to buy a Ferrari and other luxe items, federal prosecutors said." Diamond Blue Smith, "who is a member of the group Pretty Ricky," was "charged this week for his role in a \$17 million coronavirus relief scheme, according to the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida. Prosecutors allege that Smith – who also appears on the show 'Love & Hip Hop: Miami' – obtained \$427,000 through his company, Throwbackjersey.com, by falsifying documents for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. The recording artist also was able to secure another PPP loan of \$708,00 through another company, Blue Star Records, prosecutors said. He then allegedly used the loan proceeds to buy a \$96,000 Ferrari as well as \$2,290 in goods from Versace."

FBI Executes Search Warrant For Hawaii TV Station.

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (10/8, DeMasters) reports, "The FBI executed a search warrant at Nā Leo TV, located at 91 Mohouli St. in Hilo" on Thursday morning, and "as of 1 p.m., agents were still on scene. However, Special Agent Jason White does anticipate the search will be wrapped up sometime" on Thursday. White "would not provide any details regarding the warrant, only that the investigation is ongoing. White would not comment on whether or not a warrant would be executed on the TV station's location in Kona. Nā Leo was scheduled to host a forum for Puna candidates this evening at 6:30 p.m. That has now been canceled. According to a press release from Nā Leo this afternoon, they are working with Mainstreet Pāhoa Association to reschedule the broadcast."

Two Contractors Charged In San Francisco Corruption Probe.

The [San Francisco Examiner](#) (10/8, Barba, Sabatini, 438K) reports, "Two contractors accused of bribing former Public Works head Mohammed Nuru in separate schemes became the latest defendants to plead guilty on Thursday in the wide-reaching City Hall corruption scandal." Baltimore Hernandez, "the CEO and vice president of a construction company, pleaded to conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud in federal court. He was initially charged with bribery but has agreed to cooperate with investigators in exchange for leniency. Florence Kong, the owner of another construction company and a debris recycling center, admitted to bribery and lying to the FBI." The Examiner adds, "Hernandez, 55, and Kong, 62, were both charged by the U.S. Attorney's Office in June alongside Nuru's girlfriend, former Fix-it Team Director Sandra Zuniga. They are the third and fourth defendants to take plea deals after permit expediter Walter Wong and restaurateur Nick Bovis, who was first charged alongside Nuru in January."

Alabama Man Arrested In FBI Corruption Probe Is Sentenced.

[WMBB-TV](#) Panama City, FL (10/8) reports from Bay County, Florida, "An Alabama man arrested as part of the FBI corruption scandal in Bay County was sentenced on Thursday. He was charged this past summer for being involved in the Hurricane Michael scandal in Lynn Haven." John David Russell, "the owner of Russell Endeavor's, was charged with worker's compensation fraud. Authorities say he obtained around \$245,000 within 2 months from the City of Lynn Haven working as a subcontractor for Erosion Control Specialists. In Bay County Court he pleaded no contest." Russell's company "failed to pay worker's compensation while working under ECS. He was arrested back in June at the same time former Bay County Commissioner Keith Baker was arrested."

Federal Charges Against New York Developer Are Dismissed.

[WROC-TV](#) Rochester, NY (10/8, Gregory) reports from Rochester, New York, "The federal charges against a prominent Rochester-based real estate developer were dismissed Thursday, but the judge's ruling leaves the possibility open for a future indictment." US District Judge Elizabeth Wolford "dismissed the charges against Bob Morgan, who was accused of operating a

significant mortgage fraud conspiracy, along with others. Co-defendants include Todd Morgan, Bob's son, and Frank Giacobbe. Kevin Morgan, Bob's nephew, and Patrick Ogiony have since pleaded guilty in this case. The charges were dismissed because of the prosecution's failure to meet court-imposed deadlines, according to the federal court."

CYBER DIVISION

US Appeals Injunction Preventing TikTok Ban.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Isaac, 18.61M) reports the federal government has appealed a judge's ruling blocking the Trump Administration's ban on the video app TikTok. The Justice Department argued in a filing with the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals "that a preliminary injunction issued last month" in US District Court should be lifted. The Times says the appeal "further escalates the battle between the White House and ByteDance," the Chinese company that owns TikTok. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Ferek, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) provides similar coverage. [Reuters](#) (10/8, Staff) U.S. appeals judge's ruling that blocked U.S. ban on TikTok downloads

[Reuters](#) (10/8, Staff) reports DOJ "said in a court filing on Thursday it was appealing a judge's ruling that prevented it from prohibiting new" TikTok downloads. Reuters notes that a federal judge in September "temporarily blocked a Trump administration order that was set to bar Apple Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google from offering new TikTok downloads."

DOJ Announces New Cryptocurrency Enforcement Framework.

[The Hill](#) (10/8, 2.98M) reports the Justice Department unveiled its new Cryptocurrency Enforcement Framework on Thursday, "detailing increasing security concerns around the use of virtual currency." The framework, "developed by the attorney general's Cyber Digital Task Force, lays out the threats and enforcement challenges involved with the use of cryptocurrency, along with strategies used by the Justice Department in response."

[Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Chen, 4.73M) reports DOJ issued a report Thursday stressing that the "emergence of cryptocurrencies presents opportunities for terrorists, rogue nations and other criminals who present a threat to U.S. national security. ... Law enforcement is hampered by the worldwide reach of digital coins and the lack of consistent regulation across regions, which is 'detrimental to the safety and stability of the international financial system,' the report found."

[Law360](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 8K) calls the document "an overview of" DOJ's "cryptocurrency-related enforcement work to date, adding to the growing body of federal guidance on digital currency days after federal money laundering allegations caused a leadership shakeup at the cryptocurrency exchange BitMEX." The report "outlines the threats, tools and challenges involved in cryptocurrency enforcement in order to provide guidance to other federal prosecutors and regulators."

Cybersecurity Experts Warn Of Online Disinformation Attacks On Companies.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports cybersecurity experts are warning of an emerging online threats in which companies may spread false rumors to harm the brands of competitors or negatively impact their stock prices.

GAO Report Faults Administration's 5G Security Efforts.

[Law360](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 8K) reports in a report to Congress on Wednesday, the Government Accountability Office said "the Trump administration's strategy for making sure next-generation wireless technology is deployed securely falls short in several critical areas and is therefore likely to be of limited use to federal agency officials and other policymakers as they allocate resources to address 5G risks." The report said "the strategy, which the White

House issued this spring, lacks critical details needed to help government decisionmakers assess and address security risks associated with 5G deployment.”

Senate Republicans Take Aim At Foreigners Working To Hack US COVID-19 Data.

[Law360](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 8K) reports Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) have introduced legislation “that would let the president sanction and revoke the visas of foreigners aiming to steal American research on vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, as cybersecurity threats during the pandemic have continued to increase.” The Senators “said Tuesday that the Defend COVID Research from Hackers Act would give the president more authority to take swift action against those attempting to cause a cyberattack related to virus research.”

Putin: US Has Not Responded To Offer To Cooperate On Cybersecurity.

[Newsweek](#) (10/8, 1.53M) reports, “Russian president Vladimir Putin has said that his offer to the U.S. to co-operate on cybersecurity remains unanswered and rejected claims of interference in the U.S. election.” Speaking on state-backed TV, Putin “also gave an assessment of the U.S. presidential campaign and offered warm words for Joe Biden, although he criticized the tone the Democratic contender took during the first presidential debate with President Donald Trump.”

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Coast Guard: Two Tons Of Cocaine Were Interdicted In Caribbean Last Month.

In online coverage, [WFOR-TV](#) Miami (10/8) reports that on Thursday, US Coast Guard officials announced that 4,000 pounds of cocaine were interdicted last month in the Caribbean. The article adds, “The Coast Guard,” the FBI and the DEA and a number of other organizations “play a role in counter-drug operations.”

OTHER FBI NEWS

Trump: Wray Has Been “Disappointing” As FBI Director.

President Trump was asked in an interview on [Fox Business’ Mornings With Maria](#) (10/8) if he will replace FBI Director Wray if he is reelected. Trump said, “I don’t want to say that yet. He has been disappointing.”

[CBS News](#) (10/8, Segers, 3.68M) reports that President Trump called Director Wray “disappointing” on Thursday, “criticizing him for not doing more to investigate voter fraud, after Wray said there is no evidence of any coordinated fraud ahead of the election. ‘He’s been disappointing,’ Mr. Trump said about Wray in an interview with Fox Business anchor Maria Bartiromo. ‘He doesn’t see the voting ballots as a problem.’” Wray “testified before Congress two weeks ago that the bureau has ‘not seen, historically, any kind of coordinated national voter fraud effort in a major election, whether it’s by mail or otherwise.’” Trump “declined to say whether he would replace Wray, whom he nominated in 2017, if elected to a second term.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/8, Mordock, 492K) reports, “Trump hardly offered a ringing endorsement of the FBI director he appointed in 2017. But he stopped short of saying he would ax Mr. Wray. ‘I don’t want to say [whether Mr. Wray will be fired] yet,’ Mr. Trump said in the interview. ‘He has been disappointing. He talks about, you know, even the voting thing that he doesn’t see the voting ballots as a problem. There are thousands of ballots right there. You pick up any paper in the country, practically, and they’re cheating all over the place on ballots. How is that not a problem? That’s a much bigger problem than China or Russia if you look at it,’ Mr. Trump continued. ‘It’s a much bigger problem. So, you know, when you say that ‘Oh, I don’t see that as a problem,’ pick up the newspaper and read.’”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/8, Dibble, 448K) reports, "Wray has denied that there is a significant threat to election security from potential voter fraud during recent testimony before Congress. He acknowledged that there was fraud "at the local level from time to time," but maintained that the issue was not a wide-scale threat. The Trump administration expressed frustrated with that testimony, including White House chief of staff Mark Meadows who questioned Wray's leadership of the FBI."

[The Hill](#) (10/8, Samuels, 2.98M) reports that Trump "swiped at two of his most loyal Cabinet members and his FBI director in a phone interview with Fox Business as he worked himself into a rage over the Russia investigation and the 2016 election." The Hill adds, "The president complained at length about the lack of consequences for Hillary Clinton and other members of the Obama administration for the former's use of a private email server and the latter's involvement in launching an investigation into Russia interference in the 2016 election. Trump turned his frustration toward Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Attorney General Bill Barr, lamenting that they had not done enough to speed the process of implicating his political opponents." Trump "also took aim at the current FBI director, Christopher Wray, who has come under scrutiny from Trump allies for what they believe is slow-walking efforts to find wrongdoing in the Obama administration."

[Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Strohm, 4.73M) reports that Trump "lashed out" at Barr "for not doing more to prosecute his political enemies, including arresting Obama-era officials who the president accuses – without evidence – of illegally spying on his 2016 campaign." Barr "has echoed some of Trump's other election-related allegations, but hasn't gone as far as the president wants on this one. U.S. attorney John Durham, Barr's hand-picked prosecutor looking into the so-called spygate allegations, isn't expected to issue charges or release a report before the election, according to a Justice Department official. 'To be honest, Bill Barr is going to go down as either the greatest attorney general in the history of the country or he's going to down as a very sad situation,' Trump said in an interview on Fox Business Network. 'I said I'm not going to get involved, but I'm going to have to get involved.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Blake, 14.2M) reports, "Trump built upon tweets this week suggesting Barr needs to start indicting people tied to the Russia investigation, while explicitly citing President Barack Obama and Biden. 'Unless Bill Barr indicts these people for crimes – the greatest political crime in the history of our country – then we're going to get little satisfaction, unless I win,' Trump said, adding that he 'won't forget it' and that the crime 'includes Obama, and that includes Biden.'" Trump "also expressed rare dissatisfaction with Pompeo, who he said should release some sort of new information on Hillary Clinton's emails. 'They're in the State Department, but Mike Pompeo has been unable to get them out, which is very sad actually. I'm not happy about him for that reason,' Trump said. 'He was unable to get that. I don't know why. You're running the State Department; you're able to get them out.'"

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Trump Says He Thinks He Is "Better," Hopes To Hold Rally This Weekend.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 5, 3:40, Muir, 6.7M), Jonathan Karl reported, "Exactly one week after he said he tested positive for COVID-19, the President today declared himself cured." President Trump: "I think I'm better. When to a point where I'd love to do a rally tonight. I wanted to do one last night. But I think I am better. I feel perfect. There's nothing wrong." Karl: "In reality, we still know very little about the President's true medical condition. He says he is still on the powerful steroid dexamethasone." On the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 3, 1:20, O'Donnell, 4.22M), Ben Tracy also said Trump "admits to still being on the powerful steroid dexamethasone" and "is now suggesting that he may have contracted the virus from someone at a White House event honoring Gold Star military families last month." Trump: "They come within an inch of my face sometimes. They want to hug me and they want to kiss

me. And they do. And, frankly, I'm not telling them to back up." Hallie Jackson said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/8, story 3, 1:20, Holt, 5.56M) that the White House "still refuses to say when the President last tested negative for the virus, a key data point for determining who else could be at risk. ... We learned tonight that several of the President's top aides, including son-in-law Jared Kushner, joined him in the Oval Office today, according to a senior White House official. All they say wearing full PPE."

The [AP](#) (10/8, Madhani, Colvin, Perrone) reports the President "insisted Thursday that he is ready to resume campaign rallies and feels 'perfect,' but the White House has offered little information about his condition one week after his diagnosis with the coronavirus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans." The AP says Trump "is trying to shift his focus to the election that's less than four weeks away." But he "has not been seen in public – other than in White House-produced videos – since Monday and his doctors have provided few medical details since before his release from a military hospital."

[Reuters](#) (10/8, Mason, Holland) reports the President said "he may return to the campaign trail with a rally on Saturday after the White House physician said he had completed his course of therapy for the novel coronavirus and could resume public events." Trump said in an interview on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/8, 535K), "I think I'm going to try doing a rally on Saturday night if we have enough time to put it together. But we want to do a rally probably in Florida on Saturday night. I might come back and do one in Pennsylvania the following night. It's incredible what's going on. I feel so good." Earlier, Trump said on [Fox Business' Mornings With Maria](#) (10/8), "I am back because I am a perfect physical specimen and I am extremely young."

[USA Today](#) (10/8, Rossman, Aretakis, 10.31M) reports White House physician Sean Conley "cleared Trump to return to public life on Saturday" in a memo released by the White House on Thursday evening. Conley wrote, "Saturday will be day 10 since Thursday's diagnosis, and based on the trajectory of advanced diagnostics the team has been conducting, I fully anticipate the President's safe return to public engagements at that time." [Politico](#) (10/8, Goldberg, Ollstein, Rouben, 4.29M) reports that Trump campaign surrogates have been "fanning out to battlegrounds like Arizona, Florida, Nevada and North Carolina" in Trump's absence, "and while many events are outdoors, some have not followed state and city limits on large crowds, the campaign isn't requiring face coverings and social distancing doesn't appear to be enforced."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Grynbaum, Vigdor, 18.61M) reports Conley said Trump "has remained 'stable' and 'devoid' of symptoms that would suggest the illness was progressing." The [Washington Times](#) (10/8, 492K) reports Conley said Trump's heart rate "is 69 beats per minute and his blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen rate remain normal." [Townhall](#) (10/8, Stocking, 177K) reports Conley said Trump had "blood pressure of 127/81 mmHg, a respiratory rate of 15-17 breaths per minute, and a pulse oximetry of 96-98 percent room air."

[Politico](#) (10/8, Choi, 4.29M) says the President's diagnosis "threw a wrench into the campaign's plans, notably with the transition of the second presidential debate into a virtual affair. ... Still, the president has had time to get his voice heard from his White House confinement. In the days following his hospital stay, he has been particularly active on Twitter and engaged in a lively Thursday interview" with Fox Business' Maria Bartiromo.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Olorunnipa, Parker, Dawsey, 14.2M) writes that Trump – "trailing in the polls, stricken with the novel coronavirus and stuck in isolation at the White House" – has "tried to project an image of strength and normalcy that belies his troubled circumstances. On Thursday, he spent an hour phoning into a television interview, released two video messages aimed at key voting groups, began planning rallies for next week and promised senior citizens free access to the experimental drug he falsely claimed was 'a cure' for covid-19."

White House Deputy Press Secretary Brian Morgenstern said on [KTRH-AM](#) (10/8, 16K), "The President himself received Regeneron, which he has said was a terrific help that gives you antibodies to fight the virus. ... He's recovered really quickly. He's had no

symptoms.” Morgenstern said on [Fox News @ Night](#) that “he’s doing great. He’s feeling great. It’s really a testament to Operation Warp Speed and the President’s own leadership in getting a vaccine and, in the meantime, treatments to market faster than ever before.”

Peter Nicholas of [The Atlantic](#) (10/8, 3.47M) writes, “Inside the White House, aides created a kind of alternative reality in which the threat is always receding, the boss always prevailing. In meetings with the president, ‘no one likes to tell him that some areas are catching fire’ because of the virus, [a] senior administration official told me.” The official continued, “They only say, ‘Oh, we’re turning the corner.’ That goes on there all the time. There’s always a reluctance to talk about bad news. That permeates all the discussions.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Bender, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), the [New York Post](#) (10/8, Nelson, 4.57M), the [Fox News](#) (10/8, 27.59M) website, and [The Hill](#) (10/8, Chalfant, 2.98M) are among the other sources covering the President’s condition.

Trump Suggests He Has Not Been Tested Recently. Asked on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (10/8, 535K) if he has been tested since his diagnosis, Trump said, “What we’re doing is probably the test will be tomorrow, the actual test, because there’s no reason to test all the time, but they found very little infection or virus, if any. I don’t know if they found any, I didn’t go into it greatly with the doctors.”

Treatment Trump Touts As “Cure” Was Developed Using Cells From Fetal Tissue. The [New York Times](#) (10/8, A1, Mandavilli, Holt, 18.61M) reports that when the Administration “suspended federal funding in 2019 for most new scientific research projects involving fetal tissue derived from abortions, officials argued that whatever the scientific benefits, there was a pressing moral imperative to find alternative research methods.” But the “cocktail of monoclonal antibodies [Trump] described as a ‘cure’ in a celebratory video posted on Twitter was developed using human cells derived from a fetus aborted decades ago.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Goldstein, 14.2M) reports that “a White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter, said that under NIH guidelines, ‘a product made using extant cells lines that existed before June 5, 2019 would not implicate the administration’s policy on the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortions.’”

Trump Suggests Gold Star Family Event May Have Led To His Infection. The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Steinhauer, 18.61M) reports the President on Thursday “suggested that veterans and their families had spread the coronavirus at the White House, floating the idea that a meeting with the loved ones of fallen military members might have been the source of his own infection.” Trump told Bartiromo, “They want to hug me and they want to kiss me. And they do. And frankly, I’m not telling them to back up. I’m not doing it. But I did say it’s obviously dangerous.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Sonne, 14.2M) says Trump’s “singling out of the Gold Star family event as the source of his illness – even though far more people who attended” the event announcing Amy Coney Barrett’s Supreme Court nomination one day earlier “have publicly said they tested positive for the coronavirus – marked an effort to cast his coronavirus infection as the result of selfless presidential service to grieving military families rather than his own disregard for health precautions.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) and [Politico](#) (10/8, Forgey, O’Brien, 4.29M) also report, while the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, A1, Stanley-Becker, Helderman, Dawsey, Gardner, 14.2M) looks at the spread of COVID from the Barrett event.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Fadulu, Cox, Schneider, Chason, 14.2M) reports that “the average number of new daily coronavirus infections across the greater Washington region reached a 19-day high Thursday as local health officials sent an open letter urging people connected to a White House outbreak to get tested.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Sun, Abutaleb, Dawsey, 14.2M) reports the White House “is now working on a limited basis” with the CDC “to control further spread.”

McConnell Says He Has Not Been To White House Since Early August. [Reuters](#) (10/8) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell says he has “avoided visiting the White House

for more than two months because of its handling of the coronavirus." McConnell, who is 78, told reporters in Kentucky, "I actually haven't been to the White House since August 6, because my impression was their approach to how to handle this was different from mine and what I insisted that we do in the Senate, which is to wear a mask and practice social distancing." The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Sonmez, 14.2M) reports McConnell "has frequently urged lawmakers and others to wear face masks, although he has stopped short of implementing a mask mandate on the Senate side of the Capitol. The Senate also instituted other changes beginning in May, including meeting in larger rooms."

Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Navarro was asked on [Fox News' The Story](#) (10/8) to respond to McConnell's comments. Navarro said, "The protocols in place here have been stringent. We had, for a long time, tents outside where you regularly got your temperature tested. Anybody who's close to the President or likely to come in contact gets tested every day as I do. ... I'm very comfortable walking around this White House and feel very safe here." [USA Today](#) (10/8, Tucker, 10.31M), [Politico](#) (10/8, LeVine, 4.29M), [The Hill](#) (10/8, Carney, 2.98M), and [Roll Call](#) (10/8, Tully-McManus, 154K) also cover McConnell's comments.

Pelosi Proposes Commission Focused On 25th Amendment. The [AP](#) (10/8, Mascaro) reports House Speaker Pelosi announced legislation Thursday "that would create a commission to allow Congress to intervene under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution and remove the president from executive duties." Pelosi said Trump "needs to disclose more about his health after his COVID-19 diagnosis. She noted Trump's 'strange tweet' halting talks on a new coronavirus aid package – he subsequently tried to reverse course – and said Americans need to know when, exactly, he first contracted COVID as others in the White House became infected." The President [responded](#) on Twitter, "Crazy Nancy is the one who should be under observation. They don't call her Crazy for nothing!"

[USA Today](#) (10/8, Behrmann, Wu, 10.31M) reports Pelosi said Trump "is 'in an altered state' and that action regarding the 25th Amendment and outlining a presidential line of succession will be discussed." The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Sonmez, 14.2M) reports Pelosi told reporters "that she would discuss the 25th Amendment to the Constitution on Friday. She did not elaborate." The [New York Post](#) (10/8, Nelson, 4.57M) says the legislation "is almost certain to die in the Republican-held Senate."

White House Director of Strategic Communications Alyssa Farah said on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (10/8, 49K), "It's an act of sheer desperation. First they tried Mueller, then they tried impeachment, now they're going to try the 25th Amendment? Four years in, they still refuse to accept this is the elected President of the United States, who's working hard for the American people." [Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Wasson, Westin, 4.73M), [The Hill](#) (10/8, Axelrod, 2.98M), and [Breitbart](#) (10/8, 673K) also report.

Walter Reed Staff Were Required To Sign NDAs During Trump's 2019 Visit. The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Leonnig, Harris, Parker, Bernstein, 14.2M) reports, "Doctors and medical staff working at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center when President Trump made a medical visit there last November were required to sign nondisclosure agreements, an unusual request that rankled some personnel." Although the White House "has described Trump's stop at the hospital as part of a 'routine' checkup, there were multiple signs that the visit was hastily arranged and did not follow the typical protocol for a planned presidential stop."

Trump Says Stimulus Talks Are Back On, Tells McCarthy He Wants A "Big Deal."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, A1, Werner, Stein, 14.2M) reports "two days after he abruptly" declared an end to economic relief talks, President Trump said in an interview with [Fox Business' Mornings With Maria](#) that they are back on. Trump said, "Well I shut down talks two days ago because they weren't working out. Now they are starting to work out, we're starting to have some very productive talks." Both Trump and House Speaker Pelosi "said Thursday

they're still negotiating on broad economic relief legislation, the latest twist after five head-spinning days during which the White House has whipsawed between demanding a stimulus bill, then shutting down talks – only to renew them again."

[The Intelligencer](#) (10/8, Kilgore, 1.1M) describes Trump's comments Thursday as "one of the more egregious double flip-flops of" his "erratic career." On its website, [CNN](#) (10/8, Mattingly, 83.16M) says Trump, "in a head-spinning reversal, has told allies he's interested in a large-scale stimulus deal, according to a person with direct knowledge of his comments. The person stressed it's unclear what, exactly, Trump's vision of a comprehensive deal would entail and there remains significant hurdles – and skepticism – when it comes to reaching an agreement through talks that have been largely stuck in the same place for several months." Trump called House Minority Leader McCarthy and "indicated he was worried by the stock market reaction and wanted a 'big deal' with Pelosi," [Axios](#) (10/8, Treene, Swan, 521K) reports, citing "two sources familiar with the call." Axios adds Trump "wants a deal that would go beyond securing aid for the struggling airline industry and extending the small business Paycheck Protection Program."

[CNBC](#) (10/8, Josephs, 3.62M) reports on its website that "at the end of her Thursday news conference, Pelosi suggested the White House and Democrats could renew talks toward a broader aid package." She said, "We're at the table. We want to continue the conversation. We've made some progress, we're exchanging language." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, A1, Peterson, Sider, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says while Pelosi said Thursday that Democrats are open to discussions on a larger deal, there was little to suggest one could be reached before Election Day.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Cochrane, 18.61M) says Pelosi, "her position bolstered by the president publicly taking credit on Tuesday for torpedoing the talks, made it clear to the administration that any deal would be on her terms." In comments a separate [New York Times](#) (10/8, Cochrane, 18.61M) story says "cast doubt on the prospects for a compromise just hours after President Trump had given an upbeat assessment," Pelosi "said she would not agree to stand-alone aid package for airlines unless the Trump administration committed to a broader pandemic relief plan to help struggling Americans." Pelosi said "there is no stand-alone bill without a bigger bill." [Roll Call](#) (10/8, Wehrman, McPherson, 154K) reports Pelosi "said she is willing to move airline aid separately but only if there's 'a guarantee' that there will also be a larger package containing aid for state and local governments, schools, testing and contact tracing, as well as unemployment assistance and workplace safety regulations."

[Reuters](#) (10/8, Zengerle) reports Pelosi told Bloomberg TV there was "a clear understanding" that airlines aid had "to be in the context of a fuller bill. They don't have to happen at the same moment but they have to be happening with the assurance that we will go beyond the assistance to the airlines." [Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Wasson, 4.73M) reports Pelosi told Bloomberg TV "that she drew the 'inference' that [Treasury Secretary Steven] Mnuchin was interested in broader stimulus talks and that she had confidence in the Treasury secretary. But she said the White House hasn't provided a full counteroffer to the \$2.2 trillion plan that the House passed last week as the Democrats' negotiating position." [Politico](#) (10/8, Caygle, Ferris, Mintz, 4.29M) says "Pelosi's comments appeared to be a change in direction for Democrats, one day after she and some top lawmakers had privately discussed moving ahead with an airlines-only relief bill as soon as this week."

[NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 9, 1:55, Costello, 5.56M) reported, "Airline CEOs are growing frustrated." American Airlines CEO Doug Parker: "If that can't happen before the election, that is going to have a seriously detrimental impact on our ability to continue to provide essential service to the country to help it come out of this coronavirus."

Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Navarro said on [WTNH-TV](#)^{Vi} Hartford, CT (10/8, 1.94M), "It's been bad faith negotiations. If she wants to change her mind, we can get this done in a day. ... Nancy Pelosi is inflicting pain and misery on the people of America in order to basically try to make sure Donald Trump doesn't win the presidency. It's despicable."

White House Director of Strategic Communications Alyssa Farah said on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (10/8, 49K) that "the most important thing for the President is that we get needed aid to hardworking Americans who lost income through no fault of their own. ... We're willing to negotiate. ... But what we're not willing to do is sign off on some sort of massive omni sort of legislation loaded with bailouts for liberal cities."

White House Deputy Press Secretary Brian Morgenstern said on [KTRH-AMVi Houston](#) (10/8, 16K) that "the Administration has been very clear and remains clear about what we know will solve problems facing America. ... What's unfortunate is that the Democrats have been holding this up, they've been holding this relief hostage, because they want to put in a bunch of things that have nothing to do with the coronavirus. They want to exploit this situation that our country is facing."

Economists Say Failure To Agree On Stimulus Will Delay Recovery. The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Lynch, 14.2M) reports on what it says are "the economic consequences of Washington's failure, after months of intermittent negotiation, to deliver a fresh economic stimulus package." The Post says, "The president and his congressional adversaries picked a bad time for gridlock." According to economists, failing "to agree on new help for struggling workers, companies and public agencies risks greater misery for millions of Americans, lower future living standards and a longer, slower road back to prosperity."

Stocks Post Gains Amid Hope For Stimulus Deal. The [AP](#) (10/8, Choe, Troise, Veiga) reports stocks finished higher "for the second day in a row Thursday, reflecting hope on Wall Street that Washington can approve more aid for the economy and encouragement from a report that suggests the pace of layoffs is slowing a bit, even though it remains incredibly high." The S&P 500 index gained 27.38 points to end the day at 3,446.83, while the Dow rose 122.05 points to 28,425.51, and the Nasdaq finished 56.38 points higher at 11,420.98. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Hirtenstein, Eisen, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says stocks reached their highest point since early September. [Reuters](#) (10/8, Valetkevitch) also attributes the gains to comments from President Trump that "fueled hopes of fresh fiscal support."

Krugman: Trump Cut Off Talks Out Of "Sheer Spite." Paul Krugman writes in the [New York Times](#) (10/8, 18.61M) that if Trump is defeated in November, he "would still be president for two and a half months. Would he spend that time acting destructively, in effect taking revenge on America for rejecting him?" Krugman says Tuesday provided "a preview of what a lame-duck Trump presidency might look like," when he "abruptly cut off talks on an economic relief package millions of Americans desperately need (although as of Thursday he seemed to be backtracking). And his motivation seems to have been sheer spite." Krugman says Americans should be "worried about what will follow if he is forced to accept the will of the people, but is still running the country. Trump has always been vindictive; what will he do if and when he has nothing left but spite?"

Report: Meadows Hosted "Lavish Atlanta Wedding" Despite Coronavirus Restrictions.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/8, 895K) reports that "White House chief of staff Mark Meadows hosted a lavish wedding for his daughter in Atlanta this May, despite a statewide order and city of Atlanta guidelines that banned gatherings of more than 10 people to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus." The May 31 wedding at Biltmore Ballrooms hosted "70 or so guests, including U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio" and "pictures of the wedding reviewed by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution show groups of people clustered closely together in the same room throughout the evening" without masks. Biltmore special events manager Novare Events President Myrna Antar said, "While we do not comment on client's events, we can confirm that the entire 16,000 square feet of the space was reserved for this small wedding — greatly exceeding the per person square footage allowed by the order."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Epstein, 18.61M) reports that the wedding, "first reported Thursday by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution," took "place early in the coronavirus pandemic, as Americans were canceling or postponing their own weddings and other long-planned

gatherings to comply with public health restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus." Photographs "posted online" show Meadows "delivering a father-of-the-bride speech before a band with at least eight members," while "other photographs show Mr. Meadows dancing with his daughter, Haley, various groomsmen shaking hands and much dancing and mingling. ... None of the photographs posted in the online wedding album show any guests wearing masks."

NYTimes Report: Political Considerations Influenced Pence's Handling Of Task Force.

In an article titled "Under Pence, Politics Regularly Seeped Into The Coronavirus Task Force," the [New York Times](#) (10/8, Mazzetti, Weiland, Stolberg, 18.61M) reports that Vice President Pence's "decision to walk the halls of the Mayo Clinic without a mask" on April 28 is "only one example of how, over nearly eight months since the vice president was given a leading role in managing the nation's pandemic response, political considerations seeped into decisions by Mr. Pence and his staff." According to the Times, Pence Chief of Staff Marc Short directed CDC Director Redfield "to soften the agency's recommendations to a meat processing company about safety steps, in part to placate the embattled industry."

Fauci: Volume Of New Cases Needs To Come "Way, Way Down."

[CNBC](#) (10/8, 3.62M) reports on its website that on Thursday, NIAID Director Fauci "said...he's 'not comfortable' with the level of Covid-19 cases in the United States as the nation enters its fall and winter seasons. The U.S. is reporting roughly 40,000 new coronavirus cases a day, which may get even worse as temperatures get cooler and people head indoors, Fauci said during an interview with MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell." Fauci is quoted as saying, "I'm not comfortable with that. I would like to see that level, way, way down, well below 10,000."

Wisconsin, Midwest Sees Surges In COVID Cases. On the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 7, 2:00, O'Donnell, 4.22M), Mola Lenghi reported that "tonight, Wisconsin is one of the nation's largest coronavirus hot spots. Long lines to get tested, and doctors scrambling just to find enough hospital beds. The Thedacare Healthcare System in northeast Wisconsin says it's seen about a 500% increase in hospitalizations, more than 200 of its staffers are out sick or in quarantine due to the virus." Thedacare President and CEO Imran Andrabi said, "I only have about five ICU beds left and about 10 medical surgical beds left in my entire health system."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 8, 1:35, Muir, 6.7M), Stephanie Ramos reported that "tonight, hospitalizations on the rise in 35 states. In Wisconsin, the state set to open this 530-bed field hospital next week." Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm said, "Every region in Wisconsin has hospitals reporting current and imminent staffing shortages."

The [AP](#) (10/8, Geller, Groves) reports that "a surge of coronavirus cases in Wisconsin and the Dakotas is forcing a scramble for hospital beds and raising political tensions, as the Upper Midwest and Plains emerge as one of the nation's most troubling hotspots. The three states now lead all others in new cases per capita, after months in which many residents and politicians shunned mask requirements while downplaying the risks of the disease." North Dakota "tripled" its "previous single-day record" of deaths on Wednesday, while "in Wisconsin, health officials plan to open a field hospital next week at the state fairgrounds to prevent health care centers from being overwhelmed by virus cases, even as state Republicans challenge Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' mask mandate in court." South Dakota is meanwhile increasingly transferring patients out of state, contradicting assurances by Gov. Kristi Noem (R), "whose plan for combating the virus has focused on increasing treatment capacity."

New Jersey Officials "Prepare For Second Wave" As Cases Rise. [Politico](#) (10/8, Landergan, 4.29M) reports that "New Jersey officials say they are bracing for a second wave of the coronavirus, with the state recording 1,301 new Covid-19 cases, the highest amount in a single day since May." Gov. Phil Murphy (D) on Thursday "described the number as 'sobering' and pleaded with residents to practice social distancing and wear masks." Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli said, "We are anticipating a second wave. If individuals do not adhere to social

distancing, masking guidelines, washing your hands, or staying home if you're sick, this wave has the potential to become a surge." Murphy has "indicated he wants to pursue a 'scalpel' approach as opposed to statewide restrictions, and says he wants to work collaboratively with community leaders."

Birx Praises UConn Coronavirus Response, Urges Continued Caution.

[WTNH-TV](#) Hartford, CT (10/8, 81K) reported that White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Deborah Birx gave "high marks to the University of Connecticut for its handling of a coronavirus outbreak" in a visit to the state. Birx said, "The kind of spread that we're seeing now is very different from the spread we experienced in March and April."

[WFSB-TV](#) New Haven, CT (10/8, 72K) reported that Birx visited "with a warning for Connecticut" and "said people should follow CDC guidelines whenever they're out and about and they're around people they don't live with. ... That's because many people spreading the disease are asymptomatic." Birx said, "This is the moment to really increase asymptomatic testing, increase outreach to the communities."

Birx said on [12-TV](#) New Haven, CT (10/8), "All the people of Connecticut out there, really, if you're gathering together indoors, assume someone in that group that's outside of your family household that could be positive and wear your mask and continue to physically distance." The station reported Birx "did have encouraging words for the University of Connecticut, saying that the school is a model for the country in stemming the widescale outbreak of the virus on campus."

Birx said on [WPRI-TV](#) Providence, RI (10/8, 2.22M), "What we wanted to carry for a message across the Northeast, that what you're doing in public is great, but we have to figure out how to bring that safety into the household and into any groups we bring into the household."

Azar: Supplies Will Be Sufficient To Vaccinate All Americans By April.

[CNBC](#) (10/8, Lovelace, Jr., 3.62M) reports on its website that on Thursday, HHS Secretary Azar "said...the U.S. could have enough Covid-19 vaccine doses for every American as early as March," which CNBC says is "a more optimistic estimate" than President Trump has publicly said. CNBC adds, "The Trump administration's coronavirus vaccine program Operation Warp Speed expects to have up to 100 million doses by the end of the year, Azar said during a keynote speech at the Goldman Sachs Healthcare virtual event on the coronavirus." Azar is quoted as saying that will be "enough to cover especially vulnerable populations. ... We project having enough for every American who wants a vaccine by March to April 2021."

White House Deputy Press Secretary Brian Morgenstern said on [KTRH-AM](#) Houston (10/8, 16K), "Operation Warp Speed is unbelievable. ... We have a number of treatments that are already being used either through compassionate use or emergency use authorizations. We are seeing more and more treatments come to market all the time." He said, "We think there'll be a vaccine, we may see data at some point this month indicating that a vaccine could be safe and effective. ... We're confident that we can have up to 100 million doses by the end of the year, and then perhaps enough doses available for every American really in the early part of next year. So, none of this would have been possible without Warp Speed."

Former CDC Director Urges Redfield To Stand Up To Trump.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Mandavilli, Holt, 18.61M) reports former CDC Director William Foege "said Thursday that President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have 'their knees on the neck of the public health community,' and called on" current CDC Director Redfield, "to stand up to them - even at the risk of getting fired." Foege said, "Silence becomes complicity and I think the one person that might have turned this around would be the director of the C.D.C. ... I think [Redfield] would level with C.D.C. employees and let them know what the

White House has actually done – some of it is public – the fact that they were willing to put things on the C.D.C. website, that they would overrule the recommendation of C.D.C. If he said, 'I will stand behind you for as long as I'm here,' and then if he gets fired he gets fired with his head held high."

AP Analysis: Healthcare Professionals "Battle Virus Skeptics."

The [AP](#) (10/8, Hollingsworth) reports that "treating the sick and dying isn't even the toughest part" for doctors and nurses during the coronavirus, but rather "dealing with patients and relatives who don't believe the virus is real, refuse to wear masks, and demand treatments like hydroxychloroquine, which President Donald Trump has championed even though experts say it is not effective against the scourge that has killed over 210,000 in the US." While "it's unclear how Trump's bout with the virus will affect the situation...some doctors aren't optimistic." Dr. Beth Oller, a physician in Kansas, said, "None of the things he did since he had it have helped us a bit, and, if anything, would fly in the face of it. All he did was continue to show people that the things we are saying to do are overblown and an overreaction. As a physician, it is so damn frustrating."

Moderna To Forgo Patents Related To COVID Vaccine.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Loftus, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that Moderna President Stephen Hoge said in an exclusive interview that the pharmaceutical company will not enforce any of its seven patents associated with its coronavirus vaccine and signaled willingness to license the patents after the pandemic.

Regeneron, Eli Lilly Ask For FDA EUAs.

[NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 7, 2:15, Holt, 5.56M) Kristen Dahlgren reported that "on the same day the President touted an experimental antibody treatment as a cure for COVID...two companies who make the treatments applied for emergency authority from the FDA. Eli Lilly and Regeneron say their antibodies made in the lab mimic the way the immune system fights infection." Dahlgren said Regeneron's early trials data "found patients given the antibody cocktail cleared the virus faster with reduced symptoms. But critics like Dr. Rick Bright fear the emergency approval process is being politicized." Former Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority Director Rick Bright said, "I would urge caution. You're getting a false message from the President right now. Let the scientists do their job." Dahlgren said that doctors also "point out the President took several different medications, so it's impossible to know what impact the antibody treatment may have had."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Johnson, McGinley, Dawsey, 14.2M) reports that "after months of touting coronavirus vaccines that would land before Election Day, President Trump made an abrupt pivot this week to a promising but unproven therapy that he received as part of his treatment for covid-19" in a five-minute Twitter video. Trump "also claimed in the video he had granted the drugs" from Regeneron and Eli Lilly EUAs, "a designation that would make the medicines more broadly available. But the companies said they have submitted the requests to the Food and Drug Administration — a process that the agency has repeatedly tried to assure the public is based on science and free of political interference." Experts "said that by inserting himself and his own recovery story into an area of ongoing medical research, Trump risks disappointing and confusing the American public with a hopeful anecdote that may not reflect how the drug works for others or how broadly it will become available when it is approved."

NIAID Marks Start Of Convalescent Plasma Study.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Walker, Hopkins, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announced a study testing the use of convalescent plasma in comparison to remdesivir for the treatment of coronavirus. The NIAID-

funded study, led by a group of companies including Japan's Takeda Pharmaceutical, will include 500 patients across six continents.

WSJournal Analysis: Vaccine Trial Participants Focus On Ending Pandemic.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Winkler, Hopkins, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) analyzes the ongoing clinical trials for a coronavirus vaccine, including the over 10,000 US volunteers who say they are excited to help usher a return to normalcy and debunk vaccine skeptic theories.

New York Coronavirus Restrictions Met With Protests, Lawsuits.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (10/8, story 8, 1:35, Muir, 6.7M) Stephanie Remos reported, "Tonight, strict new coronavirus lockdowns taking effect in hard-hit neighborhoods in New York City, sparking outrage. Hundreds of protesters demonstrating in Brooklyn, starting fires, even assaulting a journalist. City and state officials taking urgent action to crush flareups in so-called red zones. Shutting down nonessential businesses, limiting capacity at houses of worship to a maximum of ten people, and closing more than 300 schools."

Mola Lenghi said on [The CBS Evening News](#) (10/8, story 7, 2:00, O'Donnell, 4.22M), "New cases are now rising in 31 states. New York and New Jersey reporting the most new cases since May" and "a lockdown went into effect in several New York City neighborhoods today, sparking another night of protests in orthodox Jewish communities."

The [AP](#) (10/8, Mustian) reports that "hundreds of businesses and schools in New York City neighborhoods where coronavirus cases have spiked were closed Thursday by order of the governor, but questions swirled about how effectively officials could enforce the shutdown in areas where it has been met with resentment," protests, and "legal resistance" from religious organizations "over a provision limiting attendance at indoor religious services to no more than 10 people." Mayor Bill de Blasio "said 1,200 city workers would be out on the streets doing enforcement, though some of those efforts involved trying to educate businesses about rules imposed with little warning in hastily drawn zones with confusing borders."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Rubinstein, Kim, 18.61M) reports "as New York officials on Thursday hurriedly launched a targeted lockdown to stamp out a surge in coronavirus cases, chaos, confusion and tension erupted over restrictions that will close schools and businesses and greatly limit attendance at places of worship." Between "competing hot-spot maps, issued by Mayor Bill de Blasio and then by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, which overlapped and contradicted each other," schools and businesses saw mismatched instruction while religious organizations filed suits against "the governor's restrictions on houses of worship" and "parents rallied against the sudden closure of schools." Partnership for New York City President Kathryn Wylde said, "Now that we have protocols in place you would hope that the response would be more nuanced and targeted."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Bailey, 14.2M) reports that "several synagogues and rabbis have filed a lawsuit asking for a temporary restraining order to bar the state of New York from enforcing its restrictions, saying the limits disrupt the religious observance of tens of thousands of Orthodox Jews, 'depriving them of their religious worship and holiday observance,'" alongside a separate suit from the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. Agudath Israel of America called Cuomo's "unanticipated and draconian limitations" concerning, and contradicted his description a meeting with Orthodox Jewish leaders as "largely a one-way monologue." Protests have since "broken out in every evening in this community. Earlier this week, a crowd of Hasidic Jewish protesters set fire to masks and attacked a photojournalist in Borough Park."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Berger, Honan, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that two lawsuits against the restrictions were filed in Brooklyn federal court by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and the Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization Agudath Israel of America, which have argued that the lockdown unfairly targets religious organizations.

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/8, Slattery, 2.52M) reports that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) "knocked NYPD cops Thursday for not wearing masks and blamed unrest in

Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish community over restrictions meant to curb coronavirus cases on Mayor de Blasio's failure to enforce past measures," calling "on the city to do a better job — and set a better example." He said, "It would have been better if we'd enforced the law all along and the NYPD has to enforce the law now. And the NYPD has to follow the law, by the way. Wear a mask, that's the law. And when you don't follow the law don't expect people to follow when you say 'I'm here to enforce the law.' It's an act of hypocrisy."

The [New York Post](#) (10/8, Marsh, Musumeci, 4.57M) reports that "fueled by coronavirus hot spot zones in Brooklyn and Queens, the daily number of new COVID-19 cases in the Big Apple is steadily rising and inching closer to the city's threshold." City Health Commissioner Dr. David Chokshi said, "There is no herd immunity in any of the neighborhoods where we are most concerned or any other neighborhood in New York City. This is so important to ensure that people understand that unfortunately the coronavirus continues to be very infectious, continues to spread and so we have to take the precautions that we are embarking upon." De Blasio said, "Overall, I think we're very clear about our direction, our ability to keep things in check, but what we do know is certain areas of the city need deep restrictions to ensure we don't have a bigger problem."

NYTimes Analysis: Viral Spread Among Jewish Community "A Crisis For New York." The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Stack, Goldstein, 18.61M) reports that weeks after New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Dave Chokshi "held an urgent conference call with Orthodox Jewish news outlets to warn of rising transmission" of COVID-19, "tensions between the authorities and Orthodox Jewish communities would worsen, escalating into the biggest health challenge for the city since the spring." Orthodox Jewish sects "have thrived" in NYC "while warding off many aspects of the modern world," but now face "unwelcome scrutiny over whether the virus is spreading because some people in these insular communities are reluctant to embrace public health practices and have become susceptible to misinformation, including from President Trump."

WSJournal: Cuomo, De Blasio Exhibit Double Standard With Jewish Community. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) editorializes that Cuomo and de Blasio have displayed a double standard in singling out religious organizations, specifically the Orthodox Jewish community, in new coronavirus lockdown restrictions after dismissing the safety threat posed by Black Lives Matter protests.

Tribal Nations Among Hardest Hit By Coronavirus.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, 18.61M) reports that "the coronavirus has torn through the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians unabated, sickening more than 10 percent of the tribe's 10,000 residents and killing at least 81 people. Now the tribe is bracing for a second wave and more devastation." Mississippi's Neshoba County, "where most of the tribe's residents live, had the highest death rate per capita in Mississippi from the coronavirus, according to data tracked by The New York Times," with tribal members accounting "for more than half of the county's virus cases and about 64% of the deaths" despite making up only 18% of its residents. The Times says "while communities of color have been disproportionately affected by the virus, it appears to be especially deadly in some tribal nations, where poverty, multigenerational housing and underlying health conditions such as diabetes and heart disease have been contributing factors."

NFL Announces More Postponements Due To Positive Tests.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Belson, 18.61M) reports that "for the second consecutive week, the N.F.L. has shuffled its schedule to accommodate teams that have had players and staff members who have tested positive for the coronavirus." The Tennessee Titans, "who have had the league's worst outbreak, with nearly two dozen players, coaches and staff members testing positive," reported two additional cases on Thursday, while the New England Patriots said cornerback Stefon Gilmore has now tested positive. The league this week "said it would use

video surveillance to ensure that players and coaches were wearing proper protective equipment at team facilities” and “is also investigating whether the Titans have violated league rules by working out after the club’s facility was shuttered because of the outbreak in the locker room.”

Airbnb To Require Enhanced Cleaning By Hosts.

The [AP](#) (10/8, Durbin) reports that “Airbnb said Thursday it will require hosts to comply with enhanced cleaning procedures as part of its effort to reassure guests and local officials during the coronavirus pandemic.” Hosts outside China, which has its own local cleaning program, will have through November 20 “to commit to the cleaning protocols, which include scrubbing floors and other surfaces with soap and water; washing linens on high heat; disinfecting high-touch items like door knobs; and ventilating rooms. Hosts who don’t comply may be suspended or removed from Airbnb.” Airbnb “also said Thursday that guests and hosts must wear masks and social distance when interacting with each other.”

WPost Analysis: Both Parties Appear To Believe Barrett Would Restrict Or Overturn Roe.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Kim, 14.2M) reports Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett “heads into her confirmation hearings next week with a detailed record that has led many liberals and conservatives to believe she would support restricting, if not outright overturning, the landmark decision that guarantees a woman’s right to an abortion.” As her nomination fight begins “in an increasingly heated election season, top Republicans – from President Trump to individual senators – appear to be playing down the impact Barrett’s confirmation would have on the fate of abortion rights in the United States.”

Barrett’s Religious Community Said To Be “Deeply Embedded” In Each Other’s Lives. In a feature describing the People of Praise, a religious community of which Judge Amy Coney Barrett has been part nearly all her life, the [New York Times](#) (10/8, Graham, LaFraniere, 18.61M) says Barrett “spent formative years of her childhood embedded in that intense faith community in Louisiana” and “married a man named Jesse Barrett who had himself been raised in South Bend’s People of Praise community.” According to the Times, “The group’s beliefs – including a strict view of human sexuality that embraces traditional gender norms and rejects openly gay men and women – are in line with other conservative faith traditions. What is notable about the group, according to documents and interviews with former members, is that even in the context of devout faith communities, members of the People of Praise are deeply embedded in one another’s lives.”

Cuccinelli Announces Regulations Aimed At Cutting H-1B Abuse.

Acting Deputy DHS Secretary Ken Cuccinelli said on [WPHT-AM](#) Philadelphia (10/8, 11K), “This week, two more of the President’s promises were kept with, we did a joint rollout with the Department of Labor on regulations that will cut off the abuse of H-1B visas which go to high tech workers that are foreign nationals that a lot of companies use to undercut American workers or replace them, and this President committed to putting American workers first, and that’s exactly what he has done again this week.”

Massachusetts Lawmakers Ask ICE For Details Of Stopping Black Man.

The [Boston Globe](#) (10/8, 972K) reports, “Members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation pressed the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency on Thursday to explain why agents stopped a Black jogger in West Roxbury earlier this week, and questioned whether the encounter violated the man’s rights.” In a letter, Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and Reps. Ayanna Pressley and Stephen Lynch “requested more details about the stop of Bena Apreala, 29, a lifelong Massachusetts resident who recorded a portion of the encounter, which spread quickly across the Internet and sparked claims of racial profiling.” The

lawmakers “also asked whether immigration agents in the Boston area have approached other individuals in a similar manner since April.”

DOJ Suit Alleges Discrimination In Yale’s Admissions Process.

The [AP](#) (10/8, Balsamo) reports the Justice Department sued Yale University in federal court in Connecticut Thursday, alleging that the university “discriminates based on race and national origin in its undergraduate admissions process, and that race is the determinative factor in hundreds of admissions decisions each year.” The suit comes “about two months after the Justice Department publicly accused Yale of discrimination, saying its investigation found that Asian American and white students have ‘only one-tenth to one-fourth of the likelihood of admission as African American applicants with comparable academic credentials.’” [Reuters](#) (10/8) says the suit “followed a two-year investigation that followed a complaint by Asian-American groups about the New Haven, Connecticut-based university’s practices.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Korn, Gurman, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) calls the suit an escalation of the Administration’s examination of the race and admissions policies of elite colleges.

[USA Today](#) (10/8, Aspegren, 10.31M) reports Yale president Peter Salovey denied the lawsuit’s allegations. In a statement, calling the suit “baseless,” Salovey said Yale’s admissions policies will not change because. The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Hartocollis, 18.61M) reports Salovey’s statement said the allegation was based on “inaccurate statistics and unfounded conclusions.”

Perdue Reprimanded For Politicizing USDA Event.

[Politico](#) (10/8, McCrimmon, 4.29M) reports that on Thursday. the Office of Special Counsel ordered Agriculture Secretary Perdue “to reimburse taxpayers for using an official event to promote President Donald Trump’s reelection, a violation of ethics laws that prohibit certain political activity by executive branch employees.” According to Politico, “Perdue’s reprimand comes after the USDA chief has increasingly blurred the lines between his public duties and his political support for Trump.”

NLRB Issues Complaint Against Google Contractor.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Scheiber, 18.61M) reports the NLRB issued a complaint this week against HCL America, “a contractor hired by Google and accused it of violating its employees’ labor rights, marking the latest flash point in a long-running struggle between workers and technology companies.” In the complaint, the agency says HCL “illegally discouraged workers from belonging to a union, and of failing to bargain with the union in good faith.” Last fall, “a group of about 90 HCL employees in Pittsburgh who do work such as data analysis under a contract the company has with Google voted to unionize.” The complaint says “managers at the company interrogated workers about the organizing activities of their colleagues, told them that promotions and wages were being delayed because of the union campaign and threatened to enforce work rules more strictly if the union was created, in violation of federal labor law.”

Supreme Court Temporarily Permits Women To Obtain Abortion Medication Without Doctor Visit.

[USA Today](#) (10/8, Wolf, 10.31M) reports the Supreme Court “ruled on a temporary basis Thursday night that women seeking to end their pregnancies with medication do not need to visit a health care provider, given the COVID-19 pandemic.” The action “was a setback for the Trump administration, which had sought to reinstate a 20-year-old policy following lower court rejections.” The Court “ordered the government to make its case in more detail before a federal trial court, a process that could take six weeks and extend beyond Election Day.” According to [Politico](#) (10/8, Ollstein, 4.29M), “Both sides of the abortion debate had been closely watching the case for signals of how the Supreme Court would approach the issue” after the death of

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg gave President Trump “the opportunity to shift the court further right.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Barnes, 14.2M) says the Court’s “unusual and unsigned disposition of the petition came after six weeks of consideration, and brought a rebuke from two of the court’s conservatives for their colleagues, and for US District Judge Theodore D. Chuang,” who at the request of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists had imposed a nationwide injunction against the FDA’s requirement that women must have an in-person doctor’s visit to obtain the pills. The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Liptak, 18.61M) reports Justice Samuel Alito, joined by Justice Clarence Thomas, “issued a dissent accusing the majority of inconsistency in its rulings on cases arising from the pandemic and of effectively deciding the case by failing to act.”

CMS Rushing To Send Letters To Medicare Recipients About Drug Assistance.

[Politico](#) (10/8, Diamond, 4.29M) reports that Administration officials “caught by surprise by President Donald Trump’s promise to deliver drug-discount cards to seniors...are scrambling to get the nearly \$8 billion plan done by Election Day.” According to Politico, “The taxpayer-funded plan, which was only announced two weeks ago and is being justified inside the White House and the health department as a test of the Medicare program, is being driven by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.” Politico says the Administration is “seeking to finalize the plan as soon as Friday and send letters to 39 million Medicare beneficiaries next week, informing seniors of Trump’s new effort to lower their drug costs, although many seniors would not receive the actual cards until after the election.” [Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Wayne, 4.73M) reports that the President “posted a video on Twitter appealing to senior voters, noting he’s a senior himself, as polls show the demographic tide turning against him.”

Trump: “Absentee Ballots Are Fine,” But “Unsolicited” Ballots Will “Be A Disaster.”

President Trump said in an interview on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (10/8, 535K), “Absentee ballots are fine, because absentee ballots you request, you ask for a ballot and you request, and that’s it. ... But these unsolicited ballots, universal unsolicited ballots, it’s going to be a disaster the likes of which we’ve never seen. We will never have seen an election like what’s going to take place. ... We have US attorneys watching. We have sheriffs watching. We have US marshals watching. You’re talking about millions of ballots are being sent out. It’s going to be a big tremendous fraud.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 8, 3:45, Holt, 5.56M), Cynthia McFadden reported, “We are 26 days away from an unprecedented election where nearly 70 million Americans are expected to cast mail-in ballots. That’s more than twice the number four years ago.” [Reuters](#) (10/8, Whitesides) reports “more than 6.6 million Americans already have voted, more than ten times the number who had at this time in 2016, according to the United States Elections Project, which compiles early voting data.” The [AP](#) (10/8, Riccardi) reports, “Many voters who decided early in the coronavirus pandemic to cast their votes by mail have been rethinking their options as Election Day approaches. Nervousness about whether and when their ballots will be counted is leading some voters to increasingly strategize and analyze a decision that was once a no-brainer. ... Some Democratic groups trying to turn out voters have shifted their messaging from voting by mail to voting in person.”

Appeals Court Blocks Extension On Counting Absentee Ballots In Wisconsin. The [AP](#) (10/8, Richmond) reports a federal appeals court has “blocked a decision to extend the deadline for counting absentee ballots by six days in battleground Wisconsin, in a win for Republicans who have fought attempts to expand voting across the country.” According to the AP, “if the ruling stands, absentee ballots will have to be delivered to Wisconsin election clerks by 8 p.m. on Election Day if they are to be counted.” [Reuters](#) (10/8, Ax) reports, “The Democratic National Committee, which had sought the accommodations, could appeal the

decision, either to the full 7th Circuit or to the U.S. Supreme Court. A spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment."

Kagan Refuses To Block Montana Ballot-Mailing. The [AP](#) (10/8) reports, "A final effort to block most Montana counties from mailing general election ballots to active voters was denied Thursday, a day before the ballots are to be mailed." Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan "rejected a request for an emergency injunction" filed by state and county Republicans who wanted to block a ruling upholding a decision by Gov. Steve Bullock (D) "to give counties the option to hold the Nov. 3 election mostly by mail due to the pandemic. Forty-five of Montana's 56 counties decided to do so." [CNN](#) (10/8, Vogue, Kelly, 83.16M) reports on its website that Kagan, "who has jurisdiction over the lower court involved in the case, turned down the request without referring the petition to her colleagues or asking the other side for its views."

Federal Judge Strikes Down Limit On Ohio Ballot Drop Box Sites. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/8, 895K) reports US District Judge Dan Polster on Thursday struck down an order by Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R) "barring county boards of election from setting up multiple ballot drop box sites, saying the order unfairly burdens large counties." Polster "also cited the coronavirus pandemic, which he said creates a greater strain on the mail system and increases demand for remote voting options."

Facebook Bans Accounts Linked To Pro-Trump "Troll Farm."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Stanley-Becker, 14.2M) reports that Facebook said Thursday "that it will permanently ban from its platform an Arizona-based marketing firm running what experts described as a domestic 'troll farm' following an investigation of the deceptive behavior prompted by a Washington Post article last month." According to the Post, "The firm, Rally Forge, was 'working on behalf' of Turning Point Action, an affiliate of Turning Point USA, the prominent conservative youth organization based in Phoenix, Facebook concluded." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Volz, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports Facebook said it has removed 200 Facebook accounts, 55 Facebook pages and 76 Instagram accounts for posing as fake users to praise President Trump and criticize Joe Biden.

[Politico](#) (10/8, Overly, 4.29M) reports that Rally Forge "employed people who used use fake names and profile pictures while commenting on content posted by other users or mainstream media outlets, Facebook's head of security policy, Nathaniel Gleicher, said Thursday." Gleicher "said Facebook is not penalizing Turning Point or Inclusive Conservation Group, though it's still investigating whether other deceptive tactics were deployed." [Axios](#) (10/8, Fischer, 521K) says this is "the most recent example of Facebook taking action on a group linked to fringe conservatives or conservative ideology for spreading misinformation or attempting to persuade public debate with fake accounts."

[Bloomberg](#) (10/8, Frier, 4.73M) reports Twitter "also disclosed a group of information operations on Thursday, and said it removed 1,594 accounts from the service for 'various violations of our platform manipulation policies.'" However, "None of the five networks pulled by Twitter originated in the U.S." The [AP](#) (10/8, Klepper) provides similar coverage.

Court Strikes Down Obama-Era Methane Rule.

[The Hill](#) (10/8, Frazin, 2.98M) reports a federal court "struck down an Obama-era regulation targeting methane leaks from drilling on public lands, arguing that it went beyond the scope of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which promulgated the rule." The rule "required oil and gas companies to cut a practice called flaring, in which natural gas is burned, by half, inspect their sites for leaks and replace old equipment that released too much methane." Judge Stephen Skavdahl, an Obama appointee, wrote, "Although the stated purpose of the Rule is waste prevention, significant aspects of the Rule evidence its primary purpose being driven by an effort to regulate air emissions, particularly greenhouse gases."

Friends Say They Recall Dorris' Accusations Against Trump In 1997.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Kantor, 18.61M) reports friends of Amy Dorris, who accused President Trump of forcibly kissing and groping her at the US Open in 1997, recall hearing the accuser's claims the year that she says they happened. Math teacher Dawn Capp "said that soon afterward, her friend had told her the same story about Mr. Trump that she later told publicly." Kerri Whitfield, "another friend, echoed those recollections, saying that Ms. Dorris had shared the story privately in the autumn of 1997. Neither friend has previously spoken publicly; both say they are confident of Ms. Dorris's truthfulness."

Louisiana Residents Bracing For Delta, Now Category 3 Hurricane.

The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 8, 1:40, O'Donnell, 4.22M) reported, "Millions along the Gulf Coast are bracing for Hurricane Delta, now a major Category 3 hurricane. It is expected to make landfall in Louisiana tomorrow afternoon, the record fourth named storm to hit the area this season. ... There's fear that Delta could destroy the few remaining homes those other storms didn't."

The [Orlando Sentinel](#) (10/8, Pedersen, Harris, 536K) reports the National Hurricane Center said Thursday, "Heavy rainfall will lead to significant flash flooding and minor to major river flooding in parts of Louisiana Friday and Saturday. ... Additional flooding is expected across portions of the central Gulf Coast into the Lower Mississippi Valley."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 6, 1:00, Muir, 6.7M) meteorologist Ginger Zee said "storm surge is going to be a big problem" with Delta. The storm is expected to make landfall on Friday night, which is "when the winds will be at their heftiest. Gusts near Lake Charles up to 80." Al Roker said on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 6, 0:40, Holt, 5.56M), "The big problem: Delta's growing larger, so the tropical force winds extends from Galveston to New Orleans. Storm surges up to 11 feet and rainfall that could top 15 inches in some local spots."

Lonnie Quinn of the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 9, 1:10, O'Donnell, 4.22M) said, "This storm is a record-breaker, from going from a tropical depression to a Category 4, the fastest in history. Now we're back to a major hurricane, a Category 3. Winds are blowing at 135 miles per hour." As it "pushes towards the Louisiana coastline, we think it's going to get a little stronger, maybe 125-mile-per-hour wind but losing some strength as it comes onshore. It will come onshore about 24 hours from now as a Cat 2, maybe a Cat 3." On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 5, 1:25, Holt, 5.56M), Morgan Chesky said Delta "could be making a direct hit" on Lake Arthur, Louisiana.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Lamothe, Cusick, Cappucci, 14.2M) reports the storm, "like so many before it, was drawing from warm waters and strengthening as it spun toward the Louisiana coastline." This hurricane season "has brought repeated attacks on coastal communities from Texas to Florida, an unrelenting barrage of rising water, heavy rain and killer winds that have uprooted trees and sent them crashing down on occupied homes." On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (10/8, story 7, 0:45, Muir, 6.7M), Rob Marciano said the "the last thing" Lake Charles, Louisiana "needs is another major storm," since "the recovery since Hurricane Laura has been painful." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, McWhirter, Ailworth, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports local officials called on residents of Calcasieu Parish to evacuate ahead of the storm.

The [AP](#) (10/8, Borenstein) reports Delta is "gaining strength as it bears down on the US Gulf Coast" and "is the latest and nastiest in a recent flurry of rapidly intensifying Atlantic hurricanes that scientists largely blame on global warming." National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate and Hurricane Scientist Jim Kossin said, "We've certainly been seeing a lot of that in the last few years. ... It's more likely that a storm will rapidly intensify now than it did in the 1980s," and "a lot of that has to do with human-caused climate change." In the last few decades, "meteorologists have been increasingly worried about storms that just blow up from nothing to a whopper, just like Delta. They created an official threshold for this dangerous

rapid intensification – a storm gaining 35 mph (56 kph) in wind speed in just 24 hours.” Delta is the sixth such storm to meet that threshold.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Brasted, Fausset, Schwartz, 18.61M) reports that on Thursday, “weary residents” of Lake Charles “prepared, along with the rest of southwest Louisiana, for yet another round of serious trouble spinning up from the Gulf of Mexico.” As of Thursday evening, Delta “was about 300 miles from the Louisiana coast, churning slowly northwestward at 12 miles per hour on a path that could end up strafing Lake Charles again.” The Times quotes NOAA’s Kossin, who said, “There’s any of a number of behaviors that these storms are seeing changes in, and none of them are good.”

Gaynor Says FEMA Has Employees In Gulf Ahead Of Delta. FEMA Administrator Gaynor said on the [Weather Channel](#) (10/8, 173K), “FEMA has been on the Gulf coast for a while, at least six weeks in strength. So, we’ve been down there for Laura six weeks ago, and then three weeks ago for Sally. So, FEMA has about 1,500...employees plus our partners that have been down there, and of course, for Delta, we really ramped it up this time to make sure that we’re ready for anything. So, from the Corps of Engineers, National Guard, our friends at DoD, Coast Guard, all around with all their assets ready to go.”

Gaynor said on [Fox News’ Your World](#) (10/8, 1.04M), “Do not be complacent. Take this storm seriously. Take the time that you have left today to make those preparations. We all know it’s been a long, hard hurricane season, especially if you live in Louisiana. We know that, we feel it for you, but don’t waste time. Take it seriously. Don’t put yourself in danger or your family in danger. ... Heed the advice or your local authorities.”

Year Could Break Record For Most “Billion-Dollar” Weather Disasters. [USA Today](#) (10/8, Rice, 10.31M) says, “With a nonstop onslaught of severe storms, wildfires and hurricanes, 2020 has been a calamitous year for weather in the USA.” In 2020, “there have been 16 separate weather disasters across the nation that each caused at least \$1 billion in damage, according to a report released this week from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). That ties a record set in 2011 and 2017.” It is also “a record sixth consecutive year with at least 10 separate billion-dollar disasters,” and “if Hurricane Delta causes \$1 billion or more in damage as it smashes into the Gulf Coast this weekend, 2020 will break the record for most ‘billion-dollar’ weather disasters in a single year.”

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Sees “Rural Surge” Toward Highest Infection Rate Globally.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Singh, Gettleman, 18.61M) reports that “the defiance of the coronavirus rules is being reflected across rural India, and it is propelling this nation’s virus caseload toward the No. 1 spot globally. Infections are rippling into every corner of this country of 1.3 billion people,” with “Indian news media...calling it ‘The Rural Surge.’” The refusal to adhere to guidelines “has helped India catch up with the United States in terms of total infections. U.S. cases are near 7.6 million, compared with India’s 6.8 million, according to a New York Times database. But India outpaces new American cases by 30,000 or so each day, putting it on a path to potentially surpass the United States in the coming weeks.”

Hong Kong Considering Mandatory COVID Testing.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Ramzy, 18.61M) reports that Hong Kong Health Secretary Sophia Chan “said Thursday that the city was considering options for mandatory testing as it prepared for a new wave of coronavirus infections.” Chan said, “From a public health perspective, if we think that if testing is needed and people are not willing to take a test, that hinders our work.” She “said the authorities were considering legal options for mandating testing if necessary,” though they acknowledge “that members of the public might have concerns about any such arrangement.” However, “health authorities say they are preparing for another possible spike in

infections." Chan said, "We don't think the situation is looking good because of the increased number of confirmed cases."

Israel Extends Emergency Lockdown Provisions On Public Gatherings.

The [AP](#) (10/8, Zion) reports that "the Israeli government has extended an emergency provision that bars public gatherings, including widespread protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for an additional week." Netanyahu "has said the restrictions are driven by safety concerns as the country battles a runaway pandemic, but critics and protesters accuse him of tightening the lockdown to muzzle dissent" as "thousands of Israelis have participated in weekly demonstrations outside Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem for months this summer, calling on the longtime prime minister to resign while on trial for corruption."

Spanish Government Tells Madrid To Enforce Restrictions.

[Reuters](#) (10/8) reports that the Spanish government "said it would hold an extraordinary cabinet meeting on Friday morning to decree [a] state of emergency if Madrid does not impose the restrictions" ordered by the Health Ministry "or request intervention" after "a Madrid regional court on Thursday annulled the measures, ruling the government had overstepped its mandate and the restrictions interfered with fundamental human rights." Madrid's regional leader Isabel Diaz Ayuso said, "We hope to agree on a solution that benefits citizens and provides clarity."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Minder, 18.61M) reports the Madrid court's "ruling is a major setback for the central government, and underlines both the political tensions and legal uncertainty in Spain over how to respond to the latest wave of virus cases." Spain's health minister Salvador Illa has "called on Madrid's regional government to hold emergency talks over how to resolve the standoff, which comes ahead of a long holiday weekend in Spain. Mr. Illa said it was essential to have judicial decisions that 'best protect health.'"

German Expert Warns Of "Uncontrolled" COVID Spread.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Schuetze, 18.61M) reports that Loathar Wieler of the Robert Koch Institute, a German public health institute, "warned on Thursday that the country could soon see an 'uncontrolled' spread of the virus." Wieler said, "It is possible that we see more than 10,000 new cases per day. It is possible that the virus spreads uncontrolled." German Health Minister Jens Spahn "said the authorities were still in control of the virus and called on Germans to be more vigilant in following restrictions." Spahn said, "It's up to all of us whether we make it," he said, comparing the challenge of beating back the virus to a "test of character for society."

Administration Sanctions 18 Additional Iranian Banks.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Talley, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that on Thursday, the Trump Administration moved to blacklist 18 Iranian banks, an action aimed at cutting off the few financial connections the regime still has, spawning a liquidity crisis by impeding foreign exchange access.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Hudson, 14.2M) reports the measures "target the few remaining banks not currently subject to secondary sanctions in a move European governments say is likely to diminish channels Iran uses to import humanitarian goods, such as food and medicine, officials said." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, however, "challenged that assertion in a statement, saying that the designation of 18 Iranian banks 'reflects our commitment to stop illicit access to US dollars.'"

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/8, 78K) says, "All of the banks were identified as supporting Iran's nuclear program, missile development, global terrorism enterprise, and its network of terror proxy groups, according to the Treasury Department." Mnuchin said in a statement, "Our sanctions programs will continue until Iran stops its support of terrorist

activities and ends its nuclear programs. ... Today's actions will continue to allow for humanitarian transactions to support the Iranian people."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Verma, 18.61M) reports critics, however, "said the new sanctions were unlikely to achieve the Trump administration's goal of forcing Iran back into negotiations – both to limit its nuclear program and to end its hostilities across the Middle East – and would further distance the United States from key European allies."

Iranian Human Rights Advocate Freed Amid Health Concerns.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Berger, 14.2M) reports, "Prominent Iranian human rights advocate Narges Mohammadi was released from prison late Wednesday after authorities commuted her 10-year sentence amid ongoing concerns about her health." The Post says "semiofficial Iranian news agencies reported her release after 8½ years behind bars," though "officials cited by Iranian media did not elaborate on why her sentence was shortened." Mohammadi "suffers from neurological and lung diseases, which put her at high risk of complications if infected with the novel coronavirus."

Trump's Troop Withdrawal Pledge Contradicts O'Brien, Alarms Military Officials.

The [AP](#) (10/8, Baldor, Gannon) reports the US military "was blindsided Thursday" by President Trump's "assertion that all US troops will be out of Afghanistan by the end of the year, with US officials saying they are not aware of such a plan and have gotten no actual order to accelerate the more gradual pullout they've been executing." Trump "started with a tweet Wednesday saying 'we should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas,'" and "he reinforced early withdrawal plans Thursday morning, in a Fox Business Channel interview that understated the number of troops currently in Afghanistan." His announcements, which the AP says were "welcomed" by the Taliban, "alarmed Pentagon and State officials who fear that putting a definitive date on troop withdrawal could undercut negotiations to finalize a peace deal between the Taliban and the Afghan government."

According to [Reuters](#) (10/8, Ali), President Trump's "abrupt vow to bring home troops from Afghanistan by year-end is a sign of how he may feel increasingly unchained to push through a foreign policy 'wish list' he hopes could appeal to voters, current and former officials say." The President's announcement "caught the National Security Council, State Department and Pentagon by surprise, according to three US officials, and they fear that it could reduce the limited leverage the Afghan government has in talks with the Taliban." The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Ryan, DeYoung, 14.2M) similarly says "the Pentagon indicated it had received no orders to alter plans for a conditions-based withdrawal and Afghan negotiators voiced concern that a hasty exit would intensify challenges to peace talks."

[Politico](#) (10/8, Seligman, 4.29M) says that with his comments, Trump "managed to undercut his own national security adviser," Robert O'Brien, "who just hours earlier said the US planned to draw down to 2,500 troops by early next year." Politico adds that "a senior administration official, asked about the conflicting timelines, noted on Thursday that 'POTUS really laid down a marker yesterday.'" Also on Thursday, White House Deputy Press Secretary Brian Morgenstern said on [KTRH-AMVi](#) Houston (10/8, 16K), "The President has been actively working and his negotiators, of course, of the Department of Defense and the National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien have been working very hard to make sure that the conditions on the ground, especially in Afghanistan, are such that we can bring troops home safely, we can reduce our footprint there. ... That's just one step that he is taking to take care of our veterans and our troops."

Military Parade Could Include Showcase Of New North Korean Weapons.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Martin, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports a North Korean parade scheduled for Saturday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the

Worker's Party is the first military parade in two years and is expected to be closely watched to see which, if any, new weapons Kim Jong Un will display.

Ortagus Says Chinese Communist Party Breaks Commitments.

State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said on [Philadelphia's Morning Answer](#) (10/8), "It's really not US versus China. What it's really about is democracy versus authoritarianism. ... What we have seen under Chairman Xi...is we have seen them just break all of their promises, break all of their commitments. They've broken their promises to Hong Kong, to the people there where they're supposed to have autonomy. They've broken their commitments in the South China Sea." Asked about the State Department's position on the coronavirus and its origins in China, Ortagus said, "The Chinese Communist Party has still not allowed in the independent investigators and scientists, doctors, that would need to go in to actually validate. ... These things matter. Not knowing precisely how this began, where it began, how it was unleashed on the world."

Ortagus Touts Abraham Accords.

State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said on [Philadelphia's Morning Answer](#) (10/8), "Under the leadership of President Trump and Mike Pompeo, we've had a lot of successes, especially this year, in foreign policy. ... Remember, it was just less than a month ago...that we had the signing of the Abraham Accords at the White House. This is the first Arab-Israeli peace deal, peace agreement in 26 years." She said, "Within the span of 29 days, President Trump successfully negotiated two peace agreements, and so we're really seeing a...change in the Middle East because of four years of policies that we put in place in the region to embolden our allies and friends, to embolden Israel, and not to capitulate to our enemy."

Trudeau Says Canada Paying Close Attention To US Election.

[Politico](#) (10/8, 4.29M) reports Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "says Canada is paying close attention to the US campaign and is prepared for the potential outcomes of the Nov. 3 vote." During a media briefing on Thursday, Trudeau said, "As we watch the American election unfold, we are of course going to be prepared for various eventualities. ... We are certainly hopeful that all will proceed smoothly." He "noted the polarization of US politics then shifted to emphasize the way federal and provincial leaders in Canada have collaborated during the pandemic, working to 'not bring overly political elements into our response.'"

Kyrgyzstan President Says He's Prepared To Resign After New Cabinet Approved.

[Reuters](#) (10/8) reports Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov "said on Friday he was ready to resign once a new cabinet was appointed to end the power vacuum in the Central Asian nation gripped by unrest since opposition supporters seized government buildings on Tuesday." According to Reuters, while "his offer, made in a statement, could facilitate the transfer of power later, it may do little to resolve the political impasse, which prompted regional power Russia to describe Kyrgyzstan's situation as chaos."

Islamic Extremists Free Malian Politician, Three European Hostages.

The [AP](#) (10/8) reports Soumaila Cisse, "a prominent Malian politician," and "three European hostages freed by Al Qaida-linked Islamic extremists arrived in Mali's capital late Thursday where they were greeted by family members and supporters." French humanitarian Sophie Petronin, "who had been abducted four years ago while helping orphans in northern Mali, arrived in a flowing white traditional dress." In addition, "while their relatives had been notified of their release on Tuesday, news that two Italian hostages also had been freed came only late Thursday in a government statement once the flight had left northern Mali."

Protests Against Indonesia Jobs Law Continue.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Sijabat, Paddock, 18.61M) reports that on Thursday, riot police "fired tear gas and water cannons" in Jakarta as "they tried to disperse large crowds of people protesting a sweeping new law that slashes protections for workers and the environment." Tens of thousands of workers "took part in the third day of a national strike against the deregulation law," marching on foot and riding "in motorbike parades as sound trucks blared protest messages." Union leaders "denounced Parliament and President Joko Widodo for pushing the measure through."

NYTimes: Russia Must Step In To Freeze Conflict In South Caucasus.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/8, 18.61M) says that, "once again, the bitterly contested claims to the mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the South Caucasus have erupted into violence" between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In the past, the US, Russia, and France "have managed to restore calm, though never establish a permanent peace," but this time "a dangerous new element has to be confronted. That is Turkey." The Times says that the Trump Administration "is not one likely to care about the fighting, even if it were not deeply embroiled in the pandemic and the election campaign," and "France alone can do little." However, "doing nothing is not an option for dealing with a wildfire that, left unchecked, can rapidly spread," so whether Russia President Vladimir Putin "likes it or not, he has the greatest responsibility and the most effective levers to restrain his former empire-mates and dissuade" President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "from a dangerous adventure."

WPost: Jailed Vietnamese Dissident A "Champion Of Democracy."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, 14.2M) says the arrest of Vietnamese democracy activist Pham Doan Trang "is the latest and one of the most flagrant in Vietnam's long practice of squelching freedom of expression and political dissent, including arrests of bloggers and independent journalists." The "repression appears to be intensifying ahead of a Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, held every five years, expected in January." Her arrest "came just hours after the United States and Vietnam had finished the 24th Annual US-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue." The Post says, "That Vietnam would seize its best-known democracy activist on the heels of the meeting says much about the diminished standing of the United States in the world under President Trump, who has repeatedly ignored human rights abuses while cozying up to the world's despots." The Post concludes by calling Trang "a selfless and courageous champion of democracy."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Stimulus Talks Resume, But A Deal Remains Elusive](#)

[AMD Is In Advanced Talks To Buy Xilinx](#)

[WarnerMedia Plans Thousands Of Job Cuts In Restructuring](#)

[Trump Says He Won't Participate In Virtual Presidential Debate](#)

[There's No Oil In Wisconsin. The Fracking Bust Hit It Anyway.](#)

[During A Zoom Frog Dissection, Students Posted Vomit Emojis. Welcome To The Virtual Field Trip](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Lashes Out At His Cabinet With Calls To Indict Political Rivals](#)

[FBI Says Michigan Anti-Government Group Plotted To Kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer](#)

[Elliott Broidy, A Top Trump Fund-Raiser, Charged In Foreign Influence Case](#)

[Inside The People Of Praise, The Tight-Knit Faith Community Of Amy Coney Barrett
Trump's Covid Treatments Were Tested In Cells Derived From Fetal Tissue](#)

Washington Post:

[13 Charged In Plot To Seize Mich. Governor](#)

[Congress Deciding The Election? Parties Preparing For Everything.](#)

[White House Mixed Signals Cloud Chances For Relief Bill](#)

[Contacts Of Trump Guests May Never Be Traced](#)

[Only One Of Their Kids Survived Sandy Hook. Now School Posed A New Threat: Covid-19.](#)

[Trump Pulls Out Of 2nd Debate After It Is Moved Online](#)

Financial Times:

[Coping With Covid: An Italian Manufacturer Stifled By The Global Economy](#)

[Trump Says He Will Not Participate In Virtual Debate](#)

[Turkey's Armed Drones Bolster Erdogan's Hard-Power Tactics](#)

[Vatican Used Charity Funds To Bet On Hertz Credit Derivatives](#)

Washington Times:

['From Her Head': Judge Barrett Relies On Law's 'Impersonality' In Deciding Cases](#)

[FBI Says It Thwarted Militia Plot To Kill Michigan Gov. Whitmer](#)

[Risk Or Reward? Trump's Red Line On Virtual Debate Upends Schedule](#)

[Illegal Immigrants Bank On Biden Win To Improve Plight](#)

[NBA Finals Ratings Hit Historic Lows](#)

[Armenian Ambassador: Pressure Turkey To Rein In Azerbaijan](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: FBI-Gov. Whitmer; Second Presidential Debate; VP Debate; Presidential Campaigns; Trump-COVID; Hurricane Delta-Tracking; Hurricane Delta; COVID Cases; Breonna Taylor; Palm Beach-Plane Goes Off Runway; Buckets & Baseballs.

CBS: FBI-Gov. Whitmer; Second Presidential Debate; Trump-COVID; Election 2020-Arizona; VP Debate; Unemployment; COVID Cases; Hurricane Delta; Hurricane Delta-Tracking; Country Singer Dropped from SNL; Nobel Prize in Literature; Australia-Great White Shark Warning; Non-profit Builds Desks For Underprivileged Kids.

NBC: FBI-Gov. Whitmer; Second Presidential Debate; Trump-COVID; VP Debate; Hurricane Delta; Hurricane Delta-Tracking; COVID-Antibody Treatments; Mail-In Ballots; Airlines-Aid Package; NBA Finals.

Network TV At A Glance:

FBI-Gov. Whitmer – 10 minutes, 15 seconds

Trump-COVID – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

COVID – 5 minutes, 50 seconds

VP Debate – 5 minutes, 15 seconds

Second Presidential Debate – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Hurricane Delta – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Hurricane Delta-Tracking – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Delta; Trump-Rally on Saturday; China-Joins COVID Alliance; FBI-Gov. Whitmer; Wisconsin-Protests.

CBS: Trump-Rally on Saturday; Trump-Absentee Ballots; WH-COVID Outbreak; McConnell-WH Comments; Hurricane Delta; FBI-Gov. Whitmer; Yale University-Discrimination Lawsuit.

FOX: Trump-COVID; Second Presidential Debate; Hurricane Delta.

NPR: Second Presidential Debate; FBI-Gov. Whitmer; Hurricane Delta.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Trump — No public events scheduled.
- Vice President — No public events scheduled.

US Senate:

- Senate convenes for pro forma session – Senate convenes for pro forma session * Chamber on recess through 19 Oct, announced earlier this month following coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnoses for Republican Sens. Mike Lee, Thom Tillis, and Ron Johnson

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

US House:

- House meets in pro forma session – House of Representatives meets in pro forma session * Chamber on recess from 2 Oct – 16 Nov

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

Cabinet Officers:

- No public schedules released.

Visitors:

- No visitors scheduled.

This Town:

- Dem Sen. Chris Van Hollen discusses 'Trump administration's effort to sabotage New START' – 'Trump's Effort to Sabotage New START and the Risk of an All-Out Arms Race' Arms Control Association and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom online event, with Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Senior Policy Director Alexandra Bell, and Arms Control Association Executive Director Daryl Kimball; 9:00 AM
- Congressional Military Family Caucus annual summit – Congressional Military Family Caucus annual Military Family Caucus Summit, held virtually, hosted by Caucus Co-Chairs Democratic Rep. Sanford Bishop and Republican Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and bring together military families with Members of Congress and their staffs, Department of Defense officials, and personnel from military family support organizations. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper keynotes, with panelists including bipartisan Reps. Trent Kelly and Chrissy Houlahan, as well as Jennifer Drake Patrick (George Mason University), Pete LuPiba (Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission), Michelle Norman, Jennifer Barnhill, and Grace Kim (all Partners in PROMISE), Jessica Strong (Blue Star Families), Kellie Artis (MILLIE), Eryn Wagnon and Karen Ruedisueli (both MOAA), Kara Tollett Oakley (Oakley Capitol Consulting), Shannon Razsadin (Military Family Advisory Network), Michelle Penczak (Squared Away), Sue Hoppin (Military Spouse Network); 12:30 PM

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