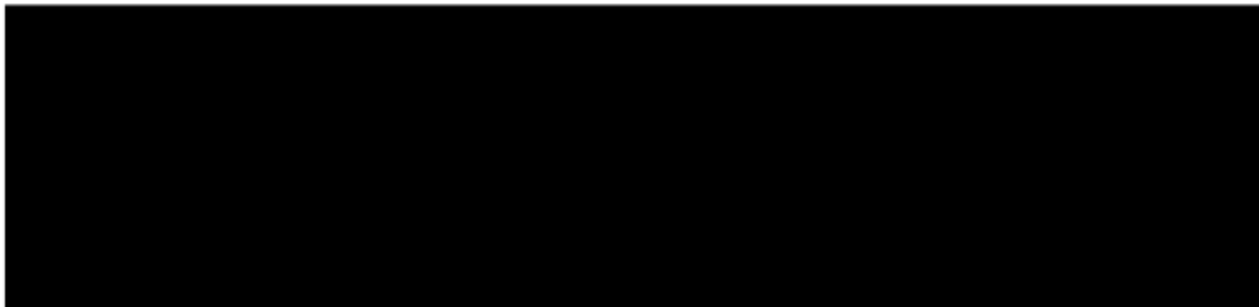


From:

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Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs News Briefing Thursday, May 06, 2021

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 FBI News Briefing

TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 6:30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS

Suspect: Alaska Raid Seeking Laptop Stolen During Capitol Riot Case Of Mistaken Identity.

The [AP](#) (5/5) reports on the recent raid of the home of Marylyn Hueper of Homer, Alaska, during which FBI agents reportedly said they were looking for a laptop stolen from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi during the Capitol insurrection. The AP says that "even though Hueper looks strikingly similar to the thief," the raid could be based on mistake identity. "The Justice Department's massive prosecution" of participants in the attack "has not been without its problems. ... And as Republicans are increasingly seeking to minimize the insurrection and play down the horror of the day, any missteps by federal prosecutors could be used in that effort to discredit what actually happened."

[KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (5/5) reports, "Newly unsealed court records show why Joint Terrorism Task Force investigators and a judge believed there was probable cause to search the premises of Paul and Marilyn Hueper in Homer in late April." While they attended the "Jan. 6 rally at the nation's Capitol," the couple "have said they did nothing wrong." The couple says "the FBI mistook Marilyn Hueper for a woman who'd entered the Capitol that day, and that during the search, agents said they were looking for Nancy Pelosi's laptop."

CAPITOL RIOTS

Secret Service Director To Testify Before House For First Time Since Capitol Insurrection.

[CNN](#) (5/5, Wild, 89.21M) reports Secret Service Director James Murray is scheduled to testify before the House Appropriations Committee's Homeland Security Subcommittee Thursday, "the first time the agency is appearing in an open hearing since the January 6 riot, during which agents swiftly moved then-Vice President Mike Pence to an unknown location." Murray's prepared remarks "make only brief mention of the events of January 6, but he does note that the agency has made some operational adjustments because of civil unrest and the rise in domestic violent extremism." The remarks say, "The Secret Service has reviewed its operational security posture over the past 10 months due to the increase in civil unrest and domestic violent extremism, as well as our open source intelligence capabilities given the proliferation of social media platforms."

Grandmother's Tip Helps FBI Identify Capitol Insurgent.

The [New Jersey Star-Ledger](#) (5/5, 1.47M) reports in January one grandmother told another "that her son was actually one of the hundreds who stormed" the US Capitol. "By Jan. 17, the other grandmother had told one of her grandchildren about what she had learned and the grandchild soon informed the FBI that Robert Petrosch Jr., of Mays Landing, was among" the

insurgents. "Investigators soon learned more after a current FBI Task Force officer, who has known Petrosh for approximately 15 years, identified the South Jersey man in screenshots" of Capitol surveillance video.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Federal Documents Detail Weaponry, Explosives Found At Right-Wing Protests.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/5, Wilson, 5.53M) reports federal documents "show a wide range of explosives, flamethrowers and incendiary devices found by law enforcement agencies outside political conventions, public buildings and protests during 2020 and 2021. The extent of the weaponry – including timed devices deposited as part of a suspected pro-Trump bomb plot – reveals the perils and potential violence circulating through American politics in the grip of unrest linked to pandemic shutdowns, anti-racism protests and rightwing activism and insurrection that culminated in the attack on the Capitol in Washington."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

DOJ Working To Counter China's Efforts To Obtain Research, Technology From US Universities.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/5, Dunleavy, 888K) reports the DOJ is "increasingly sounding the alarm about the economic challenge and national security threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party, especially as the Chinese government's Thousand Talents Program exploits the openness of academia in the United States to steal advanced research to increase China's wealth and enhance its power" DOJ's China Initiative "is shining the spotlight on the Chinese Communist Party's coordinated and multifaceted efforts to steal research and technology from academic institutions across the country, with prosecutors mounting aggressive efforts over the past few years to crack down on Chinese malign influence at U.S. universities." The piece quotes Attorney General Merrick Garland saying in House Appropriations testimony this week, "Well, within the last month or so, the intelligence community has identified China as a threat ... with respect to espionage, with respect to theft of intellectual property, so the FBI is working very hard on these issues. There's also obviously a very important cybercrime and cyberhacking element of this, so a lot of money and new resources are being put into protecting against that hacking, then prosecuting where we're unsuccessful at protection and then plugging the holes."

Napolitano Criticizes FISA As Unconstitutional Enabler Of "Security State."

In commentary for the [Washington Times](#) (5/5, 626K), former New Jersey Superior Court Judge Andrew P. Napolitano writes that recent revelations about the FBI and US Postal Service's use of FISA warrant surveillance violate the Fourth Amendment. He argues that the FBI's access to NSA data is "deeply troubling because it violates both the Fourth Amendment and federal law" and contributes to the reach of "America's security state."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Former Zelensky Adviser Details Giuliani's Ukraine Dealings.

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{vi} (5/5, story 6, 1:55, Holt, 5.3M), Andrea Mitchell interviewed Igor Novikov, former adviser to Ukrainian President Zelensky, for "a first-person account of how Rudy Giuliani was trying to damage" President Biden's campaign. Novikov, who "listened in as Giuliani pressed for Ukraine's president to investigate Biden," described Giuliani as seeking "a smear campaign" on Biden, and said, "He was especially interested in getting Ukraine to make a public statement and possibly back it up, this crazy allegations that it was Ukraine, not

Russia, that meddled in 2016." Mitchell added that Giuliani is "now under investigation for his role in Ukraine," though "he's not been charged with any crime."

California Bar Owner Arrested For Selling Bogus COVID-19 Vaccine Cards.

[McClatchy](#) (5/5, Capron, 29K) reports Todd Anderson, owner of the Old Corner Saloon in Clements, California, "was arrested after officials said he sold fake COVID-19 vaccine cards from his business." Anderson "was arrested Tuesday after undercover agents bought bogus coronavirus vaccination cards from the bar." Since having the cards could be necessary for travel or other purposes in the coming months, "it's become a growing trend to buy or sell fake cards. The FBI has said that's illegal."

[ABC News](#) (5/5, 2.44M) reports the bar owner "was arrested this week for making fake IDs that had nothing to do with drinking," saying the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control "announced on Wednesday that it arrested the owner of the Old Corner Saloon in Clements, California, allegedly for selling fraudulent COVID-19 vaccination cards." The agency launched an undercover investigation on a tip that Anderson "was making and selling the cards at his bar." In March, the FBI released a statement saying, "By misrepresenting yourself as vaccinated when entering schools, mass transit, workplaces, gyms or places of worship, you put yourself and others around you at risk of contracting COVID-19."

Missing Colorado Woman's Husband Charged With Murder.

The [New York Post](#) (5/5, Fitz-Gibbon, 7.45M) reports Chaffee County, Colorado, Sheriff John Spezze said Wednesday that Barry Morphew, "the husband of Colorado mom Suzanne Morphew, who went missing on Mother's Day last year, has been charged with first-degree murder." Barry Morphew was arrested "and charged with murder, tampering with physical evidence and attempting to influence a public servant, authorities said." Though Suzanne Morphew's body has yet to be found, Spezze said, "our belief is that Suzanne is not alive at this time."

[Fox News](#) (5/5, Pagones, 23.99M) reports Spezze "thanked the FBI, Colorado's Bureau of Investigation and the office of 11th Judicial District Attorney Linda Stanley for their roles in breaking the case almost a full year after Morphew's disappearance. ... Stanley said the investigation remained active and that the missing woman's remains have still not been found."

Co-Conspirator Testifies In Former Massachusetts Mayor's Corruption Trial.

The [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (5/5, 376K) reports on the "corruption and fraud trial against" former Fall River, Massachusetts, Mayor Jasiel Correia II Tuesday, "with a focus on allegations that the former Fall River mayor extorted hundreds of thousands of dollars from marijuana companies. The day was capped by stunning testimony from" alleged co-conspirator Hildegard Camara, who "testified that though he arranged the terms of a \$250,000 bribe for David Brayton, he became concerned around the time co-conspirator Tony Costa placed a bribe from Brian Bairos in his garden shed. Camara said when he retrieved an envelope from the shed, he brought it to his basement, where Correia was sitting, and opened it to see a stack of bills totaling \$50,000."

Columnist Dismayed That Some Los Angeles City Hall Corruption May Be Legal.

In a column in the [Long Beach \(CA\) Press-Telegram](#) (5/4, 121K), Susan Shelley writes, "As the FBI's investigation into public corruption at Los Angeles City Hall drags into another year, the really astonishing revelation so far is how much of the corruption is allowed by law," citing a recent Los Angeles Times article describing "what the U.S. attorney's office is calling 'indirect bribes.'" Prosecutors say former Deputy Mayor Raymond Chan "made some arrangements that benefited close family members of city employees and officials who had a hand in the approval process for the developers' projects. ... Chan's attorney, Harland Braun, says his client's

activities were just ordinary business dealings. It could turn out that both things are true – pay-to-play is simply business as usual.”

Pittsburgh Man Pleads Guilty To Federal Child Pornography Charges.

The [Daily Caller](#) (5/5, Safi, 375K) reports George Goodwin of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, “pleaded guilty to distributing child pornography and to owning videos that showed the ‘sadistic and masochistic abuse’ of young children, the Justice Department announced Tuesday.” Goodwin “pleaded guilty in federal court to distributing material depicting the sexual exploitation of children.” The article notes that the FBI took part in the investigation.

Arkansas Residents Charged With Selling Non-Existent Purebred Puppies.

[KTHV-TV](#) Little Rock, AR (5/5, 125K) reports Helda Berinyuy and Thierry Ekwelle of Malvern, Arkansas, “have been accused of fraudulently selling purebred puppies to 153 victims from multiple states, receiving over \$110,000 between August 2018 and November 2020.” The suspects “reportedly used websites to advertise the sale of purebred, AKC registered puppies such as French Bulldogs, Boxers, Toy Poodles, English Bulldogs, and others, when in fact they never had puppies to sell.” The article notes that the FBI is conducting the investigation.

Minnesota Man Facing Federal Sextortion, Child Pornography Charges.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/4, 855K) reports Mitchell James Ottinger of Carver, Minnesota, “has been charged in a case involving child pornography and sextortion.” Ottinger, who worked as a substitute teacher and paraprofessional, “was charged with two counts of production and attempted production of child pornography and two counts of threatening extortion, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney’s Office.”

Former Maui Police Officer Pleads Guilty To Soliciting Sex In Exchange For Sabotaging Criminal Case.

[Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (5/5) reports former Maui police officer Brandon Charles Saffeeles “admitted in federal court on Wednesday that he told a suspect he would lie on the stand for her if she engaged in a sexual relationship with him, the Department of Justice announced.” Federal authorities say Saffeeles “pleaded guilty to a seven-count indictment that includes public corruption in the form of honest services wire fraud. ... Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii Judith A. Philips said in a statement that Saffeeles violated the core principles of the Maui Police Department: Integrity, fairness and service.”

Alabama Trooper Facing Child Sex Charges Is Former FBI Agent.

[The Hill](#) (5/5, Lonas, 5.69M) reports that Christopher Bauer, an Alabama state trooper who was arrested last week on charges of raping an 11-year-old girl, “was previously kicked out of the FBI while facing sexual misconduct claims.” The [AP](#) (5/5) reports that, despite losing his federal security clearance, Bauer managed to become an Alabama state trooper “with the apparent help of a fake bureau letter that scrubbed his record clean.” According to the AP, “Bauer is the latest – and perhaps most extreme – example yet of an FBI agent accused of sexual misconduct moving on.”

Arizona Man Arrested In Serial Rapes Is Former Border Patrol Agent.

The [AP](#) (5/5) reports the FBI and US Marshals assisted the Mesa Police Department in the arrest of John Daly III, a former Border Patrol agent, who investigators recently linked to at least eight rapes that occurred from 1999-2001 through the use of new DNA technology. The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/5, White, 1.05M) reports that Rob Daniels, a spokesperson for CBP, “confirmed Daly was a Supervisory Border Patrol Agent at the Douglas Station in southeast Arizona from November 1999 until he retired in December 2019.” [Newsweek](#) (5/5, Anglesey, 2.67M) reports

the FBI provided local law enforcement with “analytical, investigative and support resources” as they pursued the case against Daly.

Chicago Rapper G Herbo Accused Of Lying To FBI.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (5/5, Meisner, 2.03M) reports “Chicago rap sensation G Herbo has been hit with new federal charges alleging he lied to an FBI agent investigating whether his crew used stolen identities to make up to \$1.5 million in fraudulent charges for extravagant services.” [UpRoxx](#) (5/5, Okon, 1.13M) reports, “After being charged with identity fraud late last year, G Herbo has been hit with new charges related to that case. ... for allegedly lying to a federal agent about his connection to one of the co-defendants in the case. Wright reportedly denied having a direct relationship with Antonio Strong, his friend and business associate. The FBI believes Wright and Strong have known each other since 2016 and maintained frequent contact since.”

Alabama Man Faces Charges For Threatening Huntsville Schools.

The [Huntsville \(AL\) Times](#) (5/5, Koplowitz, 623K) reports that the FBI North Alabama Violent Crimes Task Force assisted the Madison County Sheriff’s office and the North Alabama Safe Streets Task Force in locating Darren Pullen after he made bomb threats against two Huntsville City schools. [WZDX-TV](#) Huntsville, AL (5/5) reports that “no suspicious packages or devices were found at either campus” and the Sheriff’s Office has now brought charges against Pullen. [WAFF-TV](#) Huntsville, AL (5/5, 28K) also reports.

Body On California Beach Is Convicted Bank Robber.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (5/5, 587K) reports that the San Diego Medical Examiner’s office identified “a man found dead on an Encinitas beach early Tuesday morning...as Christopher Andrew Gibson...who had been convicted of robbing banks in San Diego County in his 20s.” The [AP](#) (5/5) reports that the FBI said Gibson committed his “first robbery in 2014...hours after” he was released from “a detention center where he was being held on unrelated charges.” According to the AP, the cause of Gibson’s death remains under investigation.

Kentucky Man Guilty Of Murder In Multi-state Robberies.

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (5/5, 205K) reports that jurors in federal court “convicted Cabellero Melgar this week on charges that included conspiring to interfere with commerce by robbery, conspiring to use guns during crimes of violence, murder during a crime of violence, and illegal reentry into the United States after being deported.” Prosecutors accused Melgar of participating in a team that carried out robberies of “15 businesses in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and Indiana in 2016 and 2017.” During one of the incidents, a bystander, Jose Cruz, was shot and killed after attempting to defend himself when one of the robbers who became violent towards him. The Herald-Leader quoted Robert Brown, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Louisville field office, as saying, the group of robbers “‘demonstrated a penchant for violence and would have no doubt continued their path of carnage’ had authorities not caught them.”

FBI Assisting Investigation In Southeast Kansas Armed Bank Robbery.

[KOAM-TV](#) Pittsburg, KS (5/5, Strader) reports that the FBI has joined an investigation into an armed robbery at the Kansas Equity Bank in Independence, Kansas. The robbery occurred Wednesday afternoon, and KOAM-TV reports that deputies with the Montgomery County Sheriff’s office arrested a suspect the same day.

FBI Assisting Missouri Police Department In Cold Case.

[KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (5/5, Willeke, 289K) reports the FBI is assisting the Berkeley Police Department in Missouri in the investigation into the 2017 “murder and carjacking of Jayvon

Vance." [KMOV-TV](#) St. Louis (5/5, 251K) adds the FBI and Berkeley Police are asking for public help in locating a person who used the moniker 'Tony King' to communicate with Vance in a Facebook group shortly before the man's death and arranged to meet with him at the location where he was shot and killed.

FBI Assisting Search For Suspect In Pennsylvania Bank Robbery.

[WFMZ-TV](#) Allentown, PA (5/5, 176K) reports the FBI is assisting the Upper Dublin Township Police Department in its efforts to catch the suspect in the robbery of a BB&T bank branch that occurred on Wednesday morning. According to WFMZ, "police say the man they are looking for is black, around the age of 30, approximately 6' tall, large build."

Colorado Man Pleads Not Guilty Gang Murder.

The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (5/5, Boczkiewicz, 61K) reports that, on Tuesday in Colorado, Emilio Hall, an alleged member of the "Ace gang," pleaded not guilty to federal charges that he murdered a fellow gang member. The Chieftain adds the case against Hall comes "after many months of investigation by the Safe Streets Task Force of Pueblo police and the FBI, as well as several other Pueblo, state and federal law enforcement agencies."

Longtime Eco-terror Fugitive Pleads Not Guilty To Charges In 2001 California Fire.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/5, Stanton, 519K) reports that Joseph Mahmoud Dibee pleaded not guilty to federal arson charges in a case that originates from a 2001 incident in which Dibee is accused of setting fire to a horse corral at a federal facility near Susanville, California. According to the Bee, Dibee was a member of an eco-terror group called "the Family," which carried out more than "40 attacks that caused more than \$45 million in damage." The FBI began targeted the group as part of Operation Backfire, which led to charges against Dibee in 2006. However, Dibee fled and managed to avoid capture for about 12 years until he was finally apprehended in Cuba in 2018.

Target In Illinois FBI Raid Now Faces Multiple Child Sex Charges.

The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) (5/5, Graham, 360K) reports that Jose Torrez, "whose home was raided Tuesday morning by the FBI and local police," faces charges "of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child younger than 13." The FBI became involved in the case when local police discovered that, at one point, Torrez had taken the child out of the country.

In Iowa, Sex Offender Faces Murder Charges In Death Of 10-year-old Girl.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Foley) reports that local prosecutors in Iowa have brought murder and kidnapping charges against Henry Dinkins, a registered sex offender, in connection with the death of 10-year-old Breasia Terrell, the half-sister of Dinkins' son. According to the AP, the FBI provided assistance to local police while they investigated the case after Terrell disappeared last July.

Opioids Case Leads To Prison Time For Alabama Doctor And Her Husband.

The [AP](#) (5/5) reports Dr. Elizabeth Korcz "and her husband, who managed her" Alabama practice, "will serve federal prison sentences for providing opioids to people without a legitimate medical purpose." The FBI and the DEA investigated the Korcz case, according to the AP report and an online [WBRC-TV](#) Birmingham, AL (5/5, 57K) article that says Korcz and her husband were sentenced to 52 months and 30 months, respectively, in prison. The article quotes DEA New Orleans Special Agent in Charge Brad L. Byerley, who said the Korcz investigation shows that the DEA is committed to holding people accountable when they illegally dispense controlled substances. The [Birmingham \(AL\) News](#) (5/5, 656K) publishes a similar article. [Newsweek](#) (5/5, 2.67M) quotes the FBI's Johnnie Sharp Jr., who said healthcare professionals should "not exploit their profession to line their pockets." [Reuters](#) (5/5, Pierson) also covers this story.

Three Rhode Island Residents Plead Guilty To Drug Charges.

An online [WLNE-TV](#) Providence, RI (5/5, LaFrance) report says Rhode Island residents Angel Aviles, Juan Batista and Natalie Cassidy have pleaded guilty to drug charges. The report highlights that "the FBI Rhode Island Safe Streets Gang Task Force" investigated this case, which involved a "scheme to distribute large amounts of crack cocaine and fentanyl in" Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Texas Lawyer Gets Long Prison Sentence In Case Involving Cocaine Traffickers.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Paybarah, 20.6M) reports Texas attorney James Morris Balagia "was sentenced this week to more than 15 years in prison for" participating in a "scheme to pocket money that Colombian cocaine traffickers had been told would go to bribe officials." During Balagia's trial, FBI Special Agent Jason Rennie "testified about a recording of a meeting Mr. Balagia and his associates held inside a Colombian prison with Segundo Villota Segura, who was facing extradition to Texas." The [New York Daily News](#) (5/5, Feldman, 2.51M) and the [iHeartRadio](#) (5/5, 5.47M) website also cover Balagia's sentence.

Drug Investigation Leads To Decade In Prison For Florida Man.

The [Osceola \(FL\) News-Gazette](#) (5/6) reports Florida resident Eddie Quinones Santiago has been sentenced to 10 years in prison "for conspiracy to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin, possession of 100 grams or more of heroin with intent to distribute, and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute." The DEA and the FBI were involved with the drug investigation that led to the sentence. The [WESH-TV](#) Orlando, FL (5/5, 255K) website publishes a similar article.

Drug Case Defendant Gets 71-Month Prison Sentence After Pleading Guilty.

The [Martinsburg \(WV\) Journal](#) (5/5, 51K) reports Martinsburg resident Michael Pierre Christian, who "pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting possession with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of cocaine base," has been sentenced to 71 months in prison. A number of law enforcement organizations investigated this case, including the FBI and "the Eastern Panhandle Drug & Violent Crimes Task Force," which is a "HIDTA-funded initiative."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Former Adidas Consultant Says Firm Gave Airline Tickets, Gifts To College Players.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (5/5, Wolfson, 554K) reports former Adidas consultant Dan Cutler says in a sworn deposition that the firm "provided airfare and other benefits to college players, including former Duke basketball star Zion Williamson." Cutler "said an Adidas representative provided four airline tickets for Williamson's family before he enrolled at Duke." The deposition is part of "a lawsuit filed by disqualified University of Louisville recruit Brian Bowen Jr." The piece explains that a number of colleges have "been accused of misconduct by the NCAA stemming from an FBI investigation into men's college basketball that resulted in the 2018 trial and convictions of James Gatto, an Adidas executive; Merl Code, an Adidas consultant; and Christian Dawkins, an aspiring sports agent."

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (5/5, 554K) reports the University of Louisville "insists the bribery scheme preceding former basketball recruit Brian Bowen's enrollment was all Adidas' doing and should not be held against the school that stood to benefit from his five-star talents." However, depositions and other court documents filed in the case "could undermine that argument in U of L's infractions case with the NCAA's Independent Accountability Resolution Process." Bowen "was prevented from playing college basketball amid allegations arising from an FBI probe that his signing was induced by a promise of \$100,000, in violation of NCAA rules."

Actor Faces Federal Fraud Charges In Movie Distribution Ponzi Scheme.

The [New York Daily News](#) (5/5, Feldman, 2.51M) reports "small-time actor" Zachary Horowitz, who goes by the stage name Zach Avery, "allegedly bilked investors out of \$690 million." Horowitz "was indicted Tuesday for an elaborate Ponzi scheme" and faces "five counts of securities fraud, six counts of wire fraud and two counts of aggravated identity theft." Horowitz "told investors that he would use their money to buy distribution rights to movies and then license them to Netflix and HBO, according to the Department of Justice."

The [New York Post](#) (5/5, Rhett Miller, 7.45M) reports Horowitz "has been indicted for running a massive Ponzi scheme that bilked investors out of roughly \$230 million." The suspect "falsely claimed his company, 1inMM Capital LLC, would acquire the films due to its 'solid relationships' with online platforms, but reps from HBO and Netflix say the companies had no dealings with the firm, federal prosecutors said earlier this month."

CYBER DIVISION

Washington State Doctor Indicted in Dark Web Kidnapping Plot.

[KREM-TV](#) Spokane, WA (5/5, 307K) reports Ronald Ilg, "an influential Spokane doctor was indicted by a federal grand jury on one count of attempted kidnapping." Ilg pleaded not guilty to "finding someone on the dark web to kidnap his estranged wife before assaulting, drugging and extorting her. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 20 years in prison." In an interview with the FBI, Ilg denied accusations he hired "to hire someone to carry out a week-long kidnapping and trying to pay them in Bitcoin. He wanted the kidnapping to coincide with his trip to Mexico."

Biden Administration To Keep Trump Doctrine On Cybersecurity In Space.

[NextGov](#) (5/5) reports a presidential directive "aimed at implementing cybersecurity in space systems is under review but will likely remain in effect as the Biden Administration looks to sustain commercial enterprise in the domain." Brian Scott, director of critical infrastructure cybersecurity for the National Security Council, said, "The government needs the private sector and the private sector needs the government. Space Policy Directive 5, SPD 5, cybersecurity for space systems issued last September, outlines key cybersecurity principles to guide and continues to serve as the foundation for the US approach to the cyber protection of space systems." Scott "spoke Wednesday along with officials from the departments of Commerce and Homeland Security as well as the intelligence community at a symposium on cybersecurity in space that was attended by participants from around the world."

DHS Giving More Attention To Ransomware Attacks.

[Defense Systems](#) (5/5, 93K) reports DHS and the White House are "putting the spotlight on combatting ransomware, actively developing plans to confront the issue." DHS has "assembled a task force with representatives from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Secret Service, Coast Guard and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations unit," according to Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. The new task force is "part of the secretary's planned '60-day sprint' on ransomware that was announced in March as the first in a series of new efforts." Mayorkas said at an April 29 event hosted by the Institute for Security and Technology, "Beyond CISA...the entire federal government is stepping up to face this challenge. The White House is developing a plan dedicated to tackling this problem." He "confirmed the Justice Department recently established its own task force focused on ransomware."

[The Hill](#) (5/5, 5.69M) reports DHS, the Department of Justice and Capitol Hill are all "spearheading efforts to get a handle on ransomware attacks, which have skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic as cyber criminals targeted vulnerable networks that came under

increased strain." DHS has played a "leading role in prioritizing cybersecurity and made tackling ransomware attacks the first of several 60-day sprints to focus agency resources on the problem." The agency last month "established a Ransomware and Digital Extortion Task Force, while Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said last week that the Justice Department would also launch a 120-day review of cybersecurity challenges under her leadership."

Lawmakers Seek More Funds, Authorities For CISA.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Riley, 10.52M) reports in its Cybersecurity 202 column that leading voices in Congress "say the nation's top cybersecurity agency needs better resources to handle growing threats to critical services like water and power." Rep. John Katko (R-NY) "said yesterday recommended centralizing CISA's authority to track vulnerabilities in industrial control systems that power the nation's critical infrastructure." The top Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee "touted legislation he helped introduce earlier this year that would grant CISA leadership the authority to coordinate federal response to such vulnerabilities." Katko and other leaders "stressed the agency will need significant additional resources to expand its mission." Katko has "urged Congress to give CISA a \$5 billion budget, a number more than double its current budget."

LABORATORY

Attorneys For Accused "Killer Clown" Say Evidence May Be Tainted.

[WPBF-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (5/5, Parker, 69K) reports, "Lawyers for the accused "Killer Clown" defendant Sheila Keen Warren are trying to take a sworn deposition from the Palm Beach County State Attorney spokesman, saying he may have critical information about possible contaminated evidence against their client in the 31-year-old case." Prosecutors say the deposition would encourage "other 'fishing expeditions.'" The article says investigators at the scene of Marlene Warren's 1990 murder "recovered a balloon ribbon dropped by the bouquet-bearing killer clown. Prosecutors said there was a 6 to 8-inch long fiber attached to that ribbon – one that the FBI said was similar in composition to fibers in a clown wig prosecutors said they've connected to Keen Warren." However, Keen Warren's attorneys say "no detective, crime scene analyst or even the FBI had ever noted this 'long fiber' in their lists of evidence until 2013 – when a cold case unit reopened the case."

OTHER FBI NEWS

Study Points To Significant Spike In Hate Crimes Targeting Asians In US Cities.

[CNN](#) (5/5, Campbell, 89.21M) reports according to a new study from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at Cal State San Bernardino, reports of "hate crimes against Asians in 16 of the nation's largest cities and counties are up 164% since this time last year." Researchers spotted "95 anti-Asian hate crimes reported to authorities in the first quarter of 2021, compared with 36 reported incidents in the first quarter of 2020." The spike was particularly sharp in New York City, "which saw a 223% spike in early 2021 as reported incidents rose from 13 to 42 compared to the same time last year; followed by San Francisco with a 140% increase as reported incidents rose from 5 to 12, and Los Angeles with an 80% increase associated with a rise from 5 to 9 reported anti-Asian hate crimes." In a letter to law enforcement agencies around the country last year, FBI Director Christopher Wray "wrote that his agency remained 'concerned about the potential for hate crimes by individuals and groups targeting minority populations in the United States who they believe are responsible for the spread of the virus.'"

ABC Examines Growing Rate Of Attacks On Asian Americans. [ABC World News](#)

[Tonight](#)Vi (5/5, story 4, 2:00, Muir, 6.42M) reported that US law enforcement authorities are

"increasingly concerned with new attacks from New York to California on Asian Americans." Hate crimes targeting Asian American hate crimes "are up over 160% in major cities across the country," and New York City data shows a 223% increase in such attacks.

Many Native American Missing Persons Cases Go Unsolved.

[Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (5/5, Mabie, 108K) reports Native Americans in the US "go missing and are killed at disproportionately high rates nationwide," and "with jurisdictional challenges among law enforcement entities and little public outrage, political consequence or media attention, cases of missing or murdered Indigenous people often go unsolved." Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte "in April signed three bills addressing the missing persons crisis in Montana. Two bills will extend a task force and grant program to help tribes report missing people and the other will create a review commission under the state Department of Justice to recommend policy changes."

FBI's Closing Of 2004 Child Murder Case Contrasted With Local Detectives' Unsuccessful Investigation.

[ABC News](#) (5/5, 2.44M) reports after Kevin Fox of Wilmington, Illinois, was exonerated in the killing of his three-year-old daughter Riley, and five years after the murder, the FBI began investigating the case. FBI Special Agent Lori Warren "said the FBI started the investigation from scratch, as if the murder had just happened." The article contrasts the FBI's investigation with that of local detectives. "In 2010, then-Sheriff Paul Kaupas admitted his department 'obviously dropped the ball' and commissioned an outside review to see what mistakes were made during its handling of the case."

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Atlanta Police Officer Reinstated Following Brooks Shooting.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Brumback) reports former Atlanta police officer Garrett Rolfe, who has been "charged with murder in the shooting death of Rayshard Brooks," was reinstated after a review panel "found the city failed to follow its own procedures for disciplinary actions." The Atlanta Civil Service Board said in its statement, "Due to the City's failure to comply with several provisions of the Code and the information received during witnesses' testimony, the Board concludes the Appellant was not afforded his right to due process." Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms (D) added that Rolfe will "remain on administrative leave until the criminal charges against him are resolved." The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Fausset, 20.6M) reports that the decision "turned not on whether the shooting was justified, but on whether the city had followed proper procedures when firing him." The decision "cited the testimony of Sgt. William Dean of the Atlanta police's internal affairs division, who said that the firing 'seemed rushed.'"

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (5/5, 1.46M) reports that the Atlanta Police Department said of the ruling, "The Civil Service Board (CSB) has reversed the termination of officer Garrett Rolfe only on the basis that they were not done in accordance with the Atlanta City Code." It added, "It is important to note that the CSB did not make a determination as to whether officer Rolfe violated Atlanta Police Department policies. In light of the CSB's rulings, APD will conduct an assessment to determine if additional investigative actions are needed."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) reports Rolfe "shot Brooks on June 12 after he and his partner responded to calls about a man sleeping in a car at a Wendy's drive-through." While Brooks "was cooperative at first," he "was shot by Rolfe as he tried to run away, surveillance video showed, sparking protests across the city." [USA Today](#) (5/5, Miller, 12.7M) reports Rolfe's attorney Lance LoRusso said of the ruling, "We are very pleased at this action and consider it the first step in the total vindication of Officer Garrett Rolfe."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, 3.37M) reports Atlanta attorney and civil rights activist Gerald Griggs criticized the decision, saying, "Average citizens who are charged with murder don't go back to work. They wait for the process to play itself out – either in custody or on bond – and then after there's a determination made criminally, then the civil matter proceeds. This is backwards." The [CBS Evening News](#)^{vi} (5/5, story 4, 1:50, O'Donnell, 4.03M) reported that the Brooks family condemned the ruling. Brooks family attorney Chris Stewart said, "It appears that Rayshard Brooks' life didn't really matter, and that the world has moved on."

The [New York Post](#) (5/5, Fitz-Gibbon, 7.45M) reports that Atlanta city officials had "argued that the mayor has the authority to fire a police officer on a number of grounds, including for 'unnecessary or unreasonable use of force' – but the board disagreed." The [New York Daily News](#) (5/5, Oliveira, 2.51M) reports Rolfe "is not allowed to carry a firearm because of the conditions of his bond and is expected to be placed on administrative leave as the criminal case moves through the courts."

States Embrace Bans Of Police Facial Recognition Usage.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Smyth) examines the growing trend of states banning police departments from using facial recognition software. Seven states and nearly 24 cities "have limited government use of the technology amid fears over civil rights violations, racial bias and invasion of privacy," and an additional 20 state capitols have started debating "additional bans, limits and reporting requirements." The effort to restrain police abuses "caught fire in statehouses after law enforcement applied facial recognition technology to images taken from street cameras during last year's racial justice demonstrations – and in some cases used those to make arrests."

Army Will Reportedly Appoint Civilian To Criminal Investigations Department.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Baldor) reports that, according to anonymous sources, the Army "plans to put a civilian in charge of the command that conducts criminal investigations, a response to widespread criticism the unit is understaffed, overwhelmed and filled with inexperienced investigators." The decision "reflects recommendations made by an independent commission in the wake of violent crimes and murders at Fort Hood, Texas, including the death of Vanessa Guillén, whose remains were found about two months after she was killed."

South Carolina Votes To Add Firing Squad To Execution Methods.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Collins) reports that the South Carolina House of Representatives "voted Wednesday to add a firing squad to the state's execution methods amid a lack of lethal-injection drugs – a measure meant to jump-start executions in a state that once had one of the busiest death chambers in the nation." The 66-43 vote will "require condemned inmates to choose either being shot or electrocuted if lethal injection drugs aren't available."

Administration Backs Proposed WTO Vaccine Patent Waiver.

The [AP](#) (5/6, Keaten, Miller) reports the Biden Administration on Wednesday "joined calls for more sharing of the technology behind COVID-19 vaccines to help speed the end of the pandemic, a shift that puts the U.S. alongside many in the developing world who want rich countries to do more to get doses to the needy." The proposed temporary waiver of World Trade Organization protections "would allow more manufacturers to produce the life-saving vaccines." [Reuters](#) (5/5) reports President Biden, "who had backed a waiver during the 2020 presidential campaign, voiced his support after a speech at the White House. 'Yes, I'm going to talk about that later today, yes,' Biden told reporters in reply to a question about whether he intended to back the waiver."

[Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Leonard, Martin, 3.57M) reports US Trade Representative Tai said in an interview, "We are for the waiver at the WTO, we are for what the proponents of the waiver are trying to accomplish, which is better access, more manufacturing capability, more shots in arms." She said the Administration "will now actively take part in negotiations for the text of the

waiver at the World Trade Organization and encourage other countries to back it. ... She briefed Biden on Tuesday, a person familiar with the matter said."

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Kaplan, Stolberg, Robbins, 20.6M) writes, "Support from the White House is not a guarantee that a waiver will be adopted. The European Union has also been standing in the way, and changes to international intellectual property rules require unanimous agreement." Tai said the US "would participate in negotiations at the World Trade Organization over the matter, but that they would 'take time given the consensus-based nature of the institution and the complexity of the issues involved.'" [USA Today](#) (5/5, Bacon, Ortiz, 12.7M) reports Tai "cautioned that it would take time to reach the required global 'consensus' to waive the protections under WTO rules, and U.S. officials said it would not have an immediate effect on the global supply of COVID-19 shots. The pharmaceutical industry has opposed lifting the patent protections."

Under the headline "Biden Commits To Waiving Vaccine Patents, Driving Wedge With Pharmaceutical Companies," the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, A1, Diamond, Pager, Stein, 10.52M) reports the Administration "threw its support behind a controversial proposal to waive intellectual property protections for coronavirus vaccines, with liberals framing it as a necessary bid to speed the shots to billions in the developing world, while the drug industry warned of devastating effects to vaccine production." The decision "to go forward with the waiver after weeks of internal deliberations was finalized at a White House meeting on Tuesday with President Biden," senior Administration officials said.

[CNN](#) (5/5, Liptak, 89.21M) reports on its website that Biden and Tai "had been weighing the issue after calls from global advocacy groups and progressives to support waivers on World Trade Organization rules that had been proposed by India and South Africa. ... In the lead-up to Wednesday's decision, administration officials led by Tai met with more than two dozen stakeholders in the vaccine patent debate, according to an official. That included trade partners, health experts and advocates, labor groups and the major vaccine manufacturers." [Politico](#) (5/5, Palmer, 6.73M) says "the decision is a partial victory for progressive Democrats who have pushed...Biden to endorse India and South Africa's call for a broad waiver of all intellectual property protections for Covid-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics."

[Voice of America](#) (5/5, 85K) reports on its website that "dozens of civil society groups and former heads of state, including former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Mikhail Gorbachev of the former Soviet Union" have urged Biden "to support the proposed waiver. More than 100 members of the...House of Representatives signed a letter to President Biden also urging him to support the proposal." [Deutsche Welle](#) (5/5, 76K) says the "idea of waiving intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines has wide support among the developing world, as countries struggle to secure enough doses to inoculate their citizens."

[CNBC](#) (5/5, Macias, Breuninger, 7.34M) reports on its website that WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus "praised the U.S. decision as a 'monumental moment in the fight against Covid-19' that reflects the 'moral leadership' of the White House in the fight to end the pandemic." But "stocks of major pharmaceutical companies that have produced vaccines, including Moderna, BioNTech and Pfizer, dropped sharply after news of the potential waivers first broke." [Axios](#) (5/5, Baker, 1.26M) says a waiver "would open the door for foreign manufacturers to make their own versions of coronavirus vaccines, using what would otherwise be considered Pfizer and Moderna's trade secrets."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, A1, Hayashi, Hopkins, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America said the decision will weaken supply chains and increase counterfeiting. PhRMA said in a statement, "This decision does nothing to address the real challenges to getting more shots in arms, including last-mile distribution and limited availability of raw materials."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says Biden has again given in to pressure from progressives and reached a decision that will make it less likely that investors and manufacturers will put in the money needed for new drug research in

the future. The Journal says the World Trade Organization already has rules that let developing nations sidestep drug patents during emergencies, and that the waiver is not needed. [The Hill](#) (5/5, Weixel, 5.69M) also reports.

CDC Expects "Sharp Decline" In US COVID Cases By July.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (5/5, lead story, 3:25, 6.42M) opened with what anchor David Muir called "major news on the coronavirus. ... For the first time, the CDC is now predicting a, quote, 'sharp decline' in cases by July, if we continue to see vaccinations and social distancing in areas where there are still hot spots. Today, that hopeful new tone from the CDC Director was welcome news. But Dr. Rochelle Walensky did say that the variants are still a wild card."

Mola Lenghi said on the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 2, 2:20, O'Donnell, 4.03M), "There is new hope in the battle to beat COVID. The CDC is projecting the number of new cases could fall sharply by summer, but it comes with a warning: Any drop could be delayed by continued decline in vaccinations." Walensky: "Although we are seeing progress in terms of decreased cases, hospitalizations, and death, variants are a wild card that could reverse this progress we have made."

Miguel Almaguer said on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, lead story, 2:40, Holt, 5.3M), "The CDC now projects by July, the nation could turn the corner on the pandemic. New models show infections, hospitalizations, and deaths all plummeting if Americans continue to get vaccinated and take precautions. ... But the numbers are in a free fall. After peaking above four million shots in April, we're now below one million. ... With our nation at a turning point, the promise of change [is] intertwined with the need for vaccinations."

The [AP](#) (5/5, Stobbe) reports that CDC experts published a new report, and they "are projecting COVID-19's toll on the U.S. will fall sharply by the end of July," but they also "warn that a 'substantial increase' in hospitalizations and deaths is possible if unvaccinated people do not follow basic precautions such as wearing a mask and keeping their distance from others." The CDC is currently "reporting an average of about 350,000 new cases each week, 35,000 hospitalizations and over 4,000 deaths," but the cases "could drop below 50,000, hospitalizations to fewer than 1,000, and deaths to between 200 and 300" under the "most optimistic circumstances considered."

[Axios](#) (5/5, Chen, 1.26M) reports the CDC also predicted a new COVID surge would hit the US in May in a statement released on Wednesday. While new daily cases "have declined in recent weeks, per data from Johns Hopkins University," public health officials "are urging people to remain vigilant as variants spread, some of which are more contagious and deadly than the original strain of the virus."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Achenbach, Sun, 10.52M) reports that the report "comes as administration officials and leaders in many states are sounding more confident that the country can return to a degree of normalcy relatively soon." Yet, the report "is not a prediction or forecast," and it "is a set of four scenarios based on modeling of the pandemic, using different assumptions about vaccination rates, vaccine efficacy and precautions against transmission."

US Daily Vaccination Average Down To 2.2M From Peak Of 3.4M.

[CNBC](#) (5/5, Rattner, 7.34M) reports on its website that CDC data show the US "is reporting an average of 2.2 million daily vaccinations over the past week, down from a peak of 3.4 million on April 13." CNBC adds that "the pace of individuals receiving their first vaccine doses has fallen even more steeply, indicating that there are fewer people initiating a vaccination program."

[Axios](#) (5/5, Owens, 1.26M) notes that on Tuesday, the White House announced that President Biden's "new goal is to have 160 million Americans fully vaccinated and at least one shot administered to 70% of adults by July 4." According to Axios, "Slightly more than 56% of adults have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine, meaning 14% more of the adult population has to get a shot before July 4 to reach the president's goal." Currently, "Around 106 million

Americans are already fully vaccinated, and 148 million have received at least one dose, per the CDC."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/5, story 7, 1:50, O'Donnell, 4.03M) examined the drop in vaccinations in Georgia, where Republican counties represent the growing partisan nature of vaccinations. Banks County, where the GOP ticket took 90% of the vote last year, has a vaccination rate of 4%, and its central facility is regularly half-booked for appointments.

Fauci Rejects Federal COVID Vaccination Mandate. Asked on [MSNBC](#) (5/5, 1M) whether businesses should require COVID vaccination, NIAID Director Fauci said, "A company cannot require you to do anything. ... What you can have is you can have independent entities decide. It will never be a decision from the federal government down, but you can see there will be maybe business organizations that say, we're not going to let anybody in unless they're vaccinated. You can see some colleges are already talking about that. I'm sure you're going to see some airlines that are going to say the same thing. So, at the local level you will have individual entities almost certainly are going to require...vaccinations."

Abernathy: Public Officials Must Overhaul Messaging To Encourage Vaccinations. In his [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) column, Gary Abernathy describes "an untenable Catch-22" in which "millions won't get vaccinated...because even then they'll have to keep wearing masks and observing other restrictions – restrictions that cannot end, we're told, until more people get vaccinated." Abernathy argues that "insisting that vaccinated people continue to practice strict pre-inoculation safety measures suggests a lack of faith in the efficacy of the vaccines. If government leaders and health officials really want more Americans to embrace the coronavirus vaccine, they'll start acting like they believe it really works."

Bump: US May Not Be Able To Reach Herd Immunity Through Vaccines. Phillip Bump argues in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) that while Americans "should understand by now that stamping out the coronavirus means reaching a level of immunity where it can no longer spread easily," Americans "aren't really clear on this" because new data shows that no state "is close to 85 percent of its population hitting" full vaccination. South Dakota and New Jersey are the two states past 85% at this time, but it is because both states have dealt with extensive COVID waves. He warns that a failure to address the vaccination slowdown could result in a mutation resulting in a return to widespread infections.

Walensky Says She Is "Really Enthusiastic About Relaxing Restrictions."

In an appearance on [CBS This Morning](#) (5/5, 2.48M), CDC Director Walensky said, "I've been really enthusiastic about relaxing restrictions as we see more and more signs of people getting vaccinated. That relaxation of the mask mandate outdoors was our third release of guidance for what happens when you get vaccinated. What we're watching now is the population rates of vaccination and the disease rates, watching them come down. And as soon as we're feeling more comfortable with both increased vaccination and decreased disease, we'll look forward to another release of relaxed restrictions."

Appearing on [CNN](#) (5/5, 589K), Walensky was asked, "Why not just say, if you get vaccinated, you can do almost anything." Walensky said, "We are cautious...because there are still some places, some communities that have less than 20% vaccination and still a lot of disease. We still have some places in this country that have over 200 cases per 100,000. Really extraordinary case rates." Walensky added, "These are recommendations. For the most part if you're vaccinated, we've recommended you can do almost anything. We're asking they remain in masks when indoors...and really in public settings."

Walensky Defends CDC Guidance For Summer Camps. The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Hassan, Schemm, Beachum, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, Walensky "defended her agency's guidance for safely operating summer camps, which stipulates that 'All people in camp facilities should wear masks at all times with exceptions for certain people, or for certain settings or activities, such as while eating and drinking or swimming.'" According to the Post, the CDC "recently advised that people who have been fully vaccinated do not have to wear

masks outdoors in most settings, but Walensky said this allowance does not yet apply to young people for whom the vaccines have not been authorized." Walensky "said the guidance makes it possible to go without masks 'in small groups' while ensuring masking in crowded situations such as 'heavy breathing around a singular soccer ball.'"

Public Health Experts Praise Administration Over Vaccine Stockpile Program.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Fazio, Depasquale, LaFraniere, Weiland, Walker, 20.6M) reports that public health experts "are praising President Biden's announcement that his Administration would create a federal stockpile of coronavirus vaccine doses and invest millions in community outreach, saying the moves would help immunize underserved communities and ensure doses would go where they're most needed as demand falls." The change in policy will permit pharmacies to "allow people to walk in for shots, and pop-up and mobile clinics will distribute vaccines, especially in rural areas."

[Vox](#) (5/5, 1.88M) reports that the goal will "be for every contact with the health system to come with the offer of a vaccine."

Moderna Study Finds Vaccine Is Effective Against Variants.

[Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Langreth, 3.57M) reports that Moderna published the latest results from its mid-stage vaccine trial, and it found that its COVID booster shots "gave positive results against immune system-evading strains that emerged in South Africa and Brazil." The mRNA-1273.351 shot "produced the highest levels of antibodies against the strain common in South Africa," and the early results "are based on Covid antibody levels two weeks after the booster shots, and the trial is continuing to gather more data."

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Mandavilli, 20.6M) reports Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel said of the results, "We are encouraged by these new data, which reinforce our confidence that our booster strategy should be protective against these newly detected variants." [Fox News](#) (5/5, Rivas, 23.99M) reports on its website that Bancel added, "Our mRNA platform allows for rapid design of vaccine candidates that incorporate key virus mutations, potentially allowing for faster development of future alternative variant-matched vaccines should they be needed."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Loftus, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the booster shots did not produce excessive side effects.

Pfizer Studies Show Vaccine Is Effective Against Variants.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Anthes, 20.6M) reports that two new studies "showed the [Pfizer-BioNTech] vaccine to be more than 95 percent effective at protecting against severe disease or death from the variants first identified in South Africa and the U.K." The studies, which "are based on the real-world use of the vaccine in" Qatar and Israel, "suggest that the vaccine can prevent the worst outcomes – including severe pneumonia and death – caused by B.1.1.7, the variant first identified in the U.K., and B.1.351, the variant first identified in South Africa."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Johnson, 10.52M) reports that the Qatar study "was not a randomized trial, regarded as the gold standard for medical evidence, but instead used real-world data from a mass vaccination program that began in late December."

California COVID Hospitalizations Drop To Lowest Levels Since 2020.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, Lin, Money, 3.37M) reports that, according to the Los Angeles Times, California "recorded its lowest hospitalization rate since the first few weeks of the pandemic." The state "is now at the bottom of the nation when it comes to coronavirus case rate," and Los Angeles County "progressed into the least-restrictive tier of California's color-coded closure system, clearing the way for the nation's most populous county to reopen its economy to the widest extent currently possible."

Asian Americans Are Most Vaccinated Group In NYC.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Rosa, 20.6M) reports that an estimated 68% of New York City's Asian American community "has received at least one dose, despite many New Yorkers of Asian descent facing language barriers and a fear of violence." The article attributes some of the success to Mekong NYC, which "is one of several community-based organizations that have been instrumental in helping Asian-American communities schedule vaccine appointments and translate Covid-19 information accurately."

Cuomo Announces September Resumption For Broadway.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Paulson, 20.6M) reports that while New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) "says he wants the city to fully reopen on July 1," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) "said Wednesday that Broadway shows would start selling tickets for full-capacity shows with some performances starting Sept. 14." The delay is attributed to concerns that tourists and arts patrons will not be comfortable with attending a tightly packed shows for another few months. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Passy, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Cuomo declined to demand that Broadway shows mandate vaccinations to purchase tickets.

Biden Open To Compromise On Jobs Plan, But Says He Will Not "Deficit-Spend."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Wagner, 10.52M) reports that on Wednesday, President Biden "said...he is open to compromise on his \$2 trillion infrastructure and jobs plan but that he stands by his proposal to finance the plan by increasing taxes on corporations and wealthy Americans – an idea Republicans have soundly rejected." Biden said, "I'm willing to compromise, but I'm not willing to not pay for what we're talking about. I'm not willing to deficit-spend." [Fox Business](#) (5/5, Lea, 3.06M) reports on its website that Biden suggested "that he is open to negotiating with Republicans on his proposed corporate tax hike, indicating that nothing that he has put forward is set in stone." Asked if he would consider a 25 percent corporate tax rate instead of the 28 percent rate he proposed, Biden said he was "open to compromising, yes."

But the [New York Times](#) (5/5, Tankersley, Karni, 20.6M) says Biden "defended with gusto his plans to increase taxes on high earners and the wealthy." Biden told reporters, "We're not going to deprive any of these executives of their second or third home, travel privately by jet. ... It's not going to affect their standard of living at all. Not a little tiny bit. But I can affect the standard of living that people I grew up with." [The Hill](#) (5/5, 5.69M) quotes Biden as saying, "I'm going to have to be able to explain this and I'm going to keep banging on it."

Asked on [MSNBC](#) (5/5, 832K) about the Administration's willingness to compromise, HHS Secretary Becerra said, "I think the most important thing to the President is getting something done that helps the American people. ... We understand how important it is...to have paid family or medical leave. ... I think the President has said he's willing to discuss the path that we get there; he just wants to make sure we reach the destination, and one of those things in the American Family Plan is providing paid family and medical leave to American workers."

E.J. Dionne writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) that the "real game-changer in Biden's raft of policy proposals is the revenue he would raise from the wealthy." His plans "are routinely described as big, bold and progressive. This is true but incomplete." What is "really bold," Dionne argues, "is Biden's effort to create a stream of revenue through higher taxes on the wealthy and corporations that would support his efforts on education, child care, infrastructure and more help for low-income families."

Biden Touts High Demand For Restaurant Assistance Funds.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Karni, 20.6M) reports President Biden said Wednesday that 186,200 restaurants, bars and other eligible businesses applied for help through the \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund in the first two days it was accepting applications. The numbers "indicat[e] huge demand from a struggling industry for a limited pot of relief funds." The Times

says the restaurant industry's return "will serve as a major test of Mr. Biden's goal of bringing the country back to some version of normal by this summer." Biden on Wednesday "described restaurants as important foundations of their communities and gateways to opportunities that" were "more than a major part of our country." Biden said, "They're woven into the fabric of our communities."

Harris Takes Lead On Small Business Outreach As Administration Sells Recovery Plans.

[CNBC](#) (5/5, Mui, 7.34M) reports on its website that Vice President Harris is "taking on a lead role as an ambassador to small business, particularly in underrepresented communities," as the Administration sells President Biden's rescue and recovery plans. Harris "has held events with the Black Chamber of Commerce and spoken directly with community lenders who work with Native American tribes." In addition, she has "pushed the country's biggest banks to get federal relief to the smallest players."

Harris Focuses On Small Businesses In Visit To Rhode Island. As part of her outreach to small businesses, the Vice President visited Rhode Island on Wednesday. [WJAR-TV Providence, RI](#) (5/5, 157K) reports on its website that the purpose of Harris' visit was to "focus on small businesses." Harris, who was accompanied by Commerce Secretary Raimondo, "listened to pitches by entrepreneurs at the Social Enterprise Greenhouse, a small business incubator with a social impact mission." Harris "spoke about the importance of small businesses." She said, "When I think of our small business leaders, I think not only of business leaders but civic leaders, community leaders. It is you who are involved and engaged in the community, a reflection of the best of the community." The [Boston Globe](#) (5/5, 1.04M) says Harris told the small-business owners, "Keep doing what you are doing because you are models of the best of what we are doing in the country. ... It's about helping people see the possibilities."

Harris and Raimondo later attended a women-led small-business roundtable. The [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (5/5, 376K) reports that before she introduced the Vice President at the roundtable, Raimondo "sounded the alarm on the exodus of women from the workforce during the pandemic, calling it 'an emergency.'" Raimondo said, "Women were clustered in service industries, low-wage industries that got hit hardest in the pandemic." Harris "echoed Raimondo's remarks, pointing to 'devastation across the board' and emphasizing that women were 'among those who suffered the most.'" The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Wagner, 10.52M) and the [AP](#) (5/5) provide similar coverage.

Raimondo Says Infrastructure Bill Has Bipartisan Support.

Commerce Secretary Raimondo was asked on [Bloomberg TV](#) (5/5, 3.57M) if she expects the President's infrastructure plan to pass. Raimondo said, "I have had numerous conversations with people on Capitol Hill, and there is bipartisan support for the bill, maybe not all of the bill and all aspects of it, but I think there's a growing recognition that we've kicked the can long enough, and...there's a backlog of infrastructure in every state in America, and I think this will be the moment. And the President is determined."

Analysis Concludes White House Underestimated Cost Of Families Plan By \$700B.

[Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Dmitrieva, 3.57M) reports that according to [a new analysis](#) by the Penn Wharton Budget Model, President Biden's American Families Plan "will cost about \$700 billion more than advertised because the White House underestimated the cost of its child-care and education policies." The analysis concludes that "the plan, which includes child tax credits, paid leave and tuition-free community college, would boost government spending by \$2.5 trillion over a decade, compared with the \$1.8 trillion estimated by the White House." The analysis also "found that the program's tax increases on wealthy households and corporations would raise

\$1.3 trillion in revenue over the next decade, rather than the \$1.5 trillion that the government expects, if implemented in full."

[CNBC](#) (5/5, Franck, 7.34M) reports on its website that the Wharton analysis "found that the American Families Plan would increase government debt by almost 5% by 2050 and decrease GDP by 0.4%, as the effects from larger debt on the economy outweigh the productivity gains associated with the new spending programs."

Judge Rules CDC Exceeded Its Authority With Eviction Moratorium.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Casey) reports that Justice Department is appealing a ruling Wednesday from the US District Court in Washington that the CDC "exceeded its authority when it imposed a federal eviction moratorium." The appeal means "there won't likely be any immediate impact on the ban, which in March was extended through the end of June."

[Axios](#) (5/5, Rummler, 1.26M) says the CDC "had sought to extend the eviction moratorium through June 30," but US District Judge Dabney Friedrich "ruled Wednesday on the side of the plaintiffs, who alleged that the CDC overstepped its authority by extending the eviction moratorium." The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, A1, Swenson, 10.52M) reports that Friedrich wrote, "The question for the Court is a narrow one: Does the Public Health Service Act grant the CDC the legal authority to impose a nationwide eviction moratorium? It does not."

[Politico](#) (5/5, O'Donnell, 6.73M) reports the Administration "is racing to end a bottleneck at the state and local government level preventing the disbursement of more than \$46 billion in rent relief." Wednesday's ruling "increases the pressure to get the money out the door to keep millions of distressed tenants from facing long-term damage to their credit and the potential loss of their homes."

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Thrush, 20.6M) says DOJ's appeal could delay "a final resolution of the case past the moratorium's planned June 30 expiration." Nonetheless, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Ackerman, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says the ruling could make it easier for landlords to evict tenants who are behind on their rent, and [Bloomberg](#) (5/5, 3.57M) calls the ruling "a setback to efforts by President Joe Biden to help renters and unwind the financial stress caused by the pandemic." [Reuters](#) (5/5, Stempel, Shepardson), [USA Today](#) (5/5, Collins, Jackson, 12.7M), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, Logan, 3.37M) and [The Hill](#) (5/5, Kruzell, 5.69M) provide similar coverage, as does [CNBC](#) (5/5, Nova, 7.34M) on its website.

HHS Secretary Becerra was asked about the decision on [MSNBC](#) (5/5, 832K). Becerra said President Biden "will want to try to correct this or certainly continue to fight to make sure we don't see Americans dispossessed and out on the street, not at this time. We're making too much success on COVID...to go backwards, so I know that this Administration will be looking for ways to try to make sure we keep people in their homes."

Administration Officials Receiving Reports Of Worker Shortages.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Stein, Pager, 10.52M) reports that "senior Biden economic officials have in recent weeks been peppered by complaints from restaurant groups, the construction industry and other businesses about their inability to find enough workers as the U.S. economy begins to recover from the pandemic." NEC Director Deese "has highlighted the matter as a potential area for concern in internal conversations with the president's economic team," but Treasury Secretary Yellen has "cautioned privately against overreacting to anecdotes of worker shortages, arguing that more data and time are needed before assuming they reflect a genuine problem in the American economy."

IRS Announced Distribution Of Another Batch Of Stimulus Payments.

[USA Today](#) (5/5, Bomey, 12.7M) reports the IRS announced Wednesday that an "eighth batch of the third round of stimulus payments aimed at helping shore up Americans' finances during the COVID-19 pandemic" is being distributed. With this round, the US government "has disbursed about 164 million payments worth \$386 billion since the checks started March 12."

Fed Officials Not Concerned About Potential For Accelerating Inflation.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Smialek, 20.6M) reports while "inflation jitters are popping up in earnings call chatter, spooking investors and dominating business television talk shows," it appears they are not talking over the Federal Reserve. Central bank officials "have been clear for months that they expect prices to pop this spring and summer as the economy reopens but that they think the jump will prove temporary. By and large, they are sticking to that script." In "speeches and appearances on Wednesday, central bank policymakers made clear that they do not think incipient price pressures are going to prove painful or last long," and some "suggested that they would even welcome what a hotter economy might have to offer."

[Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Boesler, Saraiva, 3.57M) reports on Wednesday, Fed Vice Chair Richard Clarida said, "Our baseline view is that inflation is going to be close to our long-run objective of 2%. ... What the data is telling us now is there is going to be some upward movement as we reopen, but that it won't persist over a long period of time, and that's my view as well." Also Wednesday, Fed Governor Michelle Bowman made the case that "the risk of inflation running persistently above the central bank's 2% target 'still seems small' despite an improving economic outlook."

In a separate story, [Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Torres, Davison, 3.57M) says, "The biggest uncertainty for investors watching the Federal Reserve in coming months may not be the rate of inflation but turnover at the top of the U.S. central bank. Chair Jerome Powell and vice chairs...Clarida and Randal Quarles could all potentially be replaced in the coming year, depending on how much President Joe Biden wants to reshape its leadership."

Treasury Urges Congress To Increase Debt Ceiling This Summer.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Davidson, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the Treasury Department has urged Congress to raise the debt ceiling this summer and to do so quickly because the government could run out of cash sooner than in past episodes. Brian Smith, Treasury's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Federal Finance, said Wednesday, "Treasury is evaluating a range of potential scenarios, including some in which extraordinary measures could be exhausted much more quickly than in prior debt-limit episodes."

Labor Department Blocks Rule Classifying Gig Workers As Contractors.

[Reuters](#) (5/5, Bose) reports that on Wednesday, the Biden Administration "blocked a Trump-era rule that would have made it easier to classify gig workers who work for companies like Uber and Lyft as independent contractors instead of employees, signaling a potential policy shift toward greater worker protections." Labor Secretary Walsh said, "By withdrawing the independent contractor rule, we will help preserve essential worker rights and stop the erosion of worker protections that would have occurred had the rule gone into effect." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Morath, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Apple Investing \$410M In Texas Manufacturing Firm.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (5/5, 772K) reports Apple is awarding \$410 million from its Advanced Manufacturing Fund to the tech manufacturing firm II-VI "to accelerate the delivery of iPhone components in the coming years, according to a Thursday release." Apple's investment "is expected to support 700 jobs around the country including hundreds in Sherman, where II-VI Inc. manufactures the lasers that power iPhone features like Face ID, Memoji and Animoji as well as portrait mode selfies." The Morning News says the investment "is a part of Apple's plan to invest \$430 billion and add 20,000 new jobs in the U.S. over the next five years, according to the company."

GM Reports \$3.3B Q1 Net Profit.

In what the [Detroit Free Press](#) (5/5, LaReau, 2.16M) calls "an unusual move," GM CEO Mary Barra "issued a Letter to Shareholders simultaneously with GM's first-quarter earnings results

Wednesday." In the letter, "Barra said GM expects to have a strong first half with adjusted earnings before interest and taxes of around \$5.5 billion and GM is reaffirming its full-year guidance, 'based on what we know today,' coming in at the higher end of the \$10 billion to \$11 billion EBIT-adjusted range that it shared earlier this year." The company "reported a first-quarter net profit of \$3 billion, up from \$294 million for the first quarter a year ago. Its EBIT was \$4.4 billion, up from \$1.3 billion. Net revenue was slightly down at \$32.5 billion, compared to \$32.7 billion."

Ford Says Summer Deliver Of Bronco "On Track" Despite Supply Chain Challenges.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (5/5, Wall Howard, 2.16M) reports Ford continues to confront "relentless supply chain challenges," and has again "announced more factory changes to accommodate the lack of access to semiconductor chips that provide the smart technology needed to operate everything from driving safety features and cameras to infotainment systems." The company "has the all-new Ford F-150, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Ford Bronco Sport and Ford Bronco" and is "under tremendous pressure to fill massive orders as dealers clamor for products." However, Ford's Kelli Felker told the Free Press, "Important to note that Bronco remains on track to go on sale this summer."

Dow Hits Record As Major Indexes Post Mixed Finish.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Veiga) reports the major US stock indexes ended the day mixed Wednesday "after an early technology company rebound faded, tempering the market's recovery from a sell-off a day earlier." The Dow posted a record, climbing 97.31 points to 34,230.34, and the S&P 500 gained 2.93 points to close at 4,167.59 while the Nasdaq fell 51.08 points to 13,582.42. [Reuters](#) (5/5), [Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Papuc, Barrett, 3.57M), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Ostroff, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provide similar coverage.

Lawmakers Seek Administration's Help To Eliminate Vietnamese Pork Tariffs.

[Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Boudreau, 3.57M) reports a bipartisan group of 72 House lawmakers have written to US Trade Representative Tai asking the Administration "to seek the elimination of Vietnam's tariffs on American pork and address other restrictions as it engages with the Southeast Asian country over currency and trade practices." Vietnam's domestic pig firms have been devastated by the African swine fever, creating a high demand for imported pork, but the lawmakers said in the letter that "significant tariff and non-tariff barriers unfortunately prevent U.S. pork from competing in that country, even as it seeks reliable sources of non-domestic pork."

EU Moves To Limit Chinese Investments And Imports.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Casert) reports that the European Union is "planning to tighten rules on foreign investment in its 27 members and boost production autonomy for sensitive strategic goods, two measures bound to hit China – amid already precarious relations between the two massive trading powers." According to the AP, "The moves comes at a time when the ratification of a business investment deal with Beijing hangs in the balance because of a rapidly deteriorating political climate over accusations that China abuses an ethnic minority."

ABC Examines Growing Rate Of Attacks On Asian Americans.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/5, story 4, 2:00, Muir, 6.42M) reported that US law enforcement authorities are "increasingly concerned with new attacks from New York to California on Asian Americans." Hate crimes targeting Asian American hate crimes "are up over 160% in major cities across the country," and New York City data shows a 223% increase in such attacks.

State Law Enforcement Steps Up To Assist At Border.

[NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 7, 1:50, Holt, 5.3M) reported that state and local law enforcement are undertaking a massive effort to help with "the record migrant surge at the southern border" and relieve "overworked Border Patrol agents." NBC's Gabe Gutierrez added that agents from the Texas Department of Public Safety are "having to patrol more...because federal resources are stretched so thin. In March alone, the number of migrant stops at the border surge to 172,000 a 20-year high." Gutierrez continued, "Since March, state authorities have referred more than 28,000 migrants to the US Border Patrol and seized more than 5,700 pounds of marijuana and almost 100 pounds of cocaine."

Asked on [MSNBC](#)^{Vi} (5/5, 1.38M) about the Administration's response to the surge of migrants at the southern border, DHS Secretary Mayorkas said, "We are now a little bit more than 30 days after I spoke of the fact we had a plan, and we now no longer have more than 5,000 unaccompanied children in Border Patrol custody, just over 500. No longer are unaccompanied children spending an average of 133 hours in a Border Patrol facility, but rather they are spending just less than 25 hours."

ICE Deportations Fell To Record Low In April. The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Miroff, 10.52M) reports that "the number of deportations carried out" by ICE last month "fell to the lowest monthly level on record," a drop that comes as border crossings "remain at a 20-year high, according to the latest enforcement data, obtained by The Washington Post." According to the preliminary data, ICE deported 2,962 in April, "the first time the monthly figure has dipped below 3,000," and marking "a 20 percent decline from March, when ICE deported 3,716." According to the Post, "ICE has recorded about 37,000 deportations" in the last seven months, putting it "on pace for fewer than 55,000 deportations for the 2021 fiscal year. It would be the first time that figure has fallen below 100,000."

Cost Of HHS Migrant Shelter Contracts Draw Scrutiny. The [AP](#) (5/5, Licon) reports, "Confronted with a stream of unaccompanied children crossing the border from Mexico, the U.S. government has awarded shelter-construction and management contracts to private companies that critics say may not be equipped to adequately care for the minors." According to the AP, "In its haste to provide new facilities, [HHS] awarded the largest contracts – worth more than \$2 billion – to two companies and a nonprofit without a bidding process and has exempted providers from the staffing requirements that state-licensed child facilities must meet." The AP adds that "two of the new large facilities have been shuttered in the past few weeks," and HHS "did not explain why they were closed so suddenly."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Hackman, Caldwell, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the Administration has opened more than a dozen emergency shelters to house unaccompanied minors at the border in the last few weeks, which three officials said are serving as a stopgap solution while new licensed shelters are opened. However, some advocates have raised concerns that conditions are inadequate for housing children for long periods.

Administration Reunites Four Separated Migrant Families. [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 5, 2:25, Muir, 6.42M) reported, "The first migrant families separated under the Trump Administration's zero tolerance policy" are now being "reunited under President Biden." ABC's Cecilia Vega added, "The Biden Administration says the Trump White House left them with little to know information about many of the families. There are still more than 400 children whose parents have yet to be located." Vega said four families were reunited this week, and "the Administration says more families will be reunited soon." All of the reunited families will "receive temporary protected status for humanitarian reasons," though "advocates are calling for permanent legal protection." [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 8, 0:20, Holt, 5.3M) also reported briefly on the reunions.

Mayorkas Says DHS Probe Will "Root Out" Domestic Extremists Internally.

Asked on [MSNBC](#)^{Vi} (5/5, 1.38M) about an investigation into extremism within his department, DHS Secretary Mayorkas said, "I identified from the outset that the most significant terrorism-

related threat we face in homeland is the threat of domestic violent extremism, efforts to incite, drive to or commit acts of violence born of extreme ideologies and false narratives. We have obligation at Homeland Security to reflect the nation we want to achieve. Therefore we must identify and root out any domestic violent extremists within our own ranks."

WPost: Biden "Has More Work To Do" On Refugees.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) editorializes that "if President Biden expects applause for resurrecting the United States' traditional role as a beacon to refugees, he has more work to do." The Post says that while Biden's announcement recommitting to the refugee cap set during his campaign signals "that this country will reassert its moral and humanitarian leadership on the world stage," it is now "critical that he deliver on that promise, in the face of a worldwide refugee crisis on a scale unknown since World War II." The Post concludes, "The proof will be in the numbers of refugees, a cohort whose energy, ambition and courage has been key to making the United States what it is."

Biden Says GOP Going Through "Mini-Revolution" As Leaders Turn Against Cheney.

Kristen Welker reported on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 3, 1:35, Holt, 5.3M) that "the firestorm over Congresswoman's Liz Cheney's position in the Republican Party is growing, with top Republican Steve Scalise saying she needs to be removed as third-ranking GOP leader. ... At issue: Cheney's fierce criticism of former President Trump, arguing he should not be a part of the GOP's future after the Capitol attack and his false claims of election fraud. ... President Biden weigh[ed] in." Biden: "We're in the midst of a significant, sort of mini-revolution going on in the Republican Party." Welker: "A defiant Cheney tonight writing, 'history is watching,' and that she's determined to defend the democratic process, quote, 'no matter what the short-term political consequences.'"

[USA Today](#) (5/5, 12.7M) reports Biden "said Wednesday the Republican Party is going through what he called a 'mini-revolution' and said he could not remember a time when partisan divisions have been so stark. Speaking to reporters at the White House, Biden said the GOP is 'trying to identify what it stands for.'" The [New York Post](#) (5/5, 7.45M) reports Biden earlier "said 'I don't understand the Republicans'...when he was asked about a GOP push to oust" Cheney from the leadership. The [CNN](#) (5/5, Vazquez, Hoffman, 89.21M) and [Fox News](#) (5/5, Schultz, 23.99M) websites cover the President's brief remarks.

Cheney Says GOP "Is At A Turning Point." In a [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) op-ed, Cheney writes that Trump continues to claim "that the 2020 election was a fraud and was stolen," and he does so "with full knowledge that exactly this type of language provoked violence on Jan. 6. And, as the Justice Department and multiple federal judges have suggested, there is good reason to believe that Trump's language can provoke violence again." Cheney argues that the Republican Party "is at a turning point, and Republicans must decide whether we are going to choose truth and fidelity to the Constitution." Cheney writes, "History is watching. Our children are watching. We must be brave enough to defend the basic principles that underpin and protect our freedom and our democratic process." [Reuters](#) (5/5), the [New York Times](#) (5/5, Astor, 20.6M), [USA Today](#) (5/5, Cox, 12.7M), and the [CNN](#) (5/5, Gangel, 89.21M) and [CNBC](#) (5/5, Breuninger, 7.34M) websites cover Cheney's arguments in the op-ed.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Mascaro, Fram) reports Cheney "was clinging to her post Wednesday. ... Unbowed, she implored her GOP colleagues to pry themselves from a Trump 'cult of personality,' declaring that the party and even American democracy were at stake." [Vox](#) (5/5, 1.88M) reports, "Back in February, the House GOP batted down an initial effort to oust Cheney from her role as the No. 3 House Republican for the same reason. She survived easily, in a closed-door, secret ballot vote of 145 to 61. Cheney's views have not changed since then. The problem now is just that she's kept talking about those views."

[Politico](#) (5/5, Beavers, Zanona, 6.73M) says Cheney "is not fighting to hold onto her job as House GOP conference chair. ... To the frustration of many fellow Republicans, Cheney has

continued to clearly state her positions on Donald Trump's baseless claims that the 2020 election was fraudulent and on the Jan. 6 vote to certify Trump's loss." Cheney "has been telling people that if holding onto her leadership role requires having to lie or stay quiet, she doesn't believe that's a price worth paying."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) editorializes, "A strong conservative on policy, Ms. Cheney faces punishment for refusing to embrace, or at least to accept with silence, the falsehood that the Democrats stole the 2020 presidential election. ... Two-thirds of GOP House members, many of whom secretly agree with her, would have to vote to remove her. They must ask themselves whether they want to pledge their allegiance even more fully to a single man, over truth, principle and the integrity of U.S. democracy."

The [New York Daily News](#) (5/5, 2.51M) editorializes, "The top Republican in the House is trying to oust from leadership a staunch conservative whose sole sin, from the perspective of the new Grand Old Party, has been honesty, standing up to Donald Trump's corrosive, anti-democratic lies about the 2020 election. ... If [House Minority Leader] McCarthy gets his way, he'll defenestrate the most prominent congresswoman who cares about extracting that poison from Republican veins. He must fail."

In a piece for the [New York Times](#) (5/5, 20.6M) headlined "Why Trump Still Has Millions Of Americans In His Grip," Thomas Edsall writes that starting in the mid-1960s, "the priorities of the Democratic Party began to shift away from white working- and middle-class voters – many of them socially conservative, Christian and religiously observant. ... By the 1970s, many white Americans...felt that they were being shouldered aside. ... These voters became the shock troops of the Reagan Revolution; they now dominate Trump's Republican Party."

Stefanik Could Replace Cheney As Soon As Next Week. The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Fandos, Edmondson, 20.6M) reports "top Republicans moved swiftly on Wednesday to purge" Cheney from the leadership, "laying the groundwork to install a replacement who has embraced his false claims of voting fraud." Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) "is more moderate" than Cheney "and has more often parted ways with Republicans over her years in Congress, but she has emerged recently as one of Mr. Trump's most vociferous defenders, willing to indulge and even amplify those claims."

[USA Today](#) (5/5, Behrmann, 12.7M) says Stefanik is backed by House Minority Whip Scalise and other leading House Republicans. The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) says the "onetime moderate whose recent rise was propelled by her embrace of Trump and vigorous defense of his actions during both his impeachment trials" is likely to be tapped to replace Cheney "next week, when the House returns from a recess." Trump endorsed Stefanik on Wednesday. The [New York Daily News](#) (5/5, Sommerfeldt, Goldiner, 2.51M) reports Trump said in a statement, "Liz Cheney is a warmongering fool who has no business in Republican Party Leadership. Elise Stefanik is a far superior choice, and she has my COMPLETE and TOTAL Endorsement for GOP Conference Chair. Elise is a tough and smart communicator!"

Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/5, story 3, 2:45, Muir, 6.42M), "Trump himself endorsed [Stefanik] to replace Cheney in the Republican leadership. Cheney actually voted for the Trump agenda nearly 93% of the time – much more than Stefanik. But on January 6, Stefanik went along with his election lie and voted to overturn Joe Biden's win." Nancy Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/5, lead story, 4:00, O'Donnell, 4.03M), "On his own website," Trump backed Stefanik "to take Cheney's place. Stefanik thanked him for his '100% support.'"

[The Hill](#) (5/5, Choi, 5.69M) reports the conservative Club For Growth on Wednesday came out against Stefanik. The group [tweeted](#), "Elise Stefanik is NOT a good spokesperson for the House Republican Conference. She is a liberal with a 35% CFGF lifetime rating, 4th worst in the House GOP. House Republicans should find a conservative to lead messaging and win back the House Majority." The group "was referring to its own scoring system that it uses to grade federal lawmakers."

Ernst: "Any Elected Official Should Stand Their Ground." [Politico](#) (5/5, Everett, 6.73M) reports Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA), "the Capitol's only other Republican woman in elected leadership aside from Cheney," said in an interview that while she does not agree with Cheney, Cheney has the right to her view. Ernst said, "Any elected official should stand their ground. If you feel firmly about something, you should stand your ground. But I also believe that we need to come together as a party, recognize we have differences within the party but the goal with us should be to win seats."

Hawley Says Cheney Is "Sort Of Spiraling." [The Hill](#) (5/5, Carney, 5.69M) reports Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) told Megyn Kelly in a podcast interview that Cheney "is 'sort of spiraling' as House Republicans appear increasingly likely to oust her from their No. 3 leadership spot." Hawley said, "I don't know her personally, I think she's sort of spiraling if you look at the things that she's saying, the claims that she's making. I think she's out-of-step with Republican voters. ... I just think this is somebody who does not really represent Republicans."

Biden Responds To McConnell's Pledge To Work Against "This New Administration."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Scott, 10.52M) reports President Biden on Wednesday "dismissed the pledge" by Senate Minority Leader McConnell that his "top priority is to stop the administration's ambitious spending plans, insisting that he will push for compromise and achieve his goals." Biden is quoted as saying, "He said that about the last Administration...that he was going to stop everything – and I was able to get a lot done with him." Earlier, McConnell "had told reporters that Biden is supporting policies that would turn the United States into a socialist country, a frequent line of attack from the right." McConnell said, "One hundred percent of my focus is on stopping this new Administration."

[CNN](#) (5/5, Judd, Kelly, 89.21M) reports on its website that White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki also "poked at McConnell when asked about his comments earlier Wednesday, suggesting the administration's focus was on benefiting the country instead of stopping a political opponent." Vice President Harris "echoed the President" when asked about the remarks, "saying the administration will still work to try and find bipartisan agreement." Harris is quoted as saying, "We are sincere and serious about the potential to actually get something done together. We believe it's possible, and we're not going to give up on that until it becomes evident that it's not possible."

Politico Poll: McConnell's Favorability Up Among Republicans. [The Hill](#) (5/5, Lonas, 5.69M) reports that McConnell's "favorability is up 12 points among Republicans since late February, a Politico-Morning Consult poll showed. McConnell's rating was up to 42 percent among Republicans in the recent poll, a significant increase from the 30 percent approval he received in the same poll in late February," after his comments criticizing former President Donald Trump following the Capitol insurrection.

Biden: Philadelphia Sports Fans "Are The Most Informed And Most Obnoxious."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (5/5, Tornoe) reports President Biden "said it's 'kind of a Philly thing' to always be right, especially when it comes to 'Philly girl' and first lady Jill Biden. While picking up lunch at Taqueria Las Gemelas in Washington on Wednesday, the Scranton native learned one of the staff members was from Fishtown." Biden "turned the topic over to Philadelphia sports." The President said, "Philadelphia fans are the most informed and most obnoxious fans in the world. They know everything, know what I mean?" The Inquirer says the First Lady "happens to be a rabid sports fan, especially when it comes to the Phillies." [DCist](#) (5/5, 18K) reports the President made the surprise stop at the Washington taqueria on Cinco de Mayo.

Biden Reportedly Backs Nuclear Power Subsidies.

[Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Natter, 3.57M) reports that the Biden Administration is "backing federal subsidies to keep U.S. nuclear power plants in operation as part of its infrastructure proposal," which Bloomberg says is "sure to set up a clash with environmentalists who have qualms with

the carbon-free fuel source.” White House officials “have told supporters in the industry and on the Hill it would like to see a nuclear production tax credit included in the \$2.25 trillion infrastructure package it proposed in March.” [Reuters](#) (5/5) says the White House has “signaled privately to lawmakers and stakeholders in recent weeks that it supports taxpayer subsidies to keep nuclear facilities from closing and making it harder to meet U.S. climate goals.”

NYTimes Analysis: Biden’s Approach To Oval Office Art “Distinct” From Predecessors.

A [New York Times](#) (5/5, Buchanan, Stevens, 20.6M) analysis reports that “the art in the Oval Office is ever-present, carefully chosen and deliberately placed adding historical weight, silently commenting on the moment, the present, now more than ever, in constant tension with the past.” Experts in president and art history “say that already, [President] Biden’s approach to art appears distinct from his predecessors. In terms of sheer volume, he has included more sculptures and paintings than other recent presidents, in part, experts say, because he is trying to signal his support for an array of causes: labor, science, the importance of compromise and more.”

DC Mayor Admitted Into Democratic Governors Association.

[The Hill](#) (5/5, 5.69M) reports District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) “has been admitted into the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) amid a Democratic push to turn the nation’s capital into a state. The move comes about a week after” Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) said he does not back House-approved statehood legislation, “dealing the prospects of D.C. statehood a devastating blow.”

Democratic Lawmakers Revise Voting Bill Ahead Of Committee Vote.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Cassidy, Jalonick) reports Democrats are “revising key sections of their sweeping legislation to overhaul U.S. elections, hoping to address concerns raised by state and local election officials even as they face daunting odds of passing the bill through Congress.” The changes would allow “states more time and flexibility” to implement the new requirements, and present “a small step forward for Democrats” on the priority legislation. However, the bill “faces an uncertain future in the evenly split Senate,” where “Republicans are universally opposed and argue it is a federal overreach” and some Democrats, including Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), have not yet signed on.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, DeBonis, 10.52M) reports that “the changes to the For the People Act come after the bill passed the House on a largely party-line vote in March and ahead of a critical vote Tuesday in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee that could advance the legislation to the floor.” Some “controversial provisions of the bill...remain,” including “a publicly financed system of matching funds for congressional candidates, which could also allow small donations to be multiplied six times using federal funds. That provision has fueled some of the fiercest GOP attacks on the bill.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Liptak, 20.6M) reports that “passage of the bill, known as H.R. 1, would end a legislative fight and start a legal war that could dwarf the court challenges aimed at the Affordable Care Act over the past decade.” According to the Times, “the potential for the bill to set off a sprawling constitutional battle is largely a function of its ambitions,” with opponents arguing over its overall constitutionality and specific provisions, “even as they acknowledge that the very nature of the bill – a grab bag of largely unrelated measures – would make it difficult to attack in a systematic way.”

DOJ Expresses Concern About GOP-Led Arizona Ballot Recount.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Christie) reports the Justice Department “expressed concern Wednesday about ballot security and potential voter intimidation arising from the Republican-controlled Arizona Senate’s unprecedented private recount of the 2020 presidential election results in Maricopa County.” Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Pamela Karlan said in a letter to state

Senate President Karen Fann (R) that the “farming out of 2.1 million ballots from the state’s most populous county to a contractor may run afoul of federal law requiring ballots to remain in the control of elections officials for 22 months.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) reports Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs (D) on Wednesday “sent a letter outlining a string of problems that she said observers from her office have witnessed” at the “Republican-led recount,” including ballots “left unattended on counting tables,” laptops sitting “open, unlocked and unmonitored,” and “constantly shifting” procedures, “with untrained workers using different rules to count ballots.”

The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/5, 1.05M) reports that “though tallying began April 23, the Senate’s liaison estimated that only about 200,000 ballots were counted as of Wednesday and that the effort likely would extend beyond the May 14 end date of the Senate’s lease” on Veterans Memorial Coliseum. An official “said Wednesday it is ‘not feasible’ to extend” the lease.

US Birth Rate Declined For Sixth Straight Year In 2020.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/5, story 9, 0:20, O'Donnell, 4.03M) reported, “The US birth rate dropped for the sixth straight year” last year, with “about 3.6 million babies” born. According to CBS, “that is actually the fewest since 1979. It’s believed more women are putting off having babies and instead, freezing their eggs.” The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Tavernise, 20.6M) reports that “early in the pandemic, there was speculation that the major changes in the life of American families could lead to a recovery in the birthrate as couples hunkered down together. In fact, the virus appeared to have had the opposite effect,” with births “down most sharply at the end of the year, when babies conceived at the start of the pandemic would have been born.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, A1, Wan, Bahrapour, McShane, 10.52M) reports that the decline marks a 4% decline, “the biggest annual decrease in decades – suggesting the coronavirus pandemic has taken the country’s already existing downward trend into overdrive.” According to the Post, “before the pandemic, American women were already having fewer children, doing it later in life or choosing to not have children at all.” The new provisional data, released by the CDC, also shows “the largest one-year drop in births, in percentage terms, since 1965,” down from 3.75 million in 2019. Experts say the pandemic led some to delay plans, “with the prospect of children more daunting in the face of job losses, closed child-care centers and schools and social isolation,” as well as unknown impacts from the virus on women.

WSJournal: Birth Rate Decline Heralds Future Economic Trouble. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes that new CDC data showing that US births declined 4% in 2020 is part of a larger trend of decreasing birth and fertility rates across the nation, which it says will eventually have long-term negative consequences for the labor force and economy.

Board Says Facebook Needs To Make Consistent, Transparent Ruling On Trump.

The [AP](#) (5/5, O'Brien, Ortutay) reports that on Wednesday, “four months after Facebook suspended” former President Donald Trump’s accounts, “having concluded that he incited violence leading to the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol riot, the company’s quasi-independent oversight board upheld the bans. But it told Facebook to specify how long they would last, saying that its ‘indefinite’ ban on the former president was unreasonable.” According to the AP, “the ruling, which gives Facebook six months to comply, effectively postpones any possible Trump reinstatement and puts the onus for that decision squarely back on the company.”

[Reuters](#) (5/5, Culliford) reports that the board “said Facebook inappropriately imposed a suspension without clear standards and that the company should determine a response consistent with rules applied to other users. It said the company could determine that Trump’s account could be restored, suspended temporarily or permanently banned. ‘Indefinite penalties of this sort do not pass the international or American smell test for clarity, consistency, and transparency,’ said former federal judge Michael McConnell, co-chair of the Oversight Board, during a press conference after publishing its decision on Wednesday.”

[USA Today](#) (5/5, Guynn, 12.7M) reports that "members of the Oversight Board also made recommendations to guide Facebook's policies when it comes to 'serious risks of harm' from heads of state and other highly influential figures," including "rapidly escalating political posts from highly influential users to specialists inside the company who are 'insulated from political and economic interference, as well as undue influence.'" On the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, lead story, 4:00, O'Donnell, 4.03M), Nancy Cordes reported, "This decision by the oversight board at Facebook may have upheld Facebook's initial choice to ban Mr. Trump from the platform, but it has also opened the door for him to be potentially reinstated by the end of the year."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Dwoskin, Zakrzewski, 10.52M) reports that "in its response to the decision, Facebook emphasized that Trump would remain off the social network for the time being, following the board's order. 'We will now consider the board's decision and determine an action that is clear and proportionate,' Nick Clegg, Facebook's vice president of global affairs and communication said in a blog post Wednesday." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, Contreras, 3.37M) reports that "the choice will now be CEO Mark Zuckerberg's to make – precisely the sort of high-profile, politically charged, seemingly lose-lose decision Facebook seemed intent on side-stepping when it established the board and then charged it with assessing Trump's ban."

The [New York Post](#) (5/5, Nelson, 7.45M) reports Trump in a statement responding to the decision "said Facebook and other Big Tech companies that censored him 'must pay a political price.'" The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Isaac, 20.6M) reports that Trump "did not directly address the board's ruling. But he slammed Facebook, Google and Twitter – some of which have been major fund-raising platforms for him – and called them corrupt. 'Free Speech has been taken away from the President of the United States because the Radical Left Lunatics are afraid of the truth,' he said." Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) "said the Facebook board's decision was 'extremely disappointing' and that it was 'clear that Mark Zuckerberg views himself as the arbiter of free speech.'" Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) "said Facebook, which faces antitrust scrutiny, should be broken up."

[Fox News](#) (5/5, Fordham, 23.99M) reports on its website that conservatives broadly "blasted Facebook and its Oversight Board" on Wednesday for the decision. House Minority Leader McCarthy said in a [tweet](#), "Facebook is more interested in acting like a Democrat Super PAC than a platform for free speech and open debate. ... A House Republican majority will rein in big tech power over our speech." [Politico](#) (5/5, McGraw, 6.73M) reports that many Republicans, "including some close to the former president," were privately panicked by the decision, which "in practical terms" means that "the main driver of Republican party enthusiasm would be less omnipresent in voters' lives."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 3, 2:45, Muir, 6.42M), Jonathan Karl reported that Trump in a recent interview "shrugged off the social media bans, [saying] that putting out written statements as he does now is, quote, 'much more elegant than tweeting,' but make no mistake, these social media bans sting. They cut off a key way of getting his message out, and perhaps more importantly, when it comes to Facebook, also cut off a key way that he raises money." The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Corasaniti, Goldmacher, 20.6M) reports that the decision "could have significant consequences for his political operation as he tries to remain the leader of the Republican Party, thwarting his ability to amplify his message to tens of millions of followers and hampering his fund-raising ability."

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 5.3M), Hallie Jackson reported that "if he stays banned, any potential future run would get harder without that massive platform." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Horwitz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that the decision could set the stage for how technology companies address political speech in the future, an issue which has drawn criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike.

Newspapers and columnists weighed in. The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) editorializes, "Facebook's Oversight Board has made the right decision concerning former president Donald Trump's future on the platform. Now, it is Facebook's turn to make the right decision, too." The Post says that Facebook should adopt the board's "recommendations, along with a clear and

consistent system for disciplining offenders that corresponds with the hazard they pose – including the final sanction of permanent exile. That system would properly bar Mr. Trump’s return.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes that the decision by the Oversight Board opens up the opportunity for Zuckerberg to stand by the principles of free speech and overturn the ban on Trump, arguing that the more dangerous threat is that Democrats are using their political power to enforce censorship through social media companies.

In an editorial, the [New York Post](#) (5/5, 7.45M) says that the Oversight Board’s decision proves that Facebook “clearly had it in for the former president, using the riot as a pretext to silence him.” The Post argues that “Facebook has no consistent standards – indeed, has never policed hate or obscenity in any consistent way,” and that “the obvious approach...with a few clearly defined exceptions” would be to “stick to a free-speech policy.”

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (5/5, 970K) editorializes that the decision “is good news for a non-crazy America,” arguing that “Trump is nothing but a lying machine, with his biggest lie – the overwhelmingly refuted claim that the 2020 election was stolen from him – doing a terrific job of tearing up the country.” The Sun-Times concludes, “What a relief that Trump will be banned from Facebook for awhile longer – and let’s keep it that way. What a relief that he can go on spilling his bile all he wants – on his new blog, Fox News and other forms of bathroom walls – but he won’t have the social media megaphone he needs to really sell the lies and hate.”

Kara Swisher writes in the [New York Times](#) (5/5, 20.6M) that Facebook’s Oversight Board “avoid[ed] a clear decision about Donald Trump’s heinous online behavior.” The panel “decided to punt the fetid Trump situation back to the Facebook leadership.” Swisher says Facebook “has offloaded important decisions, like that of Mr. Trump’s fate on the platform, to its Oversight Board, an unwieldy and ultimately ineffective body that makes the United Nations look decisive.”

Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) while “we still don’t know whether Trump will ever be allowed back on Facebook and Instagram,” the Oversight Board’s report “tells us a great deal about Facebook’s ability to deal with hard questions honestly. It’s not promising.” Robinson says Facebook “wanted the Oversight Board...to relieve [CEO Mark] Zuckerberg and other executives of the burden of making a final call about Trump. Instead, the board found that Facebook was right to suspend Trump’s accounts on the two platforms, but was wrong to impose an open-ended suspension.”

Molly Roberts writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) that the Facebook Oversight Board’s “purpose was always to reduce Facebook’s power, yet skeptics have always asked whether it also reduces Facebook’s responsibility. This week, the body declined to do either.”

Henry Olsen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) that the Oversight Board “has pushed the decision back to the company to set actual standards for suspending accounts. The company should use that opportunity to create a robust, pro-free speech policy that expressly incorporates First Amendment principles.” Zuckerberg “should grab the baton the board has handed him and unambiguously commit his private power to a standard that promotes vigorous public discourse.”

[Bloomberg](#) (5/5, Niquette, Wagner, Nix, 3.57M), [Axios](#) (5/5, Swan, 1.26M), and the [CNBC](#) (5/5, Feiner, Rodriguez, 7.34M) website also cover the board’s decision and the reaction to it.

NYTimes Analysis: Swing District Departures Put Democrats’ House Majority At Risk.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Epstein, Mazzei, 20.6M) writes, “With 18 months left before the midterms, a spate of Democratic departures from the House is threatening to erode the party’s slim majority in the House and imperil President Biden’s far-reaching policy agenda.” Five incumbents “from competitive districts have announced they won’t seek re-election next year,” and “three other Democrats will leave vacant seats in districts likely to see significant change once they are redrawn using the data from the 2020 Census.”

Jenner Expresses Support For US-Mexico Border Wall.

[Politico](#) (5/5, Marinucci, 6.73M) reports California gubernatorial candidate Caitlyn Jenner (R) "told Fox News that she is 'all for the wall' – former President Trump's controversial southern border effort – and called it crucial to control" migration. In her "first major television interview since she entered the California governor's race nearly two weeks ago," Jenner told Sean Hannity, "I am all for the wall, I would secure the wall. We can't have a state, we can't have a country without a secure wall."

Hohmann Says Virginia GOP Likely To Throw Away Chance At Gubernatorial Win.

James Hohmann writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) that the Virginia gubernatorial race is winnable for Republicans if the party "pick[s] someone electable" at their convention this weekend. However, Hohmann writes, "such rational behavior is not a given in this moment, as reflected by the expected purge" of Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) from the House leadership. Hohmann writes, "Virginia Republicans have reacted to a decade of losses by moving further outside the mainstream." They have "a chance to break the fever this weekend. Don't hold your breath."

Adams Leads Yang In NYC Democratic Mayoral Primary Poll.

[Politico](#) (5/5, 6.73M) reports, "Eric Adams is leading the field of [New York City] mayoral candidates in a new poll, marking the first time Andrew Yang is not the top contender since he shook up the race with his unexpected entry in mid-January." The GQR poll of 500 likely Democratic primary voters, "conducted over the course of three days last week," shows Adams at 21%, Yang 18%, and City Comptroller Scott Stringer 15%, with no other candidate "crack[ing] double digits."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WPost Analysis: Biden Shuns Trump-Friendly "Strongmen."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Gearan, 10.52M) reports that "a host of strongmen and nationalists who cozied up to" then-President Donald Trump, "benefiting from his 'America First' foreign policy at the expense of traditional US allies" have received "the cold shoulder" from the Biden Administration. According to the Post, the shift in how the US views its relationships with these leaders is "part of a strategy in keeping with Biden's promise...that he would not coddle dictators or mistreat US allies." The Post reports that the group of leaders the Biden Administration has "snubbed" include the leaders of Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Israel, the Philippines, Poland, and Saudi Arabia.

Austin Makes Case For "Integrated Deterrence."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) runs an essay adapted from an April 30 speech by Defense Secretary Austin in which he argues that "advances in technology mean important changes in the work we do to keep the United States secure not just through air, land and sea but also space and cyberspace. ... What we need is the right mix of technology, operational concepts and capabilities – all woven together in a networked way that is so credible, flexible and formidable that it will give any adversary pause." Austin makes the case for "integrated deterrence," which he says means "using some of our current capabilities differently. It means developing new operational concepts for things we already have. And it means investing in quantum computing and artificial intelligence, which will help us make decisions with more speed and rigor."

US Considers Sanctioning Officials In Central America For Corruption.

[Reuters](#) (5/5, Hesson, Spetalnick) reports that, according to Ricardo Zúñiga, a special envoy who is President Biden's "point man for Central America's Northern Triangle," the Administration is planning "to release...a list of corrupt Central American officials who may be subject to sanctions." Reuters continues that "US officials see corruption as one of the main drivers for the flow of migrants – along with poverty, gang violence and the fallout from hurricanes last year – and want to make sure a \$4 billion aid package being put together for the region does not fall prey to graft."

Colombian Police Lead Forceful Crackdown On Protests.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Turkewitz, Villamil, 20.6M) reports that "Colombians demonstrating over the past week against the poverty and inequality that have worsened the lives of millions since the Covid-19 pandemic began have been met with a powerful crackdown by their government, which has responded to the protests with the same militarized police force it often uses against rebel fighters and organized crime." According to the Times, "experts say" the events in Colombia "could presage unrest across Latin America, where several countries face the same combustible mix of an unrelenting pandemic, growing hardship and plummeting government revenue."

Afghan Militants Kill Four Pakistani Soldiers In Ambush.

[Reuters](#) (5/5) reports that "four Pakistani soldiers were killed and six wounded in an ambush by militants from Afghanistan along the border between the two countries on Wednesday." According to Reuters, the Tehrik-e-Taliban, "a banned militant outfit operating along the border," claimed responsibility for the attack the same day.

In Ukraine, Blinken To Offer Support Against Russia, Pressure On Graft Issues.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Crowley, Kramer, 20.6M) reports that when Secretary of State Blinken travels to the Ukraine on Thursday, "his task...will be to reassure" President Volodymyr Zelensky of "American support against Russia's ongoing aggression." But, the Times adds, "at the same time, Blinken will also renew American calls for change in Ukraine's notoriously corrupt political system" – an issue that "acquired new urgency after Ukraine's government last month ousted the head of the country's national energy company in a move" the State Department has "condemned."

The [AP](#) (5/5) reports that Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland will accompany Blinken on the trip. According to the AP, Nuland's mere presence in the Ukraine "is likely to irritate Russia," since, as "a Russia hawk," she is "reviled by the Kremlin." [Reuters](#) (5/5, Williams, Zinets) quotes the Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Yevhenii Yenin as saying of the trip, "We see this visit as a signal of extremely strong support from the United States in countering Russian hybrid aggression."

Russian Troops Remain At Ukrainian Border Amid NATO Exercises. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Marson, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that, despite announcing last month that it would withdraw forces from the Ukrainian border, Moscow has maintained a strong military presence in the area. The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Cooper, Barnes, 20.6M) reports that "Senior Defense Department officials said that close to 80,000 Russian troops remained near various strips" of the Russian-Ukrainian border – "still the biggest force Russia has amassed there since Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014."

Political Aides Struggle To Find Suitable Location For Biden-Putin Summit. [Politico](#) (5/5, Toosi, 6.73M) reports that as President Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin "prepare for a potential face-to-face meeting, their aides are trying to nail down the best location for what could prove a tense affair. They already have offers from several other countries eager to host. But they're finding that – for reasons ranging from recent wars to the jaw-dropping performance of a certain former U.S. president – there are few ideal options."

Spanish Voters Favor "Right-Wing Leader" In Regional Elections.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Minder, 20.6M) reports that "Isabel Díaz Ayuso is now a rising force in Spanish politics" as Madrid voters "rewarded the right-wing leader of the Madrid region with a landslide victory on Tuesday after she defied the central government by keeping the capital's bars and shops open throughout much of the pandemic." According to the Times, "Ayuso's Popular Party more than doubled its number of seats in Madrid's regional assembly, trouncing other parties" and, while her party did not secure an absolute majority, it "will hold onto power with support from the far-right Vox party."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorializes that the victory of the Popular Party in Madrid regional elections validates the leader's relaxed pandemic policy.

Tories, Scottish Nationalists Likely To Gain In UK Local Elections.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Landler, 20.6M) reports that, in local and regional elections in the UK on Thursday, the Conservative Party "stands to make gains against a Labour Party that has struggled" to capitalize on scandals and ethical accusations involving the Tory Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The Times adds, "the elections could extend a realignment in British politics that began in 2019 when the Conservative Party won a landslide general election victory." The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Booth, Adam, 10.52M) reports that Scottish Nationalists are also "expected to perform well," but may fall short "of a smashing victory that would pressure Johnson to grant another independence referendum."

Two Americans Convicted Of Murdering Rome Police Officer.

The [AP](#) (5/5, D'Emilio) reports, "A jury in Italy convicted two American friends in the 2019 slaying in Rome of a police officer in a tragic unraveling of a small-time drug deal gone bad, sentencing them to the maximum life in prison." Finnegan Lee Elder and Gabriel Natale-Hjorth "were each found guilty of murder and four other counts and received Italy's stiffest punishment, life imprisonment."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 2, 1:40, Muir, 6.42M), the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 5, 0:25, O'Donnell, 4.03M), [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (5/5, story 5, 0:20, Holt, 5.3M), the [New York Times](#) (5/5, Povoledo, 20.6M), and the [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Harlan, 10.52M) are among the outlets covering the story.

Negotiations With Iran Stall Over Centrifuge Issue.

[Axios](#) (5/5, Ravid, 1.26M) reports that according to "European diplomats and former US officials," talks between the US and Iran to restore the 2015 nuclear accord have stalled "over what will happen to the new, more sophisticated centrifuges Iran has installed" in the years since 2015. The centrifuges are relevant to Iran's compliance with a "'breakout time'" requirement that mandates the country keep the time it would require "to produce enough enriched uranium for a bomb" to at least one year. According to Axios, while the group of negotiators responsible for handling this and other nuclear questions have struggled to move forward, another group focusing on sanctions has made "significant progress."

Opposition Leader Lapid Has Four Weeks To Form New Israeli Government.

The [AP](#) (5/5, Edri) reports that on Wednesday, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin tasked opposition leader Yair Lapid with forming a new government a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "failed to cobble together a governing coalition by a midnight deadline." According to the AP, Rivlin "spent the day consulting with all of the parties elected to Israel's parliament and announced late Wednesday that he believes Lapid has the best chance of forming a coalition." The AP says Lapid, "whose late father was a Cabinet minister and who himself is a veteran journalist and politician, now has four weeks to reach a deal with potential partners." [Reuters](#) (5/5) reports that Lapid, "who heads the Yesh Atid party, said he aimed to establish a

government of the left, right and centre 'that will reflect the fact that we don't hate one another.' But Lapid, 57, has ruled out serving in a government with Netanyahu, citing the criminal indictment against the prime minister."

[Axios](#) (5/5, Ravid, 1.26M) says Rivlin "held consultations with Israel's political parties...over the mandate decision, with both the centrist Lapid and right-wing kingmaker Naftali Bennett putting themselves forward." Axios adds, "As expected, Rivlin opted to give the mandate to Lapid, who has managed to get 56 members of the Knesset to support him so far, including the six members of Gideon Sa'ar's breakaway right-wing party." Axios reports that Bennett "said he was determined to prevent a fifth election and would thus work to form a unity government with Lapid and the center-left." According to Axios, Lapid and Bennett are "expected to resume power-sharing negotiations toward a government that would see Bennett serve first as prime minister for two years before Lapid rotates into the job."

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Kingsley, 20.6M) describes Bennett as an "ultranationalist." The Times says Bennett is "a former settler leader who opposes Palestinian statehood and seeks to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank." According to the Times, Lapid "will need to persuade an ideologically incoherent array of other parties to set aside their differences to form an alliance of 61 lawmakers, the minimum for a parliamentary majority. Such an alliance might have to encompass far-right lawmakers who reject a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, left-wing parties that support a two-state solution, Arab nationalists and Islamists, none of them natural political bedfellows."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) says Lapid "entered politics in 2012, on the heels of grass-roots social protests that demanded more government focus on issues of justice, income inequality and support for the middle class." The Post adds that "in the past year, Lapid has again tried to tap the energy of hundreds of thousands of Israelis who gather in weekly protests ...calling for an end to state corruption and for Netanyahu to step down." The Post also reports that Lapid is "one of the few national politicians willing to express support for a Palestinian state." The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Kershner, 20.6M) has a profile of Lapid.

Duckworth Calls For Biden To Pressure Turkey To Stop Attacks On Syrian Kurds.

[Politico](#) (5/5, Seligman, 6.73M) reports, in a letter on Wednesday, Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) urged President Biden "to increase pressure on Turkey to curb its "malign activities" on the Kurdish population in Syria." According to Politico, Duckworth's letter "turns the heat up on Biden to take a stronger line on Ankara, even as the US-Turkey relationship sours further over the president's decision to recognize the 1915 Armenian massacres as genocide."

In Video, French Journalist Claims To Be Kidnapped In Mali, Pleads For Rescue.

The [New York Times](#) (5/5, Breeden, 20.6M) reports that Oliver Dubois, a French journalist who disappeared in Mali last month, "said in a video that circulated Wednesday on social media, but that could not be independently verified, that he had been kidnapped by a jihadist group operating in the region as he appealed for help from the authorities in France." The [Washington Post](#) (5/5, 10.52M) reports that Dubois "was kidnapped in the northeastern city of Gao on April 8 by an al-Qaeda-linked affiliate known as Jamaa Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), or the Support Group for Islam and Muslim."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump's Ban From Facebook Is Upheld, But Panel Orders Review](#)

[US Backs Waiver Of Intellectual Property Protection For Covid-19 Vaccines](#)

[Behind Liz Cheney's Break With Kevin McCarthy Over Trump](#)
[Banks In Archegos Aftermath Tighten Credit Lines, Scrutinize Swaps](#)
[Driscoll's Desperately Needs To Know America's Appetite For Strawberries](#)
[Adults Race To Straighten Their Teeth, Bracing For Pandemic's End](#)

New York Times:

['Turning The Corner': US Covid Outlook Reaches Most Hopeful Point Yet](#)
[Facebook Oversight Board Upholds Social Network's Ban Of Trump](#)
[Broadway Is Reopening. But Not Until September.](#)
[Facebook's 'Supreme Court' Tells Zuckerberg He's The Decider](#)
[In Turning On Liz Cheney, GOP Bows To Trump's Election Lies](#)
[Taking 'Extraordinary Measures,' Biden Backs Suspending Patents On Vaccines](#)

Washington Post:

[Judge Vacates National Moratorium On Evictions](#)
[Administration Backs Waiving Vaccine Patents](#)
[Citizen Sleuths Dive Into Data For Virus's True Toll](#)
[Trump's Ban From Facebook Is Upheld](#)
[GOP Set To Boot Cheney From Post](#)
[US Birthrate The Lowest In Decades](#)

Financial Times:

[Archegos Prepares For Insolvency As Banks Seek Compensation](#)
[Are CEOs Living Up To The Pledges They Made After George Floyd's Murder?](#)
[Facebook Oversight Board Upholds Trump Suspension](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: COVID Update; Italy-US Students Convicted; GOP-Trump & Cheney; Asian American Attacks; Migrant Families Reunited; Peloton Recall; Colorado-Missing Mother; Mississippi-Small Plane Crash; Made in America Series.

CBS: GOP-Trump & Cheney; COVID Update; COVID-India; Atlanta-Officer Reinstated; Italy-US Students Convicted; Peloton Recall; Vaccine Hesitancy; Tornado Cleanup; US Birth Rate; Rise In Florist Prices; Mother & Daughter Climb Mt. Everest.

NBC: COVID Update; Trump-Facebook; GOP-Cheney; Peloton Recall; Italy-US Students Convicted; Giuliani-Ukraine; Border Crisis; Migrant Families Reunited; Mexico City-Subway Collapse; COVID-India; Early Retirement; New Mexico-Celebrating Teacher Who Shows Tolerance & Love.

Network TV At A Glance:

COVID Update – 8 minutes, 25 seconds
Italy-US Students Convicted – 2 minutes, 25 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Biden — Delivers remarks on the American Jobs Plan in Lake Charles, Louisiana; tours the Carrollton Water Plant in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Vice President Harris — No public schedule released.

US Senate:

- House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on 'transforming the VA workforce' (virtual) – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee virtual hearing on 'Transforming the VA Workforce: Assessing Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives'
Location: Virtual Event; 10:00 AM
- Senate convenes for pro forma session – Senate convenes for pro forma session * Chamber on recess from 30 Apr – 10 May
Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 4:00 PM

US House:

- U.S. Secret Service director testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee – Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Secret Service Operational Priorities', with testimony from USSS Director James Murray; *10:00 AM*
- Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Belarus (virtual) – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission virtual hearing on 'Democracy and Human Rights in Belarus', held via Cisco Webex, with witnesses – Coordination Council for the Transfer of Power Chair Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Centre for Eastern Studies Director Dr Adam Eberhardt, Victims of Communism Academic Council member Paul Goble, Florida International University Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs Director for European & Eurasian Studies David Kramer, and Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) Europe and Central Asia Program Coordinator Gulnoza Said – examining the human rights practices of the Lukashenka govt and prospects for change
Location: Virtual Event; 10:00 AM
- House Dems press conference ahead of Oversight Committee hearing on 'the nation's Black maternal health crisis' (virtual) – House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney and members Robin Kelly, Ayanna Pressley, and Cori Bush, Black Maternal Health Caucus Co-Chairs (and fellow Democratic Reps.) Dr Alma Adams and Lauren Underwood, 4Kira4Moms founder Charles Johnson, and Black Mamas Maternal Alliance Co-founding Executive Director Angela Aina speak on press conference call ahead of the Committee's hearing on 'Birthing While Black: Examining America's Black Maternal Health Crisis', at which Johnson and Reps. Pressley, Bush, Adams, and Underwood will all be among witnesses
Location: Virtual Event; 10:15 AM
- House Science subcommittee latest hearing on the NSF (virtual) – Research and Technology Subcommittee virtual hearing on 'National Science Foundation: Advancing Research for the Future of U.S. Innovation Part II', held via Zoom, with testimony from University of California-Los Angeles Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activities Dr Roger Wakimoto; Intel Labs Director of University Research and Collaboration Gabriela Cruz Thompson; Arizona State University School for the Future of Innovation in Society Clinical Associate Professor Dr Mahmud Farooque; Northern Illinois University Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Dr Gerald Blazey; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University President Dr P. Barry Butler
Location: Virtual Event; 11:00 AM
- House Oversight Committee hybrid hearing on 'the nation's Black maternal health crisis' – Hybrid hearing on 'Birthing While Black: Examining America's Black Maternal Health Crisis', with testimony from Black Maternal Health Caucus Co-Chairs Lauren Underwood and Dr Alma Adams, and fellow Democratic Reps. Ayanna Pressley and Cori Bush; actress and advocate Tatyana Ali; 4Kira4Moms founder Charles Johnson; Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative Medical Director Veronica Gillispie; National Birth Equity Collaborative founder and President Joia Adele Crear-Perry; and The Century Foundation Director of Health Care Reform and Senior Fellow Dr Jamila Taylor; *11:00 AM*

- House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress hearing on Congressional staff capacity (virtual) – Virtual hearing on 'Congressional Staff Capacity: Improving Staff Professional Development, Increasing Retention and Competing for Top Talent', held via Zoom
Location: Virtual Event; 11:00 AM
- House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hybrid hearing on high-speed rail and emerging rail technologies – Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials hybrid hearing on 'When Unlimited Potential Meets Limited Resources: The Benefits and Challenges of High-Speed Rail and Emerging Rail Technologies', with testimony from former Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Porcari; Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Rachel Smith; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority CEO Phillip Washington; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers International Representative Danielle Eckert; Waller County, TX, Judge Trey Duhon III; U.S. High Speed Rail Association President and CEO Andy Kunz; Texas Central High Speed Rail President and CEO Carlos Aguilar; Amtrak CEO William Flynn; Virgin Hyperloop CEO and co-founder Josh Giegel; Hyperloop Transportation Technologies CEO Andres de Leon; Brightline Trains CEO Michael Reininger; and Northeast Maglev Chairman and CEO Wayne Rogers * Held virtually and in Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Building; 11:00 AM
- House Committee on Natural Resources 'Member Day Hearing', with testimony from Members of Congress; 11:00 AM
- House Commerce subcommittee hearing on broadband equity (virtual) – Communications and Technology Subcommittee virtual hearing on 'Broadband Equity: Addressing Disparities in Access and Affordability', held via Cisco Webex, with testimony from National Urban League Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy Joi Chaney; Public Knowledge President and CEO Chris Lewis; Next Century Cities Executive Director Francella Ochillo; and Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal & Economic Public Policy Studies Chief Economist Dr George Ford
Location: Virtual Event; 11:30 AM
- House Financial Services Committee latest hearing on GameStop (virtual) – Virtual hearing on 'Game Stopped? Who Wins and Loses When Short Sellers, Social Media, and Retail Investors Collide, Part III', held via Cisco Webex, with testimony from Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Gary Gensler; The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation President and CEO Michael Bodson; and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority President and CEO Robert Cook * In January, Reddit users triggered a short squeeze of the stock of struggling video game retailer GameStop, sending the share price up from around \$17 to over \$500 in four weeks and deliberately causing large losses for Wall Street hedge funds and other short sellers. Many investors used the trading platform Robinhood, which controversially then restricted the trading of the stock, leading to accusations of market manipulation
Location: Virtual Event; 12:00 PM
- House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on 'atrocities in Xinjiang, China' (virtual) – Virtual hearing on 'The Atrocities Against Uyghurs and Other Minorities in Xinjiang', held via Cisco Webex, with testimony from Uyghur Human Rights Project Chairman of the Board Nury Turkel; survivor and advocate Tursunay Ziyawudun; and Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service Professor of Inter-societal History Dr James Millward
Location: Virtual Event; 12:30 PM
- House Small Business subcommittee hearing on job creation and infrastructure investment (virtual) – Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development Subcommittee remote hearing on 'Growing Jobs through Infrastructure Investment', held via Zoom, with testimony from AccuRounds President and CEO Michael Tamasi; South Central College President Dr

Annette Parker; Laborers' International Union of North America Local 720 Political Director Eddie Bustamante (on behalf of Construction Craft Laborers in Colorado); and Caliguaga President and Project Executive Gus Bruner

Location: Virtual Event; 1:00 PM

- House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA rural development – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'USDA Rural Development Mission Area', with testimony from Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development Justin Maxson; and USDA Rural Utilities Service Acting Administrator Christopher McLean, Rural Business-Cooperative Service Administrator Dr Karama Neal, and Rural Housing Service Acting Administrator Chad Parker (all on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture); 2:00 PM
- Commerce Secretary Raimondo testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for The Department of Commerce', with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo; 2:00 PM
- House Administration Committee hearing on voter list purges (virtual) – Virtual hearing on 'Voting in America: The Potential for Voter List Purges to Interfere with Free and Fair Access to the Ballot', held via WebEx

Location: Virtual Event; 2:00 PM

- House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on 'Stakeholder Perspectives on Addressing Migration Push Factors' (virtual) – Oversight, Management, & Accountability Subcommittee virtual hearing on 'Stakeholder Perspectives on Addressing Migration Push Factors', with testimony from Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Dan Restrepo; Council on Foreign Relations Vice President, Deputy Director of Studies, and Senior Fellow for Latin America Studies Shannon O'Neil; Migration Policy Institute Policy Analyst Ariel Ruiz Soto; and Calhoun County, MI, Sheriff Steve Hinckley

Location: Virtual Event; 2:00 PM

- House Education subcommittee hearing on COVID-19 impact on students with disabilities (virtual) – Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee virtual hearing on 'Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Students with Disabilities', held via Zoom, with testimony from National Disability Rights Network Managing Attorney Ronald Hager; Michigan Alliance for Families Project Director Kanika Littleton; Reade Bush of Arlington, VA; and Tulsa Trail Elementary School Special Education Teacher Dr Danielle Kovach

Location: Virtual Event; 2:30 PM

- House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on ship and submarine maintenance (virtual) – Readiness Subcommittee virtual hearing on 'Ship and Submarine Maintenance: Sustainment Considerations for a Changing Fleet', held via WebEx, with testimony from Naval Sea Systems Command Commander Vice Adm. William Galinis, Director of Surface Ship Maintenance and Modernization (SEA 21) Rear Adm. Eric Ver Hage, and Deputy Commander of Logistics, Maintenance, and Industrial Operations (SEA 04) Rear Adm. Howard Markle

Location: Virtual Event; 3:00 PM

- House of Representatives Committee Work Day

Cabinet Officers:

- EU-U.S. Future Forum continues (virtual) – EU-U.S. Future Forum continues, hosted virtually by the Atlantic Council in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, to develop a new transatlantic agenda and momentum for EU-U.S. cooperation. Day two speakers Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa, European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson, European

Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton, Mayors Kostas Bakoyannis (Athens) and Rafal Trzaskowski (Warsaw), German Chancellor candidate Annalena Baerbock, and NASA Associate Administrator for International and Interagency Relations Karen Feldstein

Location: Virtual Event; 8:30 AM

- Energy Secretary Granholm testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'FY 2022 Budget Request for the Department of Energy', with testimony from Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm; 1:00 PM
- Secretary of State Blinken in Ukraine – Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Ukraine, to meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Foreign Minister Kuleba Dmytro, other officials, and representatives of Ukrainian civil society * Under Secretary for Political Affairs Toria Nuland and Acting Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Reeker accompany Secretary Blinken on the trip

Location: Kiev

Visitors:

- No visitors scheduled.

General Events:

- USEA Annual Membership Meeting and Public Policy Forum (virtual) – USEA Annual Membership Meeting and Public Policy Forum, to highlight industry achievements, developments in energy policy, and to preview the future of the energy industry. Speakers include Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk, USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Development, Democracy and Innovation Karl Fickenschier, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Commissioner Ellen Nowak, American Electric Power Executive Vice President Charles Patton, Utilities Technology Council President and CEO Sheryl Riggs, and FER Commissioner Allison Clements

Location: Virtual Event; 10:00 AM

- Brookings discussion on children's need for play (virtual) – 'Re-emerging from COVID-19: Why children and cities need play now more than ever' Brookings Institution online discussion, on how cities are thinking about new opportunities to embed playful learning in the public realm, particularly in under-resourced neighborhoods. Keynote from Pittsburgh, PA, Mayor Bill Peduto, with other speakers including KABOOM! CEO Lysa Ratliff, Santa Ana Unified School District Board President Rigo Rodriguez, and Istanbul Technical University's Yasin Cagatay Seckin

Location: Virtual Event; 10:00 AM

- Brookings discussion with Dem Rep. Rosa DeLauro on priorities for Congressional appropriations (virtual) – Brookings Institution hosts online conversation with Democratic Rep. Rosa DeLauro to discuss her vision and goals for the House Committee on Appropriations under her leadership. Keynote remarks followed by panel discussion with Brookings Center for Effective Public Management Deputy Director and Senior Fellow John Hudake and Governance Studies Senior Fellow Molly Reynolds

Location: Virtual Event; 12:00 PM

- Axios Vitals 'Check Up' event with Dem Rep. Lauren Underwood – Axios Vitals 'Check Up' virtual event, to discuss disparities in maternal health, the systemic racism and historical foundations of this crisis, its impact on mothers today, and how policymakers and practitioners are addressing these challenges, with Democratic Rep. Lauren Underwood, March of Dimes President and CEO Stacey Stewart, and Optum Population Health Services Maternal-Child Health Chief Medical Officer Janice Huckaby

Location: Virtual Event; 12:30 PM

- Washington FPC briefing on the California Climate Action Corps program (virtual) – Washington Foreign Press On-The-Record Virtual Briefing on 'California Climate Action

Corps', held via Zoom, with California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday discussing the first statewide corps of its kind focused on climate action

Location: Virtual Event; 1:00 PM

- Michigan, Colorado, and Minnesota secretaries of state call for passage of For the People Act – Secretaries of State Jocelyn Benson (Michigan), Jena Griswold (Colorado), and Steve Simon (Minnesota) address voter suppression attempts across the country and 'the urgent need for the Senate to pass the For the People Act', via press conference call with End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund President Tiffany Muller and Stand Up America founder and President Sean Eldridge

Location: Virtual Event; 1:15 PM

- Jill Biden in Nevada and Colorado – First Lady Dr Jill Biden joins Service Employees International Union to thank nurses for National Nurses Day at University Medical Hospital in Las Vegas, then travels to Colorado, where she visits Fort Carson to deliver remarks and meet military spouses during a United Service Organizations Military Spouse Connection event in advance of Military Spouse Appreciation Day

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