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March 30, 2023
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Daily News Briefing

(In coordination with the Office of Public Affairs)

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Table of Contents

IN THE NEWS

- Director Wray Stresses China Threats in Anderson University Appearance
- Biden Administration Warns of 'Damaging' Effects From GOP Budget Plans
- FBI Informant Testifies for Proud Boys Defense

COUNTERTERRORISM

- AG Garland Defends School Memo at Senate Hearing Against GOP Criticism
- Teen Who Prosecutors Say Planned Attack on Chicago Houses of Worship Reaches Plea Deal
- DOJ Charges Two More People for Attacks Against Florida Pro-Life Pregnancy Center
- DNA From Half-Eaten Burrito Ties Ex-Wisconsin Doctoral Student to Pro-Life Center Firebombing Attack

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

- AG Garland Says FBI Needs Spying Powers to 'Fight the Chinese'
- Biden Condemns Spyware in Democracies Amid Israel Row
- DHS and FBI Rely on Chinese Drones That Russia Is Using in Ukraine War
- Rand Paul Hits the Brakes on Hawley Push to Ban TikTok
- Continued Reporting: Newly Released Documents Reveal Secret FBI Investigation of Ivana Trump

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

- Nashville Shooter Audrey Hale's Manifesto to Be Released After FBI Review
- Trump Falsely Claims Presidential Records Act Requires Prolonged 'Talk, Talk, Talk' Over Returning Documents
- Shanquella Robinson's Family Still Demands Answers Five Months After Mysterious Death in Mexico

- Woman Accused of Double Murder Tries To Get Inmates To Kill Witness
- He Fatally Shot His Girlfriend. Then He Wrote About It in His Diary.
- Several Face Charges in Killings of Gay Men Who Were Drugged and Robbed
- Quinton Simon's Remains Returned to Georgia as Mom Faces Charges
- NYC Drug Ring Peddled Pills
- Pennsylvania Businessman Accused of Stealing \$3.5M From Company Sentenced to Prison
- California Man Faces up to 40 Years for Marijuana Trafficking, COVID-19 Insurance Fraud
- FBI Offering \$20K Reward in Manhunt for Former Maryland Governor
- Georgia Teens in Trent Lehrkamp Torture Identified by Police
- Two Black Men, One Shot in the Mouth, Plan to Sue Mississippi Deputies
- Pennsylvania DA Hopeful That Discovered Remains Belong to Restaurant Owner Who Went Missing in 2017
- Illinois Man Charged With Robbing Bank, Shooting Security Guard

CYBER DIVISION

- U.S. to Provide \$25 Million to Costa Rica for Cybersecurity
- FDA Requires Medical Devices Be Secured Against Cyberattacks
- Arrests Spotlight Online Threats, Harassment in Hacker Community

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

- How 'Swatting' Calls Spread as Schools Face Real Threats

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

- Federal Judge Says Mike Pence Must Testify in Jan. 6 Probe
- AG Garland Refuses to Examine Civil Rights Claims of Jan. 6 Defendants
- Trump Appeals Order Directing Meadows, Other Aides to Testify in Jan. 6 Probe
- Woman Who Joined Conservative Dating Site Reveals She Sent January 6 Rioters' Details to FBI
- Rep. Loudermilk Looks to Clear His Name During Jan. 6 Committee Reinvestigation
- Donald Trump Is Back on Social Media, and Nobody Knows What Happens Next
- Arkansas Man Deserves Acquittal in Capitol Riot Case, His Lawyer Argues
- South Carolina Man Arrested for Spraying Police With Bear Spray During Capitol Riot
- Man Charged in Jan. 6 Capitol Riot Waives Jury Trial, Guardian Dines With Trump
- Feds Want Florida Man to Spend a Year in Prison for Role in Capitol Riot
- Opinion: Words That Cause Catastrophes

OTHER FBI NEWS

- Congress to Consider New No-Fly List for Unruly Passengers
- Cruz Demands Big Tech Answer on Coordination With Government Over Misinformation
- Opinion: Trump Says the Justice System Has Been Weaponized. He Would Know.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Taiwan's President Lands in the U.S. Amid Threats From China
- Mexico Investigates Migrant Deaths in Border City Fire as Homicide Case
- Taiwan's President Lands in the U.S. Amid Threats From China

- Israel-U.S. Tensions Rise Over Judicial Overhaul
- Zelensky Urges China's Xi to Visit Ukraine
- Soldiers Massing Near Ukrainian Nuclear Plant, U.N. Official Warns

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

- A Majority of Americans Think a Criminal Indictment Should Disqualify Trump for 2024
- House Republicans Lining up to Defend Trump, Helping in GOP Primary
- Biden Heralds Midterm Elections as 'Rejection' of 'Extremism' Undermining Democracy
- Michigan Democrats Rise, and Try to Turn a Battleground Blue
- Congress Must Fight D.C.'s 'Shocking' Crime Trend, Says Rep. James Comer
- Possible Trump Indictment Pushed Back as New York Grand Jury to Break for a Month – As It Happened
- White House to Call for New Midsize Bank Rules After SVB, Signature Failures
- Shooting Prompts a Shrug in Washington, as G.O.P. Rejects Pleas to Act
- After Mass Shootings, Republicans Expand Access to Guns
- G.O.P. Lawmakers Override Kentucky Governor's Veto on Anti-Trans Law

BIG PICTURE

- New York Times
- Wall Street Journal
- Washington Post
- Financial Times
- ABC News
- CBS News
- NBC News
- Fox News

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

IN THE NEWS

Director Wray Stresses China Threats in Anderson University Appearance

[The Herald Bulletin](#) (03/29, Wood) reported that Director Wray has warned that China poses a serious threat to U.S. interests, particularly in terms of economic security and innovation. Speaking at Anderson University on Wednesday, Director Wray highlighted the links between the parent company of TikTok and the Chinese government, suggesting that giving the latter access to information held by the former would be unwise. "Would you want the Chinese government — which is an autocratic government that has shown over and over again contempt for the rule of law and international norms — would you want to give the Chinese government, the Chinese communist party, the Chinese intelligence services everything you have on TikTok?" Director Wray also addressed the FBI's investigations into the attack on the U.S. Capitol, stating that the FBI was only targeting individuals who had used violence or threatened to use it. "To me, the whole thing is part of a broader phenomenon in society that's troubling. It's the tendency on the part of people, when they're angry about something or angry with someone, to express that anger through violence. When it comes to violence, I don't really care what you're angry about or who you're angry with, you don't get to express it through violence, including attacking law enforcement." The article noted that he also talked about the challenges of leading the FBI and the agency's conclusions regarding the origins of COVID-19.

Biden Administration Warns of 'Damaging' Effects From GOP Budget Plans

The [Washington Post](#) (03/29, Romm, Sotomayor) reported that GOP lawmakers have submitted new demands to President Biden to cleave roughly \$130 billion from federal agencies and programs in the 2024 fiscal year. Speaker Kevin McCarthy is pushing for austerity, and party lawmakers convened a hearing to highlight the government's growing debt, which is currently at about \$31 trillion. According to the article, the Republicans have made a broad commitment to slim down federal health care, science, education, and labor programs while leaving defense untouched. The article noted that at the Justice Department, officials warned about "significant furloughs" at the FBI and other key law enforcement agencies, including those that focus on intercepting fentanyl, a GOP priority. The [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Bullis) posted a video of Attorney General Merrick Garland's testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday concerning the DOJ budget. The article noted that the budget seeks to bolster federal law enforcement, requesting \$11.3 billion for the FBI to help the agency carry out its complex mission. The funding would go toward a multitude of serious and evolving threats, including terrorism, espionage, and cyber threats.

FBI Informant Testifies for Proud Boys Defense

The [Associated Press](#) (03/29, Kunzelman) reported that an FBI informant identified only as "Aaron" testified on March 23 at the trial of former Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío and four lieutenants charged with seditious conspiracy for allegedly plotting to keep Donald Trump in the White House after the 2020 presidential election. "Aaron," a defense witness, claimed he didn't know of any plans for the far-right extremist group to invade the Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021, and didn't think they inspired the violence that day. However, prosecutors suggested that "Aaron" sent a text message to his FBI handler only after he realized he and other members could be in serious trouble. The prosecutor also showed a video that captured "Aaron" helping another Proud Boy use a podium to block a security gate from closing. According to the article, the trial has raised fresh questions about intelligence failures before the Capitol riot, and prosecutors said that another person the defense had wanted to put on the witness stand secretly worked as a government informant for two years after the Jan. 6 attack.

[Back to Top](#)

COUNTERTERRORISM

AG Garland Defends School Memo at Senate Hearing Against GOP Criticism

[USA TODAY](#) (03/29, Jansen) reported that Attorney General Merrick Garland told a House panel Wednesday that a controversial 2021 memo he wrote said the FBI received 22 reports of threats against school officials and referred six cases to state and local authorities to investigate. Garland issued his memo to FBI agents about assisting local law enforcement days after receiving a letter from the National School Boards Association, which followed widespread reports of parents threatening school board members, administrators, and teachers over COVID-19 policies. According to the article, House Republicans accused the Justice Department of targeting parents protesting at school boards, but Garland denied it, saying that his memo was aimed at violence and threats of violence and that parents protesting at school boards are protected by the Constitution. The article noted that Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA) said Garland should withdraw the memo because it resulted in federal counterterrorism agents investigating Americans protesting at school boards rather than leaving conflicts for local authorities. "Six were actually investigated by the counterterrorism division of the FBI, citizens of this country who were trying to make their voices heard at their school board meetings and instead were tagged by the FBI as terrorists by agents of this government seeking to silence their voices," Cline said. The article also noted that the school board memo has become one of the highest-profile inquiries House Republicans have focused on, and they have called another hearing to question the FBI and Education Department about providing more documents dealing with school board investigations. [Fox News](#) (03/29, Kasperowicz) and [The Epoch Times](#) (03/29, Lord) also reported on the story.

Teen Who Prosecutors Say Planned Attack on Chicago Houses of Worship Reaches Plea Deal

[CBS News](#) (03/29, Staff Writer) reported that federal prosecutors reached a plea deal with a teen who was charged with having unregistered explosive devices and had plans to travel to Chicago to attack houses of worship. According to the article, the defendant, Xavier Pelkey, of Waterville, Maine, agreed to plead guilty to a charge of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, according to court documents filed Wednesday. In exchange, prosecutors agreed to move to dismiss a second criminal charge. Pelkey could still be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison and be ordered to pay a maximum fine of \$250,000. The article noted that last year, investigators said they conducted a search warrant on Pelkey's home and found homemade explosive devices composed of bundles of fireworks and sharp metal objects such as staples, pins, and thumbtacks. The article added that an FBI bomb

technician determined that the items were designed to increase the amount of shrapnel propelled if they were detonated. Pelkey claimed he only had "fireworks" in his apartment and had taped them together for a "bigger boom," but did not answer as to why they were full of staples and other sharp objects, investigators said.

DOJ Charges Two More People for Attacks Against Florida Pro-Life Pregnancy Center

[Fox News](#) (03/29, Herlihy) reported that the DOJ has charged two more individuals for their involvement in a targeted attack on a pro-life pregnancy center in Winter Haven, Florida. According to the article, Gabriella Oropesa and Annarella Rivera were indicted by a federal grand jury for engaging in a conspiracy to prevent employees of reproductive health services facilities from providing those services. They allegedly targeted a pro-life pregnancy center and vandalized the facilities with spray-painted threats. Similar facilities in Hollywood and Hialeah, Florida, were also allegedly targeted. The article noted that the DOJ has accused the individuals of violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE Act) by using threats of force to intimidate and interfere with the employees of the pro-life center in Winter Haven that were providing or seeking to provide reproductive health services and by intentionally damaging and destroying the facility's property.

DNA From Half-Eaten Burrito Ties Ex-Wisconsin Doctoral Student to Pro-Life Center Firebombing Attack

[Fox News](#) (03/29, Wallace) reported that a former university research assistant has been arrested and charged with attempting to cause damage by means of fire or an explosive in connection with the firebombing of a pro-life center in Madison, Wisconsin. According to the article, Hridindu Sankar Roychowdhury, 29, was identified by DNA found in a half-eaten burrito he discarded in a public trash can, which law enforcement officers later recovered. The attack on the headquarters of Wisconsin Family Action took place on Mother's Day 2022, about a week after the leak of a Supreme Court draft opinion that would later overturn *Roe v. Wade*. The article noted that Roychowdhury is accused of throwing a Molotov cocktail inside the building and leaving graffiti that read "If abortions aren't safe then you aren't either." "Violence is never an acceptable way for anyone to express their views or their disagreement," Assistant Director Robert R. Wells of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division said. "Today's arrest demonstrates the FBI's commitment to vigorously pursue those responsible for this dangerous attack and others across the country, and to hold them accountable for their criminal actions."

[Back to Top](#)

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

AG Garland Says FBI Needs Spying Powers to 'Fight the Chinese'

[The Epoch Times](#) (03/29, Lord) reported that during a recent hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland defended the FBI's use of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), arguing that the surveillance apparatus is critical to "fight the Chinese." According to the article, FISA Section 702, a post-9/11 section of the U.S. Code, is controversial for its wide-ranging application in surveilling American citizens. A court-ordered report found that the FBI had used that controversial section of U.S. law to illegally spy on over 3.3 million Americans without a warrant, including an unnamed sitting member of Congress. The article noted that House Republicans have been mounting investigations into what they allege is the "weaponization" of the federal government for partisan ends, leading to increased mistrust of the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies among Republican voters. The article added that despite concerns about FISA abuses, Garland argued that Section 702 provides "an extraordinarily large proportion of the intel we get" and is a necessary tool to fight the Chinese. The [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Dunleavy) also reported on the story.

Biden Condemns Spyware in Democracies Amid Israel Row

The [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Gehrke) reported that President Joe Biden has condemned the use of commercial spyware by governments in a repudiation of Israeli-made surveillance technology, coinciding with deepening anxiety about Israel's democracy under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Speaking at the 2023 Summit for Democracy, Biden stated that one key focus of their work will be in ensuring that technologies are developed to advance democratic governance and not undermine it. According to the article, Biden couched that statement as an assurance that U.S. agencies would not use such systems just months after revelations that the FBI considered the use of spyware developed by an Israeli tech company. The article noted that this move puts a spotlight on an embarrassing subject for Netanyahu, as the two leaders clash about a proposed overhaul of the Israeli judiciary that Biden and Netanyahu's domestic critics regard as a threat to Israel's system of governance.

DHS and FBI Rely on Chinese Drones That Russia Is Using in Ukraine War

The [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Dunleavy) reported that several U.S. federal agencies, including the FBI and DHS, have been using Chinese-made drones from Shenzhen DJI Sciences and Technologies (DJI), despite national security concerns and sanctions imposed on the company. According to the article, in 2021, 75% of the flights conducted by the Department of Interior were conducted by DJI drones, while the Secret Service purchased multiple DJI drones in 2022. DJI drones were also found to be a key part of the Russian military's toolkit during its invasion of Ukraine, with China reportedly selling more than \$12m in drones and drone parts to Russia since early 2022. The article noted that congressional Republicans have demanded that the White House take more drastic steps to challenge Beijing's support of Russia, and a bipartisan American Security Drone Act was introduced in February 2023 to prohibit federal agencies from procuring certain drones from countries identified as national security threats. The article also noted that the Commerce Department added DJI to its blacklist in December 2020, and the Treasury Department designated it as a "Chinese Military-Industrial Complex" company in December 2021, in part because it "has provided drones to the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau, which are used to surveil Uyghurs in Xinjiang."

Rand Paul Hits the Brakes on Hawley Push to Ban TikTok

The [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Sivak) reported that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) blocked a move by Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) to ban TikTok in the United States, citing concerns over censorship and free speech. According to the article, Hawley introduced the No TikTok on United States Devices Act, which he warned was necessary to protect Americans from surveillance by TikTok's Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance. However, Paul argued that a ban on the app would be an infringement on free speech rights and likened it to Chinese government censorship. While most GOP senators agree that TikTok poses a national security threat, a handful of progressive House Democrats have come out against a ban, citing anti-China "hysteria." Senate Democrats have generally voiced deep reservations about the app's potential use by the Chinese government for spying on Americans. The article noted that Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) has partnered with Senate Minority Whip John Thune (R-SD) on the RESTRICT Act, a White House-endorsed bill to address those concerns that have so far garnered 21 co-sponsors, 10 Democrats and 11 Republicans. An additional article from the [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Hutton) reported that the RESTRICT Act will not restrict the use of virtual private networks (VPNs), according to Warner's office. The bill aims to allow the Commerce Department to ban companies such as TikTok, Kaspersky, and Huawei that create national security risks for the United States. [Newsweek](#) (03/29, Feng) added that during his congressional hearing, TikTok chief executive Shou Zi sought to highlight TikTok's operational independence from its Chinese owners and pledged to onshore all U.S. user data. The app was safer than most of its competitors, Chew added, but he failed to assuage fears about fundamental control over the app's proprietary algorithm. According to the article, Director Wray told the House Intelligence Committee on March 9 that "the control of the recommendation algorithm could be used to conduct influence operations." He added that this wouldn't be "easily detected or ruled out." A day earlier, Director Wray agreed with members of the Senate Intelligence Committee that, in a future crisis, TikTok's curated video feeds could be manipulated to display pro-China narratives.

Continued Reporting: Newly Released Documents Reveal Secret FBI Investigation of Ivana Trump

[The Epoch Times](#) (03/29, Athrappully) reported that recent documents obtained by Bloomberg under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that Ivana Trump, former President Donald Trump's first wife, was under FBI investigation in the late 1980s and early 1990s. According to the article, the heavily-redacted documents indicate that the investigation involved agency assets from Canada and Europe, with sources feeding information to agents and the department procuring data from Trump's life in Czechoslovakia, her emigration to Canada, and work status in the US. The article noted that although the reason for initiating the investigation remains unknown, the agency said that some of the related files were destroyed, and hundreds of others are being studied by other government departments.

[Back to Top](#)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Nashville Shooter Audrey Hale's Manifesto to Be Released After FBI Review

The [New York Post](#) (03/29, Pagonis) reported that Audrey Hale's manifesto, which was left behind by the transgender Nashville school shooter who killed six people, will be released to the public after the FBI and criminal

profilers have completed a detailed analysis of its contents. Hale, 28, left behind detailed maps of the school she was planning to attack, and her attack was pre-planned and targeted. She used two assault rifles and a handgun to carry out her heinous suicide mission, killing three schoolchildren and three staff. Police have not yet released information on her motive.

Trump Falsely Claims Presidential Records Act Requires Prolonged 'Talk, Talk, Talk' Over Returning Documents

[CNN](#) (03/29, Dale) reported that former president and current presidential candidate Donald Trump continues to inaccurately describe the Presidential Records Act. According to the article, in a Fox interview that aired on Monday, Trump criticized the FBI for searching his Mar-a-Lago resort in August for presidential documents and argued he should have been allowed to engage in further discussions with the government over these records. In fact, Trump said, the "very specific" Presidential Records Act actually requires extended talks with the National Archives and Records Administration.

Shanquella Robinson's Family Still Demands Answers Five Months After Mysterious Death in Mexico

[NBC News](#) (03/29, Bellamy, Essamuah) reported that Shanquella Robinson's family is still seeking answers five months after Robinson, 25, of Charlotte, North Carolina, was found dead in a Mexican beach resort. According to the article, at a news conference with the victim's family last week, attorneys Ben Crump and Sue-Ann Robinson (no relation to Shanquella Robinson) said that no arrests have been made and that they will continue to fight for justice. The article mentioned that White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre offered her condolences to the family at a recent news briefing but said that because of the pending FBI investigation, there is "very little about what we can say."

Woman Accused of Double Murder Tries To Get Inmates To Kill Witness

[Newsweek](#) (03/29, Anglesey) reported that a Florida woman jailed on suspicion of a double murder tried to get fellow inmates to kill a key witness in the case, according to police. Police at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office originally arrested Fatima Garcia Avila, 21, following murders in Dover and Thonotosassa, near Tampa, in July 2022. According to the article, police said a witness came forward months after the arrest and claimed Avila asked inmates at the Falkenburg Road Jail to kill a key witness. The article stated that evidence presented at the trial showed Buselli sent messages via an encrypted mobile app, in order to "solicit the murder of her estranged husband." But the person who Buselli solicited to carry out the murder reported the request to law enforcement. An undercover agent then stood in as the acquaintance and spoke with Buselli about the plot, which in turn led to the arrest. When Buselli spoke with the FBI agent, she ultimately negotiated a downpayment of \$5,000 in order to carry out the murder.

He Fatally Shot His Girlfriend. Then He Wrote About It in His Diary.

The [New York Times](#) (03/29, Tully) reported that James R. Ray III, a former Marine, is charged with killing Angela Bledsoe in the home they shared in an affluent New Jersey commuter town. The article quoted Gregory W. Ehrie, then the special agent in charge of the FBI's Newark office, who said, "If you commit a crime in the state of New Jersey, we will not forget, we will not forgive and we will find you." According to the article, Mr. Ray, an entertainment lawyer and former Marine, fled to Cuba after Angela Bledsoe, the mother of his then 6-year-old daughter, was found shot to death in 2018 in the home they shared in Montclair, N.J. He was arrested after a weeklong international manhunt.

Several Face Charges in Killings of Gay Men Who Were Drugged and Robbed

The [New York Times](#) (03/29, Stack) reported that assailants used facial recognition to unlock phones and then looted financial accounts. The crimes, which occurred in Hell's Kitchen, spread fear in New York's nightlife. According to the article, several defendants face charges in connection with murders and robberies at Manhattan bars that terrorized the city's gay community, according to three people with knowledge of the matter. The article mentioned that John Umberger, 33, and Julio Ramirez, 25, were killed after they left bars in Hell's Kitchen in what the medical examiner's office ruled were murders committed in the course of "drug-facilitated theft." The article mentioned that the police department has said it is investigating a pattern of similar crimes at both straight and gay bars, and that the victims have been a mix of heterosexual and L.G.B.T.Q. people. Detectives believe more than one group may be involved in the crimes, according to two of the officials with knowledge of the investigation.

Quinton Simon's Remains Returned to Georgia as Mom Faces Charges

The [New York Post](#) (03/29, Land) reported that the remains of Quinton Simon, the toddler whose body was found in a landfill after he went missing last fall, have been returned to Georgia as his mother faces multiple charges stemming from his death, police said. According to the article, Quinton, 20 months, was first reported missing from his family's Savannah home by his mother, Leilani Simon, on Oct. 5. The article mentioned that his partial remains were found in a landfill six weeks later. The body was brought back to Georgia this week, WJCL reported, after undergoing additional testing at the FBI lab in Quantico.

NYC Drug Ring Peddled Pills

The [New York Post](#) (03/29, Gibbon) reported that nine people — four of them family members — were busted for running a sprawling fentanyl-, meth- and coke-trafficking ring that included peddling pills shaped like Donald Trump, Mickey Mouse, bitcoin, and even Legos, authorities said Wednesday. According to the article, cops seized \$2.5 million worth of the drugs in taking down the multi-state drug pressing and peddling operation after a two-year joint investigation, New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan said. The article mentioned that the colorful tablets — some of them fake oxycodone pills laced with highly lethal fentanyl — were made into nearly a dozen recognizable shapes that included dominoes, spades, Iron Man, bitcoin, Legos, and green and yellow silhouettes of the 76-year-old former president. The article stated that the task force, which included members of the FBI, the DEA, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, and the NYPD, raided two Manhattan apartments and the Bronx building near Yankee Stadium as part of the joint investigation.

Pennsylvania Businessman Accused of Stealing \$3.5M From Company Sentenced to Prison

[KDKA \(CBS-2\)](#) (03/29, Staff Writer) reported that a businessman accused of stealing more than \$3.5 million from a Morgantown construction company was sentenced to over three years in prison, prosecutors announced on Tuesday. According to the article, Michael Allen, 60, pled guilty to wire fraud and money laundering in November. The Department of Justice said he admitted to diverting \$3.5 million in company funds while he was the manager of Accelerated Construction Services. The article mentioned that prosecutors said he spent \$154,000 on vehicles, including a 2020 Ranger Rover and a classic car restoration. He also bought a 5.19-carat diamond ring for over \$113,000 and spent an estimated \$19,000 on other jewelry, like a Breitling watch, the Department of Justice said. Allen was sentenced to 46 months in prison. He will also have to pay \$3.5 million in restitution to the company. The IRS and Monongalia County Sheriff's Office investigated the case with the help of the FBI.

California Man Faces up to 40 Years for Marijuana Trafficking, COVID-19 Insurance Fraud

[CBS News](#) (03/29, Staff Writer) reported that a California man pleaded guilty Tuesday to multiple crimes, including conspiracy to distribute marijuana, aggravated identity theft, and obstruction of justice, federal prosecutors said. According to the article, Quenten Giovanni Moody, aka Christano Rossi, 38, admitted transporting marijuana out of state, committing insurance fraud during the COVID-19 pandemic, and creating fake FBI documents to attempt to get two of his government-seized vehicles released back to him. The article noted that as part of its investigation, the U.S. government seized two vehicles from Moody in April 2022 that were purchased with money he obtained illegally, a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro and a 1956 Chevrolet pickup truck, prosecutors said. The article stated that the vehicles were transported to an FBI field office for storage, but on May 8, a flat-bed truck arrived at the facility and the driver told FBI security personnel that he had been instructed to take the vehicles out of federal custody. The driver gave the FBI security team a document that purported to be an order issued by a judge ordering the U.S. Marshals Service and FBI to release the vehicles. The documents were fake, however, and were created by Moody.

FBI Offering \$20K Reward in Manhunt for Former Maryland Governor

[Fox News](#) (03/29, Norman) reported that federal authorities are now offering a combined \$20,000 reward in the manhunt for the former chief of staff of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who has disappeared after failing to show up at his criminal trial. According to the article, the increased reward comes two weeks after the FBI raided the home of Roy McGrath in Florida on March 15. The 53-year-old was supposed to be in Baltimore for the beginning of his criminal trial. "A federal arrest warrant was issued by the United States District Court, District of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, on March 13, 2023, after he was charged with Failure to Appear," the FBI says. The [New York Post](#) (03/29, Christenson), [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Schilke), and the [Epoch Times](#) (03/29, Morgan) also reported on the story.

Georgia Teens in Trent Lehrkamp Torture Identified by Police

[Fox News](#) (03/29, Rosenberg) reported that Georgia police announced Wednesday that they've identified the teens involved in the torture of Trent Lehrkamp — as his family called on community members to pray for his recovery.

Glynn County Interim Police Chief O'Neal Jackson III told reporters that investigators had tracked down the minors seen in disturbing photos and videos showing the 19-year-old's abuse. According to the article, investigators had tracked down 20 minors present or involved in both incidents. He did not reveal the date the video was recorded but said it was prior to the incident that landed the young man in the hospital. The article noted that the police department previously said it is working with the FBI, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the district attorney's office. [CBS News](#) (03/29, Tabachnick), and [NBC News](#) (03/29, Video) also reported on the story.

Two Black Men, One Shot in the Mouth, Plan to Sue Mississippi Deputies

The [New York Times](#) (03/29, Hauser) reported that two Black men, one of whom said he was shot in the mouth by a deputy while handcuffed, plan to sue a local sheriff's department in Mississippi, claiming that deputies beat them and used "waterboarding techniques" and a stun gun on them during a raid in January, according to their lawyer. According to the article, the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI Jackson field office are conducting a larger investigation into the Rankin County Sheriff's Department in Brandon, Miss., for possible civil rights violations and other violent encounters with Black men.

Pennsylvania DA Hopeful That Discovered Remains Belong to Restaurant Owner Who Went Missing in 2017

[Fox News](#) (03/29, Wehner) reported that Pennsylvania investigators discovered human remains on Tuesday and are hopeful they are those of a restaurant owner who went missing in 2017. According to the article, Lackawanna County District Attorney Mark Powell's office announced the discovery of human remains on Facebook on Tuesday, addressing concerns from the public about a significant law enforcement presence in the Connell's Patch section of Old Forge. The article mentioned that in the post, the DA's office said the activity was related to the active investigation into the disappearance of Robert Baron Sr. in 2017. The article added that with the assistance of the Old Forge Police Department, Pennsylvania State Police, and the FBI, Powell said, unexplored investigative avenues involving recent advancements in forensic technology will be pursued.

Illinois Man Charged With Robbing Bank, Shooting Security Guard

[CBS News](#) (03/29, Staff Writer) reported that a man has been charged with robbing a Chicago bank earlier this month and shooting a security guard before making his getaway. The article mentioned that according to the charges, the FBI was able to connect him to the robbery because he gave his phone number to a woman outside the bank just before the heist, and she recognized him from news coverage of the robbery.

[Back to Top](#)

CYBER DIVISION

U.S. to Provide \$25 Million to Costa Rica for Cybersecurity

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (03/29, Rundle) reported that the U.S. will provide cybersecurity support to the government of Costa Rica, officials said, almost a year after a ransomware group laid siege to its critical infrastructure and triggered a state of emergency. According to the article, the State Department will commit \$25 million to help build a security operations center within Costa Rica's Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications to monitor cyber threats to government agencies and critical infrastructure, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday. The official said that the funds will also help Costa Rica with strategic and technical cyber planning, training, hardware, and software licenses. The article added that a grant to Costa Rica follows similar efforts from the U.S. to assist Albania in recovering from a cyberattack, which the federal government has since linked to Iran. Tehran has denied involvement. In that instance, the U.S. provided an incident-response team from the FBI and a further \$25 million in funding to shore up defenses and aid with recovery efforts. The U.S. has provided similar assistance to countries such as Moldova in recent years.

FDA Requires Medical Devices Be Secured Against Cyberattacks

[CNN](#) (03/29, Korn) reported that the Food and Drug Administration will now require medical devices to meet specific cybersecurity guidelines after years of concerns that a growing number of internet-connected products used by hospitals and healthcare providers could be hit by hacks and ransomware attacks. According to the article, under FDA guidance issued this week, all new medical device applicants must now submit a plan on how to "monitor, identify, and address" cybersecurity issues, as well as create a process that provides "reasonable assurance" that the device in question is protected. Applicants will also need to make security updates and patches

available on a regular schedule and in critical situations, and provide the FDA with “a software bill of materials,” including any open-source or other software their devices use. The article noted that a 2022 report released by the FBI cited research finding 53% of digital medical devices and other internet-connected products in hospitals had known critical vulnerabilities. The report listed a number of medical devices that are susceptible to cyber attacks, including insulin pumps, intracardiac defibrillators, mobile cardiac telemetry, and pacemakers. “Malign actors who compromise these devices can direct them to give inaccurate readings, administer drug overdoses, or otherwise endanger patient health,” according to the FBI report.

Arrests Spotlight Online Threats, Harassment in Hacker Community

[Bloomberg](#) (03/29, Turton) reported that the recent arrests of three alleged cybercriminals provide a glimpse into the kind of hijinks that go down on the modern dark web. The article mentioned that on March 15, the FBI arrested Conor Brian Fitzpatrick in Peekskill, NY, and charged the recent high school graduate with operating BreachForums, an online market where users sold stolen databases names, passwords, and email addresses hacked from almost 1,000 websites.

[Back to Top](#)

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

How ‘Swatting’ Calls Spread as Schools Face Real Threats

The [Associated Press](#) (03/29, Hollingsworth) reported that a pace of threats and false reports of shooters have been pouring into schools and colleges across the country for months, raising concerns among law enforcement and elected leaders. According to the article, schools in Pennsylvania were the latest targeted by so-called swatting. Computer-generated calls on Wednesday made claims about active shooters, but it was all a hoax. One day earlier, nearly 30 Massachusetts schools received fake threats. School officials are already on edge amid a backdrop of deadly school shootings, the latest Monday at a Christian school in Nashville. The article noted that the FBI in Pittsburgh nodded to the risk, noting in a statement about the school threat cases that it “takes swatting very seriously because it puts innocent people at risk.” The article added that an FBI official said in November that they believe the wave of false threats focused on schools may be coming from outside of the country. The [Hill](#) (03/29, Shannon), and [CBS News](#) (03/29, Video) also reported on the story.

[Back to Top](#)

CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

Federal Judge Says Mike Pence Must Testify in Jan. 6 Probe

[Truthout](#) (03/29, Walker) reported that former Vice President Mike Pence's efforts to block his testimony in the special counsel's investigation on the plot to overturn the 2020 U.S. presidential election have largely been rejected by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg. According to the article, Pence had argued that as the vice president and therefore the president of the U.S. Senate, he was protected from divulging information to the grand jury under the Constitution's "speech or debate" clause. However, the judge ruled that while Pence could remain silent on some topics related to his work as president of the Senate, he would have to disclose information related to alleged illegality on former President Donald Trump's part. The article noted that Pence is expected to compete for the Republican nomination against Trump in 2024. [ABC News](#) (03/29, Shepherd) reported that Pence stated that he has "nothing to hide" about events surrounding Jan. 6 and that he believes they did their duty under the Constitution on that day. [MSNBC](#) (03/29, Benen) provided an opinion piece on the story.

AG Garland Refuses to Examine Civil Rights Claims of Jan. 6 Defendants

[Fox News](#) (03/29, Kasperowicz) reported that during a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing, Attorney General Merrick Garland declined a request to examine whether the civil rights of some Jan. 6 defendants have been violated due to the lack of a speedy trial. According to the article, Republican Rep. Andrew Clyde argued that detaining these people for so long violates the 6th Amendment to the Constitution. However, Garland argued that it is their lawyers' job to make that argument in court. Garland added that the judge has the authority to dismiss a case for violating the Speedy Trial Act, and each defendant is entitled to a lawyer who can make a speedy trial argument in court. Garland didn't commit to examining the defendants' cases and said he didn't know the specifics

of individual cases. The article noted that several House Republicans, including Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, met with the Jan. 6 defendants in the Washington, D.C. jail last week.

Trump Appeals Order Directing Meadows, Other Aides to Testify in Jan. 6 Probe

[The Hill](#) (03/29, Beitsch) reported that former President Trump's legal team has appealed a decision by D.C. District Court Judge Beryl Howell ordering former chief of staff Mark Meadows and other Trump White House officials to testify in the Justice Department's investigation into the January 6th insurrection. The officials include Dan Scavino, Trump's communications adviser, as well as several national security officials. According to the article, the sealed decision from Judge Howell rejected Trump's claims of executive privilege over the officials. The matter will come before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, where a three-judge panel recently upheld another of Howell's decisions ordering Evan Corcoran, Trump's attorney in the Mar-a-Lago probe, to cooperate with investigators. The article noted that Meadows and the other officials could have valuable insight for prosecutors as they directed meetings with GOP lawmakers and coordinated with officials at the Department of Justice and in Georgia.

Woman Who Joined Conservative Dating Site Reveals She Sent January 6 Rioters' Details to FBI

[Daily Mail](#) (03/29, Lepore) reported that Caitlin Berg is claiming that she was able to infiltrate a conservative-leaning dating app and ended up reporting several profiles to the FBI for saying they'd participated in the January 6 riots. According to the article, Berg found many men on the app who had photos of the January 6 riot and started screenshotting their profiles and sending their information to the FBI. The article noted that Berg went under a pseudonym and sent an email to the company in order to get a referral code. After gaining access to the app, Berg connected with men who had said they were at the Capitol on January 6 and asked them for an Instagram or LinkedIn account to prove they were real. She then screenshotted their entire profile and gave their information to the FBI.

Rep. Loudermilk Looks to Clear His Name During Jan. 6 Committee Reinvestigation

[Roll Call](#) (03/29, Papp) reported that Rep. Barry Loudermilk has released findings from the House Administration Committee's reinvestigation of the Capitol attack, in an attempt to clear his name and criticize the Jan. 6 Select Committee. According to the article, Loudermilk was investigated by the select committee for allegedly giving a reconnaissance tour on Jan. 5, 2021, to a group of up to 15 people, some of whom took photos of stairwells, security checkpoints, and entry points to the Capitol. Loudermilk contends that no one on the tour entered the Capitol after it was breached. The Georgia Republican released letters, videos, and a timeline of events focused on his situation. The article noted that Democrats have characterized Loudermilk's release as an attempt at revisionism, with Rep. Bennie Thompson stating that Loudermilk was never formally accused by the committee of any wrongdoing.

Donald Trump Is Back on Social Media, and Nobody Knows What Happens Next

[CNBC](#) (03/29, Vanian) reported that Donald Trump has warned of "potential death and destruction" if he is indicted for a crime. According to the article, the former U.S. president's warning, made on his Truth Social messaging platform, echoed the rhetoric he used leading up to the final days of his presidency that led to his removal from Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. Trump has since been reinstated on those platforms. The article noted that the advocacy group Accountable Tech has said that over 350 Trump posts on Truth Social would have violated Facebook's safety rules. The clearest restrictions on Trump come from Truth Social, which has an exclusivity deal with him until June.

Arkansas Man Deserves Acquittal in Capitol Riot Case, His Lawyer Argues

The [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (03/29, Bowden) reported that Richard Barnett, a man found guilty on eight charges related to the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot, should be acquitted for several reasons, according to his attorney, Jonathan Gross. According to the article, in a federal court filing in Washington, D.C., Gross argued that Barnett did not enter the Capitol of his own volition, did not impede police officers, and did not disrupt Congress' certification of Joe Biden's electoral victory in the 2020 presidential election. He also claimed that the government had misrepresented trial evidence, that Barnett was swept into the Capitol by the crowd, and that his statements to police officers did not constitute evidence of wrongdoing. The article noted that Barnett faces a maximum penalty of 47 years in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on May 3.

South Carolina Man Arrested for Spraying Police With Bear Spray During Capitol Riot

[WCBD \(NBC-2\)](#) (03/29, Laudenslager) reported that Thomas Casselman, a man from South Carolina, was arrested on March 28, 2023, for allegedly assaulting officers during the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the United States

Capitol. According to the article, the FBI identified him after releasing several images of him, and tipsters told the FBI that Casselman bragged about being at the Capitol that day and showed them photos and videos of the trip. Casselman was interviewed by the FBI and admitted to being in Washington on January 6, 2021. He was charged with multiple crimes related to the riot, including assaulting officers, entering and remaining in a restricted building with a dangerous weapon and disorderly and disruptive conduct in a Capitol building.

Man Charged in Jan. 6 Capitol Riot Waives Jury Trial, Guardian Dines With Trump

[Naples Daily News](#) (03/29, Rodriguez) reported that Trish Priller, legal guardian for Christopher Worrell, a man linked to the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol insurrection, recently dined with former President Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago. Worrell's trial has been delayed multiple times due to his medical complications, and a new trial date has not yet been set. According to the article, Worrell is accused of attacking police officers with pepper spray gel during the Jan. 6 incident and is a self-proclaimed member of The Proud Boys, a far-right, neo-fascist group that advocates for and participates in politically motivated violent events.

Feds Want Florida Man to Spend a Year in Prison for Role in Capitol Riot

[WKMG \(CBS-6\)](#) (03/29, Sandoval) reported that Howard Adams is facing a recommended sentence of one year and one month in prison and three years of supervised release for his role in the Capitol Hill riot. According to the article, Adams was arrested in 2021 after someone recognized him in video footage and called the FBI. Adams' attorney claims that the recommended sentence is too harsh, stating that Adams did not engage in any fighting during the events of January 6th but did cheer on certain activities taking place. The article noted that Adams is a self-declared state nationalist who had previously refused to attend virtual court hearings, resulting in his re-arrest in December.

Opinion: Words That Cause Catastrophes

An opinion piece by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (03/29, Henninger) argues that the recent events of the banking panic and other tumultuous events, like the Jan. 6 Capitol Riot, highlight the importance of thinking before speaking in the era of instant media transmission. According to the author, loose talk can put in motion national and international catastrophes that may wreck lives, economies, and political systems. The article cited examples of individuals like Ammar al-Khudairy, Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, and Janet Yellen, who did not heed this advice and faced negative consequences. The author assessed that "think before you speak" should be a voting issue, and political figures need to be more mindful of their words in public.

[Back to Top](#)

OTHER FBI NEWS

Congress to Consider New No-Fly List for Unruly Passengers

The [Associated Press](#) (03/29, Keonig) reported that on Wednesday, members of the U.S. Senate and House proposed a new no-fly list for unruly passengers. The legislation would allow the Transportation Security Administration to ban individuals convicted or fined for assaulting or interfering with airline crew members, separate from the FBI-run no-fly list designed to prevent individuals suspected of terrorism from boarding planes. According to the article, the number of incidents involving unruly passengers dropped sharply last year after a judge struck down a federal requirement to wear masks on planes. However, incidents serious enough to be investigated by federal officials remained more than five times higher than before the pandemic. The article noted that civil libertarians vowed to oppose the measure. They say the FBI no-fly list is not transparent and unfairly targets people of color, and that the new list would have the same problems. [New York Post](#) (03/29, Propper), [CBS News](#) (03/29, Staff Writer), and [Axios](#) (03/29, Habeshian) also reported on the story.

Cruz Demands Big Tech Answer on Coordination With Government Over Misinformation

The [Washington Examiner](#) (03/29, Hutton) reported that Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) has demanded that Big Tech companies disclose details about their interactions and business with federal agencies that he said violated First Amendment rights. According to the article, Cruz's office sent letters to Google, Meta, LinkedIn, Yahoo, Medium, Reddit, Microsoft, Pinterest, and Wikipedia on Tuesday asking them to detail their coordination and communications with federal agencies over misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter builds on revelations from the Twitter Files, a series of dispatches from journalists who reviewed internal Twitter communications and found the platform regularly speaking with the FBI regarding misinformation. The article

added that Cruz specifically requested details about communications with 23 federal agencies, including the FBI, the CIA, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and several other agencies. He asked whether the tech companies sent lists of users to federal agencies for review or if they received requests to monitor accounts. The article mentioned that Cruz also requested information on whether the companies had any contact with several named government officials, including FBI agent Elvis Chan, former Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Chris Krebs, and former Department of Defense General Counsel William Castle. [Fox News](#) (03/29, Singman) also reported on the story.

Opinion: Trump Says the Justice System Has Been Weaponized. He Would Know.

An opinion piece published by the [New York Times](#) (03/29, Schmidt, Haberman) stated that the former president is attempting to cast the investigations into his actions as politically motivated uses of the justice system. The author noted that in office, he regularly sought to use government powers against his foes. The author mentioned that Andrew McCabe was temporarily denied his federal pension upon retiring as deputy director of the FBI, after intense criticism from Mr. Trump for his role in the Russia investigation. The author noted that John F. Kelly, Mr. Trump's second White House chief of staff, said the former president would regularly suggest using the FBI and IRS against his political opponents. The author added that legal experts say the mere knowledge that Mr. Trump tried to use them for his own purposes damages public confidence that the Justice Department and the FBI will follow the law, and the facts, rather than go in a political direction.

[Back to Top](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Taiwan's President Lands in the U.S. Amid Threats From China

- [Wall Street Journal: Taiwan's President Lands in the U.S. Amid Threats From China](#)

Mexico Investigates Migrant Deaths in Border City Fire as Homicide Case

- [New York Times: Mexico Investigates Migrant Deaths in Border City Fire as Homicide Case](#)
- [Associated Press: Mexico Investigates 8 Over Deadly Fire at Migrant Facility](#)

Taiwan's President Lands in the U.S. Amid Threats From China

- [Wall Street Journal: Taiwan's President Lands in the U.S. Amid Threats From China](#)

Israel-U.S. Tensions Rise Over Judicial Overhaul

- [Wall Street Journal: Israel-U.S. Tensions Rise Over Judicial Overhaul](#)

Zelensky Urges China's Xi to Visit Ukraine

- [Wall Street Journal: Zelensky Urges China's Xi to Visit Ukraine](#)

Soldiers Massing Near Ukrainian Nuclear Plant, U.N. Official Warns

- [New York Times: Soldiers Massing Near Ukrainian Nuclear Plant, U.N. Official Warns](#)

[Back to Top](#)

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

A Majority of Americans Think a Criminal Indictment Should Disqualify Trump for 2024

- [Business Insider: A Majority of Americans Think a Criminal Indictment Should Disqualify Trump for 2024](#)
- [Politico: Most Americans Think Criminal Charges Should Disqualify Trump From Running Again, Poll Shows](#)

House Republicans Lining up to Defend Trump, Helping in GOP Primary

- [Washington Post: House Republicans Lining up to Defend Trump, Helping in GOP Primary](#)

Biden Heralds Midterm Elections as ‘Rejection’ of ‘Extremism’ Undermining Democracy

- Washington Examiner: Biden Heralds Midterm Elections as ‘Rejection’ of ‘Extremism’ Undermining Democracy

Michigan Democrats Rise, and Try to Turn a Battleground Blue

- New York Times: Michigan Democrats Rise, and Try to Turn a Battleground Blue

Congress Must Fight D.C.’s ‘Shocking’ Crime Trend, Says Rep. James Comer

- Washington Times: Congress Must Fight D.C.’s ‘Shocking’ Crime Trend, Says Rep. James Comer
- ABC News: ‘There Is Not a Crime Crisis,’ DC Lawmakers Insist at Testy House Hearing on Police, Public Safety

Possible Trump Indictment Pushed Back as New York Grand Jury to Break for a Month – As It Happened

- The Guardian: Possible Trump Indictment Pushed Back as New York Grand Jury to Break for a Month – As It Happened
- Politico: Manhattan Trump Grand Jury Set to Break for a Month

White House to Call for New Midsize Bank Rules After SVB, Signature Failures

- Wall Street Journal: White House to Call for New Midsize Bank Rules After SVB, Signature Failures

Shooting Prompts a Shrug in Washington, as G.O.P. Rejects Pleas to Act

- New York Times: Shooting Prompts a Shrug in Washington, as G.O.P. Rejects Pleas to Act

After Mass Shootings, Republicans Expand Access to Guns

- New York Times: After Mass Shootings, Republicans Expand Access to Guns

G.O.P. Lawmakers Override Kentucky Governor’s Veto on Anti-Trans Law

- New York Times: G.O.P. Lawmakers Override Kentucky Governor’s Veto on Anti-Trans Law
- Associated Press: GOP Lawmakers Override Veto of Transgender Bill in Kentucky
- Washington Post: Kentucky Lawmakers Pass Major Anti-Trans Law, Overriding Governor’s Veto
- USA TODAY: Despite Emotional Pleas, One of Country’s Strictest Anti-trans Bills Becomes Law in Kentucky
- CNN: Kentucky GOP Overrides Governor’s Veto of Youth Gender-Affirming Care Ban

[Back to Top](#)

BIG PICTURE

New York Times

- F.D.A. Approves Narcan for Over-the-Counter Sales
- How Ukraine’s Battered Steel Industry Galvanized Its War Effort
- Mexico Investigates Migrant Deaths in Border City Fire as Homicide Case
- The Undoing of Guo Wengui, Billionaire Accused of Fraud on 2 Continents
- China’s Soccer Experiment Was a Flop. Now It May Be Over.

Wall Street Journal

- Ex-CEO Returns To UBS After Merger
- The Metaverse Is Quickly Turning Into the Meh-taverse
- Patients Get Break On Test Approvals
- U.S.’s Big-City Exodus Slows Down
- It’s Northwestern vs. Neighbors Over New \$800 Million Stadium
- GameStop’s Revival Plan Keeps Shrinking

Washington Post

- Bolsonaro Heading Home to Brazil — And an Uncertain Future
- Biden-Netanyahu Spat Bursts Into Full View
- She Survived Auschwitz. Now She's Teaching Gen Z About It — On TikTok
- Kentucky Lawmakers Pass Major Anti-trans Law, Overriding Governor's Veto
- Ariz. Governor's Press Secretary Resigns Amid Backlash Over Gun-Toting Post

Financial Times

- Janet Yellen Says She Expects Ajay Banga to Be Elected World Bank President
- JPMorgan Chief Jamie Dimon to Be Interviewed Under Oath in Jeffrey Epstein Lawsuits
- Bernie Sanders Accuses Starbucks' Howard Schultz of 'Illegal Union-Busting'

ABC News

- Russia Suspends Nuclear Treaty Notifications; New Details Revealed in Nashville Shooting; Pope Francis Hospitalized.

CBS News

- Pope Francis Hospitalized With Respiratory Infection; Women's Rights Activist Built Cookware Empire That Honors Her Culture.

NBC News

- Pope Francis Hospitalized With Respiratory Infection, Vatican Says; Grief-Stricken Nashville Community Mourning Lives Lost in Elementary School Shooting; New Push for National No-Fly List to Decrease Unruly Passengers.

Fox News

- AG Merrick Garland Questioned on DOJ School Board Memo and Protection of Justices; White House Defends Taiwanese President Visit to Us Amid China Threat; Foreign Adversaries Are Going to Develop AI for a Competitive Advantage Over Us: Jay Obernolte.

[Back to Top](#)

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

White House

President Biden

- 10:45 AM: The President receives the President's Daily Briefing

Vice President Harris

- No events are scheduled.

US Senate

- Hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in the review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217. – 9:30 AM – Host: Armed Services Committee
- Hearings to examine guardianship and alternatives, focusing on protection and empowerment. – 10:00 AM – Host: Aging Committee

- Hearings to examine pharmacy benefit managers and the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on the impact on patients and taxpayers. – 10:00 AM – Host: Finance Committee
- Hearings to examine petrochemicals to waste, focusing on the lifecycle, environmental, and climate effects of plastic. – 10:00 AM – Host: Environment and Public Works Committee
- Hearings to examine the nominations of Nicole D. Theriot, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Robin Dunnigan, of California, to be Ambassador to Georgia, and David J. Kostelancik, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations. – 10:15 AM – Host: Foreign Relations Committee
- Hearings to examine forestry in the Farm Bill, focusing on the importance of America's forests. – 10:30 AM – Host: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee US House of Representatives
- Hearing: Cyberspace Operations: Conflict in the 21st Century – 8:30 AM: Host: Armed Services Committee
- Hearing: Budget Hearing - Fiscal Year 2024 Request for the U.S. Department of Agriculture– 9:00 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearing: Reauthorization of the Animal Drug User Fee Programs – 9:00 AM – Host: Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Hearing: Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 291 Vaccine Discharge Parity Act; H.R. 645 Healthy Foundations for HomelessVeterans Act; H.R. 728 To direct the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training to carry out a pilot program on short-term programs for veterans; H.R. 746Streamlining Aviation for Eligible Veterans Act; H.R. 1169 VA E-Notification EnhancementAct; H.R. 1635 the Filipino Education Fairness Act; H.R. 1669 VET-TEC Authorization Actof 2023; H.R. 1767 Student Vete – 9:30 AM – Host: Veterans' Affairs Committee
- Hearing: Member Day – 10:00 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearing: FAA Reauthorization: Harnessing the Evolution of Flight to Deliver for the American People – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Cabinet Members

- Secretary of Defense Austin and Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, provide testimony at 10 a.m. EDT at a House Armed Services Committee budget hearing, Rayburn House Office Building 2118, Washington, D.C.
- Secretary of State Blinken delivers keynote remarks on “Advancing Technology for Democracy” as part of the Summit for Democracy in Washington, D.C. at 12:30 PM.
- Secretary Blinken moderates a session on “Advancing Democracy and Internet Freedom in a Digital Age” as part of the Summit for Democracy in Washington, D.C. at 12:45 PM.
- Secretary Blinken delivers Summit for Democracy closing remarks in Washington, D.C. at 5:35 PM.

Visitors

- No events are scheduled.

General Events

- Brookings Institution: Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the international legal order – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 10:00 AM. Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor Ukraine last year — following its seizure and annexation of Crimea in 2014 and

subsequent proxy war in eastern Ukraine — is perhaps the most significant challenge to the international legal order to arise since the end of World War II. On March 30, 2023, as part of the ninth annual Justice Stephen Breyer Lecture on International Law, Foreign Policy at Brookings will host Professor Oona A. Hathaway for a keynote address on Russia's war of aggression, the international response, and what they teach us about international law and the future of the international legal order. Hathaway is the Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, professor of international and area studies at the Yale University MacMillan Center, professor at the Yale University Department of Political Science, and director of the Yale Law School Center for Global Legal Challenges. After the keynote address, Constanze Stelzenmüller, director of the Center on the United States and Europe at Brookings, will join Hathaway for a conversation on legal responses to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. A panel discussion of distinguished experts on these issues will follow.

- [Brookings Institution: BPEA Spring 2023 conference](#) – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Online Event, 1:00 PM. The Brookings Papers on Economic Activity (BPEA) is a semi-annual academic conference and journal that pairs rigorous research with real-time policy analysis to address the most urgent economic challenges of the day. The Spring 2023 BPEA conference will be held March 30-31, 2023 hosted by Brookings's Economic Studies program. The conference proceedings are open to anyone who wishes to observe the vanguard of economic thought around global economic issues.
- [The Heritage Foundation: Restoring the Military's Focus on Warfighting](#) – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: The Heritage Foundation, 12:30 PM. The National Independent Panel on Military Service and Readiness were formed in October 2022 and tasked with identifying policies or practices in the Defense Department that reduce military readiness and recommending remedies. After months of review and research, the eight-member panel is today releasing their findings that conclude that issues of low recruiting and retention can be traced in part to the increasing politicization in the military, including a sweeping embrace of a diversity, equity, and inclusion ideology, the lowering of entrance and occupational standards for the sake of inclusion, and the blatant support of partisan goals like increased access to abortion. The panel provided multiple recommendations designed to restore the warfighting ethos in the military. Our national security depends on a military geared toward fighting and winning wars, not toward advocacy for social justice. On March 30, join us as members of the panel, including its chairman, Congressman Mike Waltz, release the final report and discuss their findings and recommendations.
- [CSIS: The Future of AUKUS with Admiral Harry Harris Jr., USN \(Ret.\)](#) – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: CSIS, 1:30 PM. Please join the CSIS International Security Program and the U.S. Naval Institute for a Maritime Security Dialogue event featuring Admiral Harry Harris Jr., USN (Ret.), former Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. ADM Harris will sit down with Dr. Seth G. Jones, CSIS senior vice president and director of the International Security Program, to discuss the latest developments with AUKUS and implications for the maritime industrial base. In September 2021, the three countries announced their decision to support Australia acquiring conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines. In March 2023, they announced a pathway to achieve this capability, including a trilaterally-developed submarine based on the United Kingdom's next-generation design. But there are numerous questions that remain. For example, what are the major challenges that lie ahead? And how might they be addressed? The discussion will feature opening remarks from VADM Pete H. Daly, USN (Ret.), chief executive officer and publisher, U.S. Naval Institute, and Dr. Charles Edel, CSIS's Australia chair.
- [CSIS: Book Event: White Sun War: The Campaign for Taiwan](#) – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Online Event, 2:00 PM. How might a war for Taiwan break out? How would it be fought? Who would win? And, what would its aftermath mean for Taiwan, China, the United States, and for the world? To discuss these questions, please join us at CSIS on March 30th at 2:00 pm EST (March 31st, 5:00 am AEST), for a virtual discussion with Mick Ryan, retired Australian Army major general and non-resident fellow with the CSIS Australia Chair, about his new book, *White Sun War: The Campaign for Taiwan*. Dr. Charles Edel, Dr. Eliot Cohen, and Emily Harding will join Mick Ryan to talk about his new book, examine how new organizations, new concepts, and new technologies are changing contemporary warfare, and discuss the implications for U.S.-Chinese competition.

- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: Accelerating U.S.-Japan Tech Innovation – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Online Event, 1:00 PM. Top leaders in both the US and Japan continue their commitments to put innovation as a core pillar of the bilateral relationship, but not enough is known about how this cutting-edge collaboration is actually driven more by the private sector. Join Carnegie for a view from the frontier on linking the United States and Japan through technological innovation featuring Kenji E. Kushida, John V. Roos, and Kaori Fukunaga.
- Aspen Institute: Still Broke: Walmart’s Remarkable Transformation and the Limits of Socially Conscious Capitalism — A Book Talk and Panel Conversation – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: The Aspen Institute, 12:15 PM. In his latest book, “Still Broke: Walmart’s Remarkable Transformation and the Limits of Socially Conscious Capitalism,” Rick Wartzman considers the experience and history of Walmart moving towards more conscious capitalism and the recent efforts the company has made to provide higher wages and better benefits and opportunities for their employees. The book raises important questions about how much an individual company can do on its own to improve the quality of jobs and people’s ability to earn a living through their work, the degree to which business imperatives encourage companies to improve jobs, and when those incentives conflict with that goal, and whether public sector action, either through labor market regulation or the provision of social supports, needs to be strengthened to ensure work in today’s economy is contributing to an inclusive economy in which all can thrive. Join the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program in person in Washington DC or virtually on March 30, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Eastern time, for a book talk and panel discussion that will explore these questions and more.
- Aspen Institute: Future of Sports: Protecting High School Athletes After Damar Hamlin – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Online Event, 12:00 PM. At the Super Bowl, the NFL honored the 25 medical personnel who saved the life of Damar Hamlin, the Buffalo Bills player whose heart stopped during play earlier in the season. Many high school athletes are lucky to have even one athletic trainer on-site during games and practices; just 56% of schools with sports teams have access to athletic training services, down 10% since 2017. Having trainers on site can help save lives from cardiac arrest — the No. 1 cause of death among high school athletes — as well as prevent heat stroke, manage concussions, and treat a range of knee and other injuries among the millions of athletes who play high school sports. What if Hamlin’s survival served as a catalyst to get every high school athlete access to an athletic trainer? What would it cost to do that elsewhere? What innovative partnerships exist to make this happen? And, where that’s not possible due to financial or personal reasons, what other options exist to save lives and care for young athletes’ health?
- Atlantic Council: 2023: A pivotal moment to celebrate 200 years of US-Chile relations – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Atlantic Council, 12:00 PM. The US-Chile partnership has long been taken for granted. Having just celebrated 200 years of bilateral relations, strengthening the alliance with Chile is an important opportunity for the United States to reinforce its regional presence and partnerships. A clear action plan for US-Chile ties will be on the agenda on March 30 when we convene Ambassador Bernadette Meehan, United States Ambassador to Chile, and Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés, Ambassador of Chile to the United States. The central focus: how they expect or hope the alliance will evolve in the coming years. This discussion will coincide with and be informed by the Washington DC visit of a nine-member Chilean delegation – composed of six parliamentarians representing six individual parties – organized in partnership with the Atlantic Council.
- Wilson Center: Putin's Concept of International Law – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Wilson Center, 1:00 PM. Russian President Vladimir Putin has held several speeches and written articles in recent years that reveal his interpretation of international law and Russia's role in it. Professor Lauri Mälksoo will visit the Wilson Center to argue that changes to Russia’s constitution in 2020 and the Russian president’s personal preoccupation with questions of historical memory support the conclusion that Putin’s interpretation of international law is imperialist.
- Hudson Institute: The Abraham Accords: Achievements and Prospects – Thursday, March 30, 2023. Location: Online Event, 10:00 AM. The Abraham Accords have significantly increased trade, cultural interaction, and tourism among Israel and its Arab neighbors. In addition to strengthening these ties within the Middle East, the accords could also help forge links between member states and other regions, such as Europe and Asia. What have the Abraham Accords achieved thus far? What work remains to be done? What role, if any, can

the accords play in helping the United States and its allies compete with China? To answer these questions, please join Hudson Institute for a discussion with Israel's Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology Ofir Akunis, and Executive Director of the Abraham Accords Peace Institute Robert Greenway, moderated by the Center for Peace and Security in the Middle East Director Michael Doran.

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