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 FBI News Briefing

TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 6:30 AM EDT

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LEADING THE NEWS

Police Say Indianapolis Gunman Legally Bought Guns Used In Shooting.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Smith) reports police have revealed Brandon Scott Hole, 19, the former employee "who shot and killed eight people at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis," had "legally bought the two rifles used in the attack despite red flag laws designed to prevent such purchases." The AP adds the police "did not say where Hole bought what they described as 'assault rifles,' citing the ongoing investigation, but said he was seen using both rifles during the shooting." [Reuters](#) (4/18) reports the purchases "were made a few months after Hole was briefly placed under psychiatric detention in March and a shotgun was seized from his home when his mother contacted law enforcement to report he might try to commit 'suicide by cop,' according to the FBI."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/17, Kornfield, Bella, 10.52M) reported the gunman "who fatally shot eight people at a FedEx plant Thursday used two legally purchased assault rifles, police said Saturday, raising new questions as many call for tighter restrictions on powerful firearms and more safeguards on who can own them." The Post adds police "said the shooter, a former employee at the facility, bought rifles legally last July and September – months after his mother said she feared her son would attempt 'suicide by cop.' That led authorities to question Brandon Hole, temporarily detain him for mental health reasons and seize his shotgun. The gun was not returned, officials say."

The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Robertson, Watkins, Martínez, 20.6M) reports Hole's case "appeared, at first, to be exactly the kind of situation" that "so-called red flag laws, which allow the authorities to temporarily take away guns from people declared by a judge to be too unstable to have them," are "designed to address," but "while many details are still unclear, Mr. Hole's case is a sobering example of how even states with widely supported safeguards can fail to prevent dangerous people from obtaining firearms." According to the Times, "experts say [the laws] are often used only as short-term solutions."

However, asked on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/18, story 2, 2:20, Davis, 4.85M) whether the system failed, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Chief Randal Taylor said, "Only from the standpoint, if he would have been found in violation of that law, maybe he wouldn't have

been able to purchase these weapons legally. But I don't know enough about it that I can say that anyone dropped the ball, per se."

In addition, Nikki Battiste reported on the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 2, 1:55, Duncan, 1.24M) that the deputy chief of the IMPD "says authorities had not deemed Hole's subject to Indiana red flag law." Battiste continued, "The deputy chief told us Branden Hole agreed to let police keep the shotgun they took from him in March 2020. The prosecutor's office told us it is reviewing its records from that incident."

[CNN](#) (4/18, Holcombe, Kaur, Levenson, 89.21M) reports on its website that the shooting "shows how easy it can be to buy and use deadly weapons of war in the United States." CNN adds the attack "marks at least the 45th mass shooting – defined as four or more casualties, excluding the shooter – since the Atlanta-area spa shootings March 16."

Indianapolis Police Identify Shooter As 19-Year-Old Former FedEx Employee.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (4/16, Evans, 662K) reported Indianapolis police on Friday identified "the man who shot and killed eight people Thursday at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis and then killed himself" as Brandon Scott Hole, 19, but "it remains unclear why Hole...shot and killed the eight workers at the facility near Indianapolis International Airport." However, the Star adds that Hole "was a former FedEx employee. He last worked for the company in 2020, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Deputy Chief Craig McCartt said."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/16, lead story, 3:39, Muir, 6.23M), Victor Oquendo reported the shooting occurred at "FedEx's second largest hub in the world, roughly 100 workers present at the time." Oquendo added, "Authorities say he drove to the facility, got out and started shooting randomly, making his way into the building. The massacre taking just one to two minutes. Police say he killed himself before officers arrived."

Meanwhile, Oquendo continued on [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/16, story 2, 0:25, Muir, 6.23M) that the FBI, which is "assisting local police in the case, saying that the suspect's mom reported he might try to commit suicide by cop. He was held by police. They removed a shotgun from his house and say that gun was not returned to him." Likewise, Catie Beck reported on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/16, lead story, 2:34, Holt, 4.83M) that Hole "was known to local police and FBI for a mental health condition." The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Molloy, Bella, Berman, Witte, 10.52M) reports that as Hole's shotgun was "seized and not returned, it was unclear how he had obtained the rifle used Thursday night." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Mendell, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Coroners Identify Four Sikhs Among The Victims Of Indianapolis Shooting.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Smith, Callahan) reported coroners "released the names of the victims late Friday, a little less than 24 hours after the latest mass shooting to rock the U.S." and "four of them were members of Indianapolis' Sikh community." According to the AP, "The attack was another blow to the Asian American community a month after six people of Asian descent were killed in a mass shooting in the Atlanta area and amid ongoing attacks against Asian Americans during the coronavirus pandemic." [Reuters](#) (4/16, Kalia, Caspani, Hosenball) reported law enforcement officials "said they had not immediately determined whether racial or ethnic hatred was behind the killings. But a Sikh civil rights advocacy group called for an investigation of any possible hate bias involved in the crime."

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Mervosh, Bahr, Chokshi, Chiarito, 20.6M) said the victims "were identified by the police as Matthew R. Alexander, 32; Samaria Blackwell, 19; Amarjeet Johal, 66; Jaswinder Kaur, 64; Jaswinder Singh, 68; Amarjit Sekhon, 48; Karli Smith, 19; and John Weisert, 74. Some family members of victims who were Sikh provided different spellings and ages: Jasvinder Kaur, 50; Amarjit Sekhon, 49; and Jaswinder Singh, 70."

Four Victims Remain Hospitalized As Sikhs Call For Thorough Investigation Into Shooter's Motives. On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 2, 2:15, Snow, 6.41M), Kathy Park reported four of the victims "are still hospitalized. Everyone is in stable condition and are expected to survive." [USA Today](#) (4/18, Herron, Bacon, 12.7M) reports those who lost their lives "were identified as Amarjeet Johal, 66; Jasvinder Kaur, 50; Amarjit Sekhon, 48; Jaswinder

Singh, 68; Karli Smith, 19; Samaria Blackwell, 19; Matthew R. Alexander, 32; [and] John Weisert, 74.”

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/18, Terranella, Warikoo, 2.16M) reports that as police are seeking to understand Hole’s motives, “four of the eight shooting victims belonged to the Sikh community,” a loss that the [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Kornfield, 10.52M) says “cuts deep in this tightknit community, connected by faith and a common heritage tied to the Punjabi region of India.” Aasees Kaur, a representative of the Sikh Coalition, “said the deadly assault in Indianapolis underscores the bigotry that Sikhs have faced and the need for more-robust efforts to track hate crimes, which are underreported and difficult to prosecute.” According to the Post, while authorities “have not yet offered a motive for the shooting, Kaur said it feels like her community was targeted.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Naughton, O’Brien, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Operations At FedEx Facility Temporarily Suspended As Investigation Continues.

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 3, 2:27, Díaz-Balart, 3.44M), Kathy Park reported the gunman’s motive is “still under review.” Park added that “most of the crime-scene tape that surrounded the facility where the shooting took place has since been removed,” though “operations at the site have been temporarily suspended.” In a more than 2,500-word article, the [Washington Post](#) (4/17, A1, 10.52M) said that the facility “is a sprawling, nondescript warehouse with multiple shifts of workers – a popular workplace for recent high school graduates starting their adult lives, but also a gathering place for older Indian immigrants searching for community in addition to a paycheck.” The Post profiles the victims who died in the mass shooting.

Families Of FedEx Employees Unable To Reach Their Loved Ones Due To Company’s Cell Phone Policy. On the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (4/16, lead story, 3:42, O’Donnell, 3.77M), Nikki Battiste reported FedEx “doesn’t allow cell phones inside during work, so some frantic family members have been unable to reach those here during the attack.” Battiste added the cell phones of “some employees...are still in their cars.” Likewise, the [New York Times](#) (4/16, A1, Bahr, Robertson, 20.6M) said the “chaos within the facility, and in the homes of the employees, was intensified by the fact that many employees did not have cellphones with them.” The Times adds that a FedEx spokesman “confirmed on Friday that cellphone access is limited within the warehouse, where packages are sorted for shipping, to minimize distractions. Such policies are common in the industry. But for family members, not hearing from their loved ones was agonizing.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Gryta, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Gunman’s Family Apologizes For His Actions. On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 2, 2:17, Johnson, 3.89M), Will Carr reported the gunman’s family on Saturday “released a statement. They say they’re devastated and they tried to get him help. They’re also offering their apologies to the victims and their families.” The [Indianapolis Star](#) (4/17, Rudavsky, 662K) reports the family “fervently apologized and notes that the family had tried to get...Hole, 19, help.” However, Nikki Battiste reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 2, 2:04, Diaz, 1.74M) that a relative “said Hole simply did not get the help he needed.”

Biden Condemns “Epidemic” Of Gun Violence As A “National Embarrassment” In Wake Of Indianapolis Mass Shooting. [Bloomberg](#) (4/16, Fabian, Jacobs, 3.57M) reported that “a day after a gunman opened fire at a FedEx Corp. facility near Indianapolis International Airport, killing eight people and wounding several others before apparently taking his own life,” President Biden on Friday “called the spate of mass shootings in the U.S. a ‘national embarrassment,’” while [Politico](#) (4/16, Leonard, 6.73M) reported that he “called gun violence an ‘epidemic’ in the U.S. and renewed calls on Congress to bring gun reform legislation to his desk in the wake of yet another mass shooting, this one at a shipping center in Indianapolis.”

Biden also [tweeted](#), “Vice President Harris and I have been briefed on the mass shooting at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis. God bless the eight individuals we lost and their loved ones,

and we pray for the wounded for their recovery. We can, and must, do more to reduce gun violence and save lives.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (4/16, story 2, 1:49, O'Donnell, 3.77M), Weijia Jiang reported the President “hosted a foreign leader in person for the first time at the White House, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. But it was a domestic challenge that set him off – gun violence.” Biden: “Who in God’s name needs a weapon that can hold 100 rounds, or 40 rounds, or 20 rounds? It’s just wrong. And I’m not going to give up until it’s done.” Jiang added that the President “grew defensive when asked why he is prioritizing infrastructure legislation over police reform and gun control.” Biden: “I’ve never not prioritized this. No one has worked harder to deal with the violence used by individuals using weapons than I have. I’m the only one ever to have passed an assault weapons ban.” Jiang continued, “That was 27 years ago, the last time Congress passed significant gun reform. Today marked the third time the Biden White House has lowered flags to honor victims of gun violence.”

[USA Today](#) (4/16, Garrison, 12.7M) reported the US over the past month has “mourned eight killed March 16 at three spas in the Atlanta and 10 people killed less than a week later inside a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado. The White House also lowered flags after a driver April 2 rammed his car into two officers and a barricade near the U.S. Capitol, killing Capitol Police Officer William ‘Billy’ Evans.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (4/16, Samuels, 5.69M) reported Vice President Harris on Friday “called for an end to gun violence in the wake of yet another mass shooting after eight people were killed at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis.” [Reuters](#) (4/16, Bose, Psaledakis) reported the Vice President “said there is ‘no question this violence must end.’”

However, although [The Hill](#) (4/16, Chalfant, 5.69M) reported White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the White House is “horrified by the shooting overnight at a FedEx facility,” the [New York Times](#) (4/16, Thrush, 20.6M) said she “rejected calls to appoint a gun czar to more forcefully confront the crisis.” and “argu[ed] that the main impediment for addressing the crisis rests with congressional Republicans, not a lack of will in the West Wing.” Psaki said, “Advocates should pressure Republicans in the Senate...all of you should pressure Republicans in the Senate and ask them why they are opposing universal background checks.” In addition, [Reuters](#) (4/16) reported Psaki called on Congress to “act to end immunity for gun manufacturers and deal with assault weapons.”

The [AP](#) (4/16) said the shooting “follows a lull in mass killings during the pandemic in 2020, which had the smallest number of such attacks in more than a decade, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University” that “tracks mass killings defined as four or more dead, not including the shooter,” but the [New York Times](#) (4/16, Hauser, 20.6M) reported Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett (D) in January “confronted another shooting with multiple victims, which the city’s police chief said was the worst mass casualty shooting in more than a decade in Indianapolis. A youth was later arrested in the killing of five people who were found in a home in Indianapolis.”

In addition, the [New York Times](#) (4/16, Taylor, 20.6M) reported Indianapolis “saw an increase in criminal homicides in 2020, a year already racked with death caused by the pandemic.” The Times adds Indianapolis reported 215 criminal homicides, “the most recorded in a single year, according to an analysis of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department data by The Indianapolis Star. There were also another 30 noncriminal homicides, usually episodes where the authorities considered a killing justified, such as in self-defense. The city’s previous record was 159 criminal homicide cases in 2018, according to The Associated Press. The police investigated 154 criminal homicides in 2019.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, 10.52M) in an editorial provides a list of the victims of mass shootings in the US dating back to 1999, and argues that if the US “confronted the epidemic of gun violence with resolve and common sense, lives could – and would – be saved. No single law will prevent all gun deaths, but there are common-sense measures that would help.”

As Indianapolis Mourns, White House Faces More Pressure To Act On Gun

Violence. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (4/17, Herron, 662K) reported Indianapolis “is still reeling from the shock of a mass shooting at a FedEx facility that left eight people dead and several others wounded.” The Star added Mayor Joe Hogsett (D) on Saturday joined Rep. Andre Carson (D-IL) “and other officials as well as co-workers, family and friends of those whose lives were lost at a candlelight vigil at Krannert Park on the Westside.” According to the Star, those present “offer sympathy and prayers,” and “some issued calls for stronger gun laws in the wake of the tragedy at the FedEx Plainfield Ground Operations Center.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/17, Naughton, O'Brien, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 4, 0:43, Díaz-Balart, 3.44M), Kelly O'Donnell reported that President Biden on Friday “called these repeated tragedies ‘a national embarrassment’ that must end.” On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 3, 2:00, Johnson, 3.89M), White House correspondent MaryAlice Parks described Biden as “sounding increasingly frustrated,” yet also “defensive when asked if he should be prioritizing passing new gun laws.” Biden: “I’ve never not prioritized this. No one has worked harder to deal with violence used by individuals using weapons than I have.” Parks added that while “on the campaign trail, Biden promised to take the issue head on,” but so far there has been “no big push for gun control. And with 29 mass shootings so far this month, the White House now saying it’s on congressional Republicans to come to the bargaining table.” Parks said that the President “has taken some initial steps, including targeting so-called ghost guns that can be assembled at home,” but “advocates say he could do more right now on his own, including cracking down on gun dealers who have violations, limiting some private sales, and perhaps appointing a director to coordinate the federal response to gun violence.”

A [Washington Post](#) (4/17, Olorunnipa, Sotomayor, 10.52M) analysis describes the White House as under “growing pressure to act,” even as “the routine has become so predictable that some gun-control activists see the familiarity of tragedy as their biggest obstacle to achieving the change they’ve been seeking for the past decade.” The Post adds the recent mass shootings have “encouraged activists to make a concerted push for fresh legislation restricting access to guns. But with no clear consensus on how to achieve an elusive goal – and with the White House reluctant to spend limited political capital on a prospect with long odds – there’s a palpable fear among gun-control groups that their best chance in years to change the nation’s gun laws could once again end in failure.”

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

Capitol Siege Probe Sees Progress, Roadblocks After 100 Days.

[CNN](#) (4/16, Cohen, Schneider, 89.21M) reported, “One hundred days after the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol, the unprecedented progress and unexpected roadblocks of the investigation are becoming clear.” According to CNN, “Prosecutors have moved full speed ahead with hundreds of cases against rioters but haven’t made use of the much-discussed sedition laws,” and have “rounded up dozens of extremists and militia members yet failed to convince judges that most are too dangerous to release pre-trial.” The investigation “is still in its early stages. Prosecutions in the backlogged court system could stretch on for years, even if most rioters ultimately plead guilty.”

Indiana “Oath Keepers” Leader Pleads Guilty In Capitol Siege Probe.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (4/16, Magdaleno, 662K) reports, “A heavy metal guitarist from Columbus, Indiana who was armed with bear mace and wore a tactical vest as he joined a mob storming the U.S. Capitol building Jan. 6 has pleaded guilty in federal court.” Jon Schaffer, 52, “admitted in Washington DC District Court to obstructing an official proceeding and entering a restricted building with a weapon when he tried to forcibly stop Congress’ certification of the

U.S. presidential election results. 'These actions are disgraceful and unacceptable,' FBI Deputy Director Paul M. Abbate said in a prepared statement from the United States Department of Justice." The Star adds, "In his plea agreement submitted to Judge Amit P. Mehta on Friday Schaffer admitted to being one of the founders of the Oath Keepers, a national organization that describes itself as 'a non-partisan association of current and formerly serving military, police, and first responders' at its website."

[CNN](#) (4/16, Cohen, 89.21M) reports that Schaffer "pleaded guilty Friday to two crimes related to the US Capitol insurrection, making him the first rioter to do so." Schaffer "pleaded guilty to obstruction of an official proceeding and entering a building with a dangerous weapon. He admitted to carrying bear spray into the Capitol complex during the formal certification of the Electoral College votes." CNN adds, "One hundred days after the January 6 attack, Schaffer is now the first pro-Trump rioter to plead guilty and admit his crimes. In his plea deal, Schaffer is described as a 'founding lifetime member' of the Oath Keepers, though his lawyers previously claimed in court that he didn't know much about the paramilitary group."

[USA Today](#) (4/16, Mansfield, Johnson, 12.7M) reports, "The cooperation agreement is a key turning point for prosecutors who have been pursuing a broad conspiracy case against groups of rioters, including the paramilitary Oath Keepers group and the far-right Proud Boys organization." USA Today adds, "In court documents in March, prosecutors said the ongoing conspiracy inquiry involves 'a large number of participants.' Prosecutors also have indicated that they have significant information on Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes actions during the attack." On Thursday, FBI Director Wray "described the investigation as perhaps the largest inquiry since the 9/11 attacks."

The [AP](#) (4/16, Balsamo, Durkin Richer) reports that Schaffer "has agreed to cooperate with investigators in hopes of getting a lighter sentence, and the Justice Department will consider putting Schaffer in the federal witness security program, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta said. This signals that federal prosecutors see him as a valuable cooperator as they continue to investigate militia groups and other extremists involved in the insurrection on Jan. 6."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Hsu, Barrett, 10.52M) reports, "The plea marks a new stage in the historic investigation, as prosecutors seek to work up the chain of defendants to gather evidence and better understand the full scope of any planning and organizing of the violence — particularly among groups like the far-right Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys. Dozens of members from both groups appeared to act in concert to storm the building, prosecutors have alleged. Peter Skinner, a former federal prosecutor, called it a 'huge' development, saying such cooperation deals are 'what the government needs to investigate and possibly prosecute the leaders of the organization.'"

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, A1, Feuer, 20.6M) reports Schaffer's cooperation "could prove instrumental in helping prosecutors pursue a separate and much broader conspiracy case against 12 other members of the Oath Keepers who stand accused of some of the most serious charges in the sprawling investigation into the storming of the Capitol." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provided similar coverage as did brief [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (4/16, story 5, 0:22, O'Donnell, 3.77M) and [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/16, story 5, 0:43, Holt, 4.83M) segments.

Prosecutors Say Men Arrested For Attempted Theft Of Gun From DC Officer During Capitol Riot.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Weiner, 10.52M) reports prosecutors "said Friday they have arrested a man who attempted to grab a service weapon from a D.C. police officer during the attack on the U.S. Capitol in January." According to the Post, "Kyle J. Young, 37, of Redfield, Iowa, was arrested Wednesday along with Albuquerque C. Head, 41, of Kingsport, Tenn. Both are accused of assaulting Michael Fanone, a D.C. officer who was dragged down the steps of the Capitol, attacked with an electroshock weapon and beaten unconscious by the mob." The Post

adds that also indicted was "Thomas Sibick, 35, of Buffalo, who was already charged with beating Fanone and stealing the officer's badge and radio. The indictment, unsealed Wednesday, was made public Friday. Daniel Rodriguez, 38, of Fontana, Calif., is accused in a separate indictment of using an electroshock weapon on Fanone."

FBI Arrests Michigan Man In Capitol Siege Probe.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (4/16, Barrett, 828K) reports, "Facebook messages released to the FBI show a Hancock man charged with four federal crimes for allegedly entering the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 and enjoyed a celebratory beer afterward." Jeremy Sorvisto "was arrested on April 7 as part of an investigation into Karl Dresch, another man from the Upper Peninsula who was charged for breaching the Capitol. FBI agents identified Sorvisto while seeking to find others who may have traveled to Washington, D.C. with Dresch." Sorvisto "was charged with entering a restricted building, disruptive conduct, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building and demonstrating in a Capitol building. Each is a misdemeanor crime punishable by six months in prison."

Prosecutors Say Nazi Sympathizer Who Stormed Capitol Poses Threat To Jews.

[CNN](#) (4/16, Cohen, 89.21M) reports, "The Justice Department said Friday that a Nazi sympathizer who stormed the US Capitol on January 6 poses a threat to Jewish residents in his native New Jersey and therefore shouldn't be released from jail." CNN adds, "The alleged Capitol rioter, Timothy Hale-Cusanelli, was a well-known Nazi sympathizer at the Navy base where he worked in New Jersey. A federal judge ordered him detained last month while he awaits trial, but he has filed new motions with the court seeking his release. Opposing those requests, federal prosecutors told the judge that Hale-Cusanelli poses a danger to the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Lakewood, which is near the Navy base where he worked before his arrest. 'Defendant poses a more localized threat to the community, particularly the Hassidic community in Lakewood, New Jersey,' federal prosecutors wrote in a court filing."

Capitol Rioter Who Allegedly Ransacked Pelosi's Office Is Released From Jail.

The [Daily Beast](#) (4/18, Nadeau, 933K) reports, "Despite the fact that Capitol insurrectionist William Robert Norwood III allegedly stole body armor, lied to the FBI, and 'led a pack of rioters through the inner sanctum of Speaker Pelosi's office space' where he lifted a paper coaster, he has been released pending his trial, according to Department of Justice documents seen by The Daily Beast. He is charged with two felonies: obstruction of an official proceeding and theft of government property." The Daily Beast adds that Norwood "petitioned the court last week to be released to home detention which was granted Saturday, according to Department of Justice documents which lay out the extent of Norwood's involvement in the Jan. 6 riots," and "as a result of Norwood's lack of criminal history, the D.C. court determined that he is not a threat to society."

Pennsylvania Man Faces Federal Charges Over Capitol Riot.

The [Erie \(PA\) Times-News](#) (4/19, 35K) reports Jeremy J. Vorous of Venango, PA "has been indicted in federal court in Washington, D.C." on "five counts, including obstruction of an official proceeding." The FBI charged Vorous with the same counts in a criminal complaint in March.

Judge Threatens To Hold Woman Charged In Capitol Riot In Contempt For Wearing Mesh Mask.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Hsu, 10.52M) reports US District Judge Royce Lamberth on Friday "ordered a Pennsylvania woman charged in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot to show why she should not be jailed pending trial or held in contempt of court for allegedly flouting a requirement that she wear a mask when leaving her home while on bond." According to the Post, "Rachel Marie Powell, a mother of eight who lives in Mercer County, Pa., just east of the state line and Youngstown, Ohio, has pleaded not guilty to eight counts including felony destruction of federal

property and obstruction of a congressional proceeding after allegedly carrying an ice ax and large wooden pole into the Capitol." The Post says the FBI had "previously alleged that Powell, wearing a pink hat and carrying a bullhorn, helped shatter a window with a battering ram and appeared to direct others at the scene."

Ohio Is High On List Of Capitol Siege Indictments.

The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (4/16, Knight, 223K) reports, "Ohio ranks sixth in the country when it comes to federal indictments in the Jan. 6 breach of the U.S. Capitol, according to the U.S. Department of Justice." The Enquirer adds that "20 Ohioans have been arrested on federal charges related to the infiltration, about 5.3% of the total. Among those arrested, four are associated with an extremist group called the Oath Keepers, whose members "believe that the federal government has been co-opted by a shadowy conspiracy that is trying to strip American citizens of their rights," according to court documents. At least five photographed or filmed themselves during or after the breach. One is charged with assaulting a police officer."

Olen: CA Teacher Who Marched On Jan. 6 Should Not Lose Job.

In her [Washington Post](#) (4/16, 10.52M) column, Helaine Olen argues that while fourth-grade teacher Kristine Hostetter "joined her husband in marching on the Capitol on Jan. 6," she should not lose her job "as much as I disagree with just about every political opinion Kristine Hostetter is known to hold. That many think otherwise speaks to the tenor of our times, when people across the political spectrum are increasingly intolerant of the beliefs of those who differ with them." Olen says the district "found no proof that Hostetter had entered the Capitol on Jan. 6," so "she was returned to her classroom," but "many petition-signers want Hostetter fired not because of anything she was proven to have done but because 'canceling' her would assuage some of their hostility toward Trump, right-leaning extremism and fury over racist incidents in the school district."

Waldman: Trump's Presidency "Began And Ended With Two Of The Most Profound Attacks On American Democracy." In his [Washington Post](#) (4/16, 10.52M) column, Paul Waldman asserts that as the US continues to "grapple with the fallout of the Trump era, a disturbing fact is becoming more and more clear, one whose effects are still being felt: Donald Trump's presidency began and ended with two of the most profound attacks on American democracy in our history." According to Waldman, "There's a straight line running from the 2016 Russia scandal through the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6. And in both cases, almost the entire GOP decided to defend, justify and use those attacks for whatever advantage it could gain. Indeed, that through line runs from both of those right into the GOP campaign of voter suppression and cultural panic now underway."

Politico Analysis: Congressional Security Spending Has "Surged" Since Capitol Riot.

[Politico](#) (4/16, Ferris, Payne, 6.73M) reports "more than one third of the 17 GOP lawmakers who voted to impeach of convict" former President Donald Trump "used campaign funds to install security systems or hire private details within weeks of their votes – for an eye-popping total of nearly \$200,000 over the first three months of this year, according to an analysis of filings with the Federal Election Commission this week." Politico adds Congressional spending on private security "has surged among members of both parties since the deadly riot on Jan. 6, amid an alarming spike in death threats against lawmakers and their families." According to Politico, the spending "spotlights a challenge many lawmakers are eager to tackle this month: how to update the strict rules that govern personal security costs for members of Congress."

Pittman Reflects On Toll That Jan. 6 Riot Has Taken On Capitol Police.

In an interview with [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/16, story 6, 3:47, Holt, 4.83M), Lester Holt interviewed acting US Capitol Police Chief Yogananda Pittman discussed "the enormous toll the attack has taken on her department and respond[ed] to criticism over the agency's

preparedness." Asked about the criticism of the Capitol Police's response, Pittman said it has "created an overwhelming opportunity for this agency to improve and get better." He added Pittman "says she accepts the IG's assessments but argues they were aware of the intelligence." He also reported Pittman "acknowledges her department is about 200 officers below the authorized strength and remains reliant on the National Guard as it works to recruit new officers."

Independent Investigation Of Capitol Riot Facing Difficult Odds.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Demirjian, 10.52M) reports "an independent investigation into the Jan. 6 insurrection is facing long odds, as bipartisan resolve to hold the perpetrators and instigators accountable erodes, and Republicans face sustained pressure to disavow that it was supporters of former president Donald Trump who attacked the U.S. Capitol." House Speaker Pelosi announced last week that she had drafted a new proposal for an outside commission to examine the causes of the riot, but, "in a sign of how delicate the political climate has become, she has yet to share her recommendations with Republican leaders, who shot down her initial approach." The Post says "rank-and-file Republicans have been forced to walk a political tightrope, as a majority still believe the election was stolen from Trump," who "still wields outsize influence in the GOP, which is presently the minority party in Washington but is within striking distance of making a comeback in 2022 – if leaders can hold their ranks together."

[Vox](#) (4/18, 1.88M) reports Pelosi sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to House Democrats Friday in which she "renewed her call for a congressional commission to investigate" the riot. Pelosi wrote, "Compromise has been necessary; now, we must agree on the scope, composition and resources necessary to seek and find the truth. ... It is my hope that we can reach agreement very soon. At the same time, committees in the House and Senate have been holding and planning hearings, which will be a resource to the commission."

Some Charged In Capitol Riot Claim They Were There As Journalists. The [AP](#) (4/18, Kunzelman, Billeaud) reports supporters of former President Donald Trump "thoroughly document[ed] their actions and words in videos and social media posts" during the Jan. 6 riot at the US Capitol. Some of them now "are claiming they were only there to record history as journalists, not to join a deadly insurrection." At least eight people charged in the riot "have identified themselves as a journalist or a documentary filmmaker, including three people arrested this month, according to an Associated Press review of court records in nearly 400 federal cases." According to the AP, "experts say" it is "unlikely that any of the self-proclaimed journalists can mount a viable defense on the First Amendment's free speech grounds. ... They face long odds if video captured them acting more like rioters than impartial observers."

PROTESTS

Demonstrators Nationwide Protest Against Police Brutality.

[The Hill](#) (4/17, Castronuovo, 5.69M) reports, "Hundreds of protesters marched throughout Washington, D.C., on Friday evening, with some engaging in clashes with police, calling for an end to police brutality following a series of fatal shootings and as the end of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin's murder trial nears." Protestors at first assembled "for a rally at Black Lives Matter Plaza in downtown D.C. before walking through the streets and chanting the names of individuals killed by police, including 20-year-old Daunte Wright, who was fatally shot by a police officer during a traffic stop last week, and 13-year-old Adam Toledo, who was shot and killed after a police officer allegedly saw the boy holding a gun."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/17, Rubenstein, 2.44M) reports, "Hundreds of people marched through downtown Oakland on Friday night to demonstrate against" the shootings of Wright and Toledo, "with some breaking away from the main group to smash windows, set fires and spraypaint red anarchy symbols, according to police statements and video footage."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (4/16, Cline, Flaccus) reports police in Portland, Oregon "said Saturday they arrested four people after declaring a riot Friday night when protesters smashed windows, burglarized businesses and set multiple fires during demonstrations that started after police fatally shot a man while responding to reports of a person with a gun." The vandalism "also was part of vigils and demonstrations already planned for the night in the name of people killed in police shootings nationwide."

Bloomberg Analysis: Groundwork For Chauvin Appeal "Has Been Laid." A [Bloomberg](#) (4/17, Lopez, Earls, 3.57M) analysis says, "The groundwork for appealing a possible conviction of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer accused of killing George Floyd, has been laid even before jurors weigh the charges." Ex-public defender Christa Groshek said, "The defense has really been positioning Chauvin's case for an appeal from day one," with Groshek also saying, "I think there are a tremendous amount of options they will have on appeal." Bloomberg adds that closing arguments are slated to commence Monday, and jurors will subsequently "deliberate Chauvin's fate." He "is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter, all of which have different standards of proof."

NYTimes Analysis: Dozens Of Police Killings Have Occurred Since Testimony In Chauvin Trial Began. A [New York Times](#) (4/17, A1, Eligon, Hubler, 20.6M) analysis says that since testimony in Chauvin's trial commenced on March 29, no less than 64 individuals "have died at the hands of law enforcement nationwide, with Black and Latino people representing more than half of the dead. As of Saturday, the average was more than three killings a day."

AP Analysis: Black Americans "Facing A Collective Sense Of Grief And Trauma." An [AP](#) (4/17, Stafford) analysis says, "Many Black Americans are facing a collective sense of grief and trauma that has grown more profound with the loss of each life at the hands of police in America. Some see themselves and their children reflected in the victims of police violence, heightening the grief they feel." The AP adds that the racial trauma affecting Black Americans is "built upon centuries of oppressive systems and racist practices that are deeply embedded within the fabric of the nation."

Capehart: Black Americans "Live Under Siege." [Washington Post](#) (4/17, 10.52M) columnist Jonathan Capehart writes, "There is no one way to be Black in America, but there is one way we live while Black in America. No matter our gender, age or socioeconomic status, we are viewed as threats. As a result, we live under siege."

Protesters Demonstrate In Chicago Following Release Of Body Cam Video From Police Shooting Of 13-Year-Old.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/16, Keilman, 2.03M) reports hundreds of people "gathered in Logan Square Park on Friday evening to demand justice for 13-year-old Adam Toledo and all victims of police violence, according to organizers." The Tribune describes rally, which "was the first major demonstration against the Chicago Police Department since the city released the troubling video of Toledo's killing Thursday," as "peaceful but passionate."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/16, story 3, 2:49, Muir, 6.23M), Alex Perez reported that in the video, "you can see Officer Eric Stillman chasing the two suspects, pushing one to the ground, running after the other. The officer yelling to see the suspect's hands. Toledo's right hand momentarily out of view as the boy pivots, turns around and raises both hands. Officer Stillman fires a single shot. Toledo's hands appear to be empty when he was struck. A freeze-frame image shows Toledo holding what appears to be a gun in that right hand. Authorities say it was less than one second from when the weapon seems to disappear, and when the boy is shot in the chest. This nearby security camera capturing the heart-racing moments before the shooting. The 13-year-old allegedly tossing the handgun behind this wooden fence, where it was recovered by police. The firearm seen on the officer's bodycam. Stillman, immediately after the shooting, calling for an ambulance and beginning CPR. Appearing to be emotional, later sitting on the ground, another officer consoling him. Stillman, seen here in a video for a toy giveaway, joined the force in 2015. He has three complaints and four use of force reports on his

record, but has never been disciplined. The police union lawyer representing Stillman defending his actions, saying he was, quote, 'left with no other option.' But the Toledo family attorney says the video speaks for itself." On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/16, story 3, 1:35, Holt, 4.83M), Rehema Ellis reported, "No charges have been filed against the officer, who's been placed on administrative duty."

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Bump, 10.52M) says that "of the 19 other children under the age of 16 shot and killed by police in the past six years, most were the police officers' intended targets." While Toledo "wasn't armed, eight of the 22 children under the age of 16 who were fatally shot by police since 2015 were armed with guns when they were shot, according to Post data. Another four were holding other kinds of weapons, like knives. Three were holding toy guns, like 13-year-old Tyre King, fatally shot in Columbus, Ohio, in 2016. One was driving a car, and the others, including the three youngest, weren't armed at all." The Post adds, "The number of young people shot to death by police since 2015 is relatively small, so we should be cautious in drawing too many conclusions from the pool. It is worth noting, however, that these kids are mostly non-White. (Adam was Hispanic.)"

Death Of Toledo "Renews The Anguish" Among Chicagoans "Still Pained" By 2014 Killing Of McDonald. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Bosman, 20.6M) reports, "Chicagoans reacted with horror and grief to body-camera video released on Thursday that showed the killing of Adam Toledo," 13, on March 29. The footage shows Toledo being pursued "down an alley by a police officer, who orders him to stop and show his hands. An analysis of the video, slowing down events that took place in the space of a second, shows the teenager then appearing to toss a handgun nearby and raise his hands in the air, just before the officer shoots him in the chest." The Times adds, "For Chicagoans who are still pained by the shooting death of Laquan McDonald by the police in 2014, Adam's death renews the anguish, particularly in heavily Black and Latino neighborhoods where residents have long said they are unfairly targeted by the police."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 6, 1:55, Johnson, 3.89M), correspondent Janai Norman reported Toledo's family is mourning Toledo, "telling ABC News he was a kind and funny kid who loved to laugh, sharing never-before-seen pictures of" him. Norman added that officer Eric Stillman, who fired the fatal shot, "joined the force in 2014. He's had three complaints of misconduct but no disciplinary action and no use of force reports indicating he fired his weapon before this shooting. And the officer's attorney says he faced a life-threatening situation and left with no other option before opening fire."

Hundreds Call For Accountability Over Toledo Killing. On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 5, 1:17, Díaz-Balart, 3.44M), correspondent Ron Allen reported that in Chicago, hundreds called for accountability after viewing the body-camera footage of Toledo being shot. Toledo family attorney Adeena Weiss Ortiz said, "He said show me your hands. The child did and there was nothing in his hands when he got shot." According to Allen, "Stillman's attorney says the boy was with an older gang member just after a drive-by shooting and the officer fired, fearing the boy was armed." In a brief broadcast on the demonstrations in Chicago, the [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 4, 0:12, Diaz, 1.74M) reported they "were mostly peaceful, but there were some clashes with police."

WSJournal Analysis: Toledo Shooting Highlighted Problem Of How Chicago Children Are Being Fatally Shot. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) analysis said the shooting of Toledo highlighted Chicago's problem of how its children are being fatally shot.

Chicago Mayor Says She Will Not Resign Over Toledo Shooting. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/18, Pratt, Byrne, 2.03M) reports Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (D) on Sunday "blasted unsubstantiated social media chatter as 'homophobic, racist and misogynistic rumors' and indicated she is not resigning." The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (4/18, Schuba, 970K) reports the claim that Lightfoot "planned to step down Sunday was apparently fueled by a now-deleted tweet sent by Ja'Mal Green, an activist and former mayoral candidate who continues to call for

her resignation," though [Fox News](#) (4/18, Fordham, 23.99M) reports on its website that Green "seemed slightly apologetic for spreading rumors that Lightfoot intended to resign."

[CNN](#) (4/18, Bradner, 89.21M) reports on its website that "following last week's release of video of the police killing of 13-year-old Adam Toledo, the mayor faces a new round of questions about how Chicago Police Department policies and oversight will change – and why she hasn't yet delivered on her promise."

More Than 130 Individuals Arrested As Demonstrations Over Wright Killing Continue.

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 6, 1:00, Allen, 3.44M), correspondent Ron Allen reported that in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, demonstrations against Daunte Wright's killing commenced "with no curfew in effect for the first time. But authorities say the peaceful gathering changed." Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington said, "We started to see individuals dressed with helmets, with respirators, and gas masks. We were notified that a part of the fence had been breached." According to Allen, "Dozens of officers arresting more than 130 people. The most in six-straight nights of clashes with worried-nearby residents caught in the middle." The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/17, story 3, 0:21, Diaz, 1.74M) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

NYTimes Analysis: Air Fresheners In Car Rearview Mirrors "May Be Treated As Illegal In A Majority Of States." A [New York Times](#) (4/17, Baker, Bogel-Burroughs, 20.6M) analysis says, "the air fresheners that dangle from rearview mirrors" in cars "may be treated as illegal in a majority of states, which have laws prohibiting objects near the windshield that can obstruct motorists' views. They are part of a suite of low-level offenses, such as tinted windows or broken taillights, that civil rights advocates complain have become common pretexts for traffic stops that too often selectively target people of color." The encounter that resulted in Wright's killing "began when officers initiated a traffic stop and raised the issue of a hanging air freshener, according to Mr. Wright's mother." Pete Orput, "the Washington County attorney, said officers had noticed an expired registration tab on Mr. Wright's license plate and decided to pull his car over. One of the officers later noted the air freshener hanging from the mirror, which was a violation of the law, Mr. Orput said."

Brooklyn Center, MN Officials Criticizing Police Response To Protesters.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Richmond, Ibrahim) reports Brooklyn Center, Minnesota Mayor Mike Elliott and other "elected leaders in the Minneapolis suburb where a police officer fatally shot Daunte Wright want officers to scale back their tactics amid nightly protests, leaving some law enforcement called in to assist asking whether the city still wants their help." The Post adds officers on Friday night "fired irritants into a crowd of several hundred after part of an outer fence was opened. Demonstrators dissipated shortly after 10 p.m. when officers quickly advanced. Flash bangs and sponge grenades were fired into the crowd, and several protesters who neared a group of officers were pepper sprayed. Some demonstrators scrambled through yards and over backyard fences to evade a perimeter authorities set up for a block around the police department."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Craig, Foster-Frau, 10.52M) in a more than 2,300-word article says the "unrest" in Brooklyn Center "offers [a] warning to other U.S. suburbs, experts say." The Post reports "demographers and sociologists" highlight "the growing ethnic and economic diversity that continues to sweep into America's suburbs, making those communities the new front line in the nation's culture clashes over racism and policing." The Post adds that as "immigrants and people of color move deeper into the suburbs, increasingly shattering historical stereotypes of White, picket-fence communities, they are redefining politics and contributing to a rise in non-White officeholders. But even as the political leadership of suburban governments becomes more diverse, scholars say the police forces and other local government institutions often lag, creating new flash points for tension among residents."

Minneapolis National Guard Members Injured In Drive-By Shooting.

A 2,700-word [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Craig, Bailey, 10.52M) article says the response by Brooklyn Center police to the protests over the fatal shooting of Daunte Wright "has elevated tensions in neighboring Minneapolis, a city already on edge as it braces for a verdict in the murder trial of Derek Chauvin, the former police officer accused of killing George Floyd." The Post says two members of the Minnesota National Guard "were injured when someone fired on a security team made up of troops and the Minneapolis Police Department in a drive-by shooting early Sunday," but not seriously injured, "according to the Guard's leader, Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke," though he "said the incident 'highlights the volatility and tension in our communities right now.'" The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/18, Hyatt, 855K) similarly reports on the injured national guard members.

Meagan Fitzgerald said on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 3, 2:20, Snow, 6.41M) that Minneapolis is "on high alert, windows boarded up. National Guard members on nearly every block, preparing for unrest as the case...comes to a close." Elwyn Lopez reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/18, lead story, 3:20, Davis, 4.85M) that the Twin Cities are "bracing for a verdict," with "thousands of National Guardsmen coming in to assist local authorities. And schools in Minneapolis moving to remote learning for part of this week." Lopez added that the jury "will be sequestered after closing arguments on Monday. The judge telling them how much to consider to pack for that, he said if I were you, I would plan for long, and hope for short."

Skyler Henry reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, lead story, 3:15, Duncan, 1.24M) that they jury will have "no smartphones, no computers, and in some cases according to some legal experts that we've spoken to, that means no TV as well." Henry added that "in terms of recent cases that have involved Minneapolis police and fatal shootings, juries have deliberated in as quickly as two days and have taken as long as a week, and of course, the jury has enough time to come up with what they feel is appropriate for each of the charges against Derek Chauvin."

Alleged Police, FBI Infiltration Of Portland Protests Raises Concerns.

[KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (4/16, Iboshi, 345K) reports from Portland, Oregon, "An unnamed informant. Plainclothes FBI agents. Tactics typically used in drug cases or serious crimes are being used by police monitoring protests in Portland, according to court records." KGW-TV adds, "Activists and civil rights attorneys fear this police surveillance may violate the right to free speech - a risk they worry outweighs any potential benefit. 'I think it has a potential chilling impact on First Amendment speech,' said J. Ashlee Albies, a civil rights attorney in Portland." Albies "worries the tactic may deter law abiding citizens from participating in demonstrations and undermine trust between law enforcement and the community." On April 13, Portland police "declared a riot after demonstrators threw fireworks and set a fire at the Portland Police Association building. Officers arrested one person, 19-year-old Alma Raven-Guido. Court records later revealed that an unnamed informant within the crowd helped identify Raven-Guido, who faces charges of arson, criminal mischief and riot."

Group: Albuquerque Police Department Asked DEA For Protest-Related Help.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (4/16, Kaplan, 188K) reported, "Last summer, as the movement against racial injustice swept the country, officials in the Albuquerque Police Department asked the Drug Enforcement Administration for the assistance of special agents to do undercover operations and surveillance at protests, according to" the nonprofit, government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics. In response to questions on Friday, "both the mayor's office and Chief of Police Harold Medina vehemently denied knowing about the request for assistance from the DEA." The Journal highlighted that federal agents were deployed to Albuquerque last year as part of Operation Legend.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Senators Call On Biden To Close Guantánamo.

[NPR](#) (4/16, Pfeiffer, 3.69M) reported that, "in a letter to the White House, 24 senators said the US military prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba 'has damaged America's reputation, fueled anti-Muslim bigotry, and weakened the US' ability to counter terrorism and fight for human rights and the rule of law around the world.'" Two dozen US senators are "urging President Biden to shut it down quickly and find new homes for the 40 men remaining there." Many of the detainees have been "confined at Guantánamo for nearly two decades without being tried or charged, and some have been cleared for release but are still being held." Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin and 23 of his Democratic-voting colleagues "outlined immediate steps they believe the Administration should take to close the secretive, deteriorating island detention facility."

[Fox News](#) (4/16, 23.99M) reported Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said, "The Democrats' obsession with bringing terrorists into Americans' backyards is bizarre, misguided, and dangerous." Cornyn "said Republicans would fight Guantanamo's closing 'tooth and nail,' just as they did under Obama." Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin "said in his Senate confirmation he supported shuttering the prison's doors as well."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

DOJ Investigating If "Russiagate" Inquirer Kash Patel Leaked Classified Information.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (4/16, Chaitin, 888K) reported the Justice Department is "investigating whether Kash Patel, a former high-ranking Trump Administration official who was instrumental in revealing secrets behind the 'Russiagate' controversy, improperly disclosed classified information." The alleged inquiry was "revealed in a column Friday by Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, who cited 'two knowledgeable sources who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the probe.'" The sources "said the investigation began this year with a complaint submitted by an intelligence agency, which was not identified." The column "said the sources would not provide further details, and Patel could not be reached for comment."

Russia Retaliates After Imposition Of New US Sanctions.

[Reuters](#) (4/16, Osborn, Balmforth) reports Russia on Friday "asked 10 U.S. diplomats to leave the country in retaliation for Washington's expulsion of the same number of Russian diplomats over alleged malign activity and suggested the U.S. ambassador return home for consultations." Reuters describes the action as "part of a broader retaliatory package...approved by President Vladimir Putin" in response "to an array of U.S. government sanctions imposed on Moscow a day earlier, including curbs to its sovereign debt market."

In addition, the [AP](#) (4/16, Isachenkov) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced the addition of "eight U.S. officials to its sanctions list," and Russia will "move to restrict and stop the activities of U.S. nongovernment organizations from interfering in Russia's politics." The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Dixon, 10.52M) reports that AG Garland, FBI Director Wray, DHS Secretary Mayorkas and DNI Haines were among those sanctioned by the Kremlin.

However, the [New York Times](#) (4/16, Kramer, 20.6M) says, "The response, mostly mirroring the diplomatic rebuke by the United States from the day before, suggested the Russian government did not intend an escalation that could worsen already dismal relations between the countries." The Times adds that with the Russian response "largely limited to the expulsions and travel bans, it appears the Kremlin does not intend to raise the diplomatic stakes and may remain open to the invitation to a summit meeting, possibly in a European

country sometime over the summer, that Mr. Biden extended to...Putin this week." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Simmons, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and a brief [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/16, story 8, 0:30, Muir, 6.23M) segment provided similar coverage.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (4/16, Roth, 5.53M) reports that Russian diplomats "have lashed out at the UK for joining the US in condemning Russia's international cyber-espionage efforts, including elections interference and the SolarWinds hack." The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Higgins, Goeij, 20.6M) reports that Polan "also expelled Russia diplomats in recent days, ordering three to leave on Thursday in what Warsaw said was a gesture of 'solidarity' with the United States."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Simmons, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) also reports on the Russian reaction, as does [The Hill](#) (4/16, 5.69M) and [Fox News](#) (4/16, McFall, 23.99M), among others.

Analysts View New US Sanctions On Russia As "Mostly Symbolic." Citing economists, [CNBC](#) (4/16, Smith, 7.34M) reports on its website that "new U.S. sanctions on Russia are 'mostly symbolic' and will have minimal impact on markets and the macroeconomic outlook." Likewise, [Axios](#) (4/15, Basu, Swan, 1.26M), in a post titled, "Biden's Russian Sanctions Likely To Achieve Little," says, "Despite bold talk from top administration officials, there's little reason to think the Russia sanctions...will do anything to alter...Putin's behavior or calculus." Axios points out that Biden "did not announce sanctions targeting Nord Stream 2, a nearly complete Russian-German pipeline that will bypass Ukraine and deliver Russian gas straight to the European Union." Axios adds, "The reality is nobody expected him to sanction an ally - Germany - which is the type of action that might actually stop the pipeline from being completed." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Donati, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) article titled "Biden Faces New Pressure to Act On Russia's Nord Stream 2 Gas Pipeline" provides similar coverage.

Russia Sanctions May Impact Space Cooperation. [POLITICO Space](#) (4/16) reported Russia's reaction to recent US sanctions might "impact the relationship between the two nations' civil space programs." Jeffrey Edmonds, a former director for Russia on the National Security Council said, "It is not beyond the imagination that at some point Russia could sever all space cooperation with the United States as a show of its discontent with US policy. I see it as low probability at this point but definitely something worth keeping an eye on. If Russia wants to respond strongly to US actions, it may choose to do so in areas where it sees itself in more peer-to-peer terms, space being one of those." There's precedent, however, "for the close partnership in space operating independently of terrestrial pressures."

More Commentary. Philip Elliott writes for [TIME](#) (4/16, 18.1M) writes that while Russia (and the USSR before it) has long interfered in US elections, in 2016, Russia's "working so openly that year to help ensure Donald's Trump's win was something different." He cites this as the activity really driving the sanctions, adding that where "Biden's aggressive move will act as a deterrent and stop more than 70 years of Russian meddling in U.S. affairs seems doubtful."

Cotton: Intelligence On Russia Bounties "Selectively Leaked" To Aid Biden Campaign.

[Fox News](#) (4/16, 23.99M) reported Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) "told 'The Faulkner Focus' Friday that intelligence about Russia placing bounties on US soldiers in Afghanistan was 'selectively leaked' to the media last year to help the Biden campaign." A senior Biden Administration official "said Thursday that the IC only had 'low to moderate' confidence in the story." Cotton said, "Joe Biden owes President Trump an apology. Joe Biden used that line of attack multiple times in the campaign to include in the presidential debate. I remember when it first surfaced last summer, I was open-minded to it, it sounds like something that Vladimir Putin and the Russians would do. But I sit on the Intelligence Committee. I reviewed it carefully, and again, I could not see where these reports in the media were coming from."

DNI Highlights Top US Challenges In Annual Threat Assessment.

[Air Force Magazine](#) (4/17) reported DNI Avril Haines "said in the ICs annual assessment of top threats facing the US that China aims to displace the US as the world's preeminent superpower; Russia is 'pushing back' against the US, sometimes with force; Iran is a 'regional menace' and North Korea is a 'disruptive player,' and will be for years to come." The 31-page unclassified threat assessment "calls China the 'pacing threat' for the US – militarily, politically, and economically --noting that the other three nations remain active, potent adversaries, particularly in cyber warfare." The DNI "said the Chinese use coercive foreign loans and 'vaccine diplomacy,' along with expansive territorial claims, to compete vigorously with the US for world influence."

Finnish Startup ICEYE Collaborating With In-Q-Tel.

[Breaking Defense](#) (4/16, Hitchens) reported Finnish startup ICEYE is "partnering with the IC's venture capital arm In-Q-Tel as US government demand for SAR satellite data skyrockets." Eric Jensen, president of ICEYE US said, "We are now on contract with multiple customers, both on the defense and Intel side and on the civil side. We've had humbling reception, I would say, amongst all those sectors. There is very clearly an unmet demand for complimentary commercial SAR here in the States." Simon Davidson, managing partner, In-Q-Tel, and EVP, IQT Emerge, said in a press release yesterday announcing the partnership, "ICEYE's world-class SAR satellites and their market-leading global coverage allows for capture despite time of day and weather conditions. We are pleased and excited to bring this technology to our government partners." ICEYE also announced that it "has built a US manufacturing plant in Irvine, Calif. to boost its satellite-making capacity to meet the rapid growth in its business base."

Nunes Warns Intel Chiefs Against Targeting Americans.

The [Washington Times](#) (4/16, Scarborough, 626K) reports Republicans are "putting the Biden intelligence chiefs on notice that their agencies are moving dangerously close to spying on Americans in the US." They raised "concerns on Thursday at a HPSCI hearing featuring President Biden's five top intelligence officials, including DNI Haines and FBI Director Wray." Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), the panel's top Republican, said, "The Democrats see political benefits in characterizing wide swaths of American citizens particularly Republicans and conservatives as politically suspect, politically violent and deserving of government surveillance. However, I will remind those assembled here today that our intelligence community exists solely to counteract foreign threats." He added, "As for the leaders of the intelligence community, I hope you plan on spending a reasonable amount of time in upcoming years on activities other than investigating conservatives and spying on Republican presidential campaigns."

CIA Intelligence Network In Afghanistan Likely Will Be Dismantled With Withdrawal.

[CNN](#) (4/18, Cohen, Williams, Starr, 89.21M) reports President Joe Biden's planned withdrawal from Afghanistan includes "an intense unraveling of the extensive intelligence and covert action network that the US has built there over the two decades since 9/11 as part of the global war on terror." The current plan includes the "removal of the hundreds of special operations forces not publicly acknowledged by the US government but known to be there," according to two defense officials and a senior US official with direct knowledge of the situation. Most, if not all, CIA operators "working in Afghanistan are almost certain to leave as well," current and former officials told CNN. Without the support of a conventional military presence, "on-the-ground intelligence gathering becomes significantly more difficult – and more dangerous." Neither the "removal of special operations forces nor the likely removal of intelligence operators has been previously reported."

State's Disinformation-Fighting Arm Tapping AI For Support.

[NextGov](#) (4/16) reported emerging technologies – and partnerships promoting their use – “have proven instrumental for the State Department’s Global Engagement Center, a hub that steers federal efforts to counter state-sponsored propaganda and disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining the US.” The GEC’s Acting Coordinator Daniel Kimmage said Thursday, “Artificial intelligence and the tools that it offers are really helping us to understand what’s happening in the environment, and to identify coordinated activity. There’s obviously a much broader range of activity across the State Department, but for us it’s a powerful way to better understand what’s happening in the environment, and identify coordinated activity.” At an event hosted by Foreign Policy, Kimmage “offered a glimpse into how technology is impacting and enabling GEC’s work, particularly as online disinformation campaigns led by US adversaries grow in sophistication.”

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Police Identify Austin Gunman As Former Sheriff’s Detective Accused Of Child Sexual Assault.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Shammass, Thebault, 10.52M) reports the FBI and US Marshals Service are assisting in the manhunt “for a former law enforcement officer who allegedly opened fire at an apartment complex in Austin on Sunday, killing three people before fleeing.” The Post adds that Austin police “identified the suspect as Stephen Nicholas Broderick, 41, a former detective at the Travis County Sheriff’s Office who is considered armed and dangerous,” but the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/18, Martínez-Cabrera, Plohetski, Autullo, Odam, Subscription Publication, 261K) reports interim Austin Police Chief Joe Chacon “said police are no longer classifying the incident as an active shooter situation,” as “preliminary information is that Broderick knew the victims and that the shooting was targeted to them.” [Fox News](#) (4/18, Fordham, 23.99M) reports online that police “said that the three lifeless bodies were all adults, including two Hispanic females, and one Black male.”

While [CNN](#) (4/18, Silverman, Elassar, 89.21M) reports on its website that his motive “is currently unknown,” the [AP](#) (4/18, Vertuno) says Travis County District Attorney Jose Garza “said in a statement that Broderick had been arrested for sexual assault of a child last June and was released on \$50,000 bond.” The AP adds Garza “said that the district attorney’s office on Sunday filed a motion to revoke that bond and is actively supporting law enforcement as they pursue Broderick.” The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/18, Keomoungkhoun, 772K) says a spokesperson for the Travis County sheriff’s office “told the American-Statesman that Broderick was a property crimes detective and resigned after the arrest.” The [New York Post](#) (4/18, Fitz-Gibbon, 7.45M) and the [New York Daily News](#) (4/18, Feldman, 2.51M), as well as the [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 9, 0:15, Davis, 4.85M) and [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, lead story, 1:35, Snow, 6.41M) segments, provided similar coverage.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/18, Blackman, 982K) reports the shooting “rattled the capital city and a nation already on edge, coming amid a string of mass shootings across the country.” Likewise, [USA Today](#) (4/18, Martínez-Cabrera, Bacon, 12.7M) reports “the rampage was the latest of several shooting attacks across the nation,” but President Biden’s calls “for tighter gun restrictions to combat the carnage have drawn little support in Texas.” According to USA Today, “The shooting comes two days after the Texas House of Representatives approved and sent to the state Senate a bill that would allow anyone at least 21 years old to carry a handgun without a permit.”

Wisconsin Police Arrest Suspect For Shooting At Kenosha Bar

The [Kenosha \(WI\) News](#) (4/18, Smith, 91K) reports the Kenosha Sheriff’s Department on Sunday arrested a suspect “for a shooting that left three men dead and three injured in a shooting early Sunday morning at the Somers House Tavern near Kenosha,” and announced

they "will be referring at least one charge of first-degree intentional homicide to the Kenosha County district attorney with additional charges pending further information." The News adds Sheriff's Sgt. David Wright "said no additional information would be released on the suspect Sunday afternoon. But according to Kenosha County Jail records, a 24-year-old homeless man was booked into the jail at 5:19 p.m. Sunday on a charge of first-degree homicide. Court records indicated that the man previously had a Racine address."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Beachum, 10.52M) reports the sheriff's department on Sunday morning had "described the suspect as a Black male over 6 feet tall wearing a light-colored hooded sweatshirt," but "didn't confirm if the person of interest with pending charges was the suspect described in their previous statements." The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (4/18, Carson, 844K) reports that according to Kenosha County Sheriff David Beth, the suspected shooter "was a patron who 'wasn't cooperating with the management' at the tavern," and while the man left the bar, he "returned a short time later, about 12:45 a.m., and began shooting." Beth added the shooter "'knew who the victims were' and targeted them." The [AP](#) (4/18) reports Beth "said he believed at least one handgun was used." [Axios](#) (4/18, Rummler, 1.26M) and the [Fox News](#) (4/18, Stimson, 23.99M) website provide similar coverage.

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (4/18, Ramzy, Kwai, 20.6M) describes the shooting as "the latest instance of gun violence in a nation where such bloodshed has grown wearily commonplace." [USA Today](#) (4/18, Carson, Bacon, 12.7M) reports mass shootings "have claimed four or more American lives every week for the past six weeks, leaving dozens dead and several more people wounded." USA Today adds that Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) "called it a 'senseless tragedy' and said he and his wife are 'thinking of the families and loved ones affected and the entire Kenosha community as they grieve and grapple with yet another tragic incident of gun violence.'"

[CNN](#) (4/18, Spells, Yan, 89.21M) reports on its website that the US "has suffered at least 47 mass shootings since March 16, when eight people were killed at three Atlanta-area spas."

Florida Nurse Charged For Threatening To Kill Harris.

The [Miami Herald](#) (4/16, Weaver, 647K) reports that "a longtime nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital has been charged in Miami federal court with making threats to kill Vice President Kamala Harris, which she recorded in a series of videos she sent to her husband in prison." According to the Herald, "Federal authorities say the threats from Niviane Petit Phelps, a 39-year-old mother of three who lives in Miami Gardens, were serious enough that she practiced at a gun range and applied for a concealed weapons permit." The Herald says Phelps, "who is Black...threatened to kill Harris in the videos because she believes the vice president 'isn't actually Black,' according to the complaint by a Secret Service agent, who spoke with her before her arrest this month."

Maxwell Has To Stand Trial After Judge Turns Down Dismissal Request.

[Bloomberg](#) (4/16, Hurtado, 3.57M) reports Ghislaine Maxwell "must stand trial on sex-trafficking charges after a U.S. judge rejected her dismissal request, paving the way for a trial that could begin as soon as July." Maxwell "is accused of recruiting girls for sex for former boyfriend Jeffrey Epstein in a scheme that ran from 1994 to 2004."

Family Of Tamir Rice Asks Garland To Reopen Probe Into Rice's Killing.

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Benner, 20.6M) reports, "The family of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old boy who was shot and killed in 2014 by the Cleveland police, has asked Attorney General Merrick B. Garland to reopen the Justice Department's investigation into the shooting, which was closed in December after the department said it could not charge the officers." In a letter to Garland from Friday, attorneys representing Rice's mother said, "The election of President Biden, your appointment, and your commitment to the rule of law, racial justice, and police reform give Tamir's family hope that the chance for accountability is not lost forever." The

attorneys added, "We write on their behalf to request that you reopen this investigation and convene a grand jury to consider charges against the police officers who killed Tamir."

Medical Expert: Police Actions Did Not Cause Prude's Death.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Sisak) reports, "Prosecutors overseeing a grand jury investigation into the death of Daniel Prude last year in Rochester, New York, undercut the case for criminal charges with testimony from a medical expert who said three police officers who held Prude to the ground until he stopped breathing didn't do anything wrong." Dr. Gary Vilke "told the grand jury that Prude, a 41-year-old Black man, died of a heart attack caused by the medical phenomenon known as excited delirium." Transcripts disclosed to the public on Friday indicate that Vilke "said the officers' actions, which included placing a mesh hood over Prude's head, had no impact on his breathing."

Charges Still Possible For Officers Who Restrained Prude. The [AP](#) (4/17) reports, "Newly released grand jury transcripts shed more light on why police officers who restrained Daniel Prude avoided criminal charges in his death, but the city of Rochester and the officers could still be held accountable." Disciplinary charges remain a possibility for "the officers, lawyers for Prude's estate have filed a civil lawsuit and a federal civil rights action also is possible."

Fairfax County, Virginia Prosecutors Move To Dismiss Hundreds Of Convictions Stemming From Work Or Testimony Of Ex-Officer.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Jackman, 10.52M) reports, "Fairfax County prosecutors are moving to throw out more than 400 criminal convictions based on the testimony or work of a former patrol officer who is accused of stealing drugs from the police property room, planting drugs on innocent people and stopping motorists without legal basis, court filings show." The Post adds that a Fairfax judge on Friday indicated "he was inclined to vacate felony drug and gun convictions against a former D.C. firefighter and order him released from prison next week after serving nearly two years because of the actions of former officer Jonathan A. Freitag."

The [AP](#) (4/17) and [DCist](#) (4/16, Austermuhle, 18K) also covered this story. Online coverage was run by [WRC-TV](#) Washington (4/16, Wilder, 301K), [WTTG-TV](#) Washington (4/16, Fox, 168K), [WUSA-TV](#) Washington (4/16, Leshan, 502K), and [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (4/16, 164K).

WPost Analysis Discusses Fatal Shooting In Maryland By Off-Duty Officer.

A [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Morse, 10.52M) analysis discusses the fatal shooting of Dominique Williams and James Johnson by an off-duty Pentagon police officer, which occurred while Williams and Johnson, along with their friend Michael Thomas, attempted to flee in Thomas' Lexus after the officer confronted them while they were breaking into cars in Takoma Park, Maryland. According to the Post, "The unfolding terror and chaos, as described by Thomas in recent interviews, remains a largely untold part of a story of the encounter involving off-duty officer David Hall Dixon, who was charged with two counts of murder in the shooting that left Johnson and Williams dead."

Wisconsin Man Drops Extradition Appeal In Whitmer Kidnapping Plot Case.

The [Portage \(WI\) Daily Register](#) (4/16, 49K) reports, "A Wisconsin Dells area man accused of plotting terrorism against the governor of Michigan has dropped an appeal against extradition." The Daily Register adds, "On Friday, documents were filed in court behalf of Brian Higgins, 52, notifying the court that he will drop his challenge to a request to extradite him from Wisconsin to Michigan to face a charge of providing material support to a terrorist act. The FBI alleges several men were involved in a right-wing militia plot to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and try her for treason of their own accord in light of the governor's restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic." Higgins "was specifically accused of providing use of night-vision

goggles and using a dash cam to surveil the governor's vacation home, and Wisconsin and Michigan officials requested that he be transferred to Michigan last October."

Connecticut Man Faces Federal Arson Charges After Allegedly Tossing Molotov Cocktail At Officers.

[WNBC-TV](#) New York (4/18, Dienst, Miller, 289K) reports, "A traffic stop in Brooklyn turned violent Saturday morning when a driver pulled over for running a red light hurled a Molotov cocktail at police, the New York Police Department said," and "that man will now face federal arson charges that could potentially land him in prison for as long as 40 years." WNBC-TV adds, "Law enforcement sources identified Lionel Virgile as the driver accused of evading police twice and throwing potentially harmful substances at several officers in East Flatbush. He's was being held in federal custody on Sunday and is scheduled to make a virtual appearance in federal court on Monday. The 44-year-old Bridgeport, Connecticut, man was driving through the borough when he blew through a red light, catching the attention of police officers."

[WABC-AM](#) New York (4/18, 18K) reports, "The NYPD says moments later, in the vicinity of 5505 Snyder Avenue, after officers requested additional units, the 2000 Lincoln Town Car was stopped by again by officers. 77WABC has learned from police the when Virgile was pulled over again, he stepped out of his car with a bottle, filled with liquid and flames on top, and then threw the object at the marked police vehicle. It then bounced off the windshield and shattered onto the ground. Virgile then allegedly went back into his vehicle and continued westbound on Snyder Avenue, before he then collided with a parked, unoccupied SUV according to police just about a block away. Authorities say at that point, officers approached the vehicle and took Virgile into custody without incident."

Federal Prosecutors Confirm 2016 Decision Not To Pursue Jeffrey Epstein.

The [New York Daily News](#) (4/16, Brown, 2.51M) reports, "Manhattan federal prosecutors confirmed in court papers made public Friday that they chose not to pursue Jeffrey Epstein in 2016, with one former assistant U.S. attorney saying she 'felt horrible' after learning of Epstein's abuse of the criminal justice system in Florida. The disclosure...came in a 212-page filing responding to Ghislaine Maxwell's legal challenges to an indictment charging her with grooming underage Epstein victims in the mid-1990s and lying under oath." The Daily News "exclusively revealed last year that lawyers for Epstein accusers met with then-Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Kramer in 2016 and urged her to open an investigation of the notorious sex offender. Sources told The News that they also urged her to investigate Maxwell. But prosecutors wrote in the new filing that Epstein was the main subject of the Feb. 29, 2016, sit-down in a conference room at SDNY headquarters in lower Manhattan."

Teacher's Killing Reveals Drug Cartels' Growing Footprint In North Carolina.

The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (4/16, Alexander, Gordon, 443K) reports, "When a Union County school teacher and a member of a brutal Mexican drug cartel were shot to death last week, it sounded like a scene from the television series 'Breaking Bad,'" but "current and former law enforcement officials say it illuminated a broader problem: North Carolina has become a land of opportunity for major drug traffickers." The Observer adds, "Charlotte lawyer Chris Swecker, who spent much of his previous FBI career focused on drug cartels, says North Carolina has everything the Mexican cartels need to carry out their work. 'We have the markets. We have the population centers. We have the interstate network. We have the trucking infrastructure,' said Swecker, who previously served as North Carolina's lead FBI agent and later as an assistant director for the bureau's criminal investigations unit. 'It's a perfect distribution center,' Swecker said."

NYPD Arrests Man With Assault Weapon In Times Square Subway Station.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the New York Police Department on Friday announced officers had arrested an 18-year-old Ohio man with what appeared to be an AK-47 in the Times Square subway station. The Journal adds that while the gun was unloaded, the man had at least one magazine with ammunition.

Two Farmworkers In Fresno, CA Killed In Shooting.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/16, Pinho, 3.37M) reports one man died "and two others were seriously injured after a shooting at a Fresno vineyard Friday morning, authorities said." According to a spokesman for the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, "at least five men were pruning grapes at a vineyard roughly 50 miles southwest of the city, near South Butte and West Chandler avenues, when the shooting started about 7:30 a.m." The motive remains "unclear."

Anti-Prostitution Operation In Columbus Nets 93.

[WHIO-TV](#) Dayton, OH (4/18, 100K) reports on its website 20 "law enforcement agencies partnered to take down a human trafficking ring in the Columbus area arresting 93 people in the process." The operation took place April 14 and 15, and identified 53 victims of human trafficking. The FBI was among participating agencies.

[WCMH-TV](#) Columbus, OH (4/16, Bowers, 352K) reports on its website that 225 people responded to online ads posted by law enforcement.

FBI Investigates Money Missing From New Jersey Prosecutor's Office.

The [Hudson County \(NJ\) Jersey Journal](#) (4/16, D'Auria, 1.55M) reports the FBI "is assisting in the investigation into roughly \$20,000 that went missing from the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office." The FBI "agreed to assist after the New Jersey Attorney General's Office declined last week to conduct the investigation," according to a spokesperson, who added, "We believed it was important to have a layer of independence in the investigation."

San Francisco Daycare Worker Arrested For Child Pornography.

[SFGate \(CA\)](#) (4/16, Bote, 1.9M) reports Jace Wong was arrested April 12 and charged with possession of child pornography. Wong "allegedly posted at least four videos and two images of partially nude young girls in a chatroom" and told an FBI agent on the chat that he filmed the videos himself at the daycare center he works at.

NYPD Officer Charged With Trying To Hire Hitman.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Knowles, 10.52M) reports NYPD officer Valerie Cincinelli pleaded guilty Friday to trying to hire her boyfriend to kill her husband. After the boyfriend informed the FBI, they faked the husband's death and Cincinelli "deleted phone data," leading to charge of obstruction of justice.

The [AP](#) (4/16) reports Cincinelli also wanted to pay to have her boyfriend's 14-year-old daughter killed. Cincinelli "allegedly destroyed two cellphones and the records they contained to block the investigation" in 2019.

The [Long Island \(NY\) Herald](#) (4/16, Smollins, 213K) reports the FBI "staged [Cincinelli's ex-husband] Carvalho's death and...photos of a faux crime scene." It also recorded a call Cincinelli made to her boyfriend "to discuss their alibis and [she] told him to delete his text messages."

Texas Man Arrested For Kidnapping 13-Year-Old Girl.

The [Tyler \(TX\) Morning Telegraph](#) (4/18, Wellerman, 4K) reports Daniel Skipworth of Tyler, TX was arrested Saturday and charged with "kidnapping, trafficking of a child – engaging in sexual conduct, aggravated sexual assault of a child and resisting arrest." The FBI received a tip that day that Skipworth had a kidnapping victim at his address. A 13-year-old girl from Alabama was discovered there.

White Supremacists Charged With Animal Cruelty In Sacrifice Of Ram.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (4/16, Darnell, 1.46M) reports "five more men have been charged" with aggravated animal cruelty for beheading a ram in a "ritual sacrifice" at a training camp for white supremacists in Georgia. The case came to light after "an undercover FBI agent infiltrated the group last year."

FBI Seeking Information From Public In Minnesota Bank Robbery.

[Bring Me The News \(MN\)](#) (4/16, Desmond, 369K) reports "the FBI says reward money 'may be available'" for information leading to the arrest of two people who robbed a bank in Brooklyn Park, MN Sunday. The FBI has released surveillance photos of the robbers. No other information was released.

West Virginia Men Charged As Accessories To Bank Robbery.

[WVNews](#) (4/16) reports David Alan Gill of Gypsy, WV and Blaine Allen Ash of Salem, WV were charged as accessories after the fact to a bank robbery last November, as well "conspiracy to commit money laundering involving the \$69,100 in cash allegedly stolen from the bank." FBI Special Agent Angela Bronson testified that they helped a bank robber who "reportedly wanted the proceeds to hire a hitman to threaten and assault a family court judge and his ex-wife."

Two Arrested In Murders Of South Carolina Transgender Women.

The [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (4/16, Bose, 75K) reports Dontarius Long and Joel Brewer were arrested and charged with the murders of two Black transgender women, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police said Friday. One of the women was found on April 4 and the other April 11, both in hotel rooms. The FBI was among the investigating agencies.

[WCNC-TV](#) Charlotte, NC (4/15, Harper, 168K) reports on its website that Brewer "is charged with two counts of murder, two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, robbery with a dangerous weapon, and conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon." Long "is charged with murder, robbery with a dangerous weapon, and conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon."

[NBC News](#) (4/16, Yurcaba, 4.91M) reports police are "working with the FBI to determine whether the killings could be considered hate crimes."

Reward Offered In 2017 Killings In North Carolina.

[WSPA-TV](#) Greenville, SC (4/16, Liu, 90K) reports on its website that "the FBI is now offering a reward of up to \$40,000 for information" in the cases of three women killed in the same neighborhood of Lumberton, NC in the summer of 2017.

Washington Doctor Charged With Trying To Kidnap Ex-Wife.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/16, 187K) reports Dr. Ronald Craig Ilg of Otis Orchards, WA "is charged with attempted kidnapping" after "the crew of an unnamed international news organization investigating the so-called 'dark web'" informed his potential victim, who is his former wife, that she was a target. The woman called the FBI.

The [Daily Beast](#) (4/18, Connor, 933K) reports Ilg was in Mexico on vacation on the date of the planned attack on his ex-wife. The FBI arrested him at the airport on his return.

California Man Charged With Kidnapping Wife.

The [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (4/16, Licas, 594K) reports Eddy Reyes of Covina, CA was arrested April 15 "after authorities alleged in a federal complaint that he kidnapped" his wife, who disappeared in 2016. Neighbors "said on Thursday that they saw FBI agents with bolt cutters, a circular saw and jackhammer and could hear them being used as investigators searched the home and garage."

FBI Arrests 22 In Connection With Texas Drug Investigation.

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (4/16, Pettaway, 685K) reported, "The FBI arrested 22" Texas residents in connection with an investigation of "drug trafficking in the San Antonio area."

Officials: Twenty From Texas Indicted On Drug Trafficking And Firearms Charges.

The [Temple \(TX\) Daily Telegram](#) (4/16, Garcia, 48K) reported that 20 Texas residents have been "indicted on federal drug trafficking and firearms charges that stem from five separate, but related grand jury indictments." The Daily Telegram added, "The indictments were announced by" several officials, including "FBI Special Agent in Charge Christopher Combs...and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Daniel C. Comeaux." The [Bryan College Station \(TX\) Eagle](#) (4/16, 88K) also covered this story.

Former Mayor Heading To Trial In Marijuana-Related Case.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Durkin Richer) reports Jasiel Correia, a former mayor of Fall River, Massachusetts, "heads to trial this month on charges that he stole more than \$230,000 from investors in a smartphone app he created to pay for things like a Mercedes, casino trips and adult entertainment." Correia is also "accused of convincing his chief of staff to give him half of her salary in order to keep her city job and extorting hundreds of thousands of dollars from marijuana businesses seeking to operate" in Fall River. Correia's trial will be "one of the first to be held in Boston's federal court since the start of the coronavirus pandemic." The [Fall River \(MA\) Herald News](#) (4/16, Medeiros, 71K) published a similar article.

Leader Of Drug Trafficking Organization Gets 45-Year Prison Sentence.

The [Media \(PA\) Patch](#) (4/16, 1.44M) reported that Acting US Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams "said Abdul West...was sentenced to 45 years in prison." West led a drug trafficking organization, "according to federal authorities." The Patch highlighted that the FBI investigated this case.

Drug Suspect Arrested In Pennsylvania.

The [Delaware County \(PA\) Daily Times](#) (4/18, 58K) reports members of an "FBI Violent Crimes Task Force" and other law enforcement workers "arrested three men Thursday while serving a warrant at a home on the 800 block of MacDonald Street" in Chester, Pennsylvania, Among those arrested was Kevin Argro, who "was wanted for the delivery of 50 grams of the powerful synthetic opinion fentanyl."

Massachusetts Drug Suspect Arraigned.

In online coverage, [WWLP-TV](#) Springfield, MA (4/16, 453K) reported that Massachusetts resident Matthew Oquendo "was arraigned Friday in federal court on charges related to the selling of heroin and fentanyl during several FBI undercover operations."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Law Enforcement Warns Of Growing Vaccine Card Scams.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, A1, Diamond, 10.52M) reports that US law enforcement officials are attempting to curtail the growing market for illegal vaccine cards. North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein (D), who "led a recent effort with 47 colleagues demanding that eBay and other e-commerce platforms" to crack down on such offers, has "pointed to the FBI's warning that anyone who makes or buys a fake vaccine card is breaking the law."

Federal Grand Jury Probing Dark Money In US Steel Industry.

The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (4/16, Sallah, 426K) reports that "hundreds of millions of dollars...stolen from a Ukraine bank" and "secretly moved into the United States" were "used to pump up the cash reserves of Warren Steel in a money laundering scheme carried out across the country, the U.S. Justice Department alleges." Federal prosecutors "say Ukraine oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, a powerful figure in his country who was banned last month by the State Department from entering the United States, secretly purchased a dozen other steel mills in small towns from Ohio to Texas." The Post-Gazette adds, "Bank records, emails and other critical documents were turned over to a federal grand jury examining the finances of the Ohio mill that prosecutors say became a conduit for tens of millions of dollars siphoned from PrivatBank in Ukraine, according to two sources familiar with the probe."

Former Temple Business Dean Lied To Inflate Rank, Attract Students, Federal Prosecutors Say.

[Bloomberg](#) (4/16, Larson, 3.57M) reports former Temple University Richard J. Fox School of Business Dean Moshe Porat "fed false data to U.S. News & World Report for years to inflate the school's ranking and attract students, federal prosecutors alleged, in their latest crackdown involving higher education." Porat, who ran the school "for more than two decades until his ouster in 2018, was charged by a federal grand jury with conspiring to defraud applicants, students and donors by falsely boosting the school's ranking for online MBA programs to No. 1 four years in a row."

FBI Probing Pension Fund's \$14M In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Projects.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (4/18, Distefano, McCoy) reports, "The FBI is investigating the purchase of millions of dollars in real estate in Harrisburg by Pennsylvania's largest pension fund, The Inquirer has learned." The Inquirer adds, "People familiar with the newly disclosed probe say federal authorities are digging into the PSERS fund's authorization of \$13.5 million in spending in recent years to purchase and demolish buildings near its headquarters in the state capital. While remaining silent about the focus of the investigation, the pension plan itself disclosed earlier this month that federal authorities, using a grand jury, have subpoenaed records from its management."

DOJ Sues Roger Stone Over Alleged Tax Evasion.

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Benner, 20.6M) reports the Justice Department "filed a civil suit on Friday against Roger J. Stone, one of former President Donald J. Trump's most visible allies, for failure to pay nearly \$2 million in federal income taxes." The Times adds the DOJ "said in its complaint, which also covered interest and other penalties, that the Treasury Department had notified Mr. Stone and his wife, Nydia Stone, that they had an unpaid tax liability, but that they had 'failed and refused to pay.' The chief counsel of the Internal Revenue Service authorized and requested the legal action, the complaint said." In a statement, Stone "called the civil complaint 'yet another example of the Democrats weaponizing the Justice Department,'" and "said he would fight the case, and he asked the public to support his legal defense fund."

Man Sentenced In Robocall Scheme That Victimized Elderly.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/16, Green, 401K) reports, "The third member of an illegal international robocall operation based in India was sentenced in Richmond on Friday for his role as a 'professional money mule' in a scam that has victimized thousands of seniors in the U.S." Jayeshkumar Deliwala, 48, "nabbed last year while waiting to board a flight to India, was sentenced to five years and three months for his part in an illegal operation investigators believe netted millions of dollars from victims, many of them scared into thinking they were under federal investigation. In some instances the scammers were so effective at establishing trust with the victims that when real FBI agents contacted them it was difficult to convince

them that they were legitimate agents, Kaitlin G. Cooke, an assistant U.S. Attorney told U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson on Friday.”

Scammer Takes Pennsylvania Widow For Entire Savings.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/16, Tompor, 2.16M) reports Kate Kleinert of Glenolden, PA is a widow who was convinced by a scammer to send him \$39,000 as he wooed her. He even asked for \$20,000 bail money after the FBI arrested him. She did not have that sum left by then, but she tried to visit him in jail.

Administration Faces Challenges In Combatting Money Laundering.

[USA Today](#) (4/18, Saraiva, 12.7M) reports President Biden during his time in the Senate “established himself as a sort of drug czar on Capitol Hill,” and during his presidential campaign had “vowed to enforce ‘sanctions on international actors engaged in the trafficking of illicit drugs,’ and Congress gave him a stronger anti-money laundering law that could help achieve that goal,” but “with the emergence of new technologies, drug traffickers now increasingly rely on elaborate trade-based schemes and digital transactions that are harder to track.”

CYBER DIVISION

The Untold Story Of The SolarWinds Hack.

[NPR](#) (4/16, Temple-Raston, 3.69M) reported an NPR investigation into the SolarWinds attack “reveals a hack unlike any other, launched by a sophisticated adversary intent on exploiting the soft underbelly of our digital lives.” Hackers “believed to be directed by the Russian intelligence service, the SVR, used that routine software update to slip malicious code into Orion’s software and then used it as a vehicle for a massive cyberattack against America.” Sudhakar Ramakrishna, SolarWinds’ president and CEO, told NPR, “Eighteen thousand [customers] was our best estimate of who may have downloaded the code between March and June of 2020. If you then take 18,000 and start sifting through it, the actual number of impacted customers is far less. We don’t know the exact numbers. We are still conducting the investigation.” NPR’s months-long “examination of that landmark attack...reveals a hack unlike any other, launched by a sophisticated adversary who took aim at a soft underbelly of digital life: the routine software update.”

SolarWinds Attack Creates Problems For Microsoft. The [AP](#) (4/17) reported the sprawling hacking campaign “deemed a grave threat to US national security came to be known as SolarWinds, for the company whose software update was seeded by Russian intelligence agents with malware to penetrate sensitive government and private networks.” Yet it was Microsoft “whose code the cyber spies persistently abused in the campaign’s second stage.” This has put Microsoft “in the hot seat.” Because its products “are a de facto monoculture in government and industry – with more than 85% market share – federal lawmakers are insisting that Microsoft swiftly upgrade security to what they say it should have provided in the first place, and without fleecing taxpayers.” Seeking to assuage concerns, Microsoft this past week “offered all federal agencies a year of ‘advanced’ security features at no extra charge.” But it also “seeks to deflect blame, saying it is customers who do not always make security a priority.”

Biden Administration Is Improving Cyber Defenses Against Russia And China.

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/16, 234K) reported the SolarWinds hack was “exposed as the legislative process unfolded for what Sen. Angus King (I-ME) called ‘the most comprehensive piece of national cybersecurity legislation ever passed in US history.’” The 2021 annual defense bill “included 27 cyber defense provisions, from efforts to improve email security to the creation of a new Office of the National Cyber Director within the White House.” The provisions were “largely the result of the work of the congressionally mandated Cyberspace Solarium

Commission, which Senator King co-chaired with Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI).” On Thursday, a senior Administration official “said in a press briefing that the efforts already underway to increase multi-factor authentication and other security measures across the nine affected agencies will be the ‘hallmark’ of an upcoming executive order focused on the government’s software procurement.”

Hacking Alert Measure May Be Possible.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (4/18, 776K) reports legislation that “could require private companies to notify the government of breaches to their cyber-systems looked possible last week as US intelligence officials appeared before Congress amid the Biden Administration’s loud response to foreign-based hacks.” A bipartisan push for “a new notification law seems to echo congressional sentiment.” Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark R. Warner (D-VA,) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) “released a joint statement in February arguing the federal response until then had ‘lacked the leadership and coordination warranted by a significant cyber event.’” The chances for “requiring notification of private breaches clearly will depend on details of how federal officials would see fit to follow up.”

US Investigating Breach At Code Testing Company.

[Reuters](#) (4/16) reported federal investigators are “probing an intrusion at San Francisco-based software auditing company Codecov that affected an unknown number of its 29,000 customers, raising the specter of knock-on breaches at companies elsewhere.” Codecov “said in a statement hackers began tampering with its software – which is used across the tech industry to help test code for mistakes and vulnerabilities – on January 31.” However, the intrusion was “only detected earlier this month when an astute customer noticed there was something off about the tool.” The breach “drew comparisons to the recent compromise of Texas software firm SolarWinds, both because the breach could have follow-on effects at many of the organizations that use Codecov and because of the length of time that the doctored software remained in circulation.”

FBI Exchange Remediation Action May Set A Precedent.

[Gov Info Security](#) (4/16) reported the latest edition of the ISMG Security Report “features an analysis of whether the FBI removing malicious web shells from hundreds of compromised Microsoft Exchange Servers could set a precedent.” In the report, ISMG’s Jeremy Kirk “discusses the FBI’s Exchange remediation efforts; ISMG’s Mathew Schwartz describe how fraudsters nearly stole \$17.5 million via PPE fraud; and Edna Conway of Microsoft predict how the development of security products will fundamentally change in the year ahead.”

New Jersey Combating Hackers That Threaten Water Systems.

[NJ News](#) (4/18, 1.47M) reports the worrisome details of the cyberattack against the Florida water treatment plant “made national news and brought into question the security of our critical, if oft-overlooked, infrastructure.” In New Jersey, experts “warn drinking water systems across the Garden State are exposed to the same threat.” Jared Maples, the director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, “said that the Garden State Network faces an onslaught of 4 million cyberattacks each day.” Maples “told NJ Advance Media the Garden State has been aggressive in strengthening cybersecurity standards and regulations for a variety of sectors.” He said, “The country is running off of a lot of what we’re doing infrastructure-wise. And because of that, I think we’ve been forced to adopt some of these principles well ahead of time.”

MSU’s Holt Discusses Pakistani Counterfeiter Who May Have Aided Russian Trolls.

[Reuters](#) (4/16) reported that “amid the cascade of US sanctions imposed Thursday on Russian cybersecurity companies and officials alleged to be operating on behalf of the Kremlin’s

intelligence services, one company stood out: the Fresh Air Farm House in Karachi, Pakistan." The Farm House "is run by 34-year-old Mohsin Raza, one of two founders of an online fake ID business that prosecutors say helped Russian operatives get a toehold in the United States." Raza's business is an "example of how transnational cybercrime can serve as a springboard for state-sponsored disinformation, said Tom Holt, who directs the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University." The alleged "use by Russian operatives of a Pakistani fake ID merchant to circumvent American social media controls 'highlights why this globalized cybercrime economy that touches so many areas can be a perfect place to hide – even for nation-states,' he said."

Medtronic Partners With Sternum On Device Cybersecurity.

[TechCrunch](#) (4/16, McCarthy, 502K) reported, "Medtronic, a medical device company, has been in hot water over the last couple of years because its pacemakers were getting hacked through their internet-based software updating systems." The company recently partnered "cybersecurity startup Sternum to protect its pacemakers from hackers." Based in Israel, Sternum is an "IoT cybersecurity startup." According to TechCrunch, "Sternum's solution allows medical devices to protect themselves in real-time."

Carmakers Confront Challenges In Staying A Step Ahead Of Hackers.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/16, 855K) reported the auto industry is "worried about how they can stay one step ahead of those who could eventually wreak havoc with the world's private transport systems." Hackers "seemingly cannot wait for the opportunity to commandeer vehicles." In 2019, automotive cybersecurity company Karamba Security "posted a fake vehicle electronic control unit online." In less than three days, "25,000 breach attempts were made, and one succeeded." The effects of a breach "could range from mildly annoying to catastrophic." A hacker "could steal a driver's personal data or eavesdrop on phone conversations." Nefarious code "inserted into one of a vehicle's electronic control units could cause it to suddenly speed up, shut down or lose braking power."

Ron Wyden Proposing New Data Privacy Legislation.

The [Washington Times](#) (4/16, Lovelace, 626K) reported Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) "is proposing new data privacy legislation that would restrict the export of Americans' data to certain countries where that information poses a national security risk to the US." Wyden said in a statement, "Shady data brokers shouldn't get rich selling Americans' private data to foreign countries that could use it to threaten our national security. My bill would set up common sense rules for how and where sensitive data can be shared overseas, to make sure that foreign criminals and spies don't get their hands on it." Wyden's 'Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Surveillance Act' "would direct the secretary of commerce to lead a regular federal review of what type of data could harm national security." Under Mr. Wyden's proposal, the secretary of commerce "would also create a list of countries that could have access to Americans' personal data and to require licenses for the export of personal data in bulk."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Garland Moves To Allow DOJ To Impose Changes On Police Departments.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/16, Nakamura, 10.52M) reports that on Friday, Attorney General Garland "rescinded a Trump-era near-ban on the Justice Department's use of consent decrees to force the restructuring of local law enforcement agencies, signaling a push from the Biden administration to resume use of the tactic amid a continued outcry from liberal groups about abusive policing." According to the Post, "In a four-page memo to staff, Garland said he would rescind the 2018 order from former attorney general Jeff Sessions that imposed strict new

measures aimed at drastically limiting the use of the settlement agreements with local police. Under Garland's memo, Justice Department lawyers who are leading the litigation, including the assistant attorneys general or U.S. attorneys, will be authorized to approve the consent decrees."

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Benner, 20.6M) says Garland's memo "was not unexpected, and it revives one of the department's most effective tools in forcing law enforcement agencies to evaluate and change their practices." The Times also says his action comes "as the Justice Department prepares to step up its role in investigating allegations of racist and illegal behavior by police forces amid a nationwide outcry about the deaths of Black people at the hands of officers." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Gurman, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

LAPD Posted More Than Twofold Increase In Amount Of Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans In 2020.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/17, 3.37M) reports the Los Angeles Police Department "documented 15 hate crimes against Asian Americans in 2020, more than double the previous year, according to a new study by the agency." The Times adds, "The findings were included in a report submitted to the Police Commission this week that analyzed hate crimes and hate incidents against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in L.A. last year."

Bass Optimistic About Passage Of National Police Reform Legislation.

[Politico](#) (4/18, O'Brien, 6.73M) reports Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) on Sunday "said she's optimistic on the prospects of striking a bipartisan deal on police reform legislation that has passed the House but faces a high hurdle in the Senate." On [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 638K), Bass said, "I am hopeful because the group of people where we have been having informal discussions are very sincere. It's a bipartisan group. I believe we want to make something happen." [The Hill](#) (4/18, Schnell, 5.69M) reports Bass said she and Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC) are "continuing to work together to find a solution that will garner the supermajority that is needed to pass legislation in the Senate." The Hill adds that when asked if Republicans "are 'operating in good faith' on the issue of police reform, Bass said she believes her colleagues across the aisle she is working with are doing so."

Advocates Continue To Call For More Police Oversight Bills. The [New York Times](#) (4/18, A1, Eder, Keller, Migliozi, 20.6M) in a 2,300-word article says that states "have passed over 140 police oversight bills since the killing of George Floyd, increasing accountability and overhauling rules on the use of force. But the calls for change continue." According to the Times, "It's a remarkable, nationwide and in some places bipartisan movement that flies directly counter to years of deference to the police and their powerful unions. But the laws, and new rules adopted by police departments across the country, are not enough to satisfy demands by Black Lives Matter and other activists who are pushing for wholesale reforms, cultural shifts and cutbacks at law enforcement agencies."

Ben Crump, the attorney for the families of George Floyd and Daunte Wright, on [ABC's This Week](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 2.44M), said, "We hope police officers are accountable and we change the laws in America, where you have the George Floyd Justice and Policing Act passed to change the culture and the behavior of policing in America, especially as it relates to marginalized minorities and especially Black people. When a Black person is stopped for a traffic violation, it should not end up in a death sentence. ... Even tasing [Daunte Wright] is troubling because it's still an excessive use of force and we see this over and over again."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

López Obrador To Propose Migration Agreement This Week.

[CNN](#) (4/18, Sorto, Hu, 89.21M) reports on its website Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced Sunday that he will propose a migration agreement between the countries of North and Central America this week. The proposal, which López Obrador plans to present "during Thursday's virtual Climate Summit, convened by US President Joe Biden," would "ask Central American migrants as well as Mexicans considering emigration to work planting trees and crops across Mexico for three years in return for an eventual six-month US work visa," the Mexican President "said in a video posted to his YouTube channel. Eventually, participants in the program should be able to apply for US citizenship, he said."

Number Of Emergency Facilities To Accommodate Migrant Children Is Growing.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Licon, Taxin) reports a "a dramatic spike in children crossing the U.S.-Mexico border alone" has led to "a massive expansion in emergency facilities to house them as more kids arrive than are being released to close relatives in the United States." As of Thursday, "more than 22,000 migrant children are in government custody...with 10,500 sleeping on cots at convention centers, military bases and other large venues likened to hurricane evacuation shelters with little space to play and no privacy. More than 2,500 are being held by border authorities in substandard facilities." The AP says there is "little room in long-term care facilities, where capacity shrank significantly during the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, minors are packed into Border Patrol facilities not meant to hold them longer than three days or they're staying for weeks in the mass housing sites that often lack the services they need."

HHS Official Died While Helping At Emergency Shelter In Texas. The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Diamond, 10.52M) reports Mary Brodie-Henderson, an IT specialist at HHS, "died this weekend at an emergency shelter set up to care for unaccompanied migrant children in Texas, according to a health department email obtained by The Washington Post." Brodie-Henderson "was working at a site in Houston, Texas, that housed several hundred unaccompanied children." She "collapsed on Friday evening and could not be revived at a nearby hospital," HHS Secretary Becerra wrote in an email to staff.

DeSantis: Florida Suing Administration To Resume Honoring ICE Detainers.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) was asked on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (4/18) about Florida's lawsuit against the Biden Administration. DeSantis said, "Normally, when we have a criminal alien, convicted of a felony, they obviously serve their sentence in a Florida state prison, and prior to the Joe Biden's Administration, ICE would take control of them when they finish their sentence and they'd remove the criminal alien and send them back to the home country. ... Instead, under Biden's Administration, they are no longer honoring these ICE detainers. ... ICE is effectively releasing them back into our communities." DeSantis continued, "The lawsuit seeks to have them actually follow the law, follow the Constitution."

WSJournal: Congress Should Address Migrants In US Under TPS. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) editorial says the Supreme Court on Monday will hear the case of Jose Santos Sanchez, who came to the US without authorization in the late 1990s from El Salvador. They were granted Temporary Protected status in 2001 after earthquakes in El Salvador. In 2014, Sanchez was denied permanent residency. The Journal says Sanchez and others like him deserve to have their cases resolved and calls on Congress to craft an immigration policy that includes a compromise for such migrants.

LAWFUL ACCESS

WPost: Encryption Debate Is Not "Between Two Bad Choices."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/17, 10.52M) in an editorial highlights the "standoff between Apple and the FBI" in the investigation into "the 2015 San Bernardino massacre," arguing it "seemed to present an impossible choice: Deny law enforcement the ability fully to investigate a terrorist attack that killed 14, or force a private company to write software that would destroy the security of its own devices. That choice, as it turns out, was false." The solution of "commissioning a reputable consultancy to help unlock the phone" of one of the shooters, the

Post concludes, "should serve as a reminder that in the continuing controversy over encryption the country need not choose between two bad choices."

OTHER FBI NEWS

NYTimes Profile: Monaco Will "Quickly Be Tested" As Deputy Attorney General.

A [New York Times](#) (4/17, Benner, 20.6M) profile says Lisa Monaco, "a veteran of national security roles, is poised to become the deputy attorney general – the Justice Department's No. 2 official – where her ability to broker consensus on politically charged issues will quickly be tested." However, Monaco's "résumé makes her uniquely suited to tackle the department's biggest issues, which include not only domestic extremism but also foreign cyberattacks, a sensitive investigation into [President] Biden's son and an open special inquiry into the roots of the Russia investigation." The Times adds that the Senate Judiciary Committee "voiced unanimous support for her nomination last month and a bipartisan coalition of senators is expected to confirm her in the coming days."

Montana Freeman Dies In Prison.

The [AP](#) (4/16) reports Russell Dean Landers died in prison in Terre Haute, IN April 10. He was a member of the Montana Freeman "who took part in the extremist group's 81-day armed standoff with FBI agents" in 1996. The Montana Freeman "held the FBI at bay for almost three months before surrendering."

Massachusetts Drug Dealer's Car Rammed During Chase.

[VTDigger \(VT\)](#) (4/16, 9K) reports Matthew A. Oquendo of Holyoke, MA "pleaded not guilty to charges of selling heroin and fentanyl" Friday. The FBI "used a confidential informant to buy drugs from Oquendo during a monthslong investigation" and on March 8 began to chase the informant by car when he noticed that he had been paid with fake money. An FBI agent "rammed [Oquendo's] vehicle, trying to get him to stop."

Varsity Blues Conspirator Released.

The [New York Daily News](#) (4/16, Wilkinson, 2.51M) reports fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, husband of actress Lori Loughlin, "ended his home confinement Friday," after serving two weeks house arrest and five months in prison before that. The couple were figurants in "Operation Varsity Blues," which caught parents bribing university officials for admissions. They initially denied the FBI's accusations against them.

Oregon Man Charged With Selling Guns, Fake Drugs On Snapchat.

The [Oregonian](#) (4/17, Bernstein, 1.02M) reports Aumontae Wayne Smith of Portland, OR "pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute fentanyl, possession with intent to distribute fentanyl and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime" Friday. He is accused of selling guns and "fentanyl disguised as oxycodone pills" on Snapchat. The FBI is among the agencies investigating the case.

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Blinken And Sullivan Defend Planned US Withdrawal From Afghanistan.

Christina Ruffini reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 3, 2:00, Duncan, 1.24M), "The Biden Administration believes that years of prolonged conflicts in the Middle East are causing America to lose pace with strategic competitors like China and that the resources from America's longest war are better redeployed elsewhere." Secretary of State Blinken said Sunday that "the US needs to focus its geopolitical energy outside of Afghanistan." Blinken: "We have

other very important items on our agenda, including the relationship with China.” Ruffini: “But CBS News has confirmed the President’s decision to withdraw all US forces by September 11 was opposed by senior military advisors. They warned that without a residual force on the ground, it could be harder to stop a resurgence of terrorist groups.” National Security Adviser Sullivan: “I can tell you that President Biden has no intention of sending forces back to Afghanistan, but at the same time, he has no intention of taking our eye off the ball.”

Blinken, on [ABC’s This Week](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 2.44M), said, “We had a very deliberate and fully informed process leading up to the decision by the President, and the fact is this: We went to Afghanistan 20 years ago, and we went because we were attacked on 9/11. And we went to take on those who had attacked us on 9/11 and to make sure that Afghanistan would not again become a haven for terrorism directed at the United States or any of our allies and partners, and we achieved the objectives that we set out to achieve.”

On [CNN’s State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 644K), Sullivan said, “The United States achieved the objective it set out when we went into Afghanistan in the first place, which was to get the people who attacked us on 9/11. We have degraded Al Qaeda, we have killed Bin Laden. In fact, we killed Bin Laden a decade ago.” On [Fox News Sunday](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 976K), Sullivan said, “The terrorist threat has changed dramatically since we went to war in Afghanistan 20 years ago. Al Qaeda is in Yemen and Syria and Somalia. ISIS is across that border region in Iraq and Syria and in multiple countries in Africa, so to really protect this country from the terrorist threat, we need to allocate our resources and capabilities across a range of countries and continents, not just focus them on Afghanistan.”

[Bloomberg](#) (4/18, Czuczka, 3.57M) reports Blinken said withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan “meshes with the Biden administration’s goal of focusing resources on China and the Covid-19 pandemic.” Blinken “played down concern that U.S. intelligence might be blindsided to terrorist threats emerging in Afghanistan, saying the U.S. will be repositioning forces and assets to ‘guard against the potential reemergence.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Blinken said the Taliban has committed not to allow Al Qaeda or other terrorist groups to use Afghanistan to grow, and said the US will hold the Taliban to that pledge.

The [New York Post](#) (4/18, Moore, 7.45M) reports Blinken “dismissed criticism of President Biden’s planned troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. ... In making his decision, Biden went against the Pentagon and the opinions of former generals like David Petraeus and Joseph Dunford.” Blinken said, “I have great respect for Gen. Petraeus, Gen. Dunford, and others, but we had a very deliberate and fully informed process leading up to the decision by the President.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, DeYoung, Ryan, 10.52M) reports that since taking office, “Biden has reestablished the formal decision process, which his predecessor seemed determined to destroy, that has guided U.S. administrations through foreign policymaking since the Second World War. ... Yet at the end of the day, Biden did not budge from where he began nearly 13 years ago.” [Politico](#) (4/18, O’Brien, 6.73M) also covers Blinken’s remarks.

[Reuters](#) (4/18) reports Sullivan argued that “no one can offer guarantees about Afghanistan’s future after U.S. troops leave...even as he stressed the United States would stay focused on terrorist threats emanating from the country.” [Fox News](#) (4/18, Blitzer, 23.99M) reports on its website, “Sullivan maintained that by keeping forces in the region, the U.S. will be able to ward off any threats that may arise from organizations like ISIS or al-Qaida. He said that according to intelligence, the U.S. would have ‘months of warning before al-Qaida or ISIS could have an external plotting capability from Afghanistan.’”

[Reuters](#) (4/18) reports Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday “rejected what he said were ‘false analogies’ with the war in Vietnam as well as any suggestion his government was at risk of folding under Taliban pressure.” Ghani said on [CNN’s Fareed Zakaria GPS](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 825K), “We have been deliberating about this for two years. Now, it is time for recalculation. For us it is a time of opportunity, for Taliban and for Pakistan. It is a moment of choice. Will

they opt to become a credible international stakeholder, with rules of the game for a peaceful part of Asia and connectivity, or for opting for chaos?"

[CNN](#) (4/18, Hoffman, Cole, 89.21M) reports on its website, "Former President Donald Trump on Sunday praised withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan, while knocking his successor's timeline for doing so." In a statement, Trump said that "while leaving Afghanistan is 'a wonderful and positive thing to do,' he had set a May 1 withdrawal deadline and added that 'we should keep as close to that schedule as possible.'"

In his [New York Times](#) (4/18, 20.6M) column, Thomas L. Friedman writes that the US effort in Afghanistan was "worth a try; our soldiers and diplomats were trying to make it better, but it was never clear that they knew how or had enough Afghan partners. Yes, maybe leaving will make it worse, but our staying wasn't really helping. ... We need to offer asylum to every Afghan who worked closely with us and may now be in danger." And "Afghans are going to author their own future."

NYTimes Analysis: "Afghan Women Fear The Worst." The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Gibbons-Neff, Faizi, Rahim, 20.6M) reports on its conversations with "many Afghan women – members of civil society, politicians, journalists and others – about what comes next in their country" under the headline "Afghan Women Fear The Worst, Whether War Or Peace Lies Ahead." The Times says, "They all said the same thing: Whatever happens will not bode well for them."

Fauci Says He Anticipates "Some Form" Of J&J Vaccine Resumption By Friday.

NIAID Director Fauci, on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 644K), discussed the pause on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and overall vaccination efforts in the US. When asked about the decision to pause, Fauci said, "Because you want to make sure that you have all the information that you need to make that determination because although the cases, the six cases as you mentioned correctly, were of women of a certain age group, if you look at the experience, for example, that [AstraZeneca] has had in Europe and the UK, it went beyond women. There were some men involved. There was also a great display of the ages. We wanted to take a look at our experience with another vaccine, i.e., the J&J vaccine. I think if you assume on the basis of six, you know everything going on would not be prudent."

On [NBC's Meet The Press](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 2.84M), Fauci said, "What we do, and that's what we keep saying, we leave it to the science. We have the experienced FDA and CDC people looking at it. There's one case, then two, three, four. Then when they got to six, they said we really need to pause. Hopefully it will be a quite temporary pause." The [AP](#) (4/18, Yen) reports Fauci said Sunday, "I would be very surprised if we don't have a resumption in some form by Friday. I don't really anticipate that they're going to want to stretch it out a bit longer." Fauci also discussed the issue on [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 2.46M).

[Politico](#) (4/18, O'Brien, 6.73M) reports that the FDA panel had "met Wednesday, but delayed a vote on whether and how to limit the J&J based on sex or age." The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Anthes, 20.6M) reports that federal health agencies had "recommended putting injections of the vaccine on pause on Tuesday while they investigated whether it was linked to a rare blood-clotting disorder." The guidance led every state to stop using the vaccine.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb addressed the guidance, and he suggested that the FDA could decide to limit the vaccine to older Americans, who are less likely to suffer from the side effect. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Burton, McKay, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and [The Hill](#) (4/18, Choi, 5.69M) provide additional coverage of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine delay.

Fauci Criticizes Republican Opposition To Vaccine. The [New York Post](#) (4/18, Salo, 7.45M) reports that during his interview on CNN, Fauci discussed vaccine hesitancy in the US, and he "said Republicans who want to lift COVID-19 restrictions but don't want to get vaccinated don't 'make any sense.'" Fauci said, "It's almost paradoxical that on the one hand,

they want to be relieved of the restrictions, but on the other hand, they don't want to get vaccinated. It just almost doesn't make any sense."

[The Hill](#) (4/18, Choi, 5.69M) reports Fauci also "said on Sunday that combative comments like those from Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), who last week accused the nation's leading infectious diseases expert of promoting pandemic guidelines that violate Americans' 'liberties,' are 'quite frustrating.'" Fauci said on CNN, "This has nothing to do with liberty. We're talking about the fact that 560,000 people in our country have died. We're talking about [60,000] to 70,000 new infections per day. That's the issue. This is a public health issue. It's not a civil liberties issue."

On [ABC's This Week](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 2.44M), Fauci discussed problems of vaccine hesitancy. Fauci said, "That will be a problem if we get a substantial proportion of people not getting vaccinated. What we are doing is we're trying to get trusted messages by a community core that anyone would feel comfortable listening to whether you're a Republican, a Democrat, an independent or whomever you are that you're comfortable and these are people in the community."

CDC Says Half Of US Adults Have Had At Least First Vaccine Shot.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 3, 2:20, Davis, 4.85M) reported that new CDC data show an estimated 50% of American adults have been vaccinated, with 25% of adults reaching full vaccination. [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 4, 2:35, Snow, 6.41M) reported that news comes as the US reaches a new critical milestone of nationwide vaccine eligibility: Every state will allow individuals over the age of 16 to schedule a vaccination appointment as on Monday.

The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 4, 1:55, Duncan, 1.24M) reported that the growing number of vaccinated adults is clashing with a shrinking number of COVID mandates across the country, resulting in a surge of new COVID infections. CBS' Lilia Luciano reported, "The variant spreading new infections now averaging over 67,000 a day, about the same as the summer peak." Luciano added, "Over the past week, 34 states reported heights in hospitalizations, hardest hit, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and New Jersey."

The [AP](#) (4/18, Yen, Mattise) reports that the US "cleared the 50% mark just a day after the reported global death toll from the coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million." The US vaccination rate of 61.6 doses per 100 falls behind Israel, and it also "trails the United Arab Emirates, Chile and the United Kingdom."

The [New York Post](#) (4/18, Salo, 7.45M) reports that the CDC data also show that an estimated 130 million adults "have gotten at least one vaccine shot." The [New York Daily News](#) (4/18, Braine, 2.51M) reports that an estimated 84 million adults, representing 32.5% of the US population, "are fully vaccinated."

[Axios](#) (4/18, Saric, 1.26M) reports that during his White House briefing on Friday, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Jeff Zients "noted that in the past week the U.S. vaccinated roughly 3.3 million people per day, an increase on the seven-day average from the previous week."

Whitmer Discusses COVID Surge In Michigan.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D), on [NBC's Meet The Press](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 2.84M), discussed the current challenges with the pandemic in the state. Whitmer said, "We're clearly watching the data, working with our local public health experts, talking with national experts as well. What we know is that our success at keeping COVID spread down for such a long period of time has left us with vast reservoirs of people who don't have antibodies. That was a good thing until the variants came on stage. ... We've gotten a lot of help from the Biden Administration to surge some therapeutics here, get some boots on the ground. I think all these things are going to be important to us stemming the tide of what we're seeing."

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/18, Egan, 2.16M) reports Whitmer blamed the recent surge in COVID cases in part on the Michigan Supreme Court, which ruled against her Administration

last October by invalidating a law governing her emergency authorities. The message “was a departure from statements Whitmer made immediately following the October ruling, when she said she mostly retained powers related to public health measures but would require legislative approval for other measures.” Yet, Whitmer “did say Michigan still has ‘strong measures to keep people safe,’ including a face mask requirement, and is ‘still doing what we can.’”

[The Hill](#) (4/18, Bowden, 5.69M) reports Whitmer also “indicated Sunday that her state would not implement new coronavirus-related lockdown restrictions in response to a spike in new infections due to Republican-led lawsuits last year that challenged her constitutional authority to do so.”

DeSantis Explains Order Prohibiting Vaccine Passports.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R), on [Fox News’ Sunday Morning FuturesVi](#) (4/18, 1.32M), said, “I did an executive order prohibiting [vaccine passports] in Florida from government and from private industry, and we have a bill going to the Florida legislature that will make that permanent. Here is the deal, we don’t want to go down this road. It is not a business, they have no right to know what shots you have had or not had, that’s not ever how we’ve ordered American society.”

Colorado Warns Of New COVID Wave.

The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Ngo, 20.6M) reports that Colorado health officials “are warning about another wave of infections as new coronavirus cases in the state jump to levels not seen since January and as counties start to loosen virus restrictions.” The state has been “reporting an average of 1,661 new cases a day, up by 18 percent in the past two weeks,” and hospitalizations have climbed by 19% in the same time period. The warning came ahead of the state’s decision to terminate the “dial system,” which “required counties to place capacity limits on restaurants, offices and gyms, depending on case counts, positive test percentages and hospitalizations in those areas.”

Independent Pharmacies Struggling To Acquire Vaccine Doses In New York.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Chernova, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that New York community pharmacies, which represent a major segment of the city’s health care system, remain unable to acquire COVID vaccines in a timely manner. Official New York City Health Department data support the claim, and it shows that community pharmacies have received a net total of 300,000 vaccines distributed compared to 1.13 million doses for chain pharmacies.

WPost: COVID Booster Shots Will Ensure US Resilience Going Forward.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, 10.52M) argues that new science indicating a need for an annual COVID booster shot “should not be a cause for dismay” because it means that the US can effectively prepare for the future. However, the Post adds that the need for a booster shot means that COVID will “not just stop one day,” and this reality will “demand that our lifestyles adapt.”

WPost Details “Inordinately Complex” Task Of Crafting Infrastructure Legislation.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Kim, Sotomayor, Stein, Romm, 10.52M) reports President Biden and Democratic lawmakers “are quickly finding that their ambitions” got Biden’s infrastructure package “are colliding with the complicated reality of precisely how to do it.” The “arduous task of turning Biden’s \$2.25 trillion infrastructure blueprint into legislation,” is “proving inordinately complex” as “some Democrats in the narrowly divided House are noisily raising demands, sensing a fleeting moment of leverage” and Republicans “are talking through a bipartisan alternative, though they are deeply skeptical that Biden will engage.” The Post adds that “the American Jobs Plan could merge with other ongoing efforts to craft a wide-ranging transportation bill, a process with its own set of competing agendas.” All of which, the Post

says, are "setting the stage for a lengthy and laborious path for getting the American Jobs Plan to the president's desk."

Cornyn: Republicans Could Support An \$800B Infrastructure Bill. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said Sunday that Republicans could support a bill with a price tag around \$800 billion. Cornyn told [Fox News Sunday](#) (4/18), "There is a core infrastructure bill that we could pass...So let's do it and leave the rest for another day and another fight." On the same program, Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) argued Democrats should try to find bipartisan agreement before passing a broader plan with only Democratic votes. Coons said, "Then we show our people that we can solve their problems" in a bipartisan fashion. Coons continued, "I think in the next few weeks we should roll up our sleeves and sit down and find ways that we can support to make these critically needed investments."

Harris To Make First Major Economic Speech As She Touts Infrastructure Plan. The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Alemany, 10.52M) reports as Vice President Harris "continues her push to tout the Biden administration's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan," she "will deliver her first major speech on the economy on Monday in North Carolina." According to excerpts of the speech, Harris will say the plan "will be the largest jobs investment our country has made since World War II. ... And it's not just about jobs. It's about good jobs... At a good job, you shouldn't have to worry about your safety at work. At a good job, you shouldn't have to go into debt for a diploma that promises a decent paycheck." The Post says Harris' "policy footprint threads through the far-reaching infrastructure proposal the administration touts as the most significant federal jobs investment since World War II." In the Senate, Harris "co-sponsored several of the bills and investments incorporated into Biden's infrastructure effort."

Administration Officials Defend Biden's Stance On Admitting Refugees.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 5, 0:55, Davis, 4.85M) reported, "The White House is defending President Biden's mixed messages on the number of refugees to be allowed into this country." While Biden promised during the campaign he would "increase the limit to more than 62,000," his team "now concedes they will not reach this goal." [CNN](#) (4/18, Judd, Liptak, Cole, 89.21M) reports on its website that Secretary of State Blinken told [ABC's This Week](#)^{Vi} Sunday that reaching the goal of resettling 62,000 refugees this fiscal year would be "very hard." Blinken said, "I think what the President has and the White House has said today is that based on what we've now seen from in terms of the inheritance and being able to look at what was in place, what we could put in place, how quickly we could put it in place, it's going to be very hard to meet the 62,000 this fiscal year." CNN adds, "Pressed on whether the administration would accept 125,000 refugees next year," Blinken said, "Look, the President's been clear about where he wants to go, but we have to be, you know, focused on what we're able to do when we're able to do it."

On its website, [Fox News](#) (4/18, Cawthorne, 23.99M) says Blinken "blamed the 'broken system' under the Trump administration for why the Biden administration likely won't be able to meet their pledge of resettling 62,000 refugees in the United States." Blinken said, "One of the biggest problems we faced was inheriting a broken system. ... And the refugee system that we found was not in a place, did not have the resources, the means to effectively process as many people as we hoped."

National Security Adviser Sullivan said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 644K) that the President is "not breaking that promise" to admit more refugees. Sullivan said, "President Biden's ultimate target is going to reflect very much his commitment to bringing refugees to the United States to the maximum extent possible consistent with our ability to process them. ... What will drive our determination are the practical questions of whether we can fix the absolutely shattered system we were left with to process refugees." Sullivan told [Fox News Sunday](#) (4/18) that Biden "is absolutely committed to making sure that not only is America welcoming to refugees, not only do we get people on planes immediately by changing those

allocations, which were rooted in xenophobia and even racism, but also that we raise the cap. He is committed to that and he will follow through on that."

UN Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 1.92M), "I don't think the President broke his promise. This is a first step and we're looking at the infrastructure that we have in place to support bringing refugees into the United States. That infrastructure was basically destroyed over the past four years. This is just a first installment. I know that the President intends to revisit those numbers over the course of the next few months."

James Hohmann writes in the [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Hohmann, 10.52M) that Biden's "recent pirouetting on how many refugees to allow into the United States illustrates how much easier campaigning is than governing." Biden "has long suffered from indecisiveness," and while "indecisiveness is preferable to impulsiveness," it "still carries a cost. About 35,000 refugees have already been approved and are prepared to travel to the United States as soon as they're allowed. Biden's foot-dragging has resulted in hundreds of canceled flights for refugees."

Bush Urges Congress To Set Aside "Harsh Rhetoric" On Immigration.

[CNN](#) (4/18, Robertson, Duster, 89.21M) reports on its website that in an interview with [CBS' Sunday Morning](#)^Y, former President George W. Bush "called on Congress to tone down the 'harsh rhetoric' on immigration." Bush said, "I do want to say to Congress, please put aside all of the harsh rhetoric about immigration, please put aside trying to score political points on either side. I hope I can help set a tone that is more respectful about the immigrant, which may lead to reform of the system." CNN says Bush "acknowledged...one of the biggest disappointments of his presidency is that he did not pass any meaningful reform on the issue." [Axios](#) (4/18, 1.26M) provides similar coverage of the interview.

Bush's interview aired the same day an [op-ed](#) he penned was published in the [Washington Post](#). In it, [USA Today](#) (4/18, Brown, 12.7M) reports, Bush "reflected on the importance of immigrants to the United States, arguing for solutions to the nation's ongoing immigration debates." Bush "advocated for a pathway to citizenship for immigrants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, while calling for stronger border security." Although Bush "opposes providing a pathway to citizenship for the country's 11 million immigrants in the country illegally," he said they should be "brought out of the shadows through a gradual process in which legal residency and citizenship must be earned."

Administration Preparing New Campaign To Transform Coal Counties.

[Politico](#) (4/18, Colman, Adragna, 6.73M) reports President Biden and the Democratic Party "have accepted the challenge that's vexed them for a decade: convincing fossil fuel workers that they will still be okay even if their current jobs evaporate as the nation embraces a climate change-friendly economy." Democrats "hope it might succeed in the same places where previous attempts to focus on economic transition have failed," but coal mine union representatives "acknowledge that Democrats haven't yet landed on a coherent, persuasive message."

Texas Oilmen Embrace Green Energy Transition. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) examines the evolution of the historic Texas landman industry, which formerly hunted for pristine oil well leases and now seeks to acquire optimal acreage for solar and wind power. The collapse of the industry's oil focus is partly driven by reduced demand for fossil fuels as well as reduced investor interest.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Officials Say Chileans Overestimated Effectiveness Of Chinese Vaccine After First Dose.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Dube, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports half of Chile's adult population has received at least one vaccine dose, most of which were made by Chinese drugmaker Sinovac Biotech. But across the country, health officials are dealing with an increase in infections and deaths. According to public health officials, the Journal reports, people overestimated the vaccine's effectiveness after the first of two recommended doses and moves to lift pandemic restrictions too soon.

Macron: France Will Lift Restrictions For Vaccinated Travelers Starting In May.

[USA Today](#) (4/18, Brown, 12.7M) reports French President Emanuel Macron told [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} Sunday that France will begin lifting restrictions on international travel with non-European countries beginning next month. Macron said, "We will progressively lift restrictions at the beginning of May." Macron said officials are developing a way for vaccinated "French, European citizens but also American citizens" to travel more freely by the summer. Macron "said, ideally, travel would be open" for "US citizens who are vaccinated, with a special pass." He "said he had spoken with the White House about potential plans for lifting some travel restrictions between France and the US, though talks were still in their early stages."

France Restricts Travel From Four Countries To Slow Spread Of Variants. The [AP](#) (4/18) reports France is restricting travel from Argentina, Chile, South Africa and Brazil "in hopes of keeping out especially contagious coronavirus variants, the government has announced." Travelers from those countries "will be restricted to French nationals and their families, EU citizens and others with a permanent home in France." The restrictions also include "mandatory 10-day quarantines with police checks to ensure people arriving in France observe the requirement." The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Breeden, 20.6M) says the decision "adds to a complex tangle of rules and policies about international travel that can vary widely from country to country and month to month."

COVID Deaths, New Cases Declining In Britain.

The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 5, 1:55, Duncan, 1.24M) reported Europe "is still grappling with a lethal third wave of the pandemic. The exception is Britain. One of the world leaders in vaccinations, its strict lockdown in effect since Christmas is finally easing. And deaths and new cases are both in decline."

Ontario To Expand Use Of AstraZeneca Vaccine This Week.

The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 5, 1:55, Duncan, 1.24M) reported Canada is "struggling with a COVID surge." CBS added, "Medical services are under strain and in Toronto and Ottawa, children's hospitals opened up their ICUs to adults. Until Canada manages to ramp up its vaccinations, the outlook is dire." [Reuters](#) (4/18, Martell) cites "a government source" who said the province of Ontario will begin offering the AstraZeneca vaccine "on Tuesday to people turning 40 or older this year." The move "will broaden access to vaccines as a third wave of infections threatens to overwhelm hospitals in Canada's most-populous province, and should make it easier to use doses that in some cases have been accumulating at pharmacies."

Brazil's Daily COVID Death Toll Is World's Highest.

The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 5, 1:55, Duncan, 1.24M) reported in Brazil, "there is an ominous trend." For "the very first time, the majority of patients in ICU are under 40. Extra contagious variants may be to blame, but one thing is clear: more Brazilians are dying of COVID every day than anywhere else on Earth."

India Records 200K New COVID Cases For Ninth Straight Day.

The [CBS Weekend News](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 5, 1:55, Duncan, 1.24M) reported India's "overstretched medical system is facing shortages of oxygen and drugs, as India recorded more

than 200,000 new coronavirus cases for the ninth day in a row.”

Iran’s Daily COVID Death Toll Climbed Past 400 Sunday.

The [AP](#) (4/18) reports Iran’s daily COVID death toll exceeded 400 on Sunday for the first time in months. Amid a post-holiday surge in infections, “Iranian health authorities recorded 405 fatalities from the virus, pushing the total death toll to 66,732. Officials increasingly have warned about the impact of trends seen nationwide during the Persian New Year, or Nowruz,” a two-week holiday last month, which “brought increased travel, relaxed restrictions and large gatherings without precautions.”

Turkey Reports Record Daily COVID Death Toll.

The [AP](#) (4/18) reports Turkey on Sunday reported a record number of COVID deaths. According to Health Ministry data, 318 deaths were confirmed in 24 hours, bringing “the country’s total pandemic death toll to 35,926. The Health Ministry also reported 55,802 new confirmed cases, pushing Turkey’s total closer to 4.3 million.”

Israel Lifts Outdoor Mask Mandate.

The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Kershner, 20.6M) reports Israel has “lifted its outdoor mask mandate on Sunday, while schools fully reopened for the first time since September.” Israel “has been taking rapid steps back to normalcy in the wake of its world-leading vaccination campaign and plummeting infection rates. About 56 percent of the Israeli population has been fully vaccinated, according to a New York Times database.” Health Minister Yuli Edelstein “urged people to continue carrying masks with them for entry into indoor public spaces, where they are still required.”

More Than 60% Of Bhutan’s Population Has Received First Vaccine Dose.

The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Dema, Ives, 20.6M) reports as of Saturday, Bhutan “had administered a first vaccine dose to more than 478,000 people, over 60 percent of its population. The Health Ministry said this month that more than 93 percent of eligible adults had received their first shots.” Its “vaccination rate of 63 doses per 100 people was the sixth highest in the world, according to a New York Times database. That rate was ahead of those of the United Kingdom and the United States, more than seven times that of neighboring India and nearly six times the global average. Bhutan is also ahead of several other geographically isolated countries with small populations, including Iceland and the Maldives.”

WPost: Peruvian Election Undermined By COVID And Corruption.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, 10.52M) argues that Peru is facing an increasingly pessimistic future following the recent presidential elections, which resulted in Pedro Castillo, whose platform “lauds the approach to press freedom of Lenin and Fidel Castro,” and Keiko Fujimori, who “promises a repressive-sounding ‘demodura,’” as the current leaders in vote totals. While the first-round elections results means that one of the two candidates will become president, the Post calls on Peruvian voters to “continue fighting for democracy in the years ahead” as well as calling on the Biden Administration to remember that the incoming president does not represent Peruvian democratic values.

Islamist Group Takes Six Pakistani Security Personnel Hostage.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Hussain, George, 10.52M) reports the “hard-line Islamist” Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan took six Pakistani security personnel hostage on Sunday “after days of deadly clashes in the northeastern city of Lahore over a French satirical newspaper’s publication of cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad and the arrest of the group’s leader.”

Hiatt: World Must Stand Up For Chinese Uyghurs.

Fred Hiatt writes in the [Washington Post](#) (4/18, 10.52M) that with their treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, China's Communist rulers "are attempting to wipe out a culture, a way of life, a people. We know this thanks to Radio Free Asia reporter Gulchehra Hoja and her colleagues, to a few dogged academics and to dozens of survivors and exiles who have bravely given testimony." The Chinese Foreign Ministry this month "attacked many of those witnesses as liars, criminals, terrorists and persons of 'bad morality.'" Hiatt adds, "The question is whether the rest of us – our democratic governments, our companies doing business in western China, our Beijing 2022 Olympic athletes and sponsors – will honor the sacrifice of the truth-tellers and their families."

Sullivan Warns Russia Of "Consequences" If Navalny Dies In Prison.

Ian Pannell reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (4/18, story 4, 1:45, Davis, 4.85M), "Russia's leading opposition leader is dying, claim allies of Alexei Navalny. Keeping watch outside his prison, Navalny's doctors saying he's in 'critical condition. They didn't let us in.' Navalny [is] now 19 days into a hunger strike. ... A chorus of voices, including President Biden, [are] demanding Navalny be allowed access to care." President Biden: "It's totally unfair. It's totally inappropriate." National Security Adviser Sullivan: "We have communicated to the Russian government that what happens to Mr. Navalny in their custody is their responsibility, and they will be held accountable. There will be consequences if Mr. Navalny dies." Pannell: "Russian officials insist Navalny will be given appropriate medical treatment, and that he won't be allowed to die in prison. His supporters don't believe it and are calling for mass demonstrations across Russia this week."

Sullivan said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 644K), "First, we joined with the European Union and many other like-minded democracies around the world to impose sanctions for what the Russian government has done to Navalny, for the use of a chemical weapon against him, which is in contravention of international laws. Second, we have communicated to the Russian government that what happens to Mr. Navalny in their custody is their responsibility and they will be held accountable by the international community. In terms of the specific measures that we would undertake, we are looking at a variety of different costs that we would impose. And I'm not going to telegraph that publicly at this point, but we have communicated that there will be consequences if Mr. Navalny dies."

[Bloomberg](#) (4/18, Meyer, 3.57M) reports the US "warned Russia of 'consequences' if [Navalny] dies, deepening the conflict over the dissident who has already survived an alleged assassination attempt and is now engaged in the third week of a hunger strike." [USA Today](#) (4/18, Brown, 12.7M) reports that when asked by the President "was not more vocal about his condemnation of Navalny's treatment," Sullivan said the Administration "is dealing with the issue 'privately' while still in communication 'through diplomatic channels direct to the uppermost levels of the Russian government.'"

[Politico](#) (4/18, O'Brien, 6.73M) reports Sullivan was pressed by CNN's Dana Bash "over why Biden isn't demanding Navalny's release or granting him medical attention at 'every single opportunity,' including in a call with Russian President Vladimir Putin last week or in announcing further sanctions against Russia on Thursday. Sullivan responded that the Biden administration sees diplomatic channels as the best way to advocate on behalf of Navalny." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Simmons, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the Kremlin had no immediate response to Sullivan's remarks.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/18, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) says in a brief editorial that despite Sullivan's strong words Sunday, the President sent Russia mixed signals last week by proposing a one-on-one summit to Putin during their telephone conversation. [Axios](#) (4/18, Rummler, 1.26M), [The Hill](#) (4/18, Choi, 5.69M), and the [CNBC](#) (4/18, Macias, 7.34M) website briefly cover Sullivan's comments.

Navalny Supporters Plan Mass Protests For Wednesday. The [AP](#) (4/18, Heintz) reports Navalny associates "called Sunday for massive protests in the heart of Moscow and St.

Petersburg on Wednesday, saying Navalny's health is deteriorating severely during a hunger strike. Leonid Volkov, a top strategist for Navalny, said the demonstrations were called with three days' notice because 'his life hangs in the balance. ... We don't know how long he can hold on. But it is clear we do not have time.'" [Reuters](#) (4/18) reports the Navalny allies hope to hold "the largest protests in modern Russian history on Wednesday."

The [New York Times](#) (4/18, Kramer, 20.6M) reports Navalny's doctors "sharply escalated their warnings over the weekend about his health failing from a hunger strike, the lingering effects of an attempted poisoning with a chemical weapon and what they said was ill treatment in prison," while the [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Dixon, 10.52M) reports that Navalny's 20-year-old daughter, who is in college in the US, on Saturday [tweeted](#) a plea to allow a doctor to see her father.

Macron Warns Russia Against Military Action In Ukraine. The [AP](#) (4/18) reports French President Emmanuel Macron "says that while dialogue with Russia is essential, 'clear red lines' carrying possible sanctions must also be drawn with Moscow over Ukraine." Macron, on [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 1.92M), said, "We will never accept new military operations on Ukrainian soil. ... And I think after an unacceptable behavior, indeed, we have to sanction." [Axios](#) (4/18, Lawler, 1.26M) says Russia "is menacing Ukraine's borders" and "could strike now in an attempt to push further into Ukrainian territory or secure a source of much-needed water for occupied Crimea."

Report: Israeli Intelligence Predicts US Will Reactivate JCPOA.

[Axios](#) (4/18, Ravid, 1.26M) reports that according to Israeli intelligence sources, Israel is preparing for a resumption of the JCPOA nuclear deal. The Israeli government has been "trying to convince the Biden Administration not to take the pressure off the Iranian regime," but there are growing signs of a shift towards diplomacy. One source said, "We will not be surprised if within weeks the US and other world powers sign a deal with Iran."

Sullivan Says US Will Not Lift Sanctions On Iran Until Full Compliance With Nuclear Deal. National Security Adviser Sullivan, on [Fox News Sunday](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 976K), discussed the status of negotiations with Iran over a potential resumption of the nuclear deal. Sullivan said, "The talks in Vienna have been constructive in the sense that there are real efforts underway...to get on the table all of the issues related to both sanctions and nuclear issues so that we could end up back in the deal on a compliance basis. ... The United States is not going to lift sanctions unless we have clarity and confidence that Iran will fully return to compliance with its obligations under the deal."

Thomas-Greenfield Says More Needs To Be Done With Tigray.

UN Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield, on [CBS' Face The Nation](#)^{Vi} (4/18, 1.92M), discussed the conflict in the Tigray region. Thomas-Greenfield said, "President Biden has engaged with the Ethiopian government. Secretary [of State] Blinken has engaged with the Ethiopian government. President Biden sent a presidential emissary, Sen. Coons, to have discussions with the Ethiopian government and lay out our concerns about the horrific situation in Tigray. And as the US representative on the Security Council, I thought it was important that the Security Council's voice also be added to the voices of concern about the situation there. ... More has to be done. And that was the purpose of my raising this issue."

US Warns Citizens To Leave Chad.

[Reuters](#) (4/18) reports that the State Department "said rebel fighters in Chad appeared to be moving towards the capital N'Djamena and ordered non-essential staff to leave, warning of possible violence." The announcement came after the rebel Front for Change and Concord in Chad spokesperson "said its fighters had 'liberated' the province of Kanem," about 136 miles from N'Djamena.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[More Stocks Are Participating In Rally, An Encouraging Sign For Bull Market](#)
[J&J Covid-19 Vaccine Pause Driven By Risk Of Mistreating Blood Clots](#)
[Landmen Who Once Staked Claims For Oil And Gas Now Hunt Wind And Sun](#)
[The New York Power Lunch Is Back, With New Rules](#)
[Alexei Navalny Health Concerns Prompt Russian Opposition Calls For Protest](#)
[WeWork's New Stock-Listing Plan Has Echoes Of Its Past](#)

New York Times:

[New Police Reform Laws Seize on Calls for Change](#)
[A Scarred Minneapolis Braces For a Verdict in Chauvin's Trial](#)
[With Much to Lose, Afghan Women Fear Stifling Return to Past](#)
[Soccer's Rich Make a Move To Get Richer](#)
[Pandemic Buys Older Books, Leaving New Authors in Limbo](#)
[Wall Street Candidate Courts 5 Boroughs' Votes](#)

Washington Post:

[Hunter Biden's Struggle Looms Over Father's Work](#)
[In Fed's Shadow, A Painful Reminder](#)
[Support For Riot Probe Recedes](#)
[Vaccine Cards Are Target For Scammers](#)
[Union's Loss At Amazon Draws Tough Evaluations](#)
[Minneapolis Braces For Unrest](#)

Financial Times:

[Breakaway Dozen European Football Clubs Sign Up To Super League](#)
[US And China Pledge Joint Action On Climate Change Despite Strained Ties](#)
[HSBC Top Brass Forced To Hot Desk As HQ Scraps Executive Floor](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Chauvin Trial; FedEx Shooting; COVID Update; Alexei Navalny; Biden-Refugees; Biden-Fetal Tissue Restrictions Lifted; COVID-Restaurants; Tesla-Autopilot Crash; Austin Shooting; Tribute To Fort Hood Soldier; NASA-Flight Helicopter On Mars; Death of Oldest Living American; Fraternity Brothers Celebrate Their House Cook.

CBS: Chauvin Trial; FedEx Shooting; Biden-Afghanistan; COVID Update; COVID-Global Spread; Nashville-Country Music Awards.

NBC: Austin Shooting; FedEx Shooting; Chauvin Trial; COVID Update; Egypt-Train Derailment; NASA-Flight Helicopter On Mars; COVID-Mental Health of College Students; South Africa-Table Mountain; Iceland-Climate Change Tools; Small Town Restaurant Lets Folks Pay What They Can Afford.

Network TV At A Glance:

Chauvin Trial – 8 minutes, 55 seconds
COVID Update – 6 minutes, 50 seconds
FedEx Shooting – 6 minutes, 30 seconds

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Biden — Meets with a bipartisan group of Members of Congress to discuss historic investments in the American Jobs Plan.
- Vice President Harris — Delivers remarks on the American Jobs Plan and lays out a vision for the future at Guilford Technical Community College; tours Thomas Built Buses.

US Senate:

- Senate debates COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act – Senates convenes and resumes consideration of 'S.937, COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act'. Agenda also includes vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lisa Monaco to be Deputy Attorney General * Motion to proceed to 'S.937' passed by 49 votes to 45 last week, entirely along party lines

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

US House:

- Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber Subcommittee closed briefing on 'Cyber 101'; 4:00 PM

Cabinet Officers:

- No schedules released.

Visitors:

- No visitors scheduled.

General Events:

- U.S. Supreme Court hearings – U.S. Supreme Court hearings: 'Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of Chehalis Reservation', 'Alaska Native Village Corporation v. Confederated Tribes of Chehalis Reservation' (consolidated) (Whether Alaska Native regional and village corporations established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act are 'Indian Tribes' for the purposes of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act?) * 'Sanchez v. Mayorkas' (Whether a grant of temporary protected status authorizes eligible noncitizens to obtain lawful-permanent-resident status?); 10:00 AM
- Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and public health officials; 10:30 AM
- Dem Rep. Tom Suozzi discusses 'Sino-Colonialism' (virtual) – 'The Belt and Road Initiative and Sino-Colonialism: Global Implications and the Uyghur Genocide' Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation online event, featuring Democratic Rep. Tom Suozzi, World Uyghur Congress President Dolkun Isa and Inspector General Abdulhakim Idris, and Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation President and CEO Andrew Bremberg; 11:30 AM
- Federal Reserve Board of Governors closed meeting – Federal Reserve Board of Governors closed meeting via conference call to review and determine the advance and discount rates to be charged by the Federal Reserve Banks; 11:30 AM
- Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki; 12:15 PM
- Jill Biden, Education Secretary Cardona, and Illinois Gov. Pritzker tour Sauk Valley Community College – First Lady Jill Biden, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, and Illinois Governor JB Pritzker tour Sauk Valley Community College in Illinois, before the first lady and Secretary Cardona deliver remarks
Location: Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon, IL; 12:30 PM
- Heritage Foundation discussion on solving Americans' health care problems (virtual) – 'Conservatives Must Lead in Solving Americans' Health Care Problems' Heritage Foundation virtual discussion, with special opening remarks from former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, conversation with Republican Rep. Jim Banks and Domestic Policy Studies Director Marie Fishpaw, and discussion with Domestic Policy Studies Visiting Fellow Doug Badger, Americans for Prosperity Senior Health Policy Fellow Dean Clancy, Goodman Institute for

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