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April 19, 2023
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Daily News Briefing

(In coordination with the Office of Public Affairs)

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IN THE NEWS

Man Accused of Shooting Ralph Yarl Turns Himself In

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Stafford, Salter) reported that an 84-year-old white homeowner, Andrew Lester, has been charged with first-degree assault and armed criminal action after shooting Ralph Yarl, a Black teenager, who had mistakenly gone to Lester's house instead of a neighbor's. According to the article, the incident sparked a rally in downtown Kansas City, where supporters, civil rights leaders, and politicians called for justice and for stronger efforts to improve racial relations in Missouri and the US. Many carried signs saying "He is only 16" and "Is this what Kansas City has come to? Stop gun violence". The article noted that the family's attorney, Lee Merritt, claimed that the case should qualify as a hate crime. The shooting has outraged many, including President Joe Biden, who spoke with Yarl and invited him to the White House. The article noted that about 150 supporters attended a rally at police headquarters, chanting "Justice for Ralph" and demanding that the DOJ investigate. [Politico](#) added that the shooting has ignited fresh scrutiny of Missouri's "stand your ground" laws, which over much of the last decade have been central in trials for civilians accused in fatal shootings of Black teens and young men. [Fox News](#) (04/18, Casiano), [CNN](#) (04/18, Salahieh, Romine, Yan), [The Daily Beast](#) (04/18, Rohrlich), [BBC News](#) (04/18, Iqbal, Matza), [People](#) (04/18, Baker), [two](#) articles from [NBC News](#) (04/18, Adams), [CBS News](#) (04/18, Novak), [two](#) articles from the [New York Times](#) (04/18, Smith, Bosman), [Al Jazeera](#) (04/18, Staff Writer), [The Atlantic](#) (04/18, Perry), [The Hill](#) (04/18, Gans), [USA TODAY](#) (04/18, Yancey-Bragg, Santucci), [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Ables, Berman), [New York Daily News](#) (04/18, Braine, Wilkinson), [New York Post](#) (04/18, Reyes), and [Forbes](#) (04/18, Reimann) also reported on the story.

Fox Settles Dominion Lawsuit for \$787.5 Million Over U.S. Election Lies

[Reuters](#) (04/18, Coster, Queen) reported that Fox News and parent company Fox Corp have settled a defamation lawsuit by Dominion Voting Systems for \$787.5m. According to the article, the lawsuit centered on the media company's coverage of false vote-rigging claims in the 2020 U.S. election, which claimed that Denver-based Dominion's ballot-counting machines were used to manipulate the presidential election in favor of Democrat Joe Biden over Republican Donald Trump. The article noted that Dominion had sought \$1.6bn in damages in the lawsuit filed in 2021. Legal experts said the settlement was the largest ever struck by an American media company. [NPR](#) (04/18, Folkenflik, Yang), [NBC News](#) (04/18, Timm), [USA TODAY](#) (04/18, Calhoun), [The Hill](#) (04/18, Latour), [Forbes](#) (04/18, Reimann), [Law360](#) (04/18, Pappas, Montgomery), [CBS News](#) (04/18, Quinn, Hymes,

Sganga), [Bloomberg](#) (04/18, Larson, Feeley), [CNN](#) (04/18, Cohen, Darcy), [Wall Street Journal](#) (04/18, Mulvaney, Flint, Simonetti), [New York Times](#) (04/18, Rutenberg, Robertson), [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Barr, Farhi, Marley, Izadi), [Politico](#) (04/18, Khardori), [The Guardian](#) (04/18, Singh), [Axios](#) (04/18, Fischer), [Fox News](#) (04/18, Wulfsohn), [BBC News](#) (04/18, Debusmann), [CNBC](#) (04/18, Mangan, Breuninger, Rizzo), [Al Jazeera](#) (04/18, Staff Writer), [ABC News](#) (04/18, Katersky, Rubin), [Rolling Stone](#) (04/18, Bort, Legaspi), [The Intercept](#) (04/18, Maass), [Business Insider](#) (04/18, Shamsian), and [Vanity Fair](#) (04/18, Ellison) also reported on the story.

Russian Court Upholds WSJ Reporter Evan Gershkovich's Detention

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (04/18, Simmons) reported that a Moscow court has upheld the detention of Wall Street Journal journalist, Evan Gershkovich, who has been held in Lefortovo prison since March 2021. He was arrested while reporting in Yekaterinburg and has been accused of espionage on behalf of the U.S. government. According to the article, Mr. Gershkovich's lawyers have stated that he is not guilty, while the U.S. government has requested his immediate release. The U.S. ambassador to Russia attended the hearing, which was held behind closed doors, and reporters were allowed to take photographs of Mr. Gershkovich before proceedings began. It was the first time Gershkovich was seen in public since his arrest. The article noted that Russian authorities have ordered that Mr. Gershkovich be held in pretrial detention until May 29th, and they can request an extension of that period. Virtually all espionage trials in Russia end in a guilty verdict, the article added. The article also noted that the U.S. has also designated Paul Whelan, another American being held in Russia, as wrongfully detained. The [New York Times](#) (04/18, Nechepurenko, Troianovski), [NPR](#) (04/18, Maynes), [Fox News](#) (04/18, Norman), [Al Jazeera](#) (04/18, Staff Writer), [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Staff Writer), [Axios](#) (04/18, Knutson), [CNN](#) (04/18, Halasz), [NBC News](#) (04/18, Talmazan), [New York Post](#) (04/18, Keane), [The Hill](#) (04/18, Mueller), [Washington Examiner](#) (04/18, Brest), [BBC News](#) (04/18, Rosenberg, Kim), [Reuters](#) (04/18, Faulconbridge, Osborn), [USA TODAY](#) (04/18, Elbeshbishi), [CBS News](#) (04/18, Ott), [Forbes](#) (04/18, Hart), [Financial Times](#) (04/18, Seddon), and the [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Ilyushina) also reported on the story.

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COUNTERTERRORISM

Hezbollah Financier Illegally Shipped Art, Diamonds From U.S., Prosecutors Say

[Reuters](#) (04/18, Cohen) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (04/18, Hackman, Fanelli) reported that Nazem Ahmad, an alleged financier of U.S.-designated terrorist group Hezbollah, was charged with a scheme to evade American sanctions and illegally import and export hundreds of millions of dollars worth of fine art and diamonds. According to the articles, the Treasury in 2019 had already sanctioned Ahmad for providing material support to Lebanon's Hezbollah, but prosecutors in Brooklyn said Ahmad worked with three family members and five other associates to continue dealing in diamonds and artwork while concealing Ahmad's involvement. The articles noted that the U.S. Treasury Department also unveiled sanctions on 52 people and entities in Hong Kong, the UAE, and elsewhere, targeting a vast international money laundering and sanctions evasion network connected to Ahmad.

Police Embark On Massive Anti-Terrorist Training Exercise in Poland

[The First News](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) reported that the Polish police and the FBI are carrying out a joint anti-terrorist exercise in Poland. The exercise, called Wolf-Ram 23, involves around 2,600 Polish police officers, paramedics, Internal Security Agency officers, and dozens of FBI agents. According to the article, the exercise aims to practice responses to different types of terrorist attacks, including the use of radioactive, chemical, and biological materials. The article mentioned that this is the biggest-ever involvement of FBI agents in Europe and that the exercise started on Monday evening and will conclude on Wednesday.

FBI in Question After Sending Undercover Agent Into Catholic Church

[The National Desk](#) (04/18, Rau) reported that a leaked report from the FBI has drawn criticism from Republicans who claim that the agency was targeting Catholics. The document showed that the FBI sent at least one undercover agent into a Catholic church to gain sources within the church and engage in outreach to Catholic parishes. According to the article, the bureau was looking into a smaller group of ultra-traditionalist priests that practice "Latin Mass" and are typically referred to as "radical traditionalists." The whistleblower who leaked the report claimed this was an effort to find white supremacists, as violent extremists had sought out Catholic churches. The article noted that the FBI has since said that the document was removed from its system and the matter is under review. The article also noted that the FBI has faced similar criticism from Republicans in the past, including for

allegedly targeting parents at school board meetings. Additionally, polling data shows that trust in the FBI is higher among Democrats than Republicans and Independents, and millennials have somewhat higher levels of trust in the FBI than Gen X or Gen Z.

FBI Raid Reveals Possible Explosives in Texas Man's Home

[KDFW \(Fox-4\)](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) reported that the FBI arrested a 21-year-old man named Noah Calderon, who was found to be in possession of explosive components and banned weapons in a Fort Worth neighborhood. According to the article, police evacuated the neighborhood in Burleson after finding what they said was a "potentially volatile substance." Trained officers disposed of the substance, and people were allowed back into their homes. It is not clear what exactly was found. Calderon is currently being held in the Johnson County jail.

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COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Pentagon Details Review of Policies for Handling Classified Information

The [New York Times](#) (04/18, Ismay, Schmitt) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (04/18, Lubold, Salama, Youssef) reported that the Pentagon has released details of its review of procedures across the Defense Department for using and securing the nation's secrets following the arrest of an Air National Guardsman in Massachusetts in connection with the leak of classified documents. According to the articles, the wing involved in the leak, the 102nd Intelligence Wing, has been shut down temporarily, and its compliance with policy, procedures, and standards is under investigation. The Defense Secretary has ordered an evaluation of "security programs, policies, and procedures" across the U.S. military. The articles noted that the FBI is also investigating the leak, which includes documents released online and classified information channels. The review is being led by Ronald S. Moultrie, the undersecretary of defense for intelligence and security, who oversees all aspects of the Defense Department's interactions with the wider intelligence community, including the NSA and the National Reconnaissance Office. [NBC News](#) (04/18, McCausland, Dilanian, Kube) added that the leaker, Jack Teixeira, was employed as a cyber transport systems journeyman, which is an information technology specialist, giving him access to confidential information, raising questions about the security clearance process. According to the article, more than 1.25 million people currently have top-secret clearance, and the rate at which reviews are performed has increased during the Biden administration. However, some experts have expressed concerns about the overclassification of information and the underprotection of classified information. The article noted that the leaked information was shared on Discord, an online forum, by Teixeira with a group of fellow gamers, with photos of paper documents that he may have smuggled out of a secure facility. The government is examining whether it should expand the monitoring of government-owned computers. The [Associated Press](#) (04/19, Richer, Tucker) reported that Teixeira is due back in court on Wednesday for a hearing to decide whether he should remain behind bars while he awaits trial. The article noted that court records unsealed last week revealed how billing records the FBI obtained from Discord and interviews with social media comrades led authorities to Teixeira. A Discord user familiar with Teixeira's online posts told the FBI that a username linked to Teixeira began posting what appeared to be classified information roughly in December. The person provided the FBI with basic identifying information about Teixeira, including that he called himself "Jack," claimed to be part of the Air National Guard and appeared to live in Massachusetts, according to the affidavit. The person also told the FBI that Teixeira switched from typing out documents in his possession to taking them home and photographing them because he "had become concerned that he may be discovered making the transcriptions of text in the workplace." The [Independent](#) (04/18, Bowden) reported that the U.S. government is investigating the "Donbass Devushka," a multi-platform social media persona that generally posts pro-Russia content, and the role of a US Navy veteran, Sarah Bils, in operating it. According to the article, Bils confirmed in an interview that she was an administrator of the account while denying any involvement in leaking sensitive military documents, which led to the arrest of Teixeira. Bils is under federal investigation in connection with the matter, according to a US official. The article noted that the investigation is ongoing, and the circumstances are unclear. Air Force officials revealed that Teixeira had access to the documents as part of the Guard's work to support the broader intelligence efforts of the U.S. Air Force. "The FBI is continuing to conduct authorized law enforcement activity at the residence," said the FBI field office in Boston in a statement. "Since late last week the FBI has aggressively pursued investigative leads, and today's arrest exemplifies our continued commitment to identifying, pursuing, and holding accountable those who betray our country's trust and put our national security at risk." Additionally, [Military.com](#) (04/18, Novelly) added that the Air Force is launching an

investigation into where Teixeira worked before he was arrested last week. According to the article, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall directed the service's inspector general to probe compliance with classified safeguards at the 102nd Intelligence Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base, according to a memo to the force on Tuesday. It also calls for every unit to conduct a stand-down to review its policies, the article noted.

Leaked U.S. Assessment Says China Ready to Deploy Supersonic Spy Drone Unit

The [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Shepherd, Chiang, Wu, Nakashima) reported that a leaked U.S. military assessment shows that the Chinese military is likely to deploy a high-altitude spy drone that travels at least three times the speed of sound. The drone is expected to strengthen China's ability to conduct surveillance operations and target American warships around Taiwan and military bases in the region. According to the article, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had "almost certainly" established its first unmanned aerial vehicle unit at the airbase where the drone was seen. Satellite imagery from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency dated August 9 shows two WZ-8 rocket-propelled reconnaissance drones at the air base in eastern China. Few analysts considered the drones fully operational at the time of their introduction in 2019. The article noted that CIA Director William J. Burns has said Chinese leader Xi Jinping wants the PLA to be capable of seizing Taiwan by 2027. [Reuters](#) (04/18, Singh) also reported on the story.

Justice Department Charges Four Americans and Three Russians for Attempting to Influence Elections

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Anderson) reported that an indictment unsealed on Tuesday reveals that four Americans affiliated with a Black empowerment and political organization have been charged, along with three Russians, with conspiring to covertly sow discord in U.S. society, spread Russian propaganda, and interfere illegally in U.S. elections. According to the article, the charges were added to an existing case in Tampa, Florida, involving Aleksandr Ionov, described by prosecutors as the founder of a Moscow-based organization funded by the Russian government to carry out a clandestine influence campaign in the U.S. The article noted that the FBI raided the U.S.-based organization, the African People's Socialist Party and Uhuru Movement, last summer when Ionov was originally charged. The FBI alleged that Ionov operated an entity called the Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia, which was used to carry out its U.S. influence efforts, overseen by the Russian intelligence service known as the FSB. Prosecutors said the Russians recruited U.S.-based organizations to help sway elections and make it appear there was strong support in the U.S. for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, among other efforts. The article added that the FBI has been investigating the case for some time and the charges represent an escalation in the agency's efforts to counter foreign influence operations targeting the U.S. [Reuters](#) (04/18, Staff Writer), [Fox News](#) (04/18, Aitken), [The Daily Beast](#) (04/18, Weill), [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Barrett), and [Al Jazeera](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) also reported on the story.

After FBI Busts Chinese 'Police Station' in NYC, Six More Exposed in U.S.

The [New York Post](#) (04/18, Vincent) reported that the FBI recently helped shut down a Chinese "police station" in Manhattan and arrested two alleged operatives. However, according to the human rights group Safeguard Defenders, there are several more such illegal organizations operated by the Chinese Communist Party in the US. According to the article, these law enforcement organizations are tasked with spying on Chinese nationals around the world, and they allegedly hide behind non-profits and community associations. The police stations have been found in cities such as New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Nebraska, and Minnesota. The Safeguard Defenders report also flagged four overseas Chinese service centers in the U.S. set up by the United Front Work Department, a Chinese government agency that controls overseas ethnic and religious affairs. The article noted that these police stations allegedly spy on dissidents and others. Additionally, [Newsweek](#) (04/18, O'Connor) reported that a Chinese official, Liu Pengyu, has denied the allegations made by the U.S. Department of Justice that two Chinese nationals arrested in New York were operating an illegal overseas police station to monitor and intimidate those critical of the Chinese government on behalf of the Ministry of Public Security. Within the article, Liu argued that the relevant sites are formed by overseas Chinese to provide a place for overseas Chinese to access consultation and assistance. Liu added that the allegations were politically motivated and intended to smear China's image, and claimed that China adheres to the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, strictly observes international laws, and respects the judicial sovereignty of all countries.

China Complains as the Netherlands Warns of Its Endemic Espionage

The [Washington Examiner](#) (04/18, Rogan) reported that the director-general of the Netherlands intelligence service, Erik Akerboom, has stated that China poses the greatest threat to the nation's economic security. He stated that China uses various methods, including cyber-espionage and sending students and scientists as intelligence

agents, to steal knowledge from vulnerable places, such as the Netherlands' advanced semiconductor chip manufacturing industry. According to the article, this aligns with threat assessments made by the FBI and Britain's MI5 intelligence service. Akerboom's statement comes at a sensitive time, as Beijing demands that the Netherlands reject U.S.-negotiated export restrictions on chip manufacturing equipment, fearing that it will use the equipment to develop its military capabilities for a potential conflict with the U.S. over Taiwan. The article assessed that China's rosy rhetoric is undermined by its own espionage, and it steals whatever it cannot easily buy, disregarding intellectual property laws and others' innovative efforts.

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Georgia Prosecutor Probing Trump Reveals New Details of Active Investigation

[Politico](#) (04/18, Cheney) reported that the Atlanta-area prosecutor investigating efforts by former President Donald Trump and his allies to overturn the 2020 election indicated Tuesday that she has conducted fresh interviews with some of the Republican activists who falsely claimed to be Georgia's legitimate presidential electors. According to the article, in a court filing Tuesday, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis noted that her office conducted those interviews on April 12 and April 14, suggesting an active and ongoing investigation. Willis disclosed in the filing that more than one of the false electors had described potential violations of Georgia state law by another one. The article noted that many of the false Republican electors were party activists or chairs in those states, and they helped convene the Republican electors in December when Biden's certified electors also met to formalize his victory in those states. The false electors in at least five of the Biden-won states — including Georgia — signed certificates claiming that they were the legitimate presidential electors from those states. While many of the false electors have claimed they weren't told that they were going to become components in Trump's Jan. 6 plans — only that their actions were necessary to preserve legal challenges — others were more intimately involved with figures in Trump's inner circle.

After Alabama Birthday Shooting, Hope and Frustration

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) reported that three days after gunfire at a Sweet 16 birthday party killed four young people and injured 32 more, some critically, victims' relatives and officials expressed hope that investigators may be nearing an arrest and also frustration about police silence on the case. According to the article, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency announced Tuesday evening that multiple law enforcement agencies, including local police and the FBI, would hold a news conference the following morning to discuss the case, further heightening the anticipation of a potential breakthrough. The article noted that the shootings Saturday night rocked the small town of Dadeville, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) southeast of Birmingham, and families suddenly found themselves planning memorials and burial services instead of graduation parties or college move-ins.

Man Found Fit for Trial in Abduction of Girl Who Was Slain

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) reported that a man previously found incompetent has been ordered to stand trial on a kidnapping charge in the abduction of a 16-year-old who was killed in 2018, a prosecutor said Tuesday. According to the article, a U.S. Bureau of Prisons forensic psychologist found evidence to suggest Gerald Bennett, 63, of Detroit, was faking symptoms so he could be found incompetent to stand trial, so U.S. Magistrate Judge Ray Kent ordered Bennett to stand trial on a charge of kidnapping a minor, U.S. Attorney Mark Totten said. The article noted that the partially clothed body of Mujey Dumbuya was found in January 2018 in woods in Kalamazoo, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of her Grand Rapids home. She had been strangled. Bennett hasn't been charged with killing her. After Bennett initially was found incompetent to stand trial, state charges against him were dismissed and he was freed in March 2022, Totten said. The case then was referred to the FBI and federal prosecutors, and a federal grand jury indicted him last August.

"Doomsday Mom" Lori Vallow Daybell Faces Trial

[CBS News](#) (04/18, Gualtieri) reported that Lori Vallow Daybell is on trial in Boise, Idaho, for her alleged role in the deaths of her 16-year-old daughter, Tylee Ryan; her 7-year-old adopted son, Joshua "JJ" Vallow; and her husband's first wife, Tammy Daybell. She had pleaded not guilty. According to the article, the trial, which is expected to last up to 10 weeks, started on Monday, April 10, after a week of jury selection that saw dozens of potential jurors dismissed, many for being too familiar with details of the case or having already formed an opinion. A jury of 10

men and eight women will hear the case. The article mentioned that the last time anyone saw Tylee Ryan was in September 2019, when the family took a trip to Yellowstone National Park. JJ Vallow's biological grandparents, Kay, and Larry Woodcock said that the last time they spoke to the 7-year-old was in August. The article added that by December, police and the FBI were searching for 16-year-old Tylee and 7-year-old JJ. The hunt continued even as police arrested Vallow Daybell in Hawaii on two felony counts related to the missing children and three other misdemeanors. She was extradited to Idaho.

Son Gets Life in Prison for Hiring Hitman to Kill Dad Over Real Estate Empire

The [New York Post](#) (04/18, Jacob) reported that Anthony Zottola Sr. was sentenced to life in prison in federal court, plus 112 additional years, on Friday for ordering a hitman to kill his father, 71-year-old Sylvester Zottola, in order to take over the family's real estate empire. The article mentioned that according to a Department of Justice press release, 45-year-old Zottola hired 37-year-old hitman Himen Ross, who also received a life sentence, to kill both his father and brother in an effort to keep the family's two dozen Bronx multi-family rental and commercial properties valued at \$45 million. On Oct. 4, 2018, known New York City mobster Sylvester was gunned down in what law enforcement described as a mafia-style assassination at a Bronx McDonald's drive-thru while ordering a cup of coffee. The article quoted FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Michael Driscoll, who said, "Zottola had not one, not two, but multiple chances to rethink his deadly intent to murder his own father. He and the others he recruited chose to continue with their savage plot and succeeded. Now, instead of living off his father's millions, his only payday will be federal prison,"

Seven Years Later, Still No Arrests in Missy Bevers Murder Investigation

[CBS News](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) reported that seven years ago today, mother of three, Terri "Missy" Bevers was murdered inside Creekside Church of Christ in Midlothian. According to the article, the country took notice of the case given eerie surveillance footage showing a suspect clothed in black, body armor, and other strange circumstances surrounding the brutal killing. Years later, police haven't made any arrests. Yet, Assistant Police Chief Scott Brown wants the community to understand the department doesn't consider the case "cold." The article noted that shortly after her murder, investigators released the surveillance video showing the suspect wearing possible police tactical gear, including a helmet, vest, and gloves. The video only showed the killer walking through the hallways, breaking glass on doors. Police said the suspect didn't steal anything, even Bevers' wedding ring. The killer has an unusual gait, and detectives said they couldn't determine whether the suspect was a man or woman. Later, the FBI called in forensic podiatrist Dr. Michael Nirenberg to study surveillance video of the suspect.

Former 1-800 Get-Thin Doctor Gets 7-Year Sentence for Multimillion-Dollar Fraud Scheme

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (04/18, Winton) reported that a former doctor convicted of fraudulently submitting nearly \$120 million in claims related to the 1-800-GET-THIN Lap-Band surgery business has been sentenced to seven years in federal prison. According to the article, Julian Omid, 58, of West Hollywood was sentenced Monday by U.S. District Court Judge Dolly M. Gee. The judge also imposed a five-year probation period on Surgery Center Management LLC, an Omid-controlled Beverly Hills-based company. The article noted that the 1-800-GET-THIN billboards once dominated the Los Angeles landscape with claims of a one-hour procedure and an easy insurance verification process. But a federal jury in December 2021 found that the business was a criminal scheme that bilked millions from several insurance providers, including the Tricare healthcare program for military service members. The article quoted Donald Alway, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, who said, "Mr. Omid made millions at the expense of the multiple victim companies he defrauded, and he violated his oath to 'do no harm' by callously misleading patients about the need for a sleep study and subsequent weight loss surgery,"

Pras Michel Makes Bold Decision to Testify in His Own Federal Conspiracy Trial

The [Rolling Stone](#) (04/18, Blistein) reported that the Fugees' Pras Michel discussed his relationship with Malaysian financier Jho Low and said he served as an informal FBI informant regarding China's efforts to extradite a prominent dissident after making the bold decision to testify at his own federal trial on Tuesday, April 18. According to the article, Michel has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of conspiracy and falsifying records. The charges are tied to Low's alleged exploits, with the financier accused of stealing \$4.5 billion from Malaysia's 1MDB sovereign wealth fund. (Low is named as a co-defendant in the case but is currently a fugitive.) The article noted that Michel addressed his alleged efforts to get the U.S. to extradite Guo, the dissident Chinese billionaire (and close Steve Bannon associate). Along with denying that he acted as an agent for China in this matter, Michel said he voluntarily met with FBI agents on multiple occasions to discuss Guo and three Americans being held hostage in China.

Corruption Trial Begins for Man Who Almost Beat Desantis

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Bowden) reported that the Democrat who nearly beat Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2018 pocketed illegal campaign contributions because he was having a hard time paying for his lifestyle after quitting his job to run for governor, a prosecutor said Tuesday as a corruption trial began. According to the article, Andrew Gillum, who was Tallahassee's mayor, had a large mortgage, was making payments on two expensive cars, and was paying private school tuition for his children when he quit his \$120,000-a-year job at People for the American Way to run for the Democratic nomination for governor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Milligan said in opening statements. The article mentioned that Gillum is also charged with lying to the FBI about a trip to New York, where undercover FBI agents met Gillum, his brother, and lobbyist friend Adam Corey, who earlier introduced Gillum to the agents. The FBI paid for hotel rooms, theater tickets to "Hamilton," meals, and a boat tour around New York Harbor. The article added that one of the men Gillum's team reached out for campaign donations was an undercover FBI agent posing as a developer exploring projects in Florida's capital, Milligan said, adding that Gillum used his brother Marcus as a go-between to arrange illegal contributions. An additional [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) article also reported on the story.

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon to Be Deposed in Epstein Suit

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Neumeister) reported that JPMorgan Chase & Co. CEO Jamie Dimon must undergo up to two days of questioning by lawyers handling lawsuits over whether the bank can be held liable in financier Jeffrey Epstein's sexual abuse of teenage girls and women, a federal judge said Tuesday. According to the article, during a telephone conference with lawyers, Judge Jed Rakoff in Manhattan ordered Dimon to set aside two days for deposition testimony, though he didn't specify when. He said one day of testimony might be sufficient and lawyers would have to get his approval to continue to a second day. The New York bank, the nation's largest, has been sued by the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and two women, both identified as Jane Doe, who say they were abused by Epstein. The lawsuits contend JPMorgan should have seen evidence of Epstein's sex trafficking and avoided profiting from it. The article noted that the New York bank, the nation's largest, has been sued by the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and two women, both identified as Jane Doe, who say they were abused by Epstein. The lawsuits contend JPMorgan should have seen evidence of Epstein's sex trafficking and avoided profiting from it. The bank, besides denying the allegations, has sued one of its former executives, saying the man hid Epstein's decades of sex abuse and trafficking to keep Epstein as a client.

Arraignment Delayed for Dermatologist Accused of Poisoning Husband With Drano

[KCAL \(CBS-9\)](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) reported that arraignment was delayed Tuesday for a Mission Viejo dermatologist accused of poisoning her husband, also a physician, by putting Drano in his tea. The article mentioned that Yue "Emily" Yu is charged with three counts of poisoning and a count of corporal injury on a spouse, all felonies, according to court records. The alleged dates of poisoning were July 11, July 18 and July 25 of last year, according to the complaint. The article noted that Yu and her estranged husband, Dr. Jack Chen, have been embroiled in a child custody dispute since last year. She has been granted visitation, but recently filed to have Chen pay support to her, claiming she has been unable to work since the poisoning allegations surfaced. According to the article, Chen turned over samples of the tea, which were tested by the FBI, which confirmed it contained a substance consistent with liquid drain cleaner, according to prosecutors.

Trent Lehrkamp's Family Outraged Georgia Prosecutor Downplayed Teen's Abuse

[Fox News](#) (04/18, Rosenberg) reported that the family of Trent Lehrkamp blasted Georgia authorities after they held a press conference Monday minimizing the abuse and humiliation the 19-year-old endured at the hands of teenage bullies. According to the article, Glynn County Interim Police Chief O'Neal Jackson III and District Attorney Keith Higgins announced at the press conference Monday that parents Lauren and James Strother, who owned the home where Lehrkamp was victimized, were arrested for maintaining a disorderly house and contributing to the delinquency or dependency of a minor. The article mentioned that Higgins said, the intense media scrutiny on the case, which roped in the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the FBI, detracted from more serious crimes.

17 California Cops Sent Racist Slurs, Threatened Black Mayor in Series of Sickening Texts:

The [New York Post](#) (04/18, Reyes) reported that more than a dozen cops in California referred to black people as monkeys and gorillas and even threatened to shoot their black mayor in a series of racist texts, according to law enforcement. According to the article, documents released by the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office and the FBI show that 17 officers sent racist memes and messages filled with slurs to each other between 2019 to

2021, with one of the texts directed at Antioch Mayor Lamar Thorpe, a black man. [Newsweek](#) (04/18, Phillips), and [CBS News](#) (04/18, Czachor) also reported on the story.

An Oklahoma Newspaper's Secret Recording Prompts Calls for Officials to Resign

The [New York Times](#) (04/18, Levenson) reported that a small newspaper in rural Oklahoma secretly recorded what it said was an illegal public meeting where a county official talked about hanging Black people and several officials spoke of hiring hitmen and digging holes for two of the newspaper's reporters. According to the article, Gov. Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma said on Monday that four officials in McCurtain County — the sheriff, jail administrator, a sheriff's department investigator, and a county commissioner — should resign. But the sheriff's office has argued that the recording violated state law because it was made without the consent of at least one of the parties involved. The office also claimed the recording had been "altered," although it was not clear how. The article stated that Bruce Willingham, who has been publisher and editor of The Gazette-News since 1988, said he made the secret recording on March 6 by leaving his voice-activated recorder in the room where county commissioners were meeting. He said he wanted to prove that officials were discussing county business after the meeting had ended in violation of the state's open-meeting law. The article noted that Bruce Willingham said he had turned over the full audio recording to the police and the FBI. [Axios](#) (04/18, Knutson), [Fox News](#) (04/18, Wallace), [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Edwards), the [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Miller, Murphy), and [NBC News](#) (04/18, Siemaszko) also reported on the story.

McGrath Didn't Book Plane Tickets to MD. Before Trial, Court Documents Say

The [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Thompson) reported that a search warrant was unsealed Tuesday in the case of the former top aide to then-Gov. Larry Hogan (R). Roy McGrath died after a confrontation with the FBI following his failure to appear in court. The article mentioned that Roy C. McGrath, the former top aide to then-Gov. Larry Hogan (R), did not have any plane tickets or reservations booked to travel to Maryland in the days leading up to his trial, despite expectations that he would appear in federal court in Baltimore, according to an affidavit from an FBI agent requesting a search warrant unsealed Tuesday. The article noted that McGrath, 53, was shot during a confrontation with the FBI as they closed in on him just outside Knoxville, Tenn., on April 3. He is believed to have shot himself after a traffic stop by federal agents following a 21-day search that began when the fugitive did not show up for his federal trial, according to a law enforcement document.

George Santos Puts Forward Bill Named After Nicki Minaj as He Announces Re-Election Bid

The [Independent](#) (04/18, Bowden) reported that George Santos is officially running for re-election in 2024, even as he faces multiple investigations headed up by the House Ethics Committee, the FBI, and local authorities. According to the article, he's marking his bid for a second term with a bill named in honor of Nicki Minaj, the New York-born rapper whose comments expressing skepticism about vaccines clearly resonated with the congressman as he seeks to prevent the federal government from mandating administration of any vaccine that hasn't been on the market for a decade.

FBI Arrests Guardsman Who Applied for Hitman Job on Website

The [Guardian](#) (04/18, Staff Writer) reported that fake website RentAHitman.com has snagged another would-be killer-for-hire after a U.S. soldier applied to be an assassin and accepted his first (fake) mission apparently believing it to be real. According to the article, Josiah Garcia, a Tennessee air national guardsman, was arrested after federal agents said he responded to an online ad through the parody website. The article added that Garcia submitted an employment application on 16 February and sent several follow-up emails over the next month. The article noted that at the beginning of April, an undercover FBI agent claiming to be a "field coordinator" for the company reached out to Garcia. The article stated that on Wednesday, Garcia met the agent in a park where the agent provided him with a fictional "target package". The agent also paid Garcia \$2,500, supposedly the first of two installments. Garcia was arrested the same day. Garcia told agents after his arrest that he had not intended to go through with the contract killing. He said he just received a job offer at a Nashville medical center that he intended to take instead. If convicted, Garcia faces up to 10 years in prison, according to a news release from the US attorney's office for the middle district of Tennessee.

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CYBER DIVISION

D.C. Health Link Data Breach Blamed on Human Error

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Khalil) reported that the recent data breach of personal information for thousands of users of Washington D.C.'s health insurance exchange, including members of Congress, was caused by basic human error, according to a top administrator. According to the article, the revelation comes from prepared statements submitted in advance of Wednesday's congressional hearing to investigate the issue. In her statement, Mila Kofman, Executive Director of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority, states that the data breach was first discovered in early March and includes basic personal information — including date of birth, Social Security numbers, and contact information — for “56,415 current and past customers including members of Congress, their families, and staff.” The article added that Kofman states her office immediately brought in the FBI Cyber Security Task Force and the security flaw was quickly tracked down to a particular computer server that was “misconfigured to allow access to the reports on the server without proper authentication. Based on our investigation to date, we believe the misconfiguration was not an intentional but a human mistake.” [Axios](#) (04/18, Sabin) also reported on the story.

FBI Warns of Juice Jacking at Public Charge Stations

[Security Magazine](#) (04/18, Blair-Frasier) reported that a recent tweet by the FBI has brought new attention to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) previously released guidance noting the potential dangers of “juice jacking”. According to the FCC, bad actors can load malware onto public USB charging stations to maliciously access electronic devices while being charged. According to the article, the malware installed through a corrupted USB could lock a device or export personal data and passwords which can then be used to access online accounts.

FBI, Sheriff's Offices in Central Florida Team Up to Help Prevent Elder Fraud

[WUFT-FM](#) (04/18, Loizzo) reported that federal data show Florida's older population is susceptible to internet scams. In 2021, the state ranked second in the nation with 9,645 victims of elder fraud. Combined, those individuals lost \$224,205,716. The article added that the FBI, along with state and local law enforcement agencies in Central Florida, are joining forces to educate local seniors and their caregivers on the latest scams and technology cyber criminals use. According to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), 92,371 Americans over the age of 60 reported losing \$1.7 billion total to financial scams in 2021, which was nearly 75% more than in 2020. FBI Jacksonville public information officer Amanda Videll says the goal is to keep seniors safe and shine a light on scammers.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

FBI Releases Video of Missing Californian Woman Being Abducted in Mexico

The [Epoch Times](#) (04/18, Dowell) reported that the FBI has released new details in a California woman missing person's case, along with surveillance videos of the moments leading up to her abduction in Jalisco, Mexico. The article mentioned that Monica de Leon Barba, a U.S. citizen from the Bay Area, has been reported missing since Nov. 29, 2022, according to FBI documents. Barba was last seen walking home from work with her dog in the city of Tepatitlán, according to the released videos. The videos pinpoint at least five suspects involved in the kidnapping and who drove away separately in three vehicles—a white Chevy Suburban, a gray Dodge Charger, and a silver Volkswagen Jetta, according to the agency. According to the article, FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert K. Tripp believes the release of the new footage will help bring new leads in the case to finding the 29-year-old California native. The article quoted Tripp, who said, “The FBI is requesting the public's assistance in locating Monica and returning her safely to her family. We believe these videos may help generate new public tips to assist in our investigation,”

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CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

Mom, Son Who Took Zip Ties Into Senate Convicted in 1/6 Riot

The [Associated Press](#) (04/18, Kunzelman) reported that two individuals, Eric Munchel and his mother, Lisa Eisenhart, were convicted on all 10 counts in their indictment, including conspiracy to obstruct Congress, after they stormed the Capitol with plastic zip-tie handcuffs during the Jan. 6 riot. According to the article, after grabbing the plastic handcuffs that they found inside the Capitol, Munchel and Eisenhart entered the gallery above the Senate

chamber and stepped over a railing that separated portions of the gallery. Eisenhart chanted, "Treason! Treason!" Munchel "gleefully" entered the Capitol during a riot while carrying a dangerous weapon, a stun gun, the judge said in a February 2021 ruling. In the riot's aftermath, Eisenhart told a London newspaper that she would "rather die as a 57-year-old woman than live under oppression." The article noted that U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth decided the case without a jury after a "stipulated bench trial," in which defendants agree with prosecutors that certain facts are true but do not admit guilt to charges. Both Munchel and Eisenhart face sentencing on Sept. 8.

Proud Boy Who Helped Ignite Capitol Breach Tells Jury He Got "Caught Up" in Jan. 6 Chaos

[Politico](#) (04/18, Cheney) and the [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Weiner) reported that Dominic Pezzola, a member of the Proud Boys who helped to fuel the breach of the Capitol on Jan. 6, testified on Tuesday that he simply got "caught up in all the craziness" that day. According to the articles, Pezzola took responsibility for his actions on Jan. 6 but attempted to separate himself from the group's leadership, stating that he never even knew the other men on trial before he met them at the courthouse. Pezzola's testimony is a climactic moment for the trial, potentially the last before the four-month-long trial goes to the jury. The articles noted that the defense has contended that the group's role has been inflated, that they're more akin to a drinking club whose members use a lot of hyperbole and overheated language that they didn't intend to back up.

Former Rep. Liz Cheney to Publish Book 'Warning' of Trump 'Threat'

The [New York Post](#) (04/18, Moore) reported that former Rep. Liz Cheney's upcoming book, "Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning," is being described by her publisher as a warning about the threat to American democracy posed by former President Donald Trump and his allies. According to the article, the book will be released on Nov. 14 and will include a gripping first-hand account from inside the hall of Congress by the House Republican leader who dared to stand up to Trump. The article noted that Cheney lost her Wyoming congressional seat last August after her role on the committee investigating Trump's actions in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot drew the ire of Trump, who backed a primary challenger against her.

Donald Trump Returns to Instagram for First Time Since Jan 6. Riot

[People](#) (04/18, Chamlee) reported that former President Donald Trump has returned to Instagram after more than two years of being removed from the platform following his response to the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot. According to the article, Trump shared two images on Instagram, both from his series of digital trading cards, and said he was launching a second series of trading cards. In his captions, he complained about "Fake News" and claimed that his last digital trading cards sold out almost immediately but he was leaving the prices the same. The article noted that Trump was banned from social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram following the Capitol riot. In January, Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, announced it would end Trump's suspension but would add "new guardrails to deter repeat offenses."

Trump Could Be Banned From Ever Entering White House Again Using Civil War-Era Clause

The [Independent](#) (04/18, Feinberg) reported that two nonprofit groups, Free Speech for People and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, are preparing to challenge Donald Trump's eligibility to appear on ballots in multiple states for the 2024 election. According to the article, they plan to use Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits any "officer of the United States" who has "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against" the country from serving in any federal office. The groups argue that Trump's support for the January 6 attack on the Capitol amounts to support for "insurrection" against the United States. The article noted that this strategy has been successful in the past, as a New Mexico judge found a county commissioner who participated in the January 6 riot ineligible to serve. The group's goals include forcing Trump to answer questions under oath about his involvement in the insurrection and obtaining court decisions disqualifying him from public office and excluding him from the ballot.

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OTHER FBI NEWS

U.S. House Republicans Tangle Over Debt Limit, Spending Cut Plans

[Reuters](#) (04/18, Cowan) reported that Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday held a "robust" discussion over Speaker Kevin McCarthy's plans for raising the federal debt limit and cutting future government spending, amid signs of discontent ranging from far-right to more moderate wings of the party. According to the

article, on Monday, McCarthy outlined a plan for extending the government's borrowing authority through sometime next year. He said it would have to be coupled with rolling back next year's spending to 2022 levels, followed by a decade of only 1% annual increases. The article added that Representative Kevin Hern, who heads a large group of House conservatives, told reporters McCarthy's plan would increase Treasury borrowing authority by \$2 trillion. Hern did not respond directly when asked whether House Republicans would pare back funding for some federal law enforcement, such as the FBI, as former President Donald Trump has urged.

Biden Urged to Free Indigenous Activist Leonard Peltier After Decades in Prison

The [Guardian](#) (04/18, Lakhani) reported that Amnesty International has launched a new campaign calling on Joe Biden to grant clemency for Leonard Peltier, the Indigenous rights activist whose health is deteriorating after almost five decades in maximum security prison for crimes he has always denied. According to the article, the international human rights group is urging Biden to release Peltier on humanitarian grounds – exactly 46 years after he was convicted for killing two FBI agents in a trial rife with irregularities and due process violations including evidence that the agency coerced witnesses and withheld and falsified evidence. The article mentioned that Peltier was a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM), an Indigenous civil rights movement founded in Minneapolis that was infiltrated and repressed by the FBI.

Evidence Is 'Overwhelming' COVID-19 Came From Wuhan Lab, Ex-Spy Chief Tells Congress

The [Washington Examiner](#) (04/18, Dunleavy) reported that the former director of national intelligence argued the evidence is "overwhelming" that COVID-19 originated at a Wuhan lab as he called upon the CIA and the intelligence community to reach what he dubbed the "only plausible assessment." According to the article, John Ratcliffe, who was the final head of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence under former President Donald Trump, described himself as "a person with as much or more access than anyone to our government's intelligence during the initial year of the virus outbreak and pandemic onset" during a Tuesday hearing before the House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. The article mentioned that Ratcliffe testified that the CIA and other spy agencies have enough evidence to get off the fence and joined the FBI and Energy Department in concluding that SARS-CoV-2 most likely originated at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and hinted that the intelligence community was holding back because of the significant ramifications such public conclusions would have for the already-troubled U.S.-China relationship. The article added that Director Wray confirmed earlier this year that the FBI has long believed COVID-19 originated at a Chinese government lab, and it was revealed the Energy Department now believes with "low confidence" that the coronavirus started at a Wuhan lab.

Opinion: Enhanced and Timely Background Checks Are Essential Gun Reforms

The [Washington Post](#) (04/18, Schweikert) published an opinion piece that reported that under the banner of strengthening background check laws, a group of U.S. senators introduced the Background Check Completion Act of 2023. The proposed bill does nothing to improve the background check process. It merely relieves state and federal agencies of having to do their job in an accurate and timely manner. According to the author, an aspirational solution at the federal level would do more than merely stretch the time frame to perform checks within a dated system and incomplete database. To truly enhance the background check process, elected officials should fund programs that will enable states to accurately and timely update the NICS database. The programs should also transform the system so the FBI and state agencies can perform comprehensive and accurate background checks that exclude ineligible buyers from acquiring firearms while preserving the prompt and accurate provision of service to those who are safe and prudent buyers.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mexico Nabs, Swiftly Deports MS-13 Gang Leader to El Salvador

- Reuters: Mexico Nabs, Swiftly Deports MS-13 Gang Leader to El Salvador

Mexico's AMLO Accuses Pentagon of Spying, Dialing Up Tensions With U.S.

- Bloomberg: Mexico's AMLO Accuses Pentagon of Spying, Dialing Up Tensions With U.S.
- Washington Examiner: In Wake of U.S. Intelligence Leaks Citing Taiwan's Vulnerability, Congress Focuses on Deterring China

Putin, Zelensky Make Rival Visits to Troops in Ukraine

- Wall Street Journal: Putin, Zelensky Make Rival Visits to Troops in Ukraine

Desperation Grows for Sudanese Sheltering From Warring Generals

- Wall Street Journal: Desperation Grows for Sudanese Sheltering From Warring Generals

How Mexico Became the Biggest User of the World's Most Notorious Spy Tool

- New York Times: How Mexico Became the Biggest User of the World's Most Notorious Spy Tool

Beijing Hospital Fire Deaths Rise to 29, Mostly Patients

- Associated Press: Beijing Hospital Fire Deaths Rise to 29, Mostly Patients

South Korea's Yoon Opens Door for Possible Military Aid to Ukraine

- Reuters: South Korea's Yoon Opens Door for Possible Military Aid to Ukraine

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OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

FDA Authorizes Another Covid Booster Shot for People Over 65

- New York Times: FDA Authorizes Another Covid Booster Shot for People Over 65
- Wall Street Journal: Single Dose of Omicron-Targeting Vaccines to Become Main Covid-19 Shot in U.S.
- Washington Post: FDA Backs Second Omicron Booster for High-Risk Groups
- Reuters: U.S. FDA Authorizes Second Omicron-Updated COVID Booster for Older Adults

Biden Administration Will Fund Program to Keep Covid Vaccines Free for the Uninsured

- New York Times: Biden Administration Will Fund Program to Keep Covid Vaccines Free for the Uninsured

Supreme Court Seeks Compromise In Ex-Mailman's Sabbath-Work Conflict

- Washington Post: Supreme Court Seeks Compromise in Ex-mailman's Sabbath-Work Conflict
- Wall Street Journal: Supreme Court Considers Christian Mail Carrier's Right to Refuse Sunday Shifts

Democrats Still Face Feinstein Dilemma As Replacement Bid Fails

- Washington Post: Democrats Still Face Feinstein Dilemma as Replacement Bid Fails
- Associated Press: Republicans Object to Replacing Feinstein on Judiciary Panel

As U.S. Government Tightens Classified Document Controls, Concerns Emerge About Overreach

- Wall Street Journal: As U.S. Government Tightens Classified Document Controls, Concerns Emerge About Overreach

Harris Applauds Nevada Abortion Rights Effort At Reno Forum

- Associated Press: Harris Applauds Nevada Abortion Rights Effort at Reno Forum

Biden, Facing Roadblocks In Congress, Signs Executive Order On Childcare, Eldercare

- Reuters: Biden, Facing Roadblocks in Congress, Signs Executive Order on Childcare, Eldercare

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BIG PICTURE

New York Times

- Fox Will Pay \$787.5 Million to Settle Defamation Suit
- Russian Court Rejects Wall Street Journal Reporter's Appeal
- Inside the Online Market for Overseas Abortion Pills
- How Mexico Became the Biggest User of the World's Most Notorious Spy Tool
- DeSantis Tried to Bury Her. Now She's Helping Trump Try to Bury Him.

Wall Street Journal

- Fox to Pay \$787.5M To Settle Dominion Lawsuit
- Russian Court Denies Bail For Detained WSJ Reporter
- Goldman Profit Falls 18% as Bank Shrinks Main Street Lending
- Netflix to Broaden Password Sharing Limits and Ax DVDs
- 'I Hate You, Kathie Lee Gifford!' Ozempic Sparks Bizarre Dreams
- Negligence Added to Quake Toll in Turkey

Washington Post

- Putin's Rhetoric of Proxy War Hits Chord
- Massive Payout in Dominion-Fox Suit
- Desantis Amasses Power — And Puts It to Use
- D.C. Police Staffing Falls as Killings Rise
- Iowa Earmarks Millions to Reduce Food Aid Roster

Financial Time

- Murdoch's Fox Agrees \$787.5MN Settlement in Dominion Defamation Case
- Netflix Delays Account Sharing Crackdown After 'Cancel Reaction'
- U.S. Commander Pushes Back Against Colleagues 'Guessing' Taiwan Invasion Date

ABC News

- Dominion, Fox Reach \$787M Settlement in Defamation Suit; 1 Dead in Manhattan Parking Garage Collapse; Suspect in Ralph Yarl Shooting in Custody

CBS News

- Fox News and Dominion Voting Systems Reach Last Minute Settlement; Toddler Breaches White House Perimeter

NBC News

- Fox News to Pay \$787.5 Million to Dominion in Lawsuit Settlement; Homeowner Who Shot 16-Year-Old Ralph Yarl Out on Bail; Suspect Who Killed Kaylin Gillis in Wrong Driveway Charged With Murder;

Fox News

- Mayorkas Faces Grilling at House Hearing Over New Report of Rise in Migrant Child Labor; COVID Origins: Evidence Points to Lab Leak Theory in Senate Report; Root Cause of Teen Violence Triggers Debate After Chicago Mayhem.

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

White House

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

US Senate

- Hearings to examine artificial intelligence and machine learning applications to enable cybersecurity. – 9:30 AM – Host: Armed Services Committee
- Closed hearings to examine the mission, activities, oversight, and budget of the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office; to be immediately followed by an open session in SR-232A. – 9:30 AM – Host: Armed Services Committee
- Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the United States Agency for International Development. – 10:00 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the Internal Revenue Service and the IRS's 2023 tax filing season. – 10:00 AM – Host: Finance Committee
- Hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. – 10:00 AM – Host: Environment and Public Works Committee
- Hearings to examine PEPFAR at 20, focusing on achieving and sustaining epidemic control. – 10:00 AM – Host: Foreign Relations Committee
- Hearings to examine holding Russian kleptocrats and human rights violators accountable for their crimes against Ukraine. – 10:00 AM – Host: Judiciary Committee
- Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for military construction and family housing. – 10:30 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearings to examine SNAP and other nutrition assistance in the Farm Bill. – 12:00 PM – Host: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
- Hearings to examine military construction, energy, installations, environmental, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2024 and the future years defense program. – 1:30 PM – Host: Armed Services Committee
- Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Food and Drug Administration. – 2:15 PM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearings to examine veterans consumer protection, focusing on preventing financial exploitation of veterans and their benefits – 3:45 PM – Host: Veterans' Affairs Committee

US House of Representatives

- Hearing: Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 592 Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Improvement Act; H.R. 608 To terminate the Electronic Health Record Modernization

Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 1658 Manage VA Act; H.R. 1659 Department of Veterans Affairs IT Modernization Improvement Act; and H.R. 2499 VA Supply Chain Management System Authorization Act – 9:30 AM – Host: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- Hearing: Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2024 Request for the National Science Foundation – 9:30 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee · Hearing: Department of the Army Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Armed Services
- Hearing: Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2024 Request for the U.S. Coast Guard – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Appropriations
- Hearing: Budget Oversight Hearing Fiscal Year 2024 Request for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response and National Institute of Health – 10:00 AM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearing: Examining Existing Federal Programs to Build a Stronger Health Workforce and Improve Primary Care – 10:00 AM – Host: Energy and Commerce Committee
- Hearing: Hearing Entitled: Understanding Stablecoins' Role in Payments and the Need for Legislation – 10:00 AM – Host: Financial Services Committee
- Hearing: Exposing Putin's Crimes: Evidence of Russian War Crimes and Other Atrocities in Ukraine – 10:00 AM – Foreign Affairs Committee
- Hearing: "A Review of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security" – 10:00 AM – Host: Homeland Security Committee
- Hearing: The Biden Administration's Disastrous Withdrawal from Afghanistan Part I: Review by the Inspectors General – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Oversight and Accountability
- Hearing: Oversight hearing titled Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior. – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Natural Resources
- Hearing: Protecting American Taxpayers: Highlighting Efforts to Protect Against Federal Waste Fraud and Mismanagement – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
- Hearing: Office of Inspector General Reports to Congress on Investigations of SBA Programs – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Small Business
- Hearing: FAA Reauthorization: Examining the Current and Future Challenges Facing the Aerospace Workforce – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
- Hearing: The U.S. Tax Code Subsidizing Green Corporate Handouts and the Chinese Communist Party – 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Ways and Means
- Hearing: Examining Bidens War on Independent Contractors – 10:15 AM – Host: Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Hearing: Breaking Barriers: Streamlining Permitting to Expedite Broadband Deployment – 10:30 AM – Host: Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Hearing: Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2024 Request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – 1:30 PM – Host: Appropriations Committee
- Hearing: Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2024 Request for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency – 2:00 PM – Host: Committee on Appropriations
- Hearing: Hearing Entitled: A Roadmap for Growth: Reforms to Encourage Capital Formation and Investment Opportunities for All Americans – 2:00 PM – Host: Committee on Financial Services
- Hearing: Joint Hearing with the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on Cybersecurity Information Technology and Government Innovation on Data Breach at the D.C. Health Exchange – 2:00 PM – Host: Committee on House Administration

- Hearing: Joint Hearing with Committee on House Administration Subcommittee on Oversight on Data Breach at the DC Health Exchange – 2:00 PM – Host: Committee on Oversight and Accountability
- Hearing: Fiscal Year 2024 Rotary Wing Aviation Budget Request – 3:00 PM – Host: Committee on Armed Services
- Hearing: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request for Military Readiness – 3:30 PM – Host: Committee on Armed Services

Cabinet Members

- **Secretary of Defense Austin's** remarks at a joint press conference with Swedish Defense Minister Pal Jonson at 7:15 a.m. EDT in Stockholm, Sweden, will be livestreamed on Defense.gov and broadcast on Channel 2 in the Pentagon.
- **Secretary of Education Cardona** will participate in a sit down conversation with Axios Business Reporter Erica Pandey for their events on The Shift Toward Skills-Based Hiring at 8:00 AM.
- Secretary Cardona will join U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo for a plenary on Advocating for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) at the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 28th Annual National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education at 8:45 AM.

Visitors

- No events scheduled.

General Events

- CSIS: Press Briefing: Previewing ROK President Yoon Suk Yeol's State Visit – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: CSIS, 9:00 AM. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) will host a call-in press briefing on Wednesday, April 19, at 9:00 a.m. EDT, to preview the upcoming State Visit of Republic of Korea (ROK) President Yoon Suk Yeol and First Lady Kim Keon Hee to the United States on April 26. CSIS Korea experts, along with other regional and topical experts from across the Center, will weigh in on the agenda and their expectations for the visit.
- CSIS: Accelerate 175: Report Launch – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Online Event, 10:00 AM. At the end of 2022, India stood among the world leaders in renewable energy generation capacity, with around 120 gigawatts (GW) of installed wind power and solar power combined. Yet, India still missed its end-of-year target of 175 GW—part of its 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) commitment—by a meaningful margin. The much larger target of 500 GW of renewable energy by the year 2030 looms large. Achieving time-bound targets will require the country to resolve systemic challenges at the state level. Six Indian states account for three-fourths of the country's renewable energy capacity shortfall of 54 GW. Many barriers persist, including slow-moving distributed renewable energy, the poor financial health of electricity distribution companies (discoms), land availability, limited infrastructure for renewable integration, and a lack of financing options. As local implementers, states hold the key to hitting India's ambitious clean energy goals and must therefore be empowered to do so. In this report, we assess the perspectives of various state level stakeholders, identify state level barriers to renewable energy installation, and offer potential areas of collaboration.
- CSIS: Security Assistance in the Middle East: A Conversation – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Online Event, 1:00 PM. What do the United States and Europe have to show for the resources they have spent on security assistance in the Arab countries? Should they have been able to accomplish more? Two editors of a recent volume assess the costs and benefits to the main providers and recipients of security assistance in the MENA region and explore alternative strategies to improve outcomes for both. Please join the CSIS Middle East Program for a conversation with Dr. Robert Springborg and Dr. Hicham Alaoui about their new book *Security Assistance in the Middle East: Challenges ... and the Need for Change*. Dr. Lindsey Benstead and Alex Walsh will join to discuss their respective chapters, "Security Assistance and Public Support for Arab Militaries and EU" and "Member States' Security Assistance: Complementary or Contradictory?"

- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: China-EU Relations One Year into the Ukraine War – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Online Event, 9:00 AM. As the war in Ukraine drags on, China-EU relations face mounting uncertainties. Beijing has attempted to tread a fine line between maintaining its strategic partnership with Russia, while mitigating downward pressure on relations with the European Union. China's 12-point position paper is the latest sign of Beijing's attempt to portray itself as a neutral party to the conflict in Ukraine. On the other hand, China's failure to use its influence on Russia to respect the UN Charter has cast doubt in Brussels on the sincerity of Beijing's plan. Despite their differences, China and the EU maintain common interests in promoting global trade and addressing challenges like climate change. How is Beijing's position on the Ukraine war impacting China-EU relations? Can Brussels and Beijing cooperate on transnational issues, while managing their differences? What role can Europe play in rising U.S.-China competition? Join Carnegie for a conversation featuring Dan Baer, Chan Heng Chee, Yawei Liu, and Paul Haenle on the state of China-EU relations. This panel is the fourth of the Carnegie Global Dialogue Series 2022–2023 and will also be recorded and published as a China in the World podcast.
- AEI: An Initiative by the AEI Online Speech Project – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: AEI, 9:30 AM. Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act is often referred to as the "26 words that created the internet." Now, those words are the subject of a growing debate about their application and efficacy. From Supreme Court cases to state and national legislative proposals, the future of Section 230 is in question. Join AEI's online speech project for a half-day summit featuring panels examining the current state of Section 230, the economic implications of content liability, and the ideas for Section 230 reform.
- PIIE: Lithuania's foreign minister talks China, Russia, and transatlantic relations – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Online Event, 9:00 AM. Lithuania has been one of the European Union's loudest supporters of Ukraine and retaliatory sanctions against Russia. The country also provoked Chinese ire after opening a de facto Taiwanese embassy in Vilnius, spurring Beijing to suspend Lithuanian exports. New anti-coercion legislation will allow the European Union to retaliate against countries like China and Russia that have adopted punitive trade measures against members. Lithuania's Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis will share his views on how the European Union should approach China, Russia, and the United States.
- PIIE: Russian sanctions and the risks of a multipolar world – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Online Event, 11:00 AM. The Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) will discuss the impact of sanctions on authoritarian regimes and what past countries' cases might reveal about Russia's future trajectory. New PIIE nonresident senior fellow Elina Ribakova will present on the state of the Russian economic outlook, budget, and military. Jeffrey J. Schott, PIIE senior fellow, will assess the effectiveness of recent sanctions. PIIE nonresident senior fellow Steven Fries will speak about the global oil market amid recent OPEC+ supply cuts and G7-EU sanctions on Russian exports, assessing their market implications, the global price outlook, and further market gambits. PIIE executive vice president and director of studies Marcus Noland will moderate the event, drawing from his work on sanctions against authoritarian regimes like North Korea.
- Atlantic Council: A conversation with Italian Chief of Defense Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Atlantic Council, 9:00 AM. Please join the Atlantic Council's Europe Center and Middle East Programs on Wednesday, April 19, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. ET for a hybrid conversation with Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, Italy's Chief of Defense, assessing Italy's defense posture in light of Russia's continued war in Ukraine and systemic changes to the European security architecture. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has compelled a geopolitical rewiring of Europe and put the future of the region's security architecture to the test. An important ally to the West, Italy in particular has long played an important role in European security as both a NATO and European Union member and as one of Europe's leading actors on questions of stability in the Mediterranean. As Europe's third-largest economy and an early mover in Western efforts to provide support to Ukraine, Italy is well-positioned to shape forthcoming EU and transatlantic security initiatives towards the east and the south.
- Atlantic Council: NATO's Vilnius summit: Ukraine's future and the completion of Europe – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Online Event, 10:30 AM. Moscow's nine-year war on Ukraine took a dangerous turn with its full-scale invasion in February 2022. Vladimir Putin's invasion prompted the United States, NATO, and the European Union to undertake far more energetic measures to support Ukraine and protect themselves

against the Kremlin's revanchist goals. As Moscow's vaunted 2023 offensive stalls around Bakhmut, and as Ukraine prepares for a new counteroffensive, the question arises as to what impact the Alliance's Vilnius Summit in July will have on the war, as well as on broader security in Europe and beyond. A new Atlantic Council memo to NATO leaders written by Ian Brzezinski, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe and NATO Policy, and Amb. Alexander Vershbow, former NATO Deputy Secretary General and US ambassador to NATO and Russia, offers wide ranging steps for NATO to implement in Vilnius to help Ukraine win, ensure its long-term stability, and protect Europe against further Kremlin aggression that directly threatens US and allied vital interests.

- Atlantic Council: Unmanned aircraft systems: Lessons for Ukraine and NATO – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Atlantic Council, 12:30 PM. The Atlantic Council is pleased to host a panel discussion "The Future of Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Lessons for Ukraine and NATO". This hybrid public event will take place on Wednesday, April 19, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET at the Atlantic Council's headquarters and will also be streamed virtually. Throughout Russia's invasion, Ukrainian forces have proven highly adaptive and innovative in their use of emerging technologies and concepts on the battlefield. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) especially have been essential in Ukraine's battlefield adaptation from delivering strikes to disorganize Russian lines of attack early in the war to enabling sensor platforms in Ukraine's digitalized approach to combat. Looking ahead, as Ukraine seeks to retake large swaths of territory and hold Russian positions at risk, Ukraine's requirements for UAS will also likely change.
- Atlantic Council: Insight from the field: The double crisis for Syrian earthquake survivors in Turkey – Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Location: Online Event, 2:00 PM. The Atlantic Council Syria Project is pleased to host a panel discussion "Insight from the field: The double crisis for Syrian earthquake survivors in Turkey". This virtual public event will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, April 19, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm ET and will be streamed online. Seventy days following the Feb 6th natural disaster, millions of Syrians and Turks continue to live in despair as they try to put their lives back together after the two massive earthquakes that hit the border region between Turkey and Northwest Syria. Among the survivors are 1.5 million Syrian refugees who have become too familiar with the pain and destruction as they witnessed their lives being dismantled in Syria too many times in the last decade. Once more, the recent events are forcing them to relive similar ordeals and trauma.

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