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 FBI News Briefing

TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020 6:30 AM EDT

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[LEADING THE NEWS](#)

FBI Has Opened 300 Domestic Terror Investigations Since Floyd's Death.

[Fox News](#) (8/4, Schultz, 27.59M) reports on its website that the FBI has opened "more than 300 domestic terrorism investigations since George Floyd's death in Minneapolis kicked off nationwide unrest and riots, a federal attorney revealed Tuesday in a hearing on Capitol Hill." Erin Nealy Cox, a US Attorney tapped by Attorney General Barr "to lead a task force on violent anti-government extremists, said the feds have opened hundreds of federal criminal investigations surrounding the violence and rioting since May 28." Cox testified before a Senate panel, "They have since May 28 [opened] over 300 domestic terrorist investigations. That does not include any potential civil rights investigations or violent crime associated with the riots."

The [Voice of America](#) (8/5, Farivar, 48K) reports, "The task force, co-headed by Craig Carpenito, the U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey and composed of prosecutors and FBI agents, is charged with developing 'detailed information about violent antigovernment extremist individuals, networks and movements.' 'Any group, regardless of their name, if they're violent and antigovernment, we will be looking at them,' Cox said during the hearing. 'If it is a white supremacist that is engaging in gang or drug activity, that would not fall under the purview of our task force.'"

Federal Prosecutors Have Not Charged Antifa In Portland Protests. [Reuters](#) (8/4, Hosenball) reports that federal prosecutors "have produced no evidence linking dozens of people arrested in anti-racism protests in Portland, Oregon, to the antifa or anarchist movements, despite President Donald Trump's assertions they are fueling the unrest." Reuters adds, "A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Portland confirmed this in an email to Reuters on Tuesday. 'We have not alleged defendant affiliation with any specific groups or ideologies in our cases stemming from recent Portland protests,' said Kevin Sonoff, the spokesman. 'Our cases focus purely on the criminal conduct alleged.'" According to Reuters, "Trump and officials in his administration have applied the labels to the Portland protesters, who set fires around, and threw objects at, officers around a federal courthouse during long-running confrontations. 'I think there are anarchists and far-left groups involved in the violence in Portland,' Attorney General William Barr said in testimony before Congress last week. 'I think antifa is involved in Portland.'"

[PROTESTS](#)

Suspect In Salt Lake City Protest Arson Case Remains Jailed.

[KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (8/4) reports from Salt Lake City, "One of the three suspects federally indicted in the torching of a Salt Lake City Police vehicle will remain in jail, for now." KTVX-TV adds, "Photographic evidence against Christopher Isidro Rojas was presented in court Tuesday by federal prosecutors in an attempt to keep Rojas, who has been incarcerated since his arrest on July 17, behind bars during the trial. The photos show Rojas holding a white sheet and a lighter. Another photo shows the same man then lighting the sheet while another man with him is seen throwing it on the vehicle. FBI agents also showed the same suspect damaging the vehicle while wearing a pair of black and white shoes that are later photographed on Rojas at a local bar." US Magistrate Judge Jared C. Bennett "issued an order allowing Rojas a pretrial release with conditions but the government was quick to appeal and requested another review, halting Rojas from being released for the time being." [KJZZ-TV](#) Salt Lake City (8/4, Stauffer) also reports.

Tennessee Woman Is Second To Face Protest Arson Charges.

The [Tennessean](#) (8/4, Alund, 458K) reports, "A Nashville woman is now the second person facing federal arson charges in connection with a Nashville Historic Courthouse fire set during a May 30th

protest and riot, prosecutors announced Tuesday." Shelby Ligons, 22, "is charged with malicious destruction of property using fire or explosives, according to U.S. Attorney Don Cochran for the Middle District of Tennessee and Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers. A peaceful 'I Will Breathe' rally to protest police brutality in Nashville that night erupted into pockets of violence and vandalism as marchers moved through downtown. By 8:15 p.m. flames could be seen shooting from a first-floor window of the historic courthouse and city hall. Multiple arrests were made in connection with the rioting." Wesley Somers, 25, of Hendersonville "was also charged on June 3 in connection the fire set there."

Trump Touts His Efforts To Stop Portland Protests.

President Trump said in an interview on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K), "You look at what's been going on in Portland. ... I sent a whole group of very tough, very talented people to protect, can you believe it, a courthouse, a major federal courthouse from being burned to the ground, torn down, decimated. And we've saved that very easily, frankly, and we've helped them beyond that. We could solve that problem totally very quickly and easily, but we're not doing that as of yet. It's been a big victory in Portland. It has been a big victory in Seattle."

Trump [tweeted](#), "THE WALL STREET JOURNAL 'Trump Wins in Portland' 'Something big has changed in Portland, Ore. After weeks of chaos and flames outside the city's federal courthouse, the past few days have seen the violence subside dramatically. What happened?' William McGurn @WSJ"

Violent Protests Continue. The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Dinan, 492K) reports federal agents have "curtailed their presence in Portland but violent protests have continued," with police declaring "a riot Monday night after demonstrators invaded the perimeter of a city office building." Rioters "punched and struck officers with batons, and used lasers and strobe lights to try to blind officers, who in turn used tear gas to try to disperse the unruly crowd." While it marked "the second time violence has erupted near the Penumbra Kelly Building," marches near the federal courthouse "have calmed down."

Portland Man Arrested For Injuring US Marshal During Protest. [Townhall](#) (8/4, Pavlich, 177K) reports that a Portland man "who used a bomb to gain unlawful entry to the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse has been arrested." Eighteen-year-old Isaiah Jason Maza Jr. "injured a U.S. Marshal after detonating an explosive device and has been charged accordingly with a series of federal crimes."

Trump Said Antifa, Not Law Enforcement, Causing Problems In Cities. In continuing coverage of Trump's interview with Axios on HBO, the [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Sherfinski, 492K) reports that Trump said "that the anti-fascist group Antifa, not law enforcement, should be investigated over the recent clashes in cities like Portland, Oregon." Trump said, "It's Antifa and anarchists that are causing the problems – not law enforcement."

Pence Says Administration Will Increase Law Enforcement Funding.

[Breitbart](#) (8/4, Kraychik, 673K) reports Vice President Pence said in an interview with SiriusXM's Breitbart News Daily that the Administration "will increase funding for law enforcement," rejecting calls to "defund the police." Asked about violent protests in large cities, Pence said, "We've seen violence being quelled in that city, and the President has said no federal law enforcement officials are leaving until we know the courthouse is secure and the streets are secure. That's what leadership looks like."

Husband Of Los Angeles DA Charged With Pulling Gun On BLM Protesters.

The [AP](#) (8/4) reports that the husband of the Los Angeles district attorney "has been charged with pointing a gun at Black Lives Matter members who demonstrated outside the couple's home the day before the primary election in March." The attorney general filed "three misdemeanor charges Monday against David Lacey for assault with a firearm for the March 2 incident." District Attorney Jackie Lacey "offered a tearful apology at the time, saying she and her husband were awoken by the protest and were frightened." The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 10, 0:20, O'Donnell,

4.14M) too said in a brief report that “Lacey apologized at the time and says her husband was just trying to protect her.”

[Politico](#) (8/4, Marinucci, 4.29M) reports the charges come as Lacey, “the county’s first Black district attorney, faces a tough fight with George Gascón, a Latino who previously served as San Francisco DA, to retain her seat.”

Norton Demands Information From Secret Service After Mothers Held At Gunpoint.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Mettler, 14.2M) reports Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) “sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security and the Secret Service on Tuesday demanding information about an incident that played out last week near the Mall, where two mothers say uniformed federal officers held them at gunpoint and detained them without explanation.” In a statement, Norton said, “Such an incident must not be tolerated anywhere – but it will not be tolerated in our nation’s capital.”

NYTimes Analysis: Crime Data Do Not Support De Blasio’s Claims About Violence.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Feuer, 18.61M) reports in recent weeks, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) and Police Commissioner Dermot F. Shea “have blamed the steep rise in shootings in New York City on a breakdown in the criminal justice system that they contend has allowed criminals back out on the streets.” The two “have cited a range of causes that they have portrayed as outside their control: the pandemic and the George Floyd protests, as well as measures approved by the State Legislature, including one that eliminated cash bail for many defendants.” However, a “confidential analysis of police data, conducted by city officials but not released to the public, offers little if any evidence to back up their claims.” In fact, the analysis “suggests the state’s new bail law and the mass release of inmates from city jails in recent months because of the coronavirus outbreak played almost no role in the spike in shootings.”

Minneapolis Records 42nd Homicide Of The Year.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/4, 1.04M) reports that a man was “fatally shot in Minneapolis Tuesday night, bringing the city’s death toll to 42.” The shooting comes “amid a violent trend in the city since the police killing of George Floyd on Memorial Day, with homicides doubling the pace of a year ago.”

Colorado Police Apologize For Detaining Innocent Black Family.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 9, 0:15, Muir, 7.19M) reported briefly that police in Aurora, Colorado “are now apologizing to an innocent family of five that was detained, ordered to the ground. The family is Black. Even their children were on the ground. Police say they later realized they had mistaken their vehicle for a stolen motorcycle from another state.”

Joe Fryer reported on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 9, 1:55, Holt, 6.1M) that a “viral video recorded by a witness shows four children crying, face down on the pavement, two of them in handcuffs being detained by police. The youngest is six years old.” The Aurora Police Department “is already under scrutiny for its treatment of Black people following the 2019 death of Elijah McClain, which is under investigation.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Armus, 14.2M) reports Aurora’s police chief “apologized on Monday night and launched an internal investigation after video of the incident quickly went viral.”

Baltimore Parks Employees Remove BLM Murals, Sparking Investigation.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Owens, 14.2M) reports, “City employees removed artwork aimed at spotlighting the Black Lives Matter movement in Baltimore, even though the community mural project received official approval for public display.” Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks officials are “investigating the removals after two city park rangers took down several” murals in Patterson Park. Lester Davis, a spokesman for Mayor Bernard “Jack” Young, “confirmed to The Washington Post that the Recreation and Parks department has begun an investigation.”

Trump: People “Not Happy” With Athletes That Kneel During Anthem.

President Trump on Tuesday [tweeted](#), “People are not happy that players are not standing for our National Anthem!”

Illinois Lawmaker Calls For Suspending History Classes.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Chasmar, 492K) reports Illinois state Rep. La Shawn Ford (D) “on Sunday called on the state’s Board of Education to temporarily suspend all history teaching in schools until a new curriculum can be developed that doesn’t contribute to systemic racism and white privilege.” At a press conference, Ford “said the current school curriculum in Illinois is ‘miseducating’ children and overlooks the contributions to society by women and people of color.” Ford said, “Today, I’m calling for the abolishment of history classes in Illinois. ... We’re concerned that current school history teachings lead to white privilege and a racist society.”

WSJournal Urges Seattle To Condemn Protests Outside Police Chief’s Home.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) editorializes that last weekend, a group of what Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best characterized as “aggressive protesters” gathered outside her home. The Journal calls on Mayor Durkan to distinguish between upholding people’s First Amendment rights and putting officials’ families at risk.

Ornithologists Call For Renaming Birds That Represent Racism And Inequality.

Ornithologists Gabriel Foley and Jordan Rutter write in a [Washington Post](#) (8/4, 14.2M) op-ed, “When we name an animal species after the person who first made it known to science, we are effectively honoring that person’s contribution. ... Yet these honorific names – known as eponyms – also cast long, dark shadows over our beloved birds and represent colonialism, racism and inequality. It is long overdue that we acknowledge the problem of such names, and it is long overdue that we should change them.”

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Prospect Of Second Boston Marathon Bombing Trial Brings Anguish.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Richer) reports from Boston, “After Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was convicted in 2015, the family of the youngest victim urged prosecutors to abandon their bid for the death penalty, warning that years of appeals would only keep him in the spotlight and prolong their unthinkable suffering. Five years later, the prospect of a new trial to decide whether Tsarnaev should be executed after an appeals court tossed the 27-year-old’s death sentence has brought anger and anguish to a community in many ways still healing from the April 15, 2013, attack.” The AP adds, “Federal prosecutors will likely appeal Friday’s ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. But if the decision stands, prosecutors will face the difficult decision of asking victims to recount their trauma at another trial – where jurors could decide this time to reject the death penalty – or angering some by dropping their pursuit for capital punishment and agreeing to life in prison.”

[Boston](#) (8/4, Gartsbeyn, 586K) reports, “Several survivors of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing have expressed shock and anger at a federal appeals court decision last week to toss the death sentence issued against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the two brothers behind the attack.” Boston adds, “Among the most outspoken is Rebekah Gregory, who lost a leg in the bombing. She spoke with CNN’s Brianna Keilar Monday afternoon after making impassioned statements on social media. ‘We’re having to relive this nightmare over again,’ Gregory said. She pointed out that many victims of the bombing, like Bill and Denise Richard, didn’t even want to seek the death penalty against Tsarnaev. The Richards’ 8-year-old son Martin was killed in the bombing. ‘This is exactly what they were afraid of, that it was going to be this ongoing process that we were never going to be able to end,’ Gregory said.”

Trump Says “Bomb Of Some Kind” Responsible For Deadly Beirut Blast.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 4, 2:05, Muir, 7.19M) reported on Tuesday's "massive and deadly explosion" in Beirut that killed "at least 60 dead" and injured "more than 3,000. ... President Trump said this looked like a 'terrible attack,' in his words." ABC's Ian Pannell added that Lebanese officials, however, are "not suggesting that it was an attack. It's now pointing towards being just a tragic, terrible accident. The country's Interior Minister saying that highly explosive material may have been stored on the site, even pointing towards ammonium nitrate, which is highly combustible, often used in bombs and in sufficient quantities, capable of causing this level of massive destruction."

[USA Today](#) (8/4, Woodyard, 10.31M) reports that "though the cause of the explosion has yet to be officially determined...Trump called it a 'terrible attack' based on the suspicions of U.S. generals he did not name." Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said, "It would seem like it based on the explosion. I've met with some of our great generals and they just feel it was. ... It was a bomb of some kind."

The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 3, 1:20, O'Donnell, 4.14M) reported, "Trump said it was a bomb of some kind, without giving details," and the [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Dadouch, Loveluck, 14.2M) reports that while the President attributed his statement to "generals," US military officials "said they had yet to make a solid assessment of the explosion." [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 4, 0:15, Holt, 6.1M) also briefly reported Trump's comments.

The [New York Post](#) (8/4, Steinbuch, Fitz-Gibbon, 4.57M) reports the blast occurred "just days before a United Nations verdict is due on four alleged Hezbollah members accused of killing former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri in 2005."

[Reuters](#) (8/4, Nakhoul, Nader) reports that by Tuesday night, the death toll had risen to 78, with "nearly 4,000" injured, and "officials said they expected the death toll to rise further." Addressing the cause of the blast, Lebanese President Michel Aoun "said that 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate had been stored for six years at the port without safety measures," calling it "unacceptable." Prime Minister Hassan Diab "told the nation there would be accountability for the deadly blast" at what he called a "dangerous warehouse." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Halaschak, 448K) says Diab "also appealed to the international community for assistance in dealing with the thousands of people hurt in the blast."

The [AP](#) (8/4, Mroue) reports Interior Minister Mohammed Fahmi "told a local TV station that it appeared the blast was caused by" the ammonium nitrate "that had been stored in a warehouse at the dock ever since it was confiscated from a cargo ship in 2014." However, "what caused the detonation was not immediately clear."

[NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 3, 1:55, Holt, 6.1M) reported officials say the "warehouse has for years been filled with dangerous explosive chemicals. Warnings about the dangers, they say, ignored. Beirut, so often a battleground in war, resembling a war zone tonight. This is a national disaster for Lebanon. Tomorrow, a day of national mourning, and of many questions: If this was a warehouse for dangerous chemicals, were the explosions accidental or sabotage?"

O'Brien Warns Against Foreign Military Involvement In Libya.

[Reuters](#) (8/4, Shalal) reports the on Tuesday "condemned all foreign military involvement in Libya, including the use of mercenaries and private military contractors, and said Libyans themselves must rebuild a unified country." In a statement, National Security Adviser O'Brien said President Trump had spoken with several world leaders about Libya in recent weeks, and it was clear there was "no winning side." He did not name the leaders.

Analysts: Pandemic, Other Issues Appear To Be Making Hezbollah More Crime-Reliant.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Warrick, Mekhennet, 14.2M) reports, "Facing extreme financial pressures because of US sanctions, the coronavirus pandemic and Lebanon's economic collapse, Hezbollah appears to be growing increasingly reliant on criminal enterprises, including drug smuggling, to finance its operations," according to some US and Middle Eastern analysts. John Fernandez, "head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration's Counter-Narcoterrorism Operations

Center, said in a recent briefing on Hezbollah” that it does not “care about sectarian differences or religious differences” when it comes to making money. Fernandez, who was speaking at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, added, “We’ve seen them working with Sunni criminals, Christian criminals — and even with Jewish crime syndicates.”

Op-Ed: Hezbollah A Key Factor In Lebanon’s Economic Trouble. Foundation for Defense of Democracies Chief Executive Officer Mark Dubowitz and Jonathan Schanzer, that organization’s senior vice president for research, argue in a [Newsweek](#) (8/4, 1.53M) op-ed that Lebanon has serious economic problems, partly due to “Hezbollah’s political control.” Because of that, according to the op-ed, “Lebanon’s financial system is rife with corruption, money laundering, drug smuggling and other illicit finance.” Acknowledging the difficulty in finding a long-term solution to this economic trouble, Dubowitz and Schanzer argue that the “United States, with the support of Israel, can offer a short-term bailout for Lebanon—but only on the condition that Hezbollah agrees to remove its arsenal of precision-guided missiles from the country.”

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Trump Says Durham’s Findings Will Be “Breathtaking.”

President Trump was asked in an interview on [Fox Business’ Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K) if he thinks US Attorney John Durham’s investigation will result in charges before the election. Trump said, “So, we caught President Obama and Biden spying on the campaign. Biden was even saying using the Logan Act which is exactly what they used on Flynn. ... I caught them and we caught them spying, using the intelligence apparatus of our country to spy on an opponent or the opposing party’s campaign both before and after the election. ... We caught them spying, now it’s up to our Attorney General. ... I do hear it’s breathtaking, what they’ve found. That’s all I can say, breathtaking. And hopefully, it’ll come out soon. But it’s beyond what anybody ever thought even possible, how bad it is. How bad it is and how corrupt it is.”

Tensions Grow Over Republicans’ Biden Investigation.

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Carney, 2.98M) reports there are growing tensions over a Republican probe “into the Obama administration that focuses, in part,” on Joe Biden’s son, Hunter. Democrats, the Biden campaign, and outside groups “are increasingly going public with their concerns over the investigation, which they worry could spread Russian disinformation. They are targeting” Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), who has been “spearheading the effort.” While Johnson “has said repeatedly his investigation is not centered on the Bidens and is not being driven by the election,” The Hill says “some of his requests for information have centered on Hunter Biden’s travel records, contacts between Joe Biden and Ukraine and Hunter Biden’s business associates.”

Judicial Watch Sues DHS For Hunter Biden Travel Records. The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Swoyer, 492K) reports that Judicial Watch has sued DHS “to obtain travel records for Hunter Biden while he had a Secret Service detail.” The suit, filed on Friday in federal court in Washington, “calls for disclosure of the dates and locations of both domestic and international for former Vice President Joe Biden’s son Hunter, who had a secret service detail for a time period. The conservative legal group has sought records dating back to 2001.”

Russian Bankers Seek Christopher Steele’s Testimony About His Dossier Source, Igor Danchenko.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/4, 716K) reports lawyers for a group of Russian bankers “suing over the dossier want Christopher Steele to testify in a US court about his primary source, Igor Danchenko.” The lawyers, who represent the owners of Alfa Bank, “say that Danchenko can provide information regarding the ‘reliability’ of the dossier.” Danchenko “undermined several aspects of the dossier during interviews with the FBI in 2017.” Lawyers for the bankers “said in the court filing that information from Steele regarding Danchenko is ‘relevant to the reliability’ of the dossier.” It could also “show whether Fusion GPS knew that Danchenko was Steele’s source, and

whether information in the dossier regarding Alfa Bank was inaccurate before they shared it with journalists in 2016.”

Yates To Testify Before Senate Panel About Crossfire Hurricane Wednesday.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Mordock, 492K) reports former Deputy Attorney General will testify Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee “investigation into the origins of Crossfire Hurricane, the code name for the FBI’s search for collusion between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin’s plans to interfere in the 2016 presidential election.” The Times says Yates “will be in a tight spot...forced to square her 2017 testimony that Michael Flynn could be blackmailed by Russia with new revelations that the probe was an FBI setup targeting the Trump White House.”

SSCI Approves Final Russia Report.

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Miller, 2.98M) reports the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday “voted to adopt its fifth and final report on Russia’s election interference efforts in 2016, with committee leaders vowing to keep working towards releasing a declassified version of the report to the public.” The fifth report “covers counterintelligence findings, and was recently returned to the committee following a declassification review by the ODNI.” Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Vice Chairman Mark Warner (D-VA) said in a joint statement Tuesday, “Today, the Senate Intelligence Committee voted to adopt the classified version of the final volume of the Committee’s bipartisan Russia investigation. In the coming days, the Committee will work to incorporate any additional views, as well as work with the IC to formalize a properly redacted, declassified, publicly releasable version of the Volume 5 report. We want to thank the Committee’s Russia investigative staff for their years of diligent, hard work on this critical matter.”

McCarthy Slow To Fill Opening On House Intelligence Committee Months After Ratcliffe Confirmation.

[Politico](#) (8/4, Matishak, Zanona, 4.29M) reports House Republicans “aren’t rushing to fill an empty seat on the high-profile House Intelligence Committee that has remained vacant for months, even as Congress grapples with potential foreign interference in the upcoming elections.” House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is “taking his time deciding who should replace former Rep. John Ratcliffe – now DNI – on the prestigious panel.” McCarthy’s selection will surely “create some sore feelings in the conference as dozens of House Republicans are vying for a spot on the panel.” And McCarthy’s choice “could signal whether he wants to reverse the partisanship that’s wracked the panel in the era of Trump or continue down a more similar path.” Democrats “contend that leaving the slot open this long is another symptom of the disregard Republicans have displayed for intelligence matters.”

Federal Program Offers New Cybersecurity Tool For Elections As Officials Warn Of Foreign Interference.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Cassidy) reports state and local officials are “receiving additional tools from the federal government to help defend the nation’s election systems from cyberthreats ahead of the November vote, as intelligence officials continue to warn about foreign efforts to interfere in the US election.” Under a \$2.2 million pilot program that began in March, DHS’ cybersecurity agency “in partnership with the Center for Internet Security has been deploying software to election offices.” Just a few weeks ago, Bill Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, “released a statement noting foreign adversaries are seeking to compromise election infrastructure along with campaigns, candidates and other political targets.” He “said the government continues to ‘monitor malicious cyber actors trying to gain access to US state and federal networks, including those responsible for managing elections.’”

ODNI Offers Recommendations To Address Lax Vetting Of Foreign Employees At US Agency For Global Media.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Gertz, 492K) reports that, according to officials and internal documents from the US Agency for Global Media, foreign nationals from countries "such as China and Iran were granted security clearances by the US government agency in charge of broadcasting, jeopardizing national security." A senior USAGM official, speaking on background, said, "US national security is jeopardized any time there is even a single security violation. In this case, an entire agency with daily global reach was permitted to fully inculcate lax, or nonexistent, security procedures." The security lapses were "identified in an internal report last month from OPM, which found that the agency failed to take corrective action on 19 of 37 recommendations regarding personnel security shortcomings." The report described the "suggested security fixes, identified jointly by the ODNI, as 'critical recommendations' requiring 'immediate corrective action.'"

Op-Ed: Telework Deployment For Secure Workforces Should Still Be A Priority.

In a commentary in the [Federal Times](#) (8/4, 118K), Eric Jung, the CSfC program manager for Perspecta Labs, writes, "In what seemed like the blink of an eye, millions of federal employees across intelligence, defense and civilian agencies shifted to remote working environments because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal agencies aren't typically known for expansive telework policies, so the transition was quite dramatic, as well as intimidating for the IT teams facing this enormous challenge. NSA's Commercial Solutions for Classified program established stringent security requirements for end-user devices – laptops, tablets and smartphones – to connect to secure networks." He contends, "The CSfC security constructs are undoubtedly necessary to facilitating secure telework environments, but getting there can also be a complex process." He concludes, "Even as agencies begin bringing employees back to the office, with the threat of a second wave of coronavirus, IT leaders can't rest on achieving some telework successes."

US Embassy In Moscow Says It Has No Information On Whelan's Whereabouts.

The [AP](#) (8/4) reports the US Embassy in Moscow "said Tuesday it had no information on the whereabouts of" Paul Whelan, "an American convicted in June of espionage, despite reports that he is being transferred to a prison colony in central Russia." In a [tweet](#) Tuesday, Whelan's brother, David, said that he "appears to now be in Mordovia, on his way to prison camp IK-17." However, US Embassy spokeswoman Rebecca Ross [tweeted](#), "We have not received official notification from Russian authorities of any such move, despite our repeated recent attempts to gain consular access to Paul."

Abrams Tells Senators US Will Continue To Recognize Guaidó As Venezuela's Interim President.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Smith) reports that on testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday, the US's special representative to Venezuela, Elliott Abrams, "said...that the Trump Administration will continue recognizing lawmaker Juan Guaidó as the nation's interim president even if President Nicolás Maduro's government ousts the opposition from control of congress – its last major stronghold." Abrams told the panel, "He will not change the legal status for many countries around the world – and especially for us. ... In our view the constitutional president of Venezuela today and after Jan. 5, 2021 is Juan Guaidó."

[Reuters](#) (8/4, Zengerle, Spetalnick) reports that Abrams "insisted the US 'will not recognize this fraudulent election' and said it was in discussions with the roughly 60 countries that have backed Guaido and they would stick with him." They withdrew recognition "for Maduro after his 2018 re-election, which they regarded as a sham." Abrams "said US deportations of Venezuelans have halted but court decisions have led to 'some reluctance' to grant 'temporary protected status.'" Some lawmakers have "called for giving them asylum."

Marco Rubio Introduces The "Air America Act" To Provide Benefits To Air America Employees.

[Florida Daily](#) (8/4, Derby) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) "unveiled a proposal to have Air America employees who served during the Cold War have federal benefits." Rubio introduced the 'Air America Act' "with more than a dozen cosponsors." Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) "is the main cosponsor." Rubio said, "The brave men and women employed by Air America who conducted covert operations during the Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War were critical to US efforts. I'm proud to partner with Senator Warner, and our colleagues, to ensure that these Americans receive the long-overdue honor and recognition they deserve." Warner said, "I am proud to cosponsor this bill with Senator Rubio that will provide long-overdue recognition and retirement benefits to the brave men and women who flew for Air America."

The US Is At Risk Of Attacks In Space.

[Axios](#) (8/4, Kramer, 521K), reports other nations are "catching up to US capabilities in space, potentially putting American assets in orbit at risk." From GPS to imagery satellites and others "that can peer through clouds, space data is integral to American national security". Those same assets make "for appealing targets by bad actors, and experts are concerned weapons testing in orbit could lead to US satellites being attacked in the future." The US government has "taken notice of technological advances by commercial companies that could aid in national security." One possibility is that DOD "may host their own payloads on private spacecraft in order to distribute instruments more widely, making them harder to target." The newly established Space Force branch of the military "is tasked with helping to shore up national security interests in space, but experts aren't yet sure how it will accomplish that broad mandate."

Op-Ed: US Becoming Sitting Target In Space For Russia's Anti-satellite Weapons. In an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (8/4, 2.98M), Gen. David A. Deptula (ret.), dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, writes, "With Russia, China and other countries moving to weaponize it, space is now a warfighting domain. The US must ensure the organizations it recently stood up to deter and, if necessary, to defeat an adversary's hostile use of space – the US Space Force and USSPACECOM – have the necessary resources to fulfill their vital missions." He contends, "Unfortunately, as the space domain has grown increasingly contested, the US national security space enterprise has not kept pace. Many of the systems in use have designs dating to the Cold War, when requirements were driven by performance rather than resilience, resulting in systems that became increasingly complex, integrated and expensive." He concludes, "Action is required now. The adverse cost of waiting until Russia and China take offensive actions in space would prove utterly crippling to military and civilian interests."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

FBI Meets With Activists To Discuss Breonna Taylor Probe.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (8/4, Aulbach, 368K) reports, "The FBI Louisville branch is tight-lipped and guarded, but Christopher 2X and three others got a peek behind the curtain Tuesday morning as the agency continues to conduct its investigation into the police shooting of Breonna Taylor." The Courier-Journal adds, "After an hourlong meeting at the FBI Louisville Field Office, 2X told reporters that while it may take time to finish the investigation, the commitment agency officials locally and nationally have shown to the case is encouraging. 'What they reassured us today is that they're taking this as serious as they can take it as far as putting the top agents on this particular investigation,' the local anti-violence activist said. The FBI announced in May, about a week before protests erupted in Louisville and across the nation, that it would conduct its own investigation into the shooting, independent of the Louisville Metro Police Department's internal investigation."

[WHAS-TV](#) Louisville, KY (8/4, 99K) reports, "A second round of conversations were held Tuesday between the FBI and a local activist group as the federal investigation into Breonna Taylor's death continues." WHAS-TV adds, "Christopher 2X and members of his Game Changers organization met with members of the FBI. He said the FBI investigation is looking into possible civil rights investigations, adding investigators are vowing a thorough investigation. 'This is not

comfortable for them to investigate a law enforcement body. However, they told us unequivocally, and they told us to tell you all, that doesn't mean anything to them. This is a serious issue, and the chips are going to fall where they may as it relates to the Breonna Taylor shooting,' 2X said."

[Spectrum News 1 Louisville \(KY\)](#) (8/4) reports, "The FBI's Louisville office, as explained to the delegation, is primarily focused on investigating any potential civil rights violations committed by Louisville Metro Police officers in acquiring and executing the now banned no-knock warrant on March 13." Christopher 2X, "a long-standing Louisville civil rights and anti-violence advocate, is representing Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer. 2X said he has never before seen federal agents get involved in a Kentucky police shooting, and that he is confident the FBI is handling the case with sincerity and honesty after meeting for more than an hour. 'They said they don't wanna be a show horse in front of anybody about this situation,' he said to reporters in the parking lot of the FBI's Louisville headquarters. 'They wanna be the plow horse, to show the community; a plow horse to show the community that they are serious about civil rights being violated.'"

[WLKY-TV](#) Louisville, KY (8/4, 79K) reports, "Christopher 2x led the conversation – the second round – with the FBI at its Louisville field office. He said he wants to make sure they are taking the Civil Rights investigation into Taylor's death seriously. He said Tuesday after walking away from the meeting that he believes they are."

[WDRB-TV](#) Louisville, KY (8/4, 179K) reports, "2X and his organization, Game Changers, along with local law students met with the FBI on Tuesday morning on Palmer's behalf for a second time to get an update on the status of the Taylor investigation, including the investigation into possible civil rights violations, and to address questions and concerns about the investigation." WDRB-TV adds, "One of those concerns, 2X said, was about the postal worker who shared the information that led to the 'no-knock' warrant being issued and executed on Taylor's apartment. 'The broad report, as it relates to the postal inspector talking in the media almost close to two months ago, and him saying in the media, to the general public, that no strange packages ever went to Breonna Taylor's apartment, based on what the postal inspectors observed and investigate – that goes directly into the warrant issue,' he said." [WHAS-TV](#) Louisville, KY (8/4, 99K) also reports.

Experts See Challenges To Charging Police In Taylor Case. The [AP](#) (8/4, Lovan) reports, "Despite mounting public pressure to file criminal charges nearly five months after Breonna Taylor's death, prosecutors may face significant obstacles to bringing homicide-related charges against police officers who were shot at when sent to her house with a warrant, legal experts said." According to the AP, "Tensions have swelled in her home town and spread far afield as activists, professional athletes and social media stars push for action while investigators plead for more patience. The warrant also has been called into question and, with federal officials looking into potential civil rights abuses, the case could reach beyond the officers on the scene that night. Taylor, a 26-year-old Louisville emergency medical tech studying to become a nurse, was shot multiple times March 13 after being roused from sleep by police at her door. The warrant was approved as part of a narcotics investigation into a suspect who lived across town, and no drugs were found at her home."

Judge Orders Trial After Discovery Of Missing Idaho Children's Bodies.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Ridler) reports from Boise, Idaho, "A judge ruled Tuesday there's enough evidence for a man to go to trial after the bodies of his new wife's two children were found buried on his Idaho property. The bizarre case involving doomsday beliefs and the deaths of several people linked to the couple has attracted national headlines." Chad Daybell, 52, "has pleaded not guilty to charges related to hiding the remains of 7-year-old Joshua 'JJ' Vallow and 17-year-old Tylee Ryan. Investigators found their bodies during a search in June, months after they were last seen in September. Daybell last year married Lori Vallow Daybell, who has pleaded not guilty to conspiring to help him keep the bodies of her children hidden. Authorities have yet to file charges related to the deaths of the children."

[East Idaho News](#) (8/4) reports, "The case against Chad Daybell has been bound over to District Court and he is scheduled to go before Judge Steven Boyce for an arraignment on Friday,

Aug. 21. After a two-day preliminary hearing in Fremont County, Magistrate Judge Faren Eddins determined there is sufficient cause that Daybell likely committed two felony counts of conspiracy to commit destruction, alteration or concealment of evidence, and two felony counts of destruction, alteration or concealment of evidence."

[Gephardt Daily \(UT\)](#) (8/4) reports, "A phone call between Melanie Gibb and former friends Chad Vallow and Lori Vallow Daybell was played in the Idaho courtroom where Chad Daybell is having his preliminary hearing." The Daily adds, "Gibb, who has said she recorded the phone call on Dec. 8, 2019, questioned Lori Vallow Daybell, asking Lori why she lied to police in saying missing 7-year-old son Joshua 'J.J.' Vallow was with Gibb." Chad Vallow "is charged with two felony counts of conspiracy to commit destruction, alteration or concealment of evidence, and two felony counts of destruction, alteration or concealment of evidence. He was arrested June 9 after the remains of J.J. and Lori's daughter, 16-year-old Tylee Ryan, were found buried on Chad's property on June 8 of this year."

The [New York Post](#) (8/4, Rosenberg, 4.57M) reports, "An FBI agent described in an Idaho court Tuesday the grisly excavation of the charred and decomposing remains of 'Doomsday' dad Chad Daybell's stepchildren on a pet cemetery at the edge of his property. 'When I cut through the white plastic that's when the possible human hair began coming out onto my hands and that's when we determined it was human remains,' said FBI Special Agent Steve Daniels of finding the body of Joshua 'JJ' Vallow on June 9, 2019, in front of a dog statue. Daniels' testimony was part of a preliminary hearing at the Fremont County Courthouse to determine whether Daybell's case will remain in state court."

The [New York Post](#) (8/4, Rosenberg, 4.57M) reports, "The day after 'Doomsday' dad Chad Daybell's stepdaughter was last seen alive, he sent his then-wife an 'unusual' text about shooting a raccoon and burying it in a pet cemetery, an FBI agent testified Tuesday." The Post adds, "Special Agent Benjamin Dean, an intelligence analyst, was assigned to examine an LG cellphone with a clear case decorated with purple glitter and hearts, he said on the stand at a preliminary hearing to determine if Daybell's case is removed from state court. 'Well, I've had an interesting morning! I felt I should burn all of the limb debris by the fire pit before it got too soaked by the coming storms,' Chad Daybell wrote his then-wife Tammy Daybell, at 11:53 a.m. on Sept. 9, 2019. 'While I did so, I spotted a big raccoon along the fence. I hurried and got my gun, and he was still walking along. I got close enough that one shot did the trick. He is now in our pet cemetery. Fun times!' he continued, according to the text Dean read during his testimony at the Fremont County Courthouse." The [Daily Beast](#) (8/4, Melendez, 1.39M) also reports.

FBI Assisting Chicago Police In Probe Of Fatal Shooting Attack.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/4, Rosenberg-Douglas, 2.65M) reports, "Chicago police Tuesday released a video in hopes of identifying a gunman involved in a shooting that killed a 14-year-old Chicago boy July Fourth and also left three other people dead and four wounded." According to the Tribune, "Chicago detectives are working with the FBI to solve the crime and have announced a reward of as much as \$25,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of the gunman. Vernado Jones Jr., 14, was one of eight people who were shot at a Fourth of July gathering in Englewood. He was one of four people shot who died and one of three children shot in the 6100 block of South Carpenter Street, according to police. Also wounded were an 11-year-old boy and a 15-year-old boy." The Tribune adds, "Authorities originally said there may be as many as four people who walked up to the gathering about 11:30 p.m. that night and opened fire."

Trump Raised Possibility That Epstein Was Killed In Custody.

In continuing coverage of President Trump's interview with Axios on HBO, the [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Sherfinski, 492K) reports that Trump "raised the prospect that alleged sex trafficker and disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein might have been killed while in federal custody." Trump said, "[Epstein] was either killed or committed suicide in jail." Trump said, regarding Ghislaine Maxwell, "Her boyfriend died in jail and people are still trying to figure out, how did it happen?" and added,

"Was it suicide? Was he killed?" The Times also reports that Attorney General Barr "has dismissed such talk and said Epstein did kill himself."

Former Formula One Driver Says He Saw Bill Clinton At Epstein Party. The [New York Post](#) (8/4, Eustachewich, 4.57M) reports, "Bill Clinton once partied with Eddie Irvine at a shindig thrown by Jeffrey Epstein, the former Formula One racer said in a new report." Irvine told the Belfast Telegraph, "I remember him being around. I saw all these people around." Irvine didn't give "further details about Clinton, who was named in newly released court papers as having jetted to Epstein's private island – where young women and girls were sexually abused by the pedophile."

Man Who Killed Somali Student At Kansas City Mosque Sentenced To Prison.

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (8/4, Sporre, 549K) reports, "A 40-year-old man was sentenced Tuesday in the killing of a 15-year-old outside a Kansas City mosque in 2014." Ahmed Aden "has been sentenced to 40 years in prison for the murder of Abdisamad Sheikh-Hussein, a Somali student, who was in his sophomore year at Staley High School, according to a news release from the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office. Abdisamad was leaving the Somali Center of Kansas City at Admiral Boulevard and Lydia Avenue on Dec. 4, 2014, when he was struck by an SUV driven by Aden, police said at the time." Aden "entered an Alford plea in December, conceding without admitting guilt that prosecutors had enough to convict him of second-degree murder and armed criminal action." The Star notes that the FBI "had investigated the crash as a possible hate crime. Aden was 'outwardly anti-Muslim,' prosecutors have argued."

FBI, Police Conduct Raids In Indianapolis.

[Fox News](#) (8/4, McQuaid, 27.59M) reports FBI SWAT teams, backed by "Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) detectives and agents from multiple federal agencies, armed with more than a dozen arrest warrants, conducted several raids at dawn Monday across Indianapolis." A source "said the raids were a result of a wiretap investigation by the FBI Safe Streets Task Force which includes IMPD officers and likely targeted individuals and criminal enterprises dealing in drugs, cash and weapons." One source told FOX59 two men "were taken into custody at a house and car storage yard in the 5300 block of Massachusetts Avenue where investigators discovered guns and ammunition."

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (8/4, Kemp, 633K) reports eight people were indicted "on federal drug charges Tuesday after federal and local law enforcement agencies conducted a series of raids in Indianapolis, U.S. Attorney Josh Minkler's office announced." In the Monday morning raids, "officers seized 31 firearms, 4½ pounds of methamphetamine, ½ kilogram of cocaine, 1 kilogram of fentanyl and more than \$270,000 in cash, according to a news release." In all, 16 search warrants and "federal arrest warrants were served by FBI agents and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers, according to the release." FBI Indianapolis Special Agent in Charge Paul Kennan said, "Even during the COVID shutdown, the FBI and our law enforcement partners were still engaged in investigations to reduce violent crime," adding, "What you saw Monday was the result of the dedicated work of multiple agencies with one shared goal – to make the community safer for residents who shouldn't have to live in fear." The FBI, IRS, "DEA Indianapolis District Office, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and IMPD were all involved in the investigation."

[WXIN-TV](#) Indianapolis (8/4, 434K) reports seven Indianapolis residents "and a Muncie resident were indicted on federal drug charges for their alleged roles in a drug trafficking operation." Minkler said, "I commend the hard work of the FBI, the IRS and the IMPD who combined their limited law enforcement resources in order to remove a criminal organization that sought to financially profit by infesting our city's streets with more guns, more drugs and more blood money."

[WXIN-TV](#) Indianapolis (8/4, 434K) reports central Indiana police are "searching for two suspects following Monday's FBI raids in Indianapolis." A source "said the raids were a result of a wiretap investigation by the FBI Safe Streets Task Force which includes IMPD officers and likely

targeted individuals and criminal enterprises dealing in drugs, cash and weapons. More than a dozen arrest warrants were served."

[WISH-TV](#) Indianapolis (8/4, 33K) also reports.

FBI Continues Probe Of 2019 Dayton, Ohio Mass Shooting.

[WHIO-TV](#) Dayton, OH (8/4, Bedell, 109K) reports from Dayton, Ohio, "Six months after the FBI said it was wrapping up its investigation into the mass shooting at the Oregon District, the case remains open and the motive still not announced." WHIO-TV adds, "News Center 7's I-Team asked federal officials this week why the FBI's investigation still isn't finished after Chris Hoffman, the Special Agent in Charge of the bureau's Cincinnati field office, told reporters on February 16, 'We're very close to wrapping it up,' when he was asked about the probe into Connor Betts' motive. Even though Hoffman said he could not give a set time frame back in February, he did say then he expected the federal investigation to wrap up soon. The FBI declined to say why the investigation was still open at this point when contacted by News Center 7 this week."

Texas Developer Facing Bribery Charges Is Placed On House Arrest.

The [AP](#) (8/4) reports from Dallas, Texas, "A Dallas real estate developer has been put on house arrest after two federal judges found that he violated conditions of his release by contacting a potential government witness in his pending bribery trial." Ruel Hamilton "was recorded in January telling a former employee that she doesn't have to talk with investigators and that his company would cover the cost of a lawyer for her, according to court records unsealed Tuesday. Hamilton was charged with two counts of bribery in a corruption probe that has shaken local government in Dallas. He pleaded not guilty and was released ahead of his trial." Prosecutors "argued Hamilton was trying keep his former employee quiet despite 'carefully framed' statements that she was free to talk to the FBI."

Virginia Gang Member Pleads Guilty To Racketeering, Murder Conspiracy.

The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (8/4) reports Rollin' 30s Crips gang member Trayvone Kasey, who "was federally indicted in 2018," has "pleaded guilty today to federal racketeering, murder in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to commit murder in aid of racketeering, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence resulting in death, interference with commerce by robbery, and discharging a firearm and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence resulting in death." The case was investigated as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods operation.

Continuing Coverage: Michigan Man Indicted In Connection To Death Of Susie Zhao.

[WDIV-TV](#) Detroit (8/4, Ley, Clarke, 460K) reports Jeffery Morris "was arrested and formally charged on Tuesday" in connection to the death of Susie Zhao, who "was found dead last month at the Pontiac Lake Recreation Center." White Lake Township police and an FBI task force "tracked Morris and arrested him last Friday."

FBI Searching For Family Of Lost Toddler.

[Yahoo! News](#) (8/4, Ghisolfi, 12.82M) reports that the FBI is continuing to search for the mother of a two-year-old toddler named Kamdyn, who was "found alone in Miramar last week." The child's extended family has filed a lawsuit to obtain custody of the boy, who "was taken into the care of the Broward Sheriff's Office Child Protective Investigations Section last weekend, and by last Monday had been assigned to foster parents."

Pennsylvania Individuals Indicted In Connection To Prison Smuggling.

[WPMT-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (8/4, 93K) reports that six individuals "have been indicted by grand juries in U.S. Middle District Court for smuggling contraband items into" the Dauphin County Prison. Two suspects are former staff members, while the remaining suspects "are a man who was an inmate in the prison at the time, his mother, the paramour of another inmate, and - in a separate case -

the sister of an inmate." The cases "were all investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of Dauphin County Prison and the Dauphin County Criminal Investigation Division."

The [York \(PA\) Dispatch](#) (8/4, 37K) reports that the charges could result in a maximum sentence of five years.

Continuing Coverage: Connecticut Man Accused Of Killing Minor.

[WHBQ-TV](#) Memphis, TN (8/4, Bonvillian, 23K) reports Diante Willoughby "has been charged with murder after authorities say he lured a 14-year-old boy he had befriended on Snapchat out of the house and strangled him before dumping his body in a wooded area." The report says that he "confessed to luring Jose Nunez from his Bridgeport home, driving him more than 20 miles away to Oxford and killing him." The FBI is supporting the investigation.

Virginia Man Indicted For Threatening Schools.

The [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (8/4, 94K) reports Lucas Isaiah Newton-Grant is "accused of threatening to blow up Charlottesville city school buildings," was "arrested after making continued threatening Facebook posts despite being warned by others that the threats were illegal." The original threats "were made July 7 as the city school system was considering how and when to reopen schools this fall and whether to open up in person or online."

FBI Investigating Fatal Stabbing In Oklahoma.

[KOKI-TV](#) Tulsa, OK (8/4, Jane, 11K) reports that the Tulsa Police Department "said someone was stabbed to death near 71st and Mingo early Tuesday morning," and the FBI is leading the investigation because the victim "was Native American."

Minnesota Man Charged In Connection To Armed Robberies.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/4, 1.04M) reports Derrick Lee Spillman "made a first appearance in U.S. District Court in St. Paul Tuesday, charged with going on a nine-hour armed robbery spree last Friday, holding up three service stations and a Subway restaurant." He "is being charged under the Hobbs Act," which "allows federal prosecutors to charge individuals who commit armed robberies of businesses engaged in interstate commerce."

20-Year Manhunt For Michigan Sex Offender Ends In California.

The [Detroit News](#) (8/4, 825K) reports James Meece, who "was convicted in 1991 of second-degree criminal sexual conduct and sentenced to three to 15 years in prison," has "been arrested in California" by the U.S. Marshals Service. He disappeared in 1999, but the authorities located him through his 2001 marriage to an unidentified woman living in California.

Michigan Lawmaker Files For Dismissal Of Charges.

The [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (8/4, Quealy, 65K) reports Michigan State Rep. Larry Inman, who "was found not guilty of lying to federal agents about an illegal quid pro quo" in 2020, has filed for the dismissal of the remaining charges, which the jury could not decide a final verdict on at the time. Defense attorney Christopher Cooke "submitted a 10-page brief Friday claiming the prosecution, led by Christopher O'Connor and Ronald Stella, provided insufficient evidence at the trial and that its case will 'not get any stronger' upon retrial."

[WWTW-TV](#) Cadillac, MI (8/4, 25K) reports that federal prosecutors "have wanted to retry the case but Inman's lawyer, Chris Cooke, expresses the same worries the judge has that prosecutors will not be able to prove him guilty after not being able to the first time." They "have until August 21 to establish their argument for a retrial."

North Dakota Native American Official Charged With Bribery.

[Native News Online](#) (8/4) reports that three officials connected to the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation have been charged in connection to a bribery scheme that “span[ned] 2013 through 2020 and involve[d] at least \$1.9 million combined in bribes and kickbacks paid by a construction contractor.” The FBI “determined MHA Nation paid the contractor more than \$17.25 million overall from January 2012 to January 2020, of which nearly \$7.5 million came from the West Segment economic development corporation (EDC) from February 2014 to October 2019.”

Four Floridians Charged In Connection To Gas Station Skimming Scheme.

[WETM-TV](#) Elmira, NY (8/4) reports that four Floridians “were arrested in Florida and Pennsylvania on Tuesday in connection to a nationwide scheme to steal credit and debit card numbers of gas station customers across the country--including in Albany, Broome, and Montgomery Counties.” The individuals “are charged with building skimming devices and installing them at gas pumps from April 2016 through around December 2018.” The case “is being investigated by the FBI in Albany, Miami, and Pittsburgh, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Field Office in Boston and Miami, and the Secret Service in Miami.”

More Than 370 Pounds Of Illegal Drugs Seized In “Massive” Bust.

In online coverage, [WSB-TV](#) Atlanta (8/4, 105K) reports, “Federal, state and local authorities say a massive heroin bust is likely one the biggest in” Georgia. The article says the bust involved the seizure of “roughly 170 kilos, or 374 pounds, of heroin or heroin cut with other substances near our area’s biggest open-air drug markets – The Bluff.” Commenting on the case was DEA Special Agent in Charge Robert Murphy, who “said this may be the first time DEA has been able to track the heroin route from The Bluff back to a specific cartel based in Mexico.” Murphy also said the FBI was involved with the investigation of this case, according to the WSB-TV report, which is highlighted in an [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/4, Hansen, 895K) article.

Drug Investigation Leads To 17 Arrests.

The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (8/4, Rode, 174K) reports an investigation conducted by the DEA, the FBI and several other law enforcement organizations led to the arrests of 17 suspected “members of an alleged” drug trafficking organization. The suspects “are accused of importing methamphetamine from Mexico and distributing it in Ventura County.” The [KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (8/4, 3K) website also covers this story.

Drug Ring Involvement Leads To Federal Prison Sentences For Two Defendants.

Running the same coverage, the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (8/4, 225K) and the [Norwalk \(CT\) Hour](#) (8/4, 46K) report that Connecticut residents Jamaine Jackson and Theodore Smith “were sentenced to federal prison on Monday for their involvement in a New Haven-based drug trafficking organization.” The sentences will last 77 and 42 months for Jackson and Smith, respectively, according to US Attorney John Durham, who “said the ring was uncovered during an investigation headed by the FBI’s New Haven Safe Streets/Gang Task Force” and the New Haven Police Department.

Two Arrested In Connection With Meth Trafficking Probe.

The [Waterloo-Cedar Falls \(IA\) Courier](#) (8/4, Reinitz, 172K) reports Jorge Luis Martinez-Garcia and Jason John Evans “have been arrested in connection with a series of raids in July.” The raids were “part of a large-scale meth trafficking investigation,” according to the Courier article, which highlights the FBI’s involvement with that probe.

Heroin Trafficking Case Defendant Gets 30-Month Prison Sentence.

The [Lehighton \(PA\) Times News](#) (8/4, 33K) reports a federal judge recently sentenced Pennsylvania resident Carlos Correa to 30 months in prison for participating “in a heroin trafficking

conspiracy in Schuylkill and Luzerne counties." The Correa case "was investigated by the FBI, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Shenandoah Police."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

FBI Raids Cleveland, Miami Offices "Tied To Ukrainian Oligarch."

[CBS News](#) (8/4, 3.68M) reports agents from the FBI and the IRS "on Tuesday raided two offices belonging to Optima Management Group, a company with ties to a Ukrainian oligarch, CBS News has learned." The federal agents conducted the "raid of Optima Management's offices in Miami and Cleveland as part of an investigation out of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio, which has been ongoing for more than a year, a law enforcement source said." Agents are believed to "have seized items including computers and laptops." Optima Management is a real estate "company that has ties to Ihor Kolomoisky, a Ukrainian oligarch with an estimated net worth of \$1 billion, according to Forbes." The Daily Beast reported "last year that the FBI was investigating Kolomoisky for possible financial crimes, including money laundering."

[Bloomberg](#) (8/4, Baker, Farrell, 4.73M) reports Optima, which "has been accused of participating in an international fraud scheme was raided by the FBI in two locations on Tuesday." Agents conducted "law enforcement activity" in Cleveland and "Miami at addresses that correspond with the offices of Optima Management Group, according to FBI Special Agent Vicki Anderson." A grand jury in Cleveland "is investigating Kolomoisky's suspected role in the scheme, BuzzFeed News reported."

[WEWS-TV Cleveland](#) (8/4, Buduson) reports FBI agents "converged on One Cleveland Center in Downtown Cleveland on Tuesday morning." The FBI agents "emerged from the Cleveland Optima office after several hours with more than a dozen boxes and several computers and servers." FBI Cleveland Special Agent Vicki Anderson confirmed, "We do have law enforcement activity here at One Cleveland Center this morning, everything is under seal so I'm not at liberty to go into details," adding, "We do have activity also as you know in Miami this morning concerning the same investigation but again, I'm not at liberty to go into details about that."

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (8/4, Heisig, 895K) reports federal authorities in Cleveland "have been conducting a wide-ranging probe involving Ukrainian oligarch Igor Kolomoisky that has been ongoing for quite some time." Separately, The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (8/4, Heisig, 895K) reports the searches are the "first time agents were seen in public working on a years-long investigation. The Daily Beast first reported on the investigation in 2019, and cleveland.com did shortly after."

[WPLG-TV Miami](#) (8/4, Ramos, Torres, 223K) reports from Miami, "FBI agents raided a 55th-floor office overlooking Biscayne Bay on Tuesday in downtown Miami. The search for evidence is part of a money-laundering investigation related to alleged bank fraud in Ukraine, a source with the FBI said." WPLG-TV adds, "The case related to the raid is under seal. Federal agents were at the Southeast Financial Center tower office that two Miami businessmen, Mordechai 'Motti' Korf and Uriel 'Uri' Laber, use to run several companies. They haven't been charged with any crimes, and the FBI spokesperson did not confirm they were the subject of the investigation." According to WPLG-TV, "FBI Cleveland Special Agent Vicki Anderson told Cleveland's ABC News affiliate the raid in Miami was connected to a raid at the offices of The Optima Management Group, a commercial real estate management and investment firm based in Cleveland, Ohio."

[WEWS-TV Cleveland](#) (8/4, Regan) reports the FBI "has not commented on today's raid, but no one has been convicted of a crime involving Optima Management or its associated entities."

[Crain's Cleveland Business](#) (8/4, Bullard, Jarboe, 61K), The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (8/4, Cain, 895K), [WKYC-TV Cleveland](#) (8/4, 223K), [WKYC-TV Cleveland](#) (8/4, 223K), and [WOIO-TV Cleveland](#) (8/4, Anderson, 68K) also report.

Former Proove Biosciences Executives Pleads Guilty To Conspiring To Pay Physicians Kickbacks.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (8/4, Davis, 755K) reports former Proove Biosciences vice president of market development Donald Joseph Matthews "pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiring to pay

physicians kickbacks to order genetic tests for Medicare patients – a scheme that earned the business some \$21 million in unlawful government reimbursements, authorities said.” According to the plea agreement, Proove “paid physicians across the country, including in San Diego, at least \$3.5 million so they would order DNA tests designed to [assess] a patient’s risk of abusing opioid prescription painkillers.” The company also “billed Medicare about \$45 million for the tests, receiving about half of that from the government.”

SEC Reportedly Investigating Announcement Of Loan To Kodak To Make Medicine In Factories.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, A1, Michaels, Francis, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports the Securities and Exchange Commission is looking into the circumstances of Eastman Kodak’s announcement that it has received a \$765 million loan from the US government to manufacture medicine at its factories in the US. Last week, the company’s shares spiked on the news, possibly enriching company executives who were granted stock-option grants on July 27, the day before the loan became public.

Ex-Rep. Collins Seeks Another Delay In Reporting To Prison.

The [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (8/4, Besecker, 391K) reports, “Attorneys for Chris Collins are again asking for a roughly two-month delay in when the former congressman must report to federal prison,” and “Collins’ lawyers are again pointing to the Covid-19 pandemic as their rationale.” According to the News, “Collins’ attorneys on Tuesday filed a request with U.S. District Court Judge Vernon S. Broderick to put off the start of his 26-month sentence for insider trading. Collins, who was sentenced Jan. 17, is scheduled to begin serving his sentence Aug. 18. His attorneys are asking the judge to push the start to Oct. 13.” Collins, 70, “has twice received a reprieve due to the coronavirus outbreak – in April and May, the latter of which delayed what had been a June surrender date.”

CYBER DIVISION

Florida Teen Charged In Twitter Hack Pleads Not Guilty.

The [AP](#) (8/4) reports from Tampa, Florida, “A Florida teen identified as the mastermind of a scheme that gained control of Twitter accounts of prominent politicians, celebrities and technology moguls pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to multiple counts of fraud.” Graham Ivan Clark, 17, “is accused of using the hijacked Twitter accounts to scam people around the world out of more than \$100,000 in Bitcoin. He is charged with 17 counts of communications fraud, 11 counts of fraudulent use of personal information, and one count each of organized fraud of more than \$5,000 and accessing computers or electronic devices without authority.” Clark “is scheduled for a bond hearing on Wednesday.”

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (8/4, Solomon, 742K) reports, “Obscure social media platforms, a hacked database and drivers license photos. These are the crumbs that led federal agents to the illegal sale of celebrities’ Twitter accounts – Joe Biden, Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Kanye West among them – and the arrest of a Tampa teen investigators call the ‘mastermind’ of the operation, according to new court documents obtained by the Tampa Bay Times.” Clark, 17, “is accused of gaining access to the Twitter accounts and sending tweets soliciting others to send in payments of Bitcoin, the hard-to-track cryptocurrency that stores transaction data on the blockchain – a decentralized public ledger. Prosecutors say Clark promised any Bitcoin sent in would be returned doubled. In all, Clark reaped \$117,000 over about three hours, prosecutors said. Two other suspects face related charges in a California federal court — Nima Fazeli, 22, of Orlando, and Mason Sheppard, 19, of the United Kingdom.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, McMillan, Choi, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports the Florida teenager allegedly behind the July 15 hack of Twitter was able to gain access to social media accounts by convincing a Twitter employee that he was a fellow worker, according to

prosecutors. The Journal provides an in-depth overview of Graham Ivan Clark's tactics and how it was honed by years of online mischief.

Trump Makes "Unprecedented" Demand For US Slice Of A TikTok Deal.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Arbel) reports President Trump's "demand that the U.S. government get a cut from a potential Microsoft purchase of TikTok is the latest unprecedented scenario in an unprecedented situation." White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany "sidestepped a question Tuesday about what authority the federal government had to collect a portion of proceeds from the potential sale of TikTok, saying 'I'm not going to get ahead of the president on any official action.'" The Treasury Department "did not reply to questions about what legal precedent Trump is relying on to get a payment for the TikTok deal." [Reuters](#) (8/4, Shalal, Shepardson) reports, "White House officials on Tuesday could not say how the U.S. government would receive a portion of the proceeds from any sale of TikTok's U.S. operations, one day after President Donald Trump called for a cut of the money."

NEC Director Kudlow was asked on [Fox Business' Varney & Co.](#) (8/4, 64K) about Trump's comment that the US should get a piece of the sale of TikTok. Kudlow said, "There's no specific blueprint here. The big thing is in 45 days, if [Microsoft] and TikTok can come up with the right plan, which allows for all the necessary software, information, personal security, the President is inclined to go with it. That's the key point." Kudlow added, "I don't know if that's a key stipulation. It may be that the President was thinking because the Treasury has had to do so much work on this, a lot of options here. ... Right now, the key point is the transaction can go ahead in 45 days if all of the concerns are met. ... I think on the whole it is a very good idea, it is a very promising idea if it meets all of our security concerns."

In an analysis titled "Trump's Long-Shot Bid For Cut Of TikTok Sale Echoes His Border Wall Pledge," [Bloomberg](#) (8/4, Sink, 4.73M) reports Trump has "frequently depicted himself as standing up for the taxpayer by strong-arming those looking to do business with the U.S. – whether or not his promises materialize." His "tough-guy proclamations often are muddled by the real-world machinations of finance and diplomacy." According to Bloomberg, "in the end, the president's demand of a TikTok buyer might prove similar to the 15-second videos that make up the platform: surprising and engaging, but ultimately fleeting."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Dou, 14.2M) reports the success of TikTok shows that "China's Internet industry for the first time has attained the triple threat of engineering know-how, marketing sheen and multicultural sensibility to deliver not just a domestic but an international hit." Therefore, "the battle" over the app is "not about its current reach to American teens, but the potential reach of this catchy communication format from China." TikTok is "the latest in a line of new communication technologies that began with simpler intentions but were drawn into politics once they reached a critical mass," and even without heightened trade tensions, the Post says, "there would still be a reckoning at some point for TikTok, as there was in turn for Twitter, Facebook, television, radio, the telephone, the telegraph and the carrier pigeon."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Tilley, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports Microsoft's pursuit of TikTok has put the tech titan at the center of US-China tensions. Microsoft over the years has cultivated good relations with officials in both Washington and Beijing, but buying TikTok could open it to retribution in China, where news of the talks have been met with derision.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says President Trump's demand for a finder's fee could derail Microsoft's plans to acquire a valuable asset, which would hurt competition in the tech space, and sends the wrong message about the prevalence of the rule of law in America and its openness to foreign investment. Insisting on a fee could also torpedo a deal that would further America's strategic interests, since it would limit the Chinese Communist government's influence in other markets around the world.

US Charges California Man In Cyberstalking Case.

[KTLA-TV](#) Los Angeles (8/4, Salahieh, 766K) reports, "A Pasadena man has been indicted by a federal grand jury in connection with making detailed threats to hurt, rape and kill 10 people he

met in various settings, officials announced Tuesday." Samuel Trelawney Hughes, 31, "and a citizen of the United Kingdom, faces seven counts of stalking, nine counts of making online threats, three counts of mailing threatening communications and seven counts of witness tampering, according to the United States Attorney's Office in the Central District of California. Hughes allegedly sent victims messages in which he expressed hope they would die or made specific threats to hurt them." KTLA-TV adds, "FBI officials began investigating Hughes in May 2019 after a victim filed a complaint with the Internet Crimes Complaint Center."

NSA Warns Cellphone Location Data Could Pose National-Security Threat.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Tau, Volz, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports NSA released new information Tuesday for military and IC workers, warning about the threats to cellphone location tracking from apps, wireless networks and Bluetooth technology. The warning from NSA is an acknowledgment that the tech industry's custom of obtaining and selling cellphone location information may be a serious national-security risk. [The Hill](#) (8/4, Miller, 2.98M) reports NSA Tuesday "rolled out guidance warning that location data from mobile and other internet-connected devices could pose a security threat for users if it were accessed by adversaries." The guidance was "rolled out as a warning for DOD personnel and others with access to sensitive federal systems, but the NSA noted that it could be 'useful to a wide range of users.'" NSA warned in the guidance, "Using a mobile device – even powering it on – exposes location data. Mobile devices inherently trust cellular networks and providers, and the cellular provider receives real-time location information for a mobile device every time it connects to the network."

[C4ISR & Networks](#) (8/4, Eversden) reports the guidance "offered several steps users can implement to limit the exposure of their location." NSA warned that turning off cellular services "aren't enough to ensure security because adversaries can still determine location if Bluetooth and Wi-Fi are still enabled due to wireless sniffers that can determine location based on the strength of a device's signal – even if the device is not in use." NSA "suggested users disable location services, turn off Wi-Fi and Bluetooth if those services aren't needed, and place devices in airplane mode when not in use." It also recommended "giving mobile applications minimal permissions and suggested avoiding apps that rely on location services." The [New York Post](#) (8/4, Barone, 4.57M) reports NSA "recommends giving apps as few permissions as possible and limiting web browsing on phones." The advisory also "extended to fitness-tracking gear; other internet-connected tech like smartwatches and the computers found in modern automobiles."

DHS Report Says Chinese Behind Malware Used In Attacks On US During Past Decade.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Giaritelli, 448K) reports that, according to a new DHS report, malware "used frequently in cyberattacks against the US during the past decade has been linked to the Chinese government." DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency "alerted business owners and government officials this week that much of the malware, or software designed to damage a computer or network, planted in attacks on digital networks and devices was used by authorities in China." CISA "said its counterparts at the Pentagon and the FBI contributed to the discovery of who was involved in the attacks, though it did not reveal the number or identities of US victims." CISA said in a statement, "FBI has high confidence that Chinese government actors are using malware variants in conjunction with proxy servers to maintain a presence on victim networks and to further network exploitation."

CISA, FBI And DOD Issue Alert On TAIDOOOR – A New Chinese Malware Variant.

[Security Magazine](#) (8/4) reports the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), FBI, and DOD have "identified a malware variant – referred as TAIDOOOR – used by the Chinese government." In addition, US Cyber Command has "released the malware sample to the malware aggregation tool and repository, VirusTotal." Matt Walmsley, EMEA Director at Vectra, a provider of technology which applies AI to detect and hunt for cyber attackers, said, "Remote Access Trojans (RATs) are an insidious set of attacker tools that invade our systems, data and privacy. With so much legitimate remote access happening across our networks and hosts, there's plenty of

opportunity for RATs to operate undiscovered for extended periods as they hide in plain sight.” CISA “encourages users and administrators to review Malware Analysis Report MAR-10292089-1.v1, US Cyber Command’s VirusTotal pag, and CISA’s Chinese Malicious Cyber Activity page for more information.”

[Cyber Wire](#) (8/4) reports CISA has published “a Malware Analysis Report on ‘Taidoor,’ a remote access Trojan that Chinese intelligence services have deployed against collection targets since 2008.” The FBI and DOD “concurred in the analysis, and US Cyber Command has uploaded samples of Taidoor’s code to VirusTotal.” It’s been used “against government agencies, corporations, and think tanks, mostly ones with an interest in Taiwan.” Both FireEye and CrowdStrike have “tracked Taidoor for some time; the news in this Report is the formal attribution to the Chinese government and the urgency which the US Government attaches to defense against Taidoor.”

Federal IT Leaders At DHS, NSA Highlight Election Security Efforts.

[FedTech](#) (8/4) reports Rob Joyce, senior NSA adviser for cybersecurity strategy, recently “retweeted comments from the NSA director, Gen. Paul M. Nakson, who noted that NSA and US Cyber Command are squarely focused on ensuring ‘safe, secure and legitimate 2020 elections.’” CISA Director Chris Krebs recently “echoed that sentiment by highlighting his agency’s work with the EAC, NSA, FBI, ODNI, National Association of State Election Directors and National Association of Secretaries of State.” Krebs tweeted, “#Protect2020 means ensuring American voters decide American elections.” Krebs’s tweet “promoted a statement from William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, in which he noted that election security remains a ‘top priority’ for the IC, which is supporting DHS and the FBI.” Evanina’s statement “noted that it is imperative to ‘share insights with the American public about foreign threats to our election and offer steps to citizens across the country to build resilience and help mitigate these threats.’”

CISA Putting Skills Over Experience As It Rethinks Cyber Hiring Approach.

[Federal News Network](#) (8/4, Heckman, 220) reports the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is thinking “beyond the General Schedule approach to hiring in the federal government, which prioritizes experience in a professional setting, as well as degrees and certifications.” Instead, CISA Director Chris Krebs “said the agency is focusing on a younger demographic but with the hands-on experience needed in cybersecurity.” Prospective hires include “recent college graduates and those in post-graduate programs with a few years of experience under their belts, as well as younger applicants that are digital natives.” Krebs said, “I’m getting 17 [and] 18 year-olds that apply for jobs that have six years of practical, operational experience in security research because they’ve been online white-hat hackers since they could turn on a computer.” CISA’s reframing of cybersecurity hiring “comes a few months after OPM urged agencies to make skill assessment more of a priority in hiring cyber talent.”

FBI Bulletin Says Social Media And Search Platforms Linking Consumers To Fraudulent Sites.

[Chain Store Age](#) (8/4, Berthiaume) reports fraudsters are pulling off “e-commerce scams using popular social media platforms and search engines.” According to a new bulletin from the FBI, “an increasing number of consumers have not received items they purchased from websites offering low prices on items such as gym equipment, small appliances, tools and furniture.” Victims reported they were “led to these websites via ads on social media platforms or while searching for specific items on online search engines’ shopping pages.” Consumers “said they purchased items from these websites because prices were consistently lower than those offered by other online retail stores.” The retail websites provided “valid but unassociated US addresses and telephone numbers under a ‘Contact Us’ link, misleading victims to believe the retailer was located within the US.” Many of the websites “used content copied from legitimate sites.”

Survey Finds Financial Firms’ Cybersecurity Spending Jumps 15% This Year.

[Bloomberg](#) (8/4, Onaran, 4.73M) reports a survey found that "big banks and other financial firms are spending 15% more this year to defend computer networks from cyber criminals, and the pandemic and work-from-home arrangements are probably spurring further increases." According to the poll conducted by Deloitte & Touche LLP and the Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center, an industry group known as FS-ISAC, "average spending per employee was budgeted at \$2,691, up from \$2,337 in 2019." Some firms have budgeted "as much as \$3,322 per employee for cybersecurity, up from the \$3,000 maximum last year." That would translate to "about \$850 million annually for JPMorgan Chase & Co. and almost \$900 million for Wells Fargo & Co., based on their June headcount figures, as the biggest banks spend more than smaller rivals on protecting their networks." Spending on the problem "has been growing for at least four years as the sector remains the top target of cyber criminals."

Cyber Chiefs Worry Staff Vulnerable To Burnout As Pandemic Rolls On.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Rundle, Nash, Stupp, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports lengthy work days, working remotely, the pandemic, and rising cyberattacks have security chiefs worried their employees are absorbing too much stress. Bryson Koehler, chief technology officer at Equifax Inc., remembers that his team worked day and night for seven days a week attempting to make sure employees had the tools required to work remotely.

Industrial Robots Vulnerable To Cyber Attacks.

[Bloomberg](#) (8/4, Lepido, 4.73M) reports industrial robots are now being "used to assemble everything from airplanes to smartphones, using human-like arms to mechanically repeat the same processes over and over, thousands of times a day with nanometric precision." But according to a new report entitled 'Rogue Automation,' "some robots have flaws that could make them vulnerable to advanced hackers, who could steal data or alter a robot's movements remotely, like a scene out of science fiction." According to Federico Maggi, a researcher at Trend Micro Inc., and Marcello Pogliani, an information security researcher at Politecnico di Milano, in a research report, "Attacks on industrial environments in these sectors could have serious consequences, including operational failure, physical damage, environmental harm and injury or loss of life."

Russian Hackers Stole Leaked Documents From UK Trade Secretary's Personal Email Account.

The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (8/4, Rayner, 956K) reports Russian hackers "stole the contents of a former Cabinet minister's personal email account, it has emerged, as Whitehall departments admitted that ministers received only 'informal' training in data security." Classified documents relating to "US-UK trade talks were taken from a private email account belonging to Liam Fox, the former International Trade Secretary." The Government does not "explicitly ban the use of private email accounts for official business, but says all information must be handled in accordance with the law, including the Official Secrets Act." Dr Fox's account, hosted online, "was accessed multiple times by the hackers between July 12 and October 21 last year." Documents obtained under Freedom of Information requests "show that ministers are offered briefings on data security but do not have to demonstrate that they have understood that advice."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Administration To Award More Than \$35M In Grants To Organizations Supporting Trafficking Victims.

[The Federalist](#) (8/4, Osburn, 126K) reports, "Ivanka Trump and the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs announced Tuesday the Trump administration will award over \$35 million in grants to 73 organizations across 33 states to provide housing and support for victims of human trafficking." The funds will "help cover costs of short-term housing, security deposits, utilities, and other related expenses, the White House said." White House adviser Ivanka Trump said, "In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, combating human trafficking in the US and abroad is critical

work. DOJ's grant recipients are on the frontlines of this fight, ensuring that survivors across our country are afforded safe and stable housing and empowered with the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives."

OTHER FBI NEWS

Audit Finds Only Minor FBI Errors In FISA Applications.

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Johnson, 2.98M) reports, "An internal audit of 29 warrant applications submitted by the FBI to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court found only minor clerical errors in a process that has come under heavy political scrutiny in recent years." According to The Hill, "The findings were revealed in a court filing Wednesday and stem from an independent review of the FBI's application process for surveillance warrants by Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz. The DOJ watchdog concluded in a report earlier this year that the FBI had made over a dozen errors in its applications to look into Carter Page, a foreign policy adviser to President Trump's 2016 campaign." The Hill adds, "According to last week's court documents, the internal review looked over 'hundreds of pages of facts contained in the 29 applications audited by the Office of the Inspector General' and found 'only one material misstatement and one material omission.'"

[CNN](#) (8/4, Polantz, Perez, 83.16M) reports, "The findings suggest the FBI's sloppiness in applying for foreign intelligence wiretaps is not as severe as its critics in the Trump administration and Congress have claimed. 'The complete absence in the twenty-nine applications of material errors impacting probable cause should instill confidence in the FBI's use of its FISA authorities,' FBI acting general counsel Dawn Browning told the court in a sworn statement. 'The overwhelming majority of factual assertions – approximately 6,568 – were determined not to be erroneous at all, materially or otherwise. Of the errors that were identified, many were minor typographical errors, such as a misspelled word, and date errors.'"

FBI Warns Of Online Shopping Scams.

[Infosecurity Magazine](#) (8/4, Coble) reports that the FBI "has issued a warning to online shoppers after a rise in the number of Americans not receiving items purchased on the internet." According to IM, in a statement released on Monday, "the FBI said that an increasing number of victims are being directed to fraudulent websites via social media platforms and popular online search engines. Complainants reported that orders placed through these sites didn't turn up or that they only received disposable face masks from China, regardless of what they had purchased. 'Some victims who complained to the vendor about their shipments were offered partial reimbursement and told to keep the face masks as compensation,' said the FBI. All attempts made by the victims to be fully reimbursed, or to get a hold of the actual items they had ordered, were unsuccessful."

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Trump Says Administration Has Done "Incredible" Job On Coronavirus.

[USA Today](#) (8/4, Cummings, Subramanian, 10.31M) reports that in an interview with Axios on HBO, President Trump "said his administration has done an 'incredible' job handling the coronavirus pandemic and that despite rising deaths the outbreak is 'under control.'" Trump also "pointed to the travel restrictions he imposed on China and Europe, arguing hundreds of thousands – a number he later put in the 'millions' – more would have died without those actions."

[NBC Nightly News](#)^{VI} (8/4, story 5, 1:45, Bennett, 6.1M) reported that Trump "says his Administration has done an incredible job handling the coronavirus pandemic, and that the rising death toll 'is what it is' during a wide-ranging interview with Axios reporter Jonathan Swan." Terry Moran said on [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{VI} (8/4, story 5, 2:00, Muir, 7.19M) that Trump is "insisting all is well, and suggesting nothing more can be done anyway." Trump: "Right now, I think it's under control. I'll tell you what is --" Jonathan Swan, Axios: "How? One thousand Americans are dying a day." Trump: "They are dying. That's true. And you have – it is what it is, but that doesn't

mean we aren't doing everything we can. It's under control, as much as you can control it. This is a horrible plague that beset us." The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 6, 1:10, O'Donnell, 4.14M) reported that Trump is "drawing fire" for the comments.

White House Deputy Director of Communications Brian Morgenstern said on [WJR-AM](#)^{Vi} Detroit (8/4, 19K), "The President is doing his best to reassure the American people because the fact is that we are in a very different place today than we were even just a few months ago in terms of testing, in terms of the vaccine development, in terms of a therapeutics and treatments."

Azar Says Therapeutics And Vaccines Are "Just Months Away."

On [Fox Business](#) (8/4, 1.73M), HHS Secretary Azar addressed the timeline for a COVID-19 vaccine. Azar said, "We'll harness the existing CDC systems of distribution for vaccine, the commercial systems of distribution and of course we're bringing the entire logistics capabilities of the Defense Department to bear and the unique partnership of Operation Warp Speed. ... We're just months away from tremendous promise here in terms of therapeutics and vaccines."

Hahn Says Hydroxychloroquine Use Up To Physician And Patient.

On [ABC's Good Morning America](#)^{Vi} (8/4, 3M), FDA Commissioner Hahn said regarding hydroxychloroquine use for treating COVID-19, "There are randomized trials that show it doesn't work. There are observational trials that show it might work. This is a decision that's got to rest with physicians and patients."

Novavax Reports Positive Results For Vaccine Candidate.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, 18.61M) reports, "Novavax, the little-known Maryland company that received a \$1.6 billion deal from the federal government for its experimental coronavirus vaccine, announced encouraging results in two preliminary studies on Tuesday." The first showed that "56 volunteers produced a high level of antibodies against the virus without any dangerous side effects," while the second showed "the vaccine strongly protected monkeys from coronavirus infections." The Times adds that Novavax "has never brought a vaccine to market in its 33-year history." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Loftus, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) also covers the results.

NIH, Eli Lilly Seeking Volunteers For Antibody Drug Trials.

On [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 8, 1:45, 6.1M), Tom Costello reported, "The NIH and drugmaker Eli Lilly are tonight looking for 2,000 volunteers for antibody drug trials to treat patients suffering from the ravages of COVID. One trial involves patients who are hospitalized, the other involves those who are sick at home."

On the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 5, 1:40, O'Donnell, 4.14M), Jon Lapook reported the NIH and Eli Lilly "announced they're trying something new: a lab-engineered treatment called monoclonal antibodies to stop the virus from spreading in the body." NIH Director Collins: "That monoclonal antibodies sticks to the part of this spike protein that represents the part that binds to the human cell and lets the virus get inside. So you cover that up, and the virus has nowhere to go."

State AGs Want US To Break Gilead Patent On Remdesivir.

[Reuters](#) (8/4, Maddipatla, Erman) reports "a bipartisan group" of more than 30 state attorneys general on Tuesday "urged the U.S. government to allow other companies," in addition to Gilead Sciences, to make remdesivir "to increase its availability and lower the price of the antiviral drug."

Research On Plasma Infusions To Treat COVID Hampered By Demand, Government Program.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Thomas, Weiland, 18.61M) reports, "Since April, the Trump administration has funneled \$48 million into a program with the Mayo Clinic, allowing more than 53,000 Covid-19 patients to get plasma infusions." However, "the unexpected demand for plasma has inadvertently undercut the research that could prove that it works." Many patients and their physicians – "knowing they could get the treatment under the government program – have been unwilling to join clinical trials that might provide them with a placebo instead of the plasma."

NYU Doctors Say Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Could Be Effective COVID Treatment.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Hogberg, 448K) reports Scott Gorenstein and David Lee of NYU Winthrop Hospital say hyperbaric oxygen therapy "could be a treatment for people with COVID-19." The doctors "conducted a study of 20 patients with COVID-19 whom they put in a hyperbaric chamber. Ninety percent of those patients survived. Of 60 patients who did not receive the treatment, 78% survived."

Poll Finds 59% Of Americans Support Mandatory National Shelter-At-Home Order.

[Axios](#) (8/4, Fernandez, 521K) reports 59% of Americans "surveyed in a new NPR/Ipsos poll support a mandatory, nationwide order to shelter at home for two weeks to slow the spread of the coronavirus." Axios adds, "62% support a single, national strategy for when businesses can reopen, while 60% support a similar strategy for schools."

AP Analysis: Growth In Infections Due To Disregard For Public Health Guidance.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Naishadham, Johnson, Marcelo) reports, "Americans' resistance to curbs on everyday life is seen as a key reason the U.S. has racked up more confirmed coronavirus deaths and infections by far than any other country." The AP says that the US "is fast approaching an almost off-the-charts 5 million COVID-19 infections" and attributes the infections to Americans that "have resisted wearing masks and social distancing," though it also says that "such behavior has been compounded by confusing and inconsistent guidance from politicians and a patchwork quilt of approaches to containing the scourge by county, state and federal governments."

Poll Shows 65% Believe US Handling Coronavirus Worse Than Other Countries.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Blake, 492K) reports an Ipsos poll of 1,115 adults conducted for NPR July 30-31 shows that "roughly two-thirds [65%] of Americans surveyed believe the U.S. is handling the novel coronavirus pandemic worse than other countries," while only 25% of those surveyed "replied that they believe the U.S. is dealing with the outbreak 'much better' or 'somewhat better' than other countries." The Times adds that in an interview President Trump "indicated he believes his administration is doing everything it can to keep the public health crisis from worsening."

COVID Case Counts Rising In Midwest And South.

Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 7, 2:05, 6.1M), "There's growing concern this evening about the spread of COVID in the Midwest and South. Many states [are] getting hit harder than ever." NBC's Miguel Almaguer: "Inside hospitals in the South and Midwest, some emergency rooms are taking on a growing wave of COVID patients as officials brace for a tsunami of new infections." As of late Tuesday, total US cases had surpassed 4.9 million and deaths topped 160,000.

Hahn: "This Virus Is Still With Us." On [ABC's Good Morning America](#)^{Vi} (8/4, 3M), FDA Commissioner Hahn said, "This virus is still with us, and it is around the country, and we're seeing these cases come not just in the United States, but around the world. And so the really important public health message, and I think we're all aligned in the White House on the task force, we need to practice these commonsense public health measures."

Six States Form Compact To Purchase Rapid-Detection Tests.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Cox, 14.2M) reports that governors from six states – Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia – “have formed a first-of-its-kind purchasing compact they hope will pressure companies that make rapid-detection tests to quickly ramp up production.” The governors also said “that talks have already begun with one of the two companies approved by the FDA to sell point-of-care antigen tests that can detect the virus in less than 30 minutes.” Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) “negotiated the deal” and “the Rockefeller Foundation is willing to act as the financing entity if needed.”

California Has First Weekly COVID Case Decline In 12 Weeks.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/4, Lee, 4.64M) reports, “There are growing glimmers of hope that California’s surge in coronavirus cases could be peaking” as the state “has now experienced its first weekly reduction in new confirmed coronavirus cases...in 12 weeks.” The Times says the recent increases have “been blamed on several factors, including a failure to follow new disease control measures at workplaces.”

NYC Health Commissioner Resigns, Citing “Deep Disappointment” With De Blasio.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, A1, Goodman, 18.61M) reports New York City Health Commissioner Oxiris Barbot has resigned her position citing “deep disappointment” with how Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) has handled the coronavirus outbreak. Barbot’s “departure came after escalating tensions between City Hall and top city health department officials, which had begun at the start of the outbreak in March, burst into public view and raised concerns that the feuding was undermining crucial public health policies.”

The [AP](#) (8/4, Peltz, Matthews) reports de Blasio announced that Barbot will be replaced by Dave A. Chokshi, who is an official and primary care physician in the city’s public hospital system. De Blasio “said New Yorkers ‘need an atmosphere of unity’ and common purpose in its public health effort.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, West, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), [The Hill](#) (8/4, Wilson, 2.98M), and [Politico New York](#) (8/4, Eisenberg) also cover the story.

NYTimes Urges Cuomo, De Blasio To Work Together. The [New York Times](#) (8/4, 18.61M) editorializes that de Blasio and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) “have before them some of the most difficult challenges any holder of their respective offices has ever faced. ...So, you’d think this great crisis would be an opportunity for the mayor and the governor to set aside their long-running feud and work together. The prognosis isn’t great.” The Times says the two “quibble and often put the personal over the professional to a dispiriting degree” and must learn to work together.

White House Expresses Frustration Over Relief Measure, But Negotiators See Progress.

The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 9, 2:45, O'Donnell, 4.14M) reported that there is “not much progress to report in negotiations over a new COVID relief bill.” President Trump said in an interview on [Fox Business’ Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K), “I’m dealing with Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, and we’re trying to get some real good money to take care of people that should be taken care of and helped. The problem is they’re more interested in taking care of, let’s say Democrats who did a very poor job running a state. You know the states I’m talking about.”

[Reuters](#) (8/4, Lambert, Holland) reports White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Democrats “have rejected four offers from the White House in negotiations over another round of economic aid meant to blunt the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and are making a mockery of the talks.” Senior Advisor to the President for Policy Stephen Miller said on the [Brian Mudd Show](#)^{Vi} (8/4), “The priority for this Administration right now is to extend unemployment benefits while also providing appropriate incentives or businesses to be able to rehire workers. ... So the only issue really is whether or not Democrats are going to drop their request for unrelated and frankly outrageous policy riders that have nothing to do with the virus.”

[Politico](#) (8/4, Sherman, Bresnahan, 4.29M) reports the White House “is considering a trio of executive orders aimed at shaking up coronavirus relief negotiations. ... The three actions under

consideration would delay the collection of federal payroll taxes, reinstitute an expired eviction moratorium, and in the riskiest gambit of them all, extend enhanced federal unemployment benefits using unspent money already appropriated by Congress.”

Despite this, [Bloomberg](#) (8/4, Wasson, Litvan, Dennis, 4.73M) reports Treasury Secretary Mnuchin expressed some optimism Tuesday, saying “the White House and Democrats aim to strike a deal on virus-relief legislation by the end of the week – even though the two sides remain far apart on some key issues.” After meeting with Pelosi and Schumer, Mnuchin said, “We’re not at the point of being close to a deal, but we did try to agree to set a timeline. We’re going to try to reach an overall agreement, if we can get one, by the end of this week – so that legislation could then pass next week.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Kim, Werner, Leonnig, Stein, 14.2M) reports, “Senior White House officials said Tuesday that they made ‘very concrete offers’ to Democrats related to unemployment benefits and eviction protections, and after days of bickering both sides now appear to be trying to secure a compromise.” The Post says the “agreement Tuesday on a specific timeline to reach an overall deal constituted the most concrete progress yet.” The [AP](#) (8/4, Taylor) reports Republicans said Democratic negotiators “are staking too hard a line in talks on a sweeping coronavirus relief bill, but an afternoon negotiating session brought at least modest concessions from both sides, even as an agreement appears far off.”

[USA Today](#) (8/4, Hayes, 10.31M) reports, “Both sides said they agreed to a series of concessions but also acknowledged they still had a number of differences that they were attempting to work through.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Peterson, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports Democrats said the talks had been productive, though progress has been slow. [Reuters](#) (8/4, Zengerle) quotes Schumer saying, “We remain far apart on a number of issues. But we’re finally moving in the right direction.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Swoyer, 492K) reports Schumer “said they have moved closer on about five or six issues.”

[Reuters](#) (8/4, Lawder) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell “said on Tuesday he would support any coronavirus aid deal worked out between the Trump administration and Democrats in Congress, adding no agreement this close to November elections would win unanimous support.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Swoyer, 492K) reports McConnell nevertheless “blasted Democrats...for prolonging COVID-19 relief negotiations, saying more businesses are closing, people are anxious about making rent, and more people are filing for unemployment due to their delay.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, 18.61M) says in an editorial that McConnell “must make clear to his members that they need to compromise and help the millions of their fellow Americans who are stuck in miles-long food lines, a hair’s breadth from eviction, jobless, financially ruined or ill because of this terrible disease. One quick and direct way to send a message: Cancel the Senate’s August recess, or at least postpone it until a deal is reached.” [The Hill](#) (8/4, Bolton, 2.98M) and the [CNBC](#) (8/4, Pramuk, 3.62M) website also report on the negotiations.

Kudlow Says Plan Should Be “Growthier.” NEC Director Kudlow said on [Fox Business’ Varney & Co.](#) (8/4, 64K), “I felt myself that this should be a growthier plan in general, and as you know, the President has favored the payroll tax. Democrats seem to be very opposed to that. So, Republicans have backed off. I don’t know if that’s the final word. Maybe it is, maybe it isn’t.”

Collins, Rubio Introduce Amendments To Extend PPP Deadline. [Axios](#) (8/4, Treene, Primack, 521K) reports Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) on Tuesday “filed two big amendments to legislation introduced last week that would extend the deadline to apply for Paycheck Protection Program loans and permit some recipients to apply for new PPP loans.” The proposals would “permit small businesses with fewer than 500 employees to apply for initial PPP loans” past the current Saturday deadline, and “allow existing PPP recipients with fewer than 300 employees to reapply for new loans, so long as they can demonstrate pandemic-related revenue loss of at least 35%.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Swoyer, Muñoz, Boyer, 492K) says extending the program “is one of the few areas of agreement between the White House and Democrats in the latest proposed coronavirus stimulus – a spending bill criticized by many in the Republican base as a wasteful bailout for cities and states.”

Trump Says Economy Will Not Shut Down Again.

President Trump was asked in an interview on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K) about calls to shut down the economy again. Trump said, "That's not going to happen. What we did is we were, as we said, setting records in every way, and then we got hit by the plague. I call it the China plague, China virus, call it whatever you want. ... We did close up. We had to close it up and we did the right thing. We saved millions of lives. ... So, we closed it down, and we're now opening it up, and it looks like it's a V. It's absolutely a V. But we're not going back to shutdowns now."

Trump: Democratic Governors Are Keeping Shutdowns In Place For "Political Reasons." Trump also said in his interview on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K), "We are opening the economy very rapidly and, frankly, some of the blue states we wish they'd do it and they'd do it fast. We're asking them to do it, but they like to keep it closed. It'll probably open up on November fourth. ... There's a lot of politics involved in some of these states that are closed. Let's say Democrat governors, we're being kind, we'll say Democrat governors. Some radical left and maybe some not so radical left, but they're all Democrats. Frankly, they want to keep it closed, I think, as long as possible. Maybe for some good reasons but maybe also for political reasons."

For-Profit Nursing Home Providers With Dubious Records Received "No Strings Attached" Relief Aid.

In a 3,600-word front-page report, the [Washington Post](#) (8/4, A1, Cenziper, Jacobs, Mulcahy, 14.2M) says its analysis of federal spending found that "for-profit nursing home providers that have faced accusations of Medicare fraud and kickbacks, labor violations and widespread failures in patient care received hundreds of millions of dollars in 'no strings attached' coronavirus relief aid. ... More than a dozen companies that received federal funding have settled civil lawsuits in recent years with the Justice Department, which alleged improper Medicare billing, forged documents, substandard care and other abuses."

COVID Patient Billed Nearly \$1.9M For 44-Day Hospital Stay.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Evans, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) runs a 2,300-word feature titled "The \$1.9 Million Covid Patient" about the case of a 48-year-old man who spent 44 days in Manhattan's Mount Sinai Hospital, half of them in intensive care, before recovering from COVID-19. The Journal bills submitted to the family's insurance company totaled nearly \$1.9 million, including about \$867,000 that the insurance company disputes.

Rutgers Football Team Case Count Hits 28.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 10, 0:15, Muir, 7.19M) briefly reported 28 players and staff of the Rutgers University football team have tested positive for COVID-19, "doubling in the last week. A state health official [linked] the infections to an on campus party."

Trump Calls For Schools To Open, Says Young People Are "Virtually Immune" From Coronavirus.

President Trump said in an interview on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K), "We want the schools open. You know, young people have better immune systems than we do. I hate to tell you this. They are in very good shape, virtually, virtually immune from this disease." Asked about the AFT and NEA opposing school reopenings, Trump said, "That's, as you know, that's a very political group, and they want to see if they can get Biden in there."

The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 4, 2:15, O'Donnell, 4.14M) reported that "with schools starting to reopen, the national debate over protecting students and educators is intensifying."

Kate Snow reported on [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 10, 1:55, Holt, 6.1M) that in Georgia's "largest school district, 260 school employees have already tested positive, or been asked to quarantine after being exposed to coronavirus, with in-person learning set to start later this

month." [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 7, 2:30, Osunsami, 7.19M) reported that in Mississippi, "a handful of high schoolers have already tested positive for the coronavirus."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Strauss, 14.2M) says, "With some public schools reopened and coronavirus cases already being reported, protesters in at least three dozen school districts across the country took to the streets on Monday to demand that science and health concerns rule decisions about when and how to resume in-person learning."

Gallup Finds Partisan Divide Over Reopening Schools. The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Harper, 492K) reports that a new Gallup poll reveals "a distinct partisan divide" in the "debate over schools, children and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic." According to Gallup, "attitudes are shaped to a large degree by politics: 85% of parents who identify as Democrats and 29% who identify as Republicans are worried about their child getting COVID-19. About two-thirds of Republican parents, versus 13% of Democrats, want full-time in-person instruction for their children this fall. Democratic parents are mostly divided in their preference between full-time remote learning and a modified system." Overall, 46% of parents "worry about their child getting sick while 36% would prefer their offspring attend full time, in-person learning."

Sanders: "Masks For All" Proposal Is Important Step In Addressing Pandemic.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) writes in [USA Today](#) (8/4, 10.31M) about his "Masks for All" legislative proposal. Sanders cites comments from NIAID Director Fauci and CDC Director Redfield supporting the widespread use of masks and writes, "Making sure that every American has a high-quality mask, and wears it, is an important step forward."

Trump Signs Great American Outdoors Act Into Law.

While media reports cast the Great American Outdoors Act as major environmental legislation and as a significant victory for the Trump White House, national coverage of its enactment into law is not particularly extensive or favorable toward the President. For example, the [CBS Evening News](#) ^{Vi} (8/4, story 7, 0:20, Reid, 4.14M) was the only major network newscast to cover the signing ceremony, and it only did so to briefly point out "the President oddly flubbed the name of one of the country's most-popular tourist destinations: Yosemite National Park." [USA Today](#) (8/4, Santucci, 10.31M), likewise, devoted its entire report to the fact Trump "turned heads on Tuesday when he mispronounced the word 'Yosemite' at a White House event to sign a bipartisan conservation bill." The [AP](#) (8/4, Superville) also indicates that Trump pronounced "Yosemite's as yoh-SEH'-mytz instead of yoh-SEM'-it-eez," but did so in the context of a full account on the measure, of which it says, "Supporters say the Great American Outdoors Act is the most significant conservation legislation enacted in nearly half a century."

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (8/4, Kuglin, 53K) reports "the act has been touted by conservation and access groups as one of the largest pieces of conservation legislation to pass in decades," and the [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (8/4, Ropeik) website that Granite State "environmental groups say the Great American Outdoors Act...is a milestone that's been decades in the making." The [West Virginia MetroNews](#) (8/4, Lawrence, 34K), meanwhile, quotes Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) as calling the bill "the greatest conservation or environmental legislation in the past 50 years."

The [Colorado Sun](#) (8/4, Paul) says the legislation provides "full funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Puko, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) that supporters said the funds will be greater than what the parks have had for decades and that efforts to provide such funds failed under the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations. The Journal adds that Trump worked with Sens. Steve Daines (R-MT) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) to get the bill through the Senate. The [Daily Caller](#) (8/4, Datoc, 716K) recounts Trump "praised" Daines and Gardner "for their work in passing the bill through Congress with heavy bipartisan support," and "also praised his daughter, senior adviser to the president Ivanka Trump."

The [CNN](#) (8/4, Vazquez, Klein, 83.16M) website calls the bill signing an "important political win" for Gardner and Daines, "who both hail from conservation-minded states and face tough reelection races this November." The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Richardson, 492K) reports that "for

five months ago, the two senators met with Mr. Trump in the Roosevelt Room to seek his support for the bill. They detailed the poor conditions of roads, bridges, trails and park facilities where repairs have been delayed for years, even decades, as other projects took priority."

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Frazin, 2.98M) calls it "a major piece of conservation legislation" and says that Trump "and other Republicans seek to tout conservation accomplishments ahead of the elections in November." Trump said, "We're here today to celebrate the passage of truly landmark legislation that will preserve American's majestic natural wonders, priceless historic treasures ... grand national monuments and glorious national parks." The Hill also reports that a spokesman for Manchin said that "he and other Democratic sponsors were not invited."

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Karni, 18.61M) reports Trump "heralded the new law as a groundbreaking environmental achievement that he deserved credit for." Said Trump, "From an environmental standpoint and from just the beauty of our country standpoint, there hasn't been anything like this since Teddy Roosevelt, I suspect. ... At some point, they'll have to start thinking about the Republican Party and all of the incredible things we've done on conservation and many other fronts." The Times adds, however, that the bill was introduced last year by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA), "who passed away last month," and yet "no Democrats were invited to the signing ceremony, which was attended by six Republican senators and three Republican congressmen."

The President took to [Twitter](#) to write, "Today we celebrated the passage of landmark legislation that will preserve America's majestic natural wonders, priceless historic treasures, grand national monuments, and glorious national parks. It was my great honor to sign the Great American Outdoors Act into law! #HR1957." Interior Secretary Bernhardt similarly [tweeted](#), "The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure our national parks & public lands can be enjoyed for generations to come. This would have NEVER been possible without @realDonaldTrump's leadership! #GAOA."

Bernhardt further wrote in an op-ed for the [Fox News](#) (8/4, 27.59M) website that Trump "has solved the riddle that has bedeviled previous presidents and Congress for decades, putting forth an unprecedented conservation funding proposal and calling on Congress to get it done for the American people." Trump's "proposal...finally addresses the long ignored, multi-billion-dollar deferred maintenance backlog at our great national parks and public lands and permanently and fully invests in conservation and recreation opportunities through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the tune of \$900 million a year forever." Bernhardt adds that "no president before...Trump challenged Congress to move forth with such a bold proposal."

[WJET-TV](#) (8/4, 15K) interviewed Bernhardt, who said, "This act is the most significant legislation regarding conservation, recreation and land preservation in at least five and a half decades." [WICU-TV](#) (8/4, 11K) reports Bernhardt said, "At local national parks, you may see upgraded facilities. At our icons, you may see even new roads."

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (8/4, Myers, 151K) refers to "a major public lands bill" which "will permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million annually and provide an additional \$9.5 billion over five years to fix maintenance problems plaguing America's public lands." Said Steve Blackledge, conservation director for Environment America, "There's finally a lock and key on money that was always intended for conservation projects - yet, for decades, has been consistently diverted to other purposes." The [Denver Post](#) (8/4, Wingerter, 720K) indicates "the bill also addresses a \$20 billion backlog of deferred maintenance in national parks. Colorado parks currently have a backlog of about \$250 million, according to National Park Service estimates." [Colorado Public Radio](#) (8/4, McKinley, 3K) points out on its website, however, that "opponents say the spending is not enough to erase an estimated \$20 billion maintenance backlog."

[WENY-TV](#) (8/4, 2K) reports Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) said, "It was resoundingly supported. That's why we were able to get that 75% consensus and the Problem Solvers Caucus behind it."

Trump Says Border Wall Will Be 500 Miles Long By Year's End.

President Trump said in an interview on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K) that "the wall is 275 miles now. We'll be at 500 miles long, which is what we wanted by the end of the year. And

I can't imagine the Chamber of Commerce being against it, but they were. They fought me. The Chamber of Commerce fought me. Think about if we didn't have the wall. You know, we're setting record low numbers on the border, and when people come in illegally, we bring them out. We want people to come in legally."

Appeals Court Blocks Means Test For Immigrants In New York, Connecticut, Vermont.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Kanno-Youngs, 18.61M) reports that the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday "blocked the Trump administration's efforts to deny permanent residency to legal immigrants who make even limited use of public benefits like Medicaid, food stamps or housing vouchers, but restricted the injunction to New York, Connecticut and Vermont." The ruling affirmed a decision last week by Judge George B. Daniels of the US District Court in Manhattan, "who said the wealth test could discourage residents from seeking medical care during the coronavirus pandemic." The Post adds that DHS officials "have criticized the issuance of nationwide injunctions by district judges, and the three-judge panel of the appeals court indicated it shared the concern. ... The states covered by the new injunction are within the federal appeals court's jurisdiction."

Census Bureau Will End 2020 Data Collection One Month Early.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Schneider) reports that the Census Bureau is cutting short its data collection schedule for the 2020 census by a month, which is "worrying researchers, politicians and others who say the change will miss hard-to-count communities, including minorities and immigrants, and produce less trustworthy data." The bureau announced that its efforts "will stop at the end of September instead of the end of October so that it can meet an end-of-the-year deadline to turn in numbers used for redrawing congressional districts."

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Wines, 18.61M) says the change "is a retreat from the bureau's statement only months ago that the pandemic had made it necessary to ask for more time to complete the count on schedule." Critics said it is "an unvarnished attempt by the Trump administration to twist the nation's population count to exclude groups that, by and large, tended to support Democrats." The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Kunkle, 14.2M) says the announcement "drew fierce criticism from Democrats and civil rights groups, which have pushed back against a broader effort by the Trump administration to change how the population is counted and how the data is used."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Dinan, 492K) reports that congressional Democrats said Census Director Steven Dillingham is "short-changing the count, which they feared would mean people left uncounted, skewing the final numbers." House Majority Leader Hoyer said, "This President has been trying to undermine the Census since before it began. ... In seeking intentionally to undercount the poor, minorities and immigrant communities, he is hoping to skew the upcoming redistricting process and transfer funding and resources away from communities that need it most." Hoyer "said the House would launch an investigation," and House Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney said she has "asked Mr. Dillingham to let her interview top agency officials as part of a probe."

Biden Plan Would Reverse Much Of Trump's Immigration Policy.

[McClatchy](#) (8/4, Smiley, Ocasio, 19K) reports that advisers to Joe Biden's campaign on Tuesday "released staples of his plan for Latinos during a call with reporters, laying out the former vice president's intent to reverse much of President Donald Trump's immigration policies and take steps to provide improved healthcare and education to Hispanic communities." According to McClatchy, Biden "would grant permanent legal status to Venezuelan exiles in the U.S. if he becomes president, end the federal government's deputizing of local law enforcement on immigration matters, and, on his first day in office, file an immigration bill creating a 'legal road map' for roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants to obtain legal status." McClatchy adds that the campaign released the plan, "which notably did not mention Cuba," weeks "before mail voting for the Nov. 3 election begins in Florida."

WPost: ICE Detention Centers Are "Petri Dishes Of Contagion."

A [Washington Post](#) (8/4, 14.2M) editorial says the migrant detention centers run by ICE "are petri dishes of contagion, and the residents – many of whom have no serious criminal record – are sitting ducks in the crosshairs of an inhumane policy." Across the country, "facilities have been hit hard by the pandemic, and ICE has been unable to contain it." The Post adds that ICE "has been complicit in accelerating the pandemic's reach into Central America, the Caribbean and elsewhere, by deporting tens of thousands of migrants since the spring, including some who were infected." To the Post, it is "time for ICE to intensify the fight against covid-19, and reassess a policy that has failed to contain a pandemic behind bars."

CDC Warns Of Potential Spike In "Polio-Like Condition" That Mostly Affects Children.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Bernstein, 14.2M) reports the CDC "warned parents and caregivers Tuesday to watch for an uncommon, polio-like condition that mostly strikes children, usually between August and November." The Washington Post adds, "Acute flaccid myelitis [AFM], which may be caused by any of several viruses, is marked by sudden weakness or paralysis in the limbs." Since 2014, "prevalence of the syndrome has spiked every two years in even-numbered years, often afflicting children about 5 years old." Thomas Clark, Deputy Director of the CDC's division of viral diseases, "said the coronavirus pandemic may force doctors to evaluate patients by phone or telemedicine but warned they should not delay if they suspect the syndrome."

Millions Left Without Power As Isaias Moves Up Northeast Spawning Tornadoes.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, 18.61M) reports on the progress of the storm Isaias including "heavy rain and strong winds to much of the Northeast, and causing power losses for as many as two million electricity customers." The storm "made landfall in North Carolina as a Category 1 hurricane and quickly weakened to a tropical storm." [Reuters](#) (8/4, Allen, Caspani) reports it "raced up the Atlantic seaboard on Tuesday, generating powerful winds that put New York City and other parts of the U.S. Northeast under a rare tornado warning." The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, lead story, 2:50, O'Donnell, 4.14M) reported, "The powerful storm spawned at least 20 tornadoes, unleashing powerful winds and heavy rains on nearly a third of all Americans from New York to North Carolina." Tuesday night, "what's left of the storm is racing through new England as the cleanup begins."

[NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, lead story, 2:20, Holt, 6.1M) reported, "At least four people have been killed, trees and power lines toppled from ferocious winds, even tornadoes. The trail of damage and flooding, winding through some of the biggest cities on the east coast."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Samenow, Freedman, Shammass, 14.2M) reports the storm "is set to sweep through the Northeast Tuesday afternoon and night" after "causing historic storm surge inundation in Myrtle Beach. In Maryland, it spawned more twisters and unloaded flooding rains."

The [AP](#) (8/4, Anderson, Morgan) reports the storm "spawned tornadoes and dumped rain along the U.S. East Coast on Tuesday after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina, where it smashed boats together and caused floods and fires that displaced dozens of people." Reporting from Suffolk, Virginia, Chip Reid of the [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 2, 1:20, O'Donnell, 4.14M) said Isaias "tore a trail of destruction through the south." Reid added that two people died in North Carolina after "a tornado decimated [a] mobile home park."

[USA Today](#) (8/4, Richardson, Rice, 10.31M) reports it "spawned deadly tornadoes and dumped heavy rain as it roared up the East Coast on Tuesday afternoon." [ABC World News Tonight](#) ^{Vi} (8/4, lead story, 4:20, Muir, 7.19M) reported the "massive power outages stretch[ed] from two Carolinas up to Massachusetts."

Reporting from New Jersey, Stephanie Ramos of [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 2, 1:50, Muir, 7.19M) said "hospitals up and down the storm zone that were dealing with coronavirus are now dealing with this storm, too." New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy (D) said, "To say this is not an easy endeavor in the midst of a pandemic would be the understatement of the day."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Bauerlein, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports experts said Isaias was notable because it arrived early in an active hurricane season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projects as many as 10 hurricanes this year, and expects three to six to be rated as major hurricanes of Category 3 or higher.

Trump Withdraws O’Rielly Nomination For Term On FCC.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Tracy, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports President Trump has withdrawn the nomination of Mike O’Rielly for a new term on the Federal Communications Commission. The Journal says the move is due to O’Rielly having questioned Trump’s proposal to regulate social media.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) regrets Trump’s decision, and cautions O’Rielly could have been a key to the FCC’s integrity in a Biden Administration.

Blumenthal Threatens To Oppose Military Nominations Unless Tata Is Removed From Post.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Meier, 492K) reports Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) “threatened to oppose a slew of military nominations unless action is taken to remove retired Army Brig. Gen. Anthony Tata from his new role” as acting deputy undersecretary of defense for policy.

O’Brien Returns To White House After Mild Case Of Coronavirus.

The [New York Post](#) (8/4, Bowden, 4.57M) reports, “White House national security adviser Robert O’Brien returned to work on Tuesday after he contracted the coronavirus last month.” O’Brien “had a mild case of the virus and had been working from home since July 23, but was back in the White House on Tuesday after being cleared by doctors.” [Politico](#) (8/4, Lippman, 4.29M) recounts “contracted the virus while on a short vacation with his family; his college-age daughter had become ill first.”

NYTimes Analysis: At DHS, Wolf Is Helping Trump Advance His Political Ambitions.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Kanno-Youngs, McKinley, 18.61M) reports in analysis that Acting DHS Secretary Wolf joined the department nearly two decades ago “as a midlevel staff member to help the sprawling new agency gear up to protect Americans after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.” His initial position with the TSA “was aimed at stopping terrorists from again exploiting the nation’s commercial aviation industry to kill Americans. But as [President] Trump has bent the department’s focus to match his own, Mr. Wolf has bent with it, including on travel bans, illegal immigration, domestic protests and the protection of federal property.” The Times adds that the change “has caused even some former Department of Homeland Security officials as well as members of Congress to question whether in their haste to create the agency, they neglected to include safeguards to prevent a campaigning president and a compliant homeland security chief from using the department’s arsenal to fulfill their political ambitions.”

State Department Rejects IG Report On Appointees’ Handling Of “Workplace Violence” Claims.

[Politico](#) (8/4, Toosi, 4.29M) reports that the State Department “sharply criticized and largely rejected” an inspector general’s investigation which found “‘substantial evidence’ two Trump administration political appointees had failed to properly report behavior amounting to ‘workplace violence.’” Politico says the Department’s response “is fresh evidence of the lingering tensions between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the watchdog office” following the firing of Inspector General Steve Linick. Politico says the IG report “asserts that two senior officials in the protocol office, Cam Henderson and Mary-Kate Fisher, saw or learned of allegedly abusive behavior by Sean Lawler, the former chief of protocol, but failed to report it to human resources officials.”

Actions Of Trump's "Politically Connected" Ambassadors Drawing Scrutiny.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Bjarnson, Lee) reports that the actions of "politically connected U.S. ambassadors highlight the risks that come with the peculiarly American institution of handing coveted diplomatic postings to campaign donors and presidential friends who have few other qualifications," a practice that has "increased under Trump." The AP says while "those clearly unfit are expected to be weeded out through the Senate confirmation process," some "arrive in their embassies lacking the ability to sidestep controversy." The AP adds that although the "foibles of ambassadors lacking diplomatic experience have surfaced in administrations of both political parties and have long confounded efforts at reform," they "are attracting greater attention in the Trump era as the percentage of politically connected ambassadors, which normally hovers around 30%, has soared to 42%, the highest level since the mid-1970s."

Trump: Housing Rule Was Destroying Families, "American Dream."

President Trump said in an interview on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K), "I ended that horrible rule where they were building low income housing in the middle of the suburbs right next to your house and really destroying a lot of families and a lot of the American dream, and I ended it. I totally – they wanted to change it, I said, nope, you've got to end it. It got much worse under Obama and would have gotten much worse. Cory Booker was going to take it over, so you could imagine how that would have been. That would have been a disaster with him. He was another great presidential candidate that ended up getting out with 0% of the vote."

Trump "Deeply Saddened" By Deadly Marine Training Accident In California.

President Trump took to [Twitter](#) Tuesday to write, "I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of eight Marines and one Sailor during a training exercise off the coast of California. Our prayers are with their families. I thank them for the brave service their loved ones gave to our Nation. #SemperFidelis."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/4, Sheridan, 4.64M) reports "military search teams have located the amphibious assault vehicle that sank off the coast of San Clemente last week, killing nine service members aboard, Marine officials said Tuesday." The US Navy's Undersea Rescue Command "confirmed that human remains were identified along with the vehicle." The [Marine Corps Times](#) (8/4, Athey, 113K) recounts "the vehicle 'rapidly' sank Thursday with 15 Marines and one sailor on board," and "seven Marines and that one sailor have been missing since the incident and have been officially presumed dead since Sunday, when an 'extensive 40-hour' search and rescue mission was shifted into a recovery mission." [Stars And Stripes](#) (8/4, Kenney, 30K) says "the Navy is working now to recover the remains of the service members and raise the vehicle." [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 8, 0:20, Muir, 7.19M) and the [Orange County Register](#) (8/4, Ritchie, 546K), among other news outlets, also cover the story.

White House Sued Over Lack Of Sign Language Interpreters.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Ortiz, 18.61M) reports, "The National Association of the Deaf and five deaf Americans have [sued](#) the White House, arguing that the lack of a sign language interpreter at President Trump's coronavirus briefings violates the First Amendment." The Times adds "the association is seeking to force Mr. Trump and other White House officials to use American Sign Language, or A.S.L., interpreters during 'television broadcasts of their coronavirus press conferences and briefings to make them accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing people.'"

Trump Says Florida Voting System "Has Been Cleaned Up," Urges Backers To Vote By Mail.

President Trump [tweeted](#) Tuesday, "Whether you call it Vote by Mail or Absentee Voting, in Florida the election system is Safe and Secure, Tried and True. Florida's Voting system has been cleaned up (we defeated Democrats attempts at change), so in Florida I encourage all to request a Ballot & Vote by Mail! #MAGA."

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (8/4, Man, 545K) reports "Trump's about-face likely stems from self interest. Florida's 29 electoral votes, more than a tenth of the 270 needed to win the presidency, are critical to his hopes for re-election." [ABC World News Tonight](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 6, 0:45, Moran, 7.19M) similarly reported last night that Trump "apparently wants his mail-in votes, especially from those elderly voters in all-important Florida to count, while he continues to undermine and try to sabotage mail-in voting in other states." Added ABC, "The facts are clear, mail-in voting is nothing new, it's been going on since the Civil War." The [CBS Evening News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 8, 0:30, Reid, 4.14M) also said that in Florida, "elderly voters, key to his reelection, regularly vote by mail." To [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 6, 0:35, Bennett, 6.1M), "Extensive research shows election fraud in the US is extremely rare."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Boyer, 492K) reports, meanwhile that White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany "said the president 'has always said that absentee voting for a reason is different than mass mail-out voting,'" though Trump's "tweet didn't distinguish between absentee and mass mail-in voting." The Times adds "Florida Republican officials have expressed concern that the president's campaign against mail-in voting is suppressing the number of GOP voters who are taking part in it, while Democrats are voting by mail in large numbers."

[Fox News](#) (8/4, Blitzer, 27.59M) points out on its website that "Trump and other Republicans have warned that mail-in voting could lead to ballot harvesting, ballots for dead people or ballots for people who no longer live at the residence where they are sent being fraudulently filled out. Additional concerns include ballots being lost in the mail and disenfranchising voters." The [CNN](#) (8/4, Klein, 83.16M) website and the [New York Post](#) (8/4, Feis, 4.57M), among other news outlets, also cover the story.

Six Weeks Later, Winner Announced In New York House Race Held Largely By Mail. [NBC Nightly News](#)^{Vi} (8/4, story 11, 2:50, Holt, 6.1M) reported, "We are just about 90 days until the election where we could see an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots, and questions about whether election night could turn into election week." NBC's Cynthia McFadden continued, "Six weeks after the New York Democratic primary, congressional candidate Suraj Patel doesn't know if he won or lost. Because election officials have yet to announce a winner." Patel was shown saying, "It's just a complete mess of a system." NBC added "a whopping 1.8 million, requested absentee ballots than did four years ago," and "experts tell NBC News New York election officials were woefully unprepared."

Later Tuesday night, the [New York Times](#) (8/4, McKinley, Goldmacher, Stevens, 18.61M) reported the election results were finally announced, and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) "narrowly brushed back a primary challenge from...Patel." Maloney "just managed to sidestep a wave of youthful progressivism that has tilted New York's congressional delegation to the left."

WPost Calls For National Commission On Voting. The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, 14.2M) editorializes, "Trump has no rational basis for his claims. Voting by mail presents logistical and administrative challenges, but it has been proved safe in blue state and red state alike." To the Post, "It would help lower the temperature if a highly visible, authoritative commission were ready to observe and evaluate alleged irregularities – to clarify that voting officials in Georgia are counting votes, not stuffing ballot boxes, or that postal workers in Iowa took a little longer to deliver ballots, so it is not surprising that a surge of votes was recorded a couple days after Election Day. Alternatively, they could highlight authentic problems, such as long lines deterring voters from polling sites or mail-in ballots being thrown out for small technical issues beyond voters' control."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Trump Says US-China Relationship Has Been "Badly Hurt" By Pandemic.

President Trump, asked in an interview on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (8/4, 49K) about the prospects for the US relationship with China, said, "It's been very badly hurt by what happened because I really believe they could have stopped it in Wuhan, and I feel strongly about that. And it's certainly been very badly hurt. The farmers will tell you over the last few days they ordered a

record amount of corn, a record amount of soybeans, numbers that have never been – literally a record. ... I made a trade deal and it is a wonderful deal. But after this happened, I don't feel the same about the deal. ... We've lost 160,000 people. We're going to lose more. We would have lost millions had I just let it ride, as the expression goes. We could have lost millions. ... But this was caused by China, and so it certainly has had a negative impact."

NYTimes Analysis: Lockdowns More Confusing, Contentious As Pandemic Wears On.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Cave, 18.61M) reports Melbourne, Australia is "grappling with a spiraling coronavirus outbreak in a country that once thought it had the pandemic beat," and "has now imposed some of the toughest restrictions in the world." Pandemic lockdowns, however, are "getting ever more confusing and contentious as they evolve in the face of second and third rounds of outbreaks that have exhausted both officials and residents. ... But in many areas where the virus has retreated and then resurged, the future looks like a long, complicated haul."

Analysis: Democrats "Gutted" Anti-Hezbollah Legislation Days Before Attack On Israel.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/4, Kredo, 78K) reports that "just days before the Iranian-funded terror group Hezbollah waged a terrorist attack on Israel's northern border, congressional Democrats gutted legislation that would have halted U.S. funding to the Lebanese military, which is almost entirely controlled by the terror group." While the original bill "had bipartisan support in both chambers, House Democrats recently attached an amendment to their version of the legislation that nixed the funding cut."

Israel Launches Counteroffensive Against Hamas In Southern Syria, Gaza.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/4, Kredo, 78K) reports Israel "waged counterstrikes on Tuesday in southern Syria and the Gaza Strip following aggression from Hamas, Hezbollah, and Syrian military forces, the Wall Street Journal reported." Israel deployed "a contingent of helicopters, fighter jets, and drones against Syrian military installations purposed for observation, intelligence gathering, and communication." The moves "came a day following a thwarted Hezbollah attack in a contested area in the Golan Heights."

Family: Iran Abducted California Man While Visiting Dubai.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Gambrell) reports that a "California-based member of an Iranian militant opposition group in exile was abducted by Iran while staying in Dubai, his family said Tuesday." The "suspected cross-border abduction" of Jamshid Sharmahd "appears corroborated by mobile phone location data, shared by his family with The Associated Press, that suggests he was taken to neighboring Oman before heading to Iran." Iran "hasn't said how it detained Sharmahd," who it accuses "of planning a 2008 attack on a mosque that killed 14 people and wounded over 200 others, as well as plotting other assaults through the little-known Kingdom Assembly of Iran and its Tondar militant wing."

Experts Warn Sanctions Alone Will Not End Crisis In Syria.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Verma, Yee, 18.61M) reports the Administration has "embarked on its toughest round of economic sanctions against Syria, intending to break President Bashar al-Assad's reign over the country and stop a civil war that has claimed over half a million lives." Diplomatic and humanitarian assistance experts, however, "are wary of the strategy, saying economic sanctions alone, no matter how punishing, will do little to bring Mr. al-Assad to the negotiating table and will only worsen the humanitarian crisis in Syria." Critics also warn that the Administration "will waste the broadened sanctioning power Congress gave it if diplomatic outreach to the Syrian government and its allies does not accompany economic punishment."

Trump: More Troops Will Leave Afghanistan Before US Election.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Gibbons-Neff, 18.61M) reports President Trump said in an interview aired Monday night "that there would be fewer than 5,000 American troops in Afghanistan by Election Day in November, signaling that the United States would continue to withdraw troops from the country despite limited progress toward the start of peace negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban." Trump told Axios, "We're going down to 4,000, we're negotiating right now." The President's statement, however, "seems to undercut U.S. diplomats' repeated assertions that any further troop reductions in Afghanistan would be based on the Taliban's commitment to the Feb. 29 peace agreement signed with the United States."

Pakistani Hindus Accept Islam To Avoid Persecution.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Abi-Habib, Ur-Rehman, 18.61M) reports that dozens of Hindu families converted to Islam in June in the Badin district of Sindh Province in southern Pakistan. The mass ceremony was "the latest in what is a growing number of such conversions to Pakistan's majority Muslim faith in recent years." News outlets in India "were quick to denounce the conversions as forced," but the Times says "what is happening is more subtle. Desperation, religious and political leaders on both sides of the debate say, has often been the driving force behind their change of religion."

Azar To Lead First High-Level Delegation To Taiwan In 41 Years.

[Axios](#) (8/4, Falconer, 521K) reports HHS Secretary Azar announced Tuesday he will lead a delegation to Taiwan "in the coming days." Azar's trip will mark "the highest-level visit by a US cabinet official to Taiwan since 1979," and the visit "is sure to anger China." In a statement, Azar said, "Taiwan has been a model of transparency and cooperation in global health during the COVID-19 pandemic and long before it. I look forward to conveying President Trump's support for Taiwan's global health leadership and underscoring our shared belief that free and democratic societies are the best model for protecting and promoting health."

Crisis "Hotline" Between US, China Feared As Possible Tool For Attack. The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Wolfgang, 492K) reports there are "growing fears among foreign policy specialists and military and intelligence officials that any new crisis communication systems with China – updated, tactical-level versions of the clichéd 'red phone' between Washington and Moscow at the height of the Cold War – could themselves become strategic tools of attack or deception." According to the Times, "military insiders caution that seemingly helpful communication mechanisms may introduce an entirely new danger to already tense situations and, in certain scenarios, could actually represent a threat to U.S. security."

Abrams Tells Senators US Will Continue To Recognize Guaidó As Venezuela's Interim President.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Smith) reports that in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday, US Special Representative to Venezuela Elliott Abrams "said...that the Trump administration will continue recognizing lawmaker Juan Guaidó as the nation's interim president even if President Nicolás Maduro's government ousts the opposition from control of congress – its last major stronghold." Abrams told the panel, "He will not change the legal status for many countries around the world – and especially for us. ... In our view the constitutional president of Venezuela today and after Jan. 5, 2021 is Juan Guaidó."

WSJournal A1: Saudis Expand Nuclear Program With Chinese Assistance.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, A1, Strobel, Gordon, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports on its front page that Saudi Arabia has constructed a facility for extracting uranium yellowcake from uranium ore with the aid of China. The facility has raised concern among US officials and their allies.

Unclear Where Juan Carlos Went After Leaving Spain.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Noack, 14.2M) reports that Monday's announcement from Spain's royal palace "that former Spanish King Juan Carlos was leaving the country," did not indicate where he had gone. It was reported Monday that he "had traveled to the Portuguese town of Cascais, where he spent parts of his childhood. By Tuesday morning, Spanish newspapers said" he "was in the Dominican Republic. But later in the day, the Dominican foreign minister said he had not entered the Caribbean nation."

Former US Diplomat: Trump Not Cause Of US-German Strains.

Jeremy Stern, former chief of staff and a senior adviser at the US Embassy in Berlin from 2019-20, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/4, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) that the cause of US-German strains began with the fall of the Berlin Wall, not President Trump.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Kodak Loan Disclosure And Stock Surge Under SEC Investigation](#)

[Ford Names Jim Farley As New CEO, Succeeding Jim Hackett](#)

[Saudi Arabia, With China's Help, Expands Its Nuclear Program](#)

[Suburbia Is Awash In Above-Ground Swimming Pools – And That Has Some Neighbors In Hot Water](#)

[Microsoft CEO Nadella Wades Into US-China Tensions In TikTok Pursuit](#)

[The \\$1.9 Million Covid Patient](#)

New York Times:

[With Census Count Finishing Early, Fears Of A Skewed Tally Rise](#)

[Blasts Rock Beirut, Killing Dozens And Wounding Thousands](#)

[As Trump Praises Plasma, Researchers Struggle To Finish Critical Studies](#)

[NYC Health Commissioner Resigns After Clashes With Mayor Over Virus](#)

[From Outsider To Insider: Karen Bass's Unexpected Journey To Power](#)

[Distrust Of The Minneapolis Police, And Also The Efforts To Defund Them](#)

Washington Post:

[Democrats Press Biden To Raise His Visibility](#)

[Millions In Relief Funds To Suspect Care Firms](#)

[How DHS Chief Became The Face Of A Crackdown](#)

[Grocery Prices Strain Budgets](#)

[In Bad Sign For Fall, Mail Delays Mar Voting](#)

[Scores Die As Explosions Rock Beirut](#)

Financial Times:

[Toll Mounts After Beirut Rocked By Massive Explosion](#)

[TikTok Defends Sale Of US Arm As Investors Move Behind Microsoft](#)

[Leading WTO Candidates Back US Bid For Dispute System Reforms](#)

[Ford To Replace Chief Executive Jim Hackett](#)

Washington Times:

[Dems' Demand For 'Slush Fund' In Aid Package Threatens To Derail PPP Extension](#)

[Sally Yates To Testify On Crossfire Hurricane In Wake Of FBI's Revelations On Michael Flynn](#)

[Professors Subjected To 'Coercive Imposition' Of Diversity Mandates Rip Universities](#)

[Crisis 'Hotline' Between US, China Feared As Possible Strategic Tool For Attack](#)

[GOP Senators Hail Trump's Signature On Historic \\$10 Billion Outdoors Act](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Isaias-Damage; Hurricane Isaias-New Jersey; Weather Report; Beirut Attack; Trump-Axios Interview; Trump-Mail-In Voting; Coronavirus-Schools; California-Service Members Missing; Colorado-Police Detain Innocent Family; Coronavirus-Rutgers University Football Team; Men Stranded On Pacific Island Rescued; Tony Bennett's Birthday.

CBS: Hurricane Isaias-East Coast; Hurricane Isaias-South; Beirut Attack; Coronavirus-Schools; Coronavirus-Treatments; Trump-Axios Interview; Trump-Yosemite; Trump-Mail-In Voting; Coronavirus-Worker Safety; Los Angeles-DA's Husband Faces Misdemeanor Charges; Men Stranded On Pacific Island Rescued; Kansas-Child Receives Cochlear Implants And Hears For First Time.

NBC: Hurricane Isaias; Weather Report; Beirut Attack; Trump-Beirut Attack; Trump-Axios Interview; Trump-Mail-In Voting; Coronavirus-Rising Cases; Coronavirus-Treatments; Colorado-Police Detain Innocent Family; Coronavirus-Schools; Election 2020-Vote By Mail; Nightly News Kids Edition.

Network TV At A Glance:

Coronavirus – 15 minutes, 10 seconds

Hurricane Isaias – 12 minutes, 40 seconds

Beirut Attack – 5 minutes, 35 seconds

Trump-Axios Interview – 4 minutes, 55 seconds

Trump-Mail-In Voting – 1 minute, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Isaias; Senate-Relief Bill; Coronavirus-New Cases; California-Service Members Missing; Beirut Attack.

CBS: Hurricane Isaias; Beirut Attack; Coronavirus-Schools; CDC-AFM Outbreak; Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson-XFL.

FOX: Beirut Attack; Hurricane Isaias; Los Angeles-DA's Husband Faces Misdemeanor Charges; HHS Secretary Azar-Tawain.

NPR: Senate-Relief Bill; Hurricane Isaias; Beirut Attack; Stocks.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Trump — Meets with the Governor of Arizona
- Vice President Pence — Visits Tampa, FL, visiting a women's health care clinic and participating in a roundtable highlighting 'the Trump administration's unwavering support for the right to life', and delivering remarks to Susan B. Anthony List on 'the Trump administration's continued efforts to support religious freedom and every American's right to worship'; delivers remarks at a Faith in America event

US Senate:

- [Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing](#) – Nominations hearing, held via videoconference, considers Jennifer Yue Barber to be U.S. Representative on the United Nations Economic and Social Council, with the rank of ambassador; Edward Burrier to be U.S. International Development Finance Corporation Deputy CEO; Keith Dayton to be U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine; Julie Fisher to be U.S. Ambassador to Belarus; and Alex Nelson Wong to be Alternate U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly during his tenure of service as Alternate U.S. to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs; 9:00 AM
- [Senate Judiciary Committee latest hearing on FBI 'Crossfire Hurricane' investigation](#) – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Crossfire Hurricane Investigation: Day 2', with testimony from former

Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates * FBI's 'Crossfire Hurricane' investigation was into possible coordination between the Trump for President campaign and Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. It was taken over by Special Counsel Robert Mueller

Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

- Senate EPW Committee legislative hearing on draft nuclear infrastructure legislation – 'Hearing to Examine a Discussion Draft Bill, S. XXX, American Nuclear Infrastructure Act of 2020', with testimony from Atlantic Council Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition founding member Amy Roma; Uranium Producers of America President W. Paul Goranson; and Clean Air Task Force Executive Director Armond Cohen

Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

- Senate Energy Committee hearing on cybersecurity – Hearing 'To Examine Efforts to Improve Cybersecurity for the Energy Sector', with testimony from Department of Energy Office of Policy for Cybersecurity, Energy Security, & Emergency Response Senior Advisor Alexander Gates; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Office of Energy Infrastructure Security Director Joseph McClelland; Siemens Energy President and CEO Steve Conner; and PJM Interconnection Senior Vice President and CIO Thomas O'Brien * Members may participate in person or online. Committee follows guidelines developed to protect the health of members, staff, and the public, including maintaining six-foot social distance spacing in the hearing room and not accommodating in-person visitors

Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

- Senate Commerce Committee hearing on the FTC – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Federal Trade Commission', with testimony from FTC Chairman Joe Simons, and Commissioners Noah Phillips, Rohit Chopra, Rebecca Slaughter, and Christine Wilson

Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM

- Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing, held via videoconference, considers Erik Paul Bethel to be U.S. Ambassador to Panama; Jonathan Pratt to be U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti; Barbera Hale Thornhill to be U.S. Ambassador to Singapore; Thomas Laszlo Vajda to be U.S. Ambassador to Burma; and Kenneth Weinstein to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan; 11:15 AM
- Senate Banking Committee nominations hearing – Business meeting to consider the nominations of Hester Maria Peirce and Caroline Crenshaw to be Securities and Exchange Commission members; and Kyle Hauptman to be a National Credit Union Administration Board member

Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC; 2:00 PM

- Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 3282, Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2020', 'S. 2558, Nursing Home Care for Native American Veterans Act', 'S. 3643, VA Mission Telehealth Clarification Act', committee print of 'S.2950, Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2019', 'S. 4384, K2 Toxic Exposure Study', committee print of 'S. 4393, Toxic Exposure in the American Military Act of 2020', 'S. 711, CARE for Reservists Act of 2019', committee print of 'S. 332, Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act of 2019', committee print of 'S. 805, Veterans Debt Fairness Act', committee print of 'S. 514, The Deborah Sampson Act', committee print of 'S. 629, Accountability in Department of Veterans Affairs Scheduling and Consult Management Act', committee print of 'S. 2216, TEAM Veteran Caregiver Act', 'S. XXX, Veterans Benefit Improvement Act of 2020', and 'S. 3235, Veterans Posttraumatic Growth Act'

Location: Rm 325, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC; 3:00 PM

US House:

- House of Representatives on recess from 31 Jul – 7 Sep

Cabinet Officers:

- Aspen Security Forum continues, held digitally – Aspen Security Forum continues, annual summer gathering of top-level present and former govt officials from all relevant agencies such

as DHS, Defense, State, Justice, and the Treasury, industry and business leaders, thought leaders in think tanks and academe, and journalists. Day two speakers include Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, former National Security Advisors Tom Donilon and Stephen Hadley, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Robin Hood Foundation CEO Wes Moore, U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook, former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, former Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken; *8:30 AM*

Visitors:

- THE PRESIDENT meets with the Governor of Arizona

This Town:

- Department of the Treasury quarterly refunding announcement – Department of the Treasury makes quarterly refunding announcement, outlining its funding needs for the next two quarters, including which securities will be offered and the dates of their announcement, auction, and settlement; *8:30 AM*
- PIIE discussion on African perspectives on the WTO – 'African perspectives on the WTO and prospects for regional trade cooperation' Peterson Institute for International Economics online discussion, with speakers including UN Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary Dr Vera Songwe and Harvard Kennedy School's Robert Lawrence; *10:30 AM*
- Axios virtual event on 'Small Business Recovery' with GOP Sen. James Lankford – 'The Pandemic Pivot: Small Business Recovery' Axios live, virtual event on how small businesses have pivoted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and they have innovated and used digital tools in their path to recovery. Speakers include Republican Sen. James Lankford; The Curvy Bride Owner Michelle Files; Satori Yoga Studio owner and co-founder Andrea Stern; and Small Business Roundtable Chair and Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council President and CEO Karen Kerrigan; *12:30 PM*
- GOP Sen. Marsha Blackburn discusses U.S.-China relationship – 'From Huawei to Hong Kong: How the US and China Are Clashing Around the World' Hoover Institute Hoover Capital Conversations event, with speakers include Republican Sen. Marsha Blackburn and Hoover Institution Asia Scholar Michael Austin; *2:00 PM*
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation webinar on 'Sustainability and the Path to Equity' – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation hosts 'Sustainability and the Path to Equity' webinar, on how communities, NGOs, and the private sector can work together to create a more sustainable economy that delivers environmental justice and creates opportunity for all. Speakers include BlackSpace Oklahoma co-founder Gina Sofola, Google Energy Industry Partnerships Head Aaron Berndt, Accenture Principal Mary Kate Morley Ryan, and Sustainability and Circular Economy Program Associate Manager Peter Fadoul; *3:00 PM*
- Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel discusses governing and cities – Brunswick Group holds a webinar with former Chicago Mayor and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, Brunswick CEO and former Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal Wolin, and Brunswick Public Affairs team co-lead Patti Solis Doyle to discuss Rahm's view of the election and his thoughts on governing and cities; *4:30 PM*

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