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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 30, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
National Security
3.
Criminal Law
4.
Civil Rights
5.
Civil Law
6.
Immigration & Border Security
7.
Antitrust
- 8.

- Environment
- 9. Tax
- 10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- 11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
- 12. US Supreme Court
- 13. Native American Affairs
- 14. Marijuana Legalization
- 15. Opioid Crisis
- 16. Administration
- 17. Congress
- 18. Network Evening News Lineup
- 19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

WSJ: Foreign Bribery Prosecutor Daniel Kahn Departs Justice Department, Dylan Tokar,
September 29, 2021, 7:36 PM

A federal prosecutor who oversaw the Justice Department's enforcement of a key antibribery law

across three U.S. presidential administrations is stepping down to return to private practice. Over an 11-year stint at the Justice Department, Daniel Kahn, whose last day was Wednesday, rose from his position as a trial attorney to become its most recognizable expert on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He will return to Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, where he worked previously, a spokeswoman for the law firm said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Law360](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: US jury convicts leader of neo-Nazi threat campaign, Gene Johnson, September 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

A federal jury in Seattle on Wednesday convicted a leader of a neo-Nazi campaign to threaten journalists and Jewish activists in three states. The jury deliberated for about 90 minutes Wednesday following a two-day trial before convicting 25-year-old Kaleb Cole of five felony charges, including conspiracy, mailing threatening communications and interfering with a federally protected activity. He could face a decade in prison when Judge John C. Coughenour sentences him in January. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CBS](#), [Courthouse News](#), [The Hill](#), [KING-NBC \(Seattle, WA\)](#)

Reuters: U.S. Olympic swimmer Klete Keller pleads guilty in U.S. Capitol riot case, Jan Wolfe, September 29, 2021, 5:14 PM

Klete Keller, a former Olympic swimmer who won two gold medals for the United States, on Wednesday pleaded guilty to a felony charge related to his participation in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNBC](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [KCBS-CBS \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#), [KIRO-CBS \(Seattle, WA\)](#), [Inquirer \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [Newser](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

Reuters: Two Ohio men get 45 days in jail for roles in U.S. Capitol riot, Jan Wolfe, September 29, 2021, 1:36 PM

Two Ohio men on Wednesday received 45-day sentences after pleading guilty for their participation in the deadly Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot by supporters of former President Donald Trump, becoming the first defendants given jail time for nonviolent misdemeanor offenses committed that day. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg rejected arguments by the two friends, Derek Jancart and Erik Rau, that they should be spared from incarceration because they have accepted responsibility for their actions. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WaPo](#)

Washington Times: [ANALYSIS] On Jan. 6, what did the FBI know?, Andrew P. Napolitano, September 29, 2021, 4:00 PM

The New York Times recently reported that the FBI had an undercover informant amid the mob that entered the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 who had related to them his knowledge of the demonstrators' plans beforehand and his observations of events in the building in real-time. The informant was a genuine member of the Proud Boys, one of the groups the feds are trying to charge with conspiracy to overthrow the government. According to the Times, the informant told the FBI in advance that his colleagues had no plan to disrupt the government. He also reported violence and destruction in the Capitol to his FBI handler as it was happening, and the FBI did nothing timely to stop it. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: FBI's Handling of Summer Ransomware Attack Prompts House Inquiry,

Megan Howard, September 29, 2021, 2:59 PM

House Oversight Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney and Republican Rep. James Comer seek a FBI briefing about the agency's delay in aiding businesses targeted by a ransomware attack this summer. Lawmakers say the FBI reportedly obtained a digital decryptor key that could have unlocked affected systems but withheld the tool for nearly three weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [The Hill](#)

Patch (Doylestown, PA): **Doylestown Woman Admits To Entering US Capitol During Jan. 6 Riot**, Jason Addy, September 29, 2021, 1:25 PM

A Doylestown woman who filmed herself after breaking into the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court. Dawn Bancroft, who owns Cross Fit Sine-Pari in Plumstead Township, threatened violence against Speaker Nancy Pelosi in the video, which she sent to a friend, according to federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSHB-NBC (Kansas City, MO): **2 Leavenworth women plead guilty for role in Jan. 6 Capitol riot**, Sam Hartle, September 29, 2021, 1:19 PM

Two Leavenworth, Kansas, women pleaded guilty in federal court this week for their roles in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. Esther Schwemmer, 55, and Jennifer Parks, 61, reached plea agreements with federal prosecutors this week. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: US prison warden in California accused of inmate sex abuse, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 9:00 PM

The warden of a federal prison in California has been charged with sexually abusing an inmate, authorities said Wednesday. Ray J. Garcia, 54, of Merced, allegedly groped at least one of his female wards, asked at least two inmates to strip naked for him and took and stored photographs of a naked inmate in a cell at the Federal Correctional Institute Dublin in California's San Francisco Bay area, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [KTVU-Fox \(Oakland, CA\)](#) [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

AP: Massachusetts man charged with harassing interracial couple, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 2:00 PM

A Massachusetts man posted racial epithets, crude language and threats of physical harm in response to an interracial couple who had announced their engagement on Facebook, federal prosecutors said Wednesday. Stephen M. DeBerardinis, 45, of Boston and Dedham, is scheduled to make his first court appearance Wednesday. An email seeking comment was left with his federal public defender. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Boston Herald](#), [Daily Beast](#)

LAT: Guilty pleas in robbery of \$500,000 watch at Beverly Hills eatery, Richard Winton, September 29, 2021, 7:22 PM

Two men pleaded guilty Wednesday to participating in an armed robbery at a Beverly Hills restaurant of a diner's \$500,000 watch during which a woman was shot. Malik Lamont Powell, 21, and 18-year-old Khai McGhee, who is also known as Cameron Smith, admitted during a hearing in federal court to being part of a group of five men who carried out the holdup in March on the patio of Il Pastaio on Canon Drive. They each pleaded guilty to three felony robbery and weapons charges. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KNBC-NBC \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#)

Law360: NFLer's Ex-Roommate Convicted In Insider Trading Scheme, Max Jaeger, September 29, 2021, 8:01 PM

A former roommate and "personal assistant" to NFL linebacker Mychal Kendricks was convicted Wednesday for his role in an insider trading scheme with the gridironer and an ex-Goldman Sachs analyst, the government announced. Following a six-day trial, Mark Ramsey, 31, of San Francisco was convicted by a jury on six of 10 counts of securities fraud and conspiracy relating to a pair of insider trades. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Ex-Melrose CEO Gets Nearly 4 Years In Corrupt Payout Case, Pete Brush, September 29, 2021, 7:19 PM

A Manhattan federal judge hit former Melrose Credit Union CEO Alan Kaufman with nearly four years in prison Wednesday for taking unlawful gratuities from one of the lender's biggest clients, telling the defendant he has shown no remorse for his "reprehensible" conduct. The 46-month sentence for Kaufman, 62, was handed down by U. S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan at the end of a lengthy hearing where all wore masks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Ex-Insys Sales Rep Admits Guilt On Day 4 Of Kickbacks Trial, Rachel Scharf, September 29, 2021, 3:00 PM

A former Insys Therapeutics Inc. sales representative pled guilty during a trial on allegations she paid an Ohio doctor kickbacks to prescribe the fentanyl spray Subsys and helped him secure \$1.7 million in fraudulent reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid, prosecutors announced Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

New Jersey Advance Media: N.J. child protective caseworker busted at airport with child pornography, federal prosecutors say, Chris Sheldon, September 29, 2021, 9:14 PM

A caseworker for the state's Division of Child Protection and Permanency was arrested Tuesday after he was found at an airport with child porn on his cellphone, federal prosecutors allege. Trent Collier, 55, of Kearny was charged with one count of possession of child pornography, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

North Jersey Record (Woodland Park, NJ): Woodland Park man charged with fraud for second time, accused of swindling \$1.5 million, Nicholas Katzban, September 29, 2021, 8:03 PM

A Woodland Park man faces federal charges for defrauding investors out of \$1.5 million after he was convicted of wire fraud in a similar scam years before. U.S. Attorneys allege Gregory Ciccone, 43, of Woodland Park, swindled 22 victims into investing in fake companies, such as Platinum Travel and Entertainment and Platinum Enterprises & Concierge Service, promising up to 50% returns within six months by buying blocks of luxury hotel rooms, which he claimed he would resell to "elite clients." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Detroit Free Press: 2 metro Detroiters charged in schemes to sell fake COVID-19 vaccine cards, Kristen Jordan Shamus, September 29, 2021, 7:39 PM

Federal investigators charged two metro Detroiters on Wednesday in schemes to sell phony COVID-19 vaccine cards. Bethann Kierczak, a 37-year-old registered nurse from Southgate, allegedly stole vaccination record cards from the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit starting in May and sold them for \$100-\$200 apiece, primarily using the Facebook Messenger app, according to court documents filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Blade (Toledo, OH): Toledoan gets 25 years in federal prison for narcotics distribution, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 4:17 PM

A Toledo man was sentenced Thursday to 25 years in federal prison for his February convictions on charges of distributing illegal narcotics. Robert Escobar, 51, had pleaded guilty to three counts of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance that stemmed from a federal informant's controlled buys of substances later determined to contain cocaine and a heroin-fentanyl mixture. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Delaware News Journal: Cocaine smuggler who built drug bunker under Bear home convicted by federal jury, Isabel Hughes, September 29, 2021, 3:56 PM

A Bear cocaine smuggler who built a drug bunker complete with a secret entrance, hidden compartment and tunnel under his home has been convicted in federal court in connection with the narcotics operation. Omar Morales Colon, 44, faces a minimum of 10 years in prison for the crimes. He was indicted on a handful of charges in 2017, including conspiracy to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute marijuana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Delaware News Journal: Dover man who threw Molotov cocktail at occupied apartment building sentenced, Isabel Hughes, September 29, 2021, 3:15 PM

A Dover man who threw a Molotov cocktail at an occupied apartment building and smashed its gas meters last summer has been sentenced to five years in federal prison, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday. Benjamin Glanden was charged at the state level on June 29, 2020, just hours after the incident occurred at Liberty Court Apartments in Dover. He was later charged federally with malicious use of a fire to damage interstate commerce. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WMDT-ABC \(Salisbury, MD\)](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: Newark Man Sentenced to Two Years for Conspiring to Defraud Banks of Over \$250,000, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 2:29 PM

A Newark man was sentenced today to 30 months in prison for conspiring to defraud two banks of more than \$250,000 using stolen credit cards and blank checks, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced. According to Acting U.S. Attorney Honig, Qshaun Brown-Guinyard, 27, of Newark, previously pleaded to an information charging him with conspiracy to commit bank fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WABI-CBS/CW (Bangor, ME): Rockland man sentenced after fake distress call, Tom Krosnowski, September 29, 2021, 10:49 PM

A Rockland man was sentenced today after making a false distress call in December 2020. 32-year-old Nathan Libby must pay \$17,500 in restitution to the U.S. Coast Guard. He won't serve any additional jail time; he had served four days. Libby claimed in the call from the Spruce Head Fisherman's Co-op that a fishing boat and crew were taking on water. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFAA-ABC (Dallas, TX): 'Depraved and calculated' | Dallas woman charged with murder-for-hire in husband's killing, Ryan Osborne, Alex Rozier, September 29, 2021, 7:39 PM

The Dallas woman whose husband was gunned down last year now faces a murder-for-hire charge in the case, as federal authorities say she encouraged her boyfriend to commit the murder by posing under fake email accounts, officials announced Wednesday. Jennifer Lynne Faith, 49, was initially charged with obstruction of justice in the death of her husband, Jamie Faith, who was killed Oct. 9, 2020, while he and Jennifer walked their dog near their Oak Cliff home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***Cincinnati Enquirer*: Feds: Man sentenced for aiding illegal firearms purchase connected to killing of Dayton detective**, Quinlan Bentley, September 29, 2021, 10:47 PM

A Butler County man was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in illegally purchasing firearms connected to the killing of Dayton, Ohio, police detective Jorge DelRio. DelRio, a former Dayton detective and Drug Enforcement Administration task force officer, was shot in 2019 while executing a search warrant on Ruskin Road in Dayton. He died from his injuries after spending three days on advanced life support. Arland Mills, 43, of Trenton, Ohio, pleaded guilty to aiding the illegal firearms purchases in November 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WDTN-NBC \(Dayton, OH\)](#), [WHIO-AM \(Dayton, OH\)](#)

***Patch (New Haven, CT)*: New Haven Man, 24, Pleads Guilty To Heroin, Crack Dealing: Feds**, Ellyn Santiago, September 29, 2021, 6:14 PM

A 24-year-old New Haven man pleaded guilty to possessing and distributing heroin, cocaine and crack, the Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut announced Wednesday. James Lee faces a maximum 20 years in prison when sentenced Dec. 21. According to court documents and statements made in court, on March 13, New Haven police approached Lee as he was sitting in a car at a gas station, a car that federal prosecutors said had fled from police on March 8. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***KCRG-ABC (Cedar Rapids, IA)*: Second man involved in Waterloo 'Wild West' shootout sentenced on gun charge**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:46 PM

A man who participated in an exchange of gunfire has been convicted of a firearms charge and sentenced to prison, according to prosecutors. Demetrius Cannon, 35, of Waterloo, pleaded guilty in April to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release after serving his jail term. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KWWL-NBC \(Waterloo, IA\)](#)

***KBZK-CBS (Butte, MT)*: Butte meth dealer sentenced after admitting he received drugs in the mail**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:37 PM

A Butte man was sentenced to five years in prison on Wednesday after pleading guilty in June to receiving methamphetamine in the mail for redistribution. Court documents say law enforcement bought one ounce of meth from 52-year-old Steven Douglas Shipe in June 2019 after learning Shipe was involved in drug trafficking in Montana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***WNEP (Scranton, PA)*: Old Forge man charged in bribery scheme**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 4:41 PM

A man in Lackawanna County has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a slew of charges stemming from a bribery scheme. James Peperno Junior, of Old Forge, is accused of accepting money and promising debt forgiveness to local businesses then giving that money to Robert Semenza, the former president of Old Forge borough council. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WOLF-Fox \(Hazleton, PA\)](#)

***WBW-AM (Topeka, KS)*: Following fight over gun with undercover agents, Kansas City man sentenced to 15 years behind bars**, Sarah Motter, September 29, 2021, 4:16 PM

Following a conviction for attacking an undercover ATF agent over a gun, a Kansas City man has been sentenced to 15 years behind bars. In May 2021, Acting U.S. Attorney Duston Slinkard's Office said Nicholas Newman, 20, of Kansas City pleaded guilty to one count of forcible assault

on a federal officer with a dangerous weapon and guilty to one count of using, carrying, possessing and brandishing a firearm to further a violent crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Wheaton, IL): Former Chicago, Suburban Postal Workers Stole Credit Cards: Feds, Jeff Arnold, September 29, 2021, 4:12 PM

Seven former U.S. Postal workers from Chicago and two more from the suburbs have been charged with participating in schemes to steal credit cards that were sent to residents in the mail, the U.S. Attorney for Northern Illinois said on Tuesday. Indictments against the former employees were unsealed in federal court in Chicago and charges were announced as part of the ongoing Operation Cash On Delivery probe, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WXMI-Fox (Grand Rapids, MI): Grand Rapids local sentenced to five years for arson, Bronson Christian , September 29, 2021, 3:44 PM

One Grand Rapids man has been sentenced to five years in prison after admitting to setting a business on fire. Kevin Daniel Baker admitted to breaking into Austin Jordan Engines, stealing items to support his drug addiction, setting the business on fire to hide evidence of the burglary, and driving away from the scene in a stolen car. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDBJ-CBS (Roanoke, VA): Bland County man pleads guilty to 17 counts of producing child pornography, Pat Thomas, September 29, 2021, 3:34 PM

A Bland County man has pleaded guilty to 17 counts of producing child pornography at his home and illegally possessing a firearm, according to the US Attorney's Office. According to court documents, William Dean Blankenship, 42, was a previously convicted felon living in Bland County. February 12, 2021, the Bland County Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police searched his home after receiving information that he had engaged in sexual acts with children and was in possession of child pornography. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WSET-ABC \(Lynchburg, VA\)](#)

WCCB-CW (Charlotte, NC): Taylorsville Inmate Sentenced For Mailing Threatening Letter To Judge, Prosecutor And Jurors After Being Convicted Of Crime, Brittney Melton, September 29, 2021, 3:30 PM

A Taylorsville inmate was sentenced for sending mail threatening to kill the judge, the judge's family, the District Attorney, and the 12 jurors who convicted him of the crime. Joel Michael Cliett, 45, was sentenced to 30 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release, for mailing a threatening communication, William T. Stetzer, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina announced. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WCNC-NBC \(Charlotte, NC\)](#)

WREX-NBC/CW (Rockford, IL): Rockford man indicted on federal gun charges, Andrew Carrigan, September 29, 2021, 3:17 PM

A Rockford man faces up to 20 years in federal prison on gun charges. James Peterson, 40, of Rockford, was indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts of illegally possessing firearms as a convicted felon. The first count of the indictment alleges that on April 30, 2021, Peterson illegally possessed a loaded Smith & Wesson, M&P Body Guard .380-caliber semi-automatic firearm and an HS Produkt XD45 .45-caliber pistol. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCCB-CW (Charlotte, NC): Charlotte Man To Serve 15 Years In Prison After Police Find Him Dealing Cocaine From Local Motel, Samantha Gilstrap, September 29, 2021, 3:00 PM

Federal authorities have ordered Malik Davis, 41, of Charlotte to serve 15 years in prison and

three years of supervised release for his involvement in selling illegal drugs. According to court documents, CMPD officers learned that Davis was suspected of dealing cocaine from a motel room in Charlotte in June of 2019. On June 29th, 2019, officers conducted a search of the motel and Davis's vehicle. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBTV-CBS (Charlotte, NC): Judge sentences Charlotte man to over 6 years in federal armed carjacking case, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 2:21 PM

A Charlotte man was sentenced to over six years in prison for his role in an armed carjacking. According to U.S. Attorney William Stretzer for the western district of North Carolina, 21-year-old Ricky Lewis Bush was sentenced Tuesday to 78 months in prison for carjacking and gun charges. He was also ordered to serve three years under court supervision after completing his prison term and to pay restitution to the victim. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOP-FM (Washington, DC): 2 DC men arrested on charges related to trafficking of 'ghost guns', Zake Harter, September 29, 2021, 1:40 PM

Two D.C. men have been indicted on charges related to trafficking firearms including untraceable "ghost guns" according to U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C. Milique Wilson, 37, and Joseph Vincent Smith, 36, were indicted on charges of conspiracy, dealing firearms without a license and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. According to the indictment, Wilson and Smith worked with others to bring in firearms from places outside D.C., including locations in Maryland and Virginia, and sell them or ship them elsewhere. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRAL-NBC (Raleigh, NC): Raleigh woman who helped ex-husband make child pornography to serve 5+ years in prison, Brittney Melton, September 29, 2021, 12:39 PM

A Raleigh woman who admitted to helping her ex-husband make sexually explicit videos and photographs with an underage girl was sentenced Wednesday to 68 months in federal prison. Kellie Michelle Smith, 43, pleaded guilty in June to possession of child pornography. Cary police were investigating online peer-to-peer child pornography distribution three years ago when they identified an IP address from which they were able to download a large amount of child pornography. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

WaPo: Appeals court to examine whether Guantánamo detainees have due process rights, Ann E. Marimow and Missy Ryan, September 30, 2021, 5:00 AM

The question of whether detainees at the prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, have due process rights under the Constitution goes before the influential federal appeals court in D.C. on Thursday in the case of a Yemeni man held without charge or trial for nearly 20 years. The Biden administration has backed away from the Trump-era position that inmates at the military facility have no such rights. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Court hears dispute over N.Y. healthcare workers seeking COVID vaccine religious exemption, Emily Zantow, September 29, 2021, 5:40 PM

The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday heard arguments in a case brought by a conservative nonprofit challenging a New York order that prohibits state health care workers from seeking religious exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. We The Patriots USA, Inc. wants the three-judge panel to grant a temporary injunction that would force the state to allow religious exemption requests from health care workers while the court fight continues. [[Continue](#)]

[Reading\]](#)

Lewiston Morning Tribune (Lewiston, ID): **Asotin County agrees to settlement with clerk who was allegedly harassed**, Unattributed, September 30, 2021, 3:36 AM (EDT)

Asotin County is poised to pay a six-figure settlement to a deputy clerk who was allegedly sexually harassed by former Superior Court Judge Scott D. Gallina. According to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice, the county and the United States filed a joint notice of settlement in the case that, if accepted by a federal judge, will require the county to pay the clerk \$100,000. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WXYZ-ABC (Detroit, MI): **New park planned around Dr. Ossian Sweet home in Detroit**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 6:47 PM

A new city park coming to Detroit's east side is centered around a house, located at the corner of Garland and Charlevoix. "This is an important lesson, not just for African-Americans, not just for Detroiters, but for all Americans," Attorney Butch Hollowell. In 1925, the house was owned by Dr. Ossian Sweet. The city received a federal civil rights grant of \$500,000 dollars for the project a figure Hollowell hopes to match with support from the private sector and philanthropic community. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Star-Telegram (Fort Worth, TX): **Parents sue Grapevine-Colleyville, other school districts with no mask mandates**, Elizabeth Campbell, September 29, 2021, 6:37 PM

Several North Texas school districts are facing a federal civil rights lawsuit for not having mask mandates. On Tuesday, parents filed a class action suit in the Western District of Texas alleging that the districts are violating children's civil rights under the 14th Amendment by failing to protect students during the pandemic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Texas Tribune](#)

WJBF-ABC (Augusta, GA): **Federal judge issues injunction on SC's mask ban; locals react**, Shawn Cabbagestalk, September 29, 2021, 5:09 PM

In a surprise ruling Tuesday, a federal judge issued an injunction against a ban on mask mandates in South Carolina schools. The ruling could open the door for school systems like Aiken County to require masks. "This virus still going on, I feel like they're safer that way, keeping the mask on," Aiken Resident Joanne coats told NewsChannel 6's Shawn Cabbagestalk about the new changes. "I think kids should wear masks to protect themselves," Aiken resident Linda Stone added. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

NYT: **Lesson of the Day: 'Answers to Questions About the Texas Abortion Law'**, Michael Gonchar, September 30, 2021, 4:00 AM

Lesson Overview. A new law that effectively bans most abortions in Texas went into effect on Sept. 1 even though Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court case decided in 1973, established a constitutional right to the procedure. In this lesson, you will learn about the new law and what it means for people in Texas. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [LAT](#)

WaPo: **Texas defends law that has halted most abortions in the state**, Ann E. Marimow and Robert Barnes, September 29, 2021, 1:30 PM

Texas officials on Wednesday defended the state's strict abortion law that bars the procedure as early as six weeks into pregnancy and urged a federal judge to allow the measure to stand. Texas

Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) said the court should dismiss the Biden administration's lawsuit seeking to block the measure that has effectively halted most abortions in the nation's second-most-populous state. The Justice Department, the state said in its court filing, does not have the authority to use the federal courts to enforce a constitutional right to abortion. Rather, the Texas law must be challenged in state court through lawsuits brought by private citizens, Paxton contends. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Former Federal Nurse Gets New Shot at Injury Suit Against U.S., Mary Anne Pazanowski, September 29, 2021, 2:19 PM

A former federal employee can sue the U.S. under the Federal Tort Claims Act for alleged medical negligence that occurred during treatment for a non-workplace-related injury, the Ninth Circuit said. The Federal Employees' Compensation Act didn't bar Sabelita Hawkins' suit for alleged negligence of two doctors who provided her with psychiatric care at a hospital operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Texas Tribune (Austin, TX): The Justice Department will argue against Texas' abortion law Friday. Here's what you need to know, Reese Oxner, September 30, 2021, 5:00 AM
Texas' near-total ban on abortions became law Sept. 1 and quickly became the target of several lawsuits aiming to stop its enforcement. But as those legal battles continue with one case the subject of a federal court hearing Friday Senate Bill 8 still stands. Abortion providers, doctors, women's rights groups and even the U.S. government are battling to overturn the law, which bans the procedure after approximately six weeks of pregnancy before many know they're pregnant. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFMZ (Allentown, PA): Berks nonprofit to pay \$121,655 for double-billing HUD, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 6:00 PM

The Berks Coalition to End Homelessness (BCEH) will pay \$121,655 to resolve allegations that the public-private partnership organization illegally double-billed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the renovation of a property in Reading, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced Wednesday. Federal prosecutors accuse BCEH of submitting a request on Sept. 14, 2017, to draw approximately \$40,000 from HUD's Continuum of Care Program to pay for framing, electrical, and plumbing work done on a single project. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: U.S. DHS plans to issue new memo ending Trump-era immigration policy, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 6:41 PM

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said on Wednesday it intends to issue a new memo in the coming weeks ending the "remain in Mexico" immigration program. The department issued a memo in June ending the program implemented by former President Donald Trump, formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), but a Texas-based federal judge ruled MPP must be restarted. The U.S. Supreme Court in August rejected an effort by President Joe Biden's administration to block the Texas-based judge's ruling. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [Politico](#)

NYT: Greyhound Agrees to Pay \$2.2 Million Over Immigration Sweeps on Buses, Michael

Levenson, September 29, 2021, 8:00 PM

Greyhound Lines will pay \$2.2 million to resolve a lawsuit filed by Washington State that accused it of allowing U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents to conduct warrantless immigration sweeps on its buses, state officials said this week. Washington State's attorney general said the settlement would be used to provide restitution to passengers who were detained, arrested or deported after immigration agents boarded their buses at the Spokane Intermodal Center, and for partial reimbursement of his office's litigation costs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Arrest blotter ended over immigration enforcement concerns, Justin Jouvenal and AP, September 29, 2021, 5:47 PM

Fairfax County police have stopped publishing a weekly arrest blotter after county officials found it violated a policy that restricts the dissemination of personal information that could aid immigration enforcement. Immigrant rights and civil liberties groups had been pushing for the change, arguing the weekly compilations that include arrestees' addresses and other details could allow U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to target immigrants for deportation and raise privacy concerns. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Deportations of Haitians spark concerns over environmental refugees, Rachel Frazin and Rebecca Beitsch, September 30, 2021, 6:03 AM

The swell of Haitian migrants attempting to come to the U.S. shows the country needs a plan to help environmental refugees, advocates say, while warning that the swift deportation of those camped in Texas is indicative of how climate migrants could be treated in the years to come. The Biden administration in recent days deported some 4,000 migrants back to Haiti without giving them a chance to seek asylum their plight brought to the forefront with images of border officials on horseback dispersing migrants in Del Rio, Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

Law360: 3rd Circ. Says Simple Assault Is Grounds For Deportation, Alyssa Aquino, September 29, 2021, 9:18 PM

The Third Circuit refused to undo deportation orders against a Peruvian national who had a simple assault conviction, ruling that the offense amounted to a removable crime of violence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Illegal immigrants turn to drain pipes to sneak into U.S., Stephen Dinan, September 29, 2021, 9:00 PM

A group of illegal immigrants used a drain pipe Wednesday to sneak into the country in Hidalgo, Texas, according to Border Patrol agents who made the arrest. Agents were tipped to the group after being told people were using the local sewers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

VOA: US Denies Paying Haiti to Take Back Migrants, Sandra Lemaire, September 29, 2021, 8:43 PM

The Biden administration acknowledged Wednesday that it sent \$5.5 million to Haiti to help support asylum-seekers deported from Del Rio, Texas, but it rejected reports that it had "paid" Haiti to take back the rejected migrants. "That is not true," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in response to VOA's question about the reports, which had gone viral on Haitian social media. "We, of course, have been providing a broad range of humanitarian assistance." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: One month after Afghan airlift, answers hard to come by about what

really happened, Stephen Dinan, September 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Biden administration says the Afghanistan airlift was the largest rescue operation in history yet a month after it ended, officials still can't or won't say exactly who was left behind, who made it out of the country or why they were the ones rescued. About 124,000 people escaped Afghanistan, most on U.S.-run flights. More than 60,000 had reached the U.S. as of last week. Some were American citizens, and others were green card holders with permanent immigrant rights. Fewer than 2,000 were special visa holders by dint of their assistance to the U.S. war effort. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Croatians Get Visa Waiver Green Light For US Travel, Grace Dixon, September 29, 2021, 4:15 PM

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that Croatia has become the 40th country to join the United States' Visa Waiver Program, under which citizens of participating countries can travel to the U.S. for up to 90 days without a visa. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: ExxonMobil Jilted Intern's DACA Status Dooms Class Job Bias Suit, Patrick Dorrian, September 29, 2021, 2:08 PM

ExxonMobil Corp. defeated a job discrimination suit by an engineering student whose internship offer was pulled because his status as a Mexican citizen authorized to work in the U.S. under DACA isn't protected by federal anti-bias law, the Eastern District of North Carolina ruled. Aldo De Leon's claims on behalf of a proposed class of similarly situated non-citizens authorized to work in the U.S. but allegedly denied internships or employment with ExxonMobil failed for the same reason, Judge Richard E. Myers II said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Arizona Daily Star: Tucson police chief will finally get his hearing to head Customs and Border Protection, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 11:00 PM

Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus' nomination by President Biden to head U.S. Customs and Border Protection will finally move forward after being stalled in the Senate for months. U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden announced Wednesday that he will schedule Magnus' hearing before the Senate Finance Committee he chairs, which oversees the confirmation process for CBP. He did not immediately provide a date. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KGBT-CBS (Harlingen, TX): Fake border signs to be removed; Wall contractor says feds told them to put them up, Sandra Sanchez, September 29, 2021, 11:39 PM

"No trespassing" signs that were placed on border levee construction sites without government authorization are to be taken down, workers with border wall contractor SLSCO told Border Report on Wednesday afternoon. A supervisory worker with SLSCO told Border Report on Wednesday that the company put the signs up "at the request of the government" and for public safety. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTSM-NBC (El Paso, TX): Fentanyl overdose kills Mexican national in downtown El Paso jail, Aaron J. Montes, September 29, 2021, 7:30 PM

A Mexican national imprisoned at the El Paso County Detention Facility died from a fentanyl overdose in June, according a custodial death report submitted to the Texas Attorney General. "As this case involves federal inmates who are regularly transferred from various detention facilities, we cannot release any information without approval of the responsible federal agency," a spokeswoman for the sheriff's office said. "More specifically, information related to a detainee held on behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection cannot be released pursuant to 8 CFR §

236.6.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Reuters: U.S. Justice Dept antitrust nominee Kanter has confirmation hearing next week, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:04 PM

Jonathan Kanter, President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the antitrust division of the Justice Department, will appear for a confirmation hearing next week before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the committee said on its website. Kanter's nomination is not expected to spark any significant opposition at the hearing on Wednesday. If the committee approves the nomination, it goes to the full Senate for confirmation. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ Signals Shift On SEP Antitrust Policies, Matthew Perlman, September 29, 2021, 8:55 PM

An official in the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division indicated that the agency is taking a more balanced approach to policies surrounding the standard-setting process, after critics saw the prior administration as overly favorable to patentholders. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: FTC's Competition, Consumer Bureau Chiefs Made Permanent, Bryan Koenin, September 29, 2021, 6:41 PM

Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan has fulfilled her promise to make the agency's acting directors for its Consumer Protection and Competition bureaus the units' permanent chiefs in a move that comes as the heads also work to bolster their information-sharing, starting with merger reviews. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Politico](#)

Law360: Tether, Bitfinex Must Face Crypto Market Manipulation Claims, Elise Hansen, September 29, 2021, 5:56 PM

Crypto asset buyers can pursue many of their claims that the company behind cryptocurrency exchange Bitfinex and the stablecoin tether manipulated the digital asset market and artificially inflated prices, a New York federal court found Tuesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: DOJ Signals Stricter Antitrust Enforcement in Patent Disputes, Susan Decker, September 29, 2021, 3:29 PM

The Justice Department's antitrust division will open investigations when it decides participants in standard-setting boards or holders of patents on those standards are harming competition, the division's director of economics says. "Antitrust can and should play a role when the standards-setting process is used to thwart competition and harm consumers," Jeffrey Wilder says at the IAM and GCR Connect SEP Summit, but adds "antitrust claims are not a panacea for failed bilateral negotiation". [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Law360](#)

Bloomberg Law: Tether Fraud, Antitrust Case Advances Against Issuers, Exchanges, Mike Leonard, September 29, 2021, 1:07 PM

DigFinex Inc., which oversees the "tether" cryptocurrency through a web of affiliates, lost its bid to sidestep federal antitrust litigation in Manhattan over an alleged scheme to create a crypto "bubble" using "shadow bankers," manipulative trades, and lies about the nature of the tether "stablecoin." Judge Katherine Polk Failla let the lawsuit move forward Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, where a group of crypto traders brought antitrust, fraud, and market manipulation claims against DigFinex, its top executives, its key subsidiaries,

and its Panama-based bankers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Qualcomm Wins Bid to Undo 250-Million-Member Antitrust Class, Holly Barker, September 29, 2021, 12:20 PM

Qualcomm Inc. won its bid to undo a district court order certifying a class of 250 million people in antitrust litigation over its alleged monopoly of modern cellphone chips, after the Ninth Circuit said Wednesday the court erred in its choice of law analysis. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#), [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

ENVIRONMENT

WaPo: Biden officials finalize a rule making it harder to kill birds, reversing Trump,

Maxine Joselow, September 29, 2021, 1:49 PM

The Biden administration finalized a rule Wednesday revoking a Trump administration policy that eased penalties for killing birds, restoring federal protections that had been in place for a century. The Trump administration's reinterpretation of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act ranked as one of its most contentious wildlife policies. It relaxed legal penalties for energy companies, construction firms and land developers that unintentionally killed birds through activities such as construction and oil drilling. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#)

Law360: Split 9th Circ. Revives Calif. Chemical Water Case, Melissa Angell, September 29, 2021, 8:55 PM

A split Ninth Circuit panel revived California River Watch's lawsuit claiming a California city is placing its residents at risk by delivering water containing potentially toxic chemicals, ruling that the environmental group may have established the chemical can qualify as solid waste since it was dumped into the environment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: EPA Says Decision Paving Way For Pebble Mine Must Go, Andrew Westney, September 29, 2021, 6:53 PM

The federal government has pressed an Alaska federal judge to ditch a Trump-era U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decision to withdraw its objections to a proposed gold and copper mine in Alaska, saying the action should be vacated because the agency made a "serious and fundamental" mistake reaching it. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Truck Co. Navistar Must Face Suit Over EPA Standards Claims, Matthew Santoni, September 29, 2021, 2:23 PM

A Pennsylvania logistics company can continue with its claims that truck manufacturer Navistar misled it about the environmental compliance of its engines, after a federal judge said Navistar's duties went beyond its contractual obligations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Reuters: Wife of convicted Big Law partner loses sanctions bid against U.S., David

Thomas, September 29, 2021, 1:47 PM

A Manhattan federal judge on Tuesday blocked the sanctions request of the wife of a former Big Law partner who was found guilty for his part in one of the largest criminal tax fraud cases in U.S. history. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: IRS Debuts Program To Help Pot Cos. Comply With Tax Law, Katryna Perera, September 29, 2021, 4:26 PM

The IRS has launched a program to help cannabis businesses that operate in states where marijuana is legal pay their federal taxes and properly comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 280E, which prohibits companies from taking a deduction for business expenses if their income is derived from the trafficking of controlled substances. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): Rocky Mount tax preparer to serve prison time for conspiracy to file false tax returns, Conrad Hoyt, September 29, 2021, 1:25 PM

A Rocky Mount woman was sentenced Wednesday to 1 1/3 years in prison for committing conspiracy to prepare and file false tax returns. A press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office also says the 40-year-old Bertha Battle is ordered to pay \$59,268 in restitution for her crimes. The attorney's office says Battle conspired with others to file false tax returns in a three-year period from 2011 to 2016 for clients of Community Tax Services LLC, located in Rocky Mount. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Reuters: Biden's failed nominee on gun policy says he got death threats, no protection, Sarah N. Lynch, September 29, 2021, 10:54 PM

President Joe Biden's failed nominee to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said he faced death threats while the U.S. Senate was considering him but that the administration declined to provide him security. Longtime ATF agent and gun control advocate David Chipman said in an interview on Wednesday that he hired a security adviser after repeatedly telling the FBI and his handlers at the Justice Department who were assigned to help him navigate the confirmation process about the threats. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: U.S. judge: Nation's capital liable for wrongful arrests under struck-down gun ban, Spencer S. Hsu, September 29, 2021, 6:55 PM

A federal judge found the D.C. government liable Wednesday for wrongfully arresting between 2012 and 2014 six people who were accused of violating its ban on carrying handguns in public. U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth did not rule on a motion seeking class-action status, but the decision, if upheld, could clear the way for claims for damages by as many as 4,500 people similarly arrested under the law the courts overturned in 2014, according to court filings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: Brian Laundrie seen buying cell phone from Florida store on day of disappearance, report says, Stephanie Pagonis, September 29, 2021, 5:27 PM

Brian Laundrie allegedly purchased a cell phone from an AT&T store in his hometown of North Port the day his parents claimed to have last seen him, according to a report. TMZ reported that Laundrie was spotted "with an older woman" inside one of the cell phone stores in North Port, Florida, where he was living with his parents and his fiancée, Gabby Petito, on Sept. 14. The FBI later visited the store and seized footage from the surveillance cameras, the report states. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KAAL-ABC \(Austin, MN\)](#), [KFDM-CBS \(Beaumont, TX\)](#), [KGBT-CBS \(Harlingen, TX\)](#), [WCPO-ABC \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#), [WDTN-NBC \(Dayton, OH\)](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WKRN-ABC \(Nashville, TN\)](#), [WIBW-AM \(Topeka, KS\)](#), [WJW-Fox \(Cleveland, OH\)](#),

[WPBF-ABC \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WRIC-ABC \(Richmond, VA\)](#), [WTSP-CBS \(St. Petersburg, FL\)](#)

Guardian: California scrambles to ban ‘ghost guns’ as untraceable weapons’ popularity soars, Abené Clayton, September 30, 2021, 6:15 AM

Cities across California are ramping up efforts to try to stop the flow of so-called ghost guns into their jurisdictions, as the do-it-yourself weapons appear with increasing frequency at homicide scenes, traffic stops, and community gun buybacks. As state and federal laws meant to bring ghost guns into compliance with traditional firearm laws await implementation, local officials and prosecutors across California are increasingly resorting to bans and lawsuits to regulate the weapons in their cities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Two Ohio police officers arrested in fentanyl distribution case, Caroline Vakil, September 29, 2021, 2:43 PM

Two police officers working in the Columbus Division of Police’s drug cartel unit were arrested in connection to a scheme to distribute over seven kilograms of fentanyl, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Ohio announced on Wednesday. The two officers, identified by prosecutors as Marco Merino and John Kotchkoski, were allegedly involved in distributing the fentanyl and prosecutors also alleged that Merino assisted in the distribution of cocaine by taking bribes to protect its transit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [The Plain Dealer \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WCMH-NBC \(Columbus, OH\)](#), [WSYX-ABC \(Columbus, OH\)](#), [WXIX-Fox \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#)

KRIV-Fox (Houston, TX): Search continues for inmate who fled from US Marshals in Houston, Ronnie Marley and Tiffany Justice, September 30, 2021, 12:45 PM

The search is continuing for an inmate who ran from U.S. Marshals in Houston on Tuesday afternoon. Authorities are searching for Pedro Castillo Hernandez, 29. U.S. Marshal Alfredo Perez tells FOX 26, Hernandez escaped from the moving bus through a very small maintenance panel in the back of the bus, which he said was the size of a microwave door. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KDVR- Fox (Denver, CO): Search continues for final DEA suspect in Arapahoe County, Greg Nieto, September 30, 2021, 12:32 AM

The search continues for a felony suspect wanted by the Drug Enforcement Administration on Wednesday. According to the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office, the Colorado State Patrol stopped a vehicle with three felony suspects at Orchard Street and Florence Road. One was immediately apprehended, the other two were able to, initially, get away. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KPNX-NBC (Phoenix, AZ): FBI data shows record increase in homicides, Phoenix statistically even worse, Michael Doudna, September 30, 2021, 12:07 AM

According to the FBI, homicide rates rose by more than 29% nationwide in 2020 and aggravated assaults increased by around 12%. Overall, 2020 saw the most homicides in the United States since 1995. The numbers in Phoenix were even worse. Homicides in 2020 rose by nearly 44% compared to the 2019 numbers, while aggravated assaults rose by more than 24%. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KARE-NBC \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [KOMU-NBC/CW \(Columbia, MO\)](#), [WTIC-Fox \(Hartford, CT\)](#), [KXXV-ABC \(Waco, TX\)](#), [WLKY-CBS \(Louisville, KY\)](#),

WNCT-CBS/CW (Greenville, NC): Retiring DEA boss reflects on fight against ‘cold, calculating, evil’ cartel operatives, Julian Resendiz, September 29, 2021, 10:48 PM

Kyle W. Williamson got into law enforcement 31 years ago because he wanted to get the bad

guys off the streets. "Some of the surveillances are awfully boring. You spend a lot of hours just watching and waiting. But it's exciting to arrest someone you've been investigating for a long time, gather the evidence and present a case in court," he said. Now 55 and "riding a desk" inside his West Side office, the special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's El Paso Division still finds the job exciting. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJRH-NBC (Tulsa, OK): Domestic violence deaths ongoing threat for Oklahoma women, Mason Mauro, September 29, 2021, 10:27 PM

The latest data from the FBI shows Oklahoma as the eight-ranked state for most women killed by men. The study shows 91 percent of women were killed by men they knew - in most cases a boyfriend or husband. The previous year, Oklahoma ranked third. "If you are feeling oppressed, mistreated, like you have no power in a relationship just reach out," said Lori Gonzalez of Domestic Violence Intervention Services in Tulsa. "Domestic violence is a pattern of power and control tactics." [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFMB-CBS (San Diego, CA): FBI launches hate crime reporting campaign, Heather Hope, September 29, 2021, 9:48 PM

In an effort to push more people to report hate crimes, the FBI is taking their message to the streets literally by putting their public service announcements up on buses, at bus stops and on social media. "We find that people are not reporting these crimes for a variety of reasons," said San Diego FBI special agent William McNamara. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWTV-CBS (Oklahoma City, OK): Oklahoma Lawmakers Discuss Firearm Manufacturing Expansion, Storme Jones, September 29, 2021, 6:31 PM

State lawmakers met Wednesday with the goal of getting firearm manufacturers to set their sights on Oklahoma. [...] According to the ATF, there are 116 firearm manufactures in Oklahoma ranking the state at 14th in the country. "These are good paying jobs, stuff that Oklahomans can just move right into," West said. According to the ATF, there were more than 9 million firearms manufactured in the United States in 2018, the most recent year of data available, generating more than \$37 million in transfer and making taxes in 2019. That's a pot of money West said Oklahoma wants in on. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJTV-CBS (Jackson, MS): Hattiesburg murder suspect arrested in Jackson, DeAngelo Vaxter, September 29, 2021, 5:15 PM

Members of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force arrested a man in Jackson in connection to a Hattiesburg homicide. Nykeus Samson, 23, of Jasper County, was arrested on Tuesday, September 28. He was wanted for second degree murder in connection to a homicide in May 2019. Police said Fredrick "Neal" Paige was shot and killed on Broadacres Drive near Club Nina's. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWWL-NBC (Waterloo, IA): Nineteen people charged with federal gun law violations in Waterloo, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:12 PM

The FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, Waterloo Police, and other agencies came together to announce more than a dozen Project Safe Neighborhood arrests and gun charges. Nineteen people have been charged with federal gun crime announced by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa, including 16 from last week. Those charged are between 19 and 28-years-old. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KASI \(Ames, IA\)](#)

KSHB-NBC (Kansas City, MO): FBI Kansas City Division investigating a bank robbery at KCMO Bank of America, Katharine Finnerty, September 29, 2021, 4:44 PM

The FBI Kansas City Division is investigating a bank robbery that occurred Wednesday afternoon at a Bank of America on State Line Road. The suspect was described to be a middle-aged female wearing a long blonde wig, blue face mask, Kansas City Royals baseball hat and a black zip-up blouse, according to the FBI. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KMBC-ABC \(Kansas City, MO\)](#)

WGN (Chicago, IL): FBI looking for man after Lisle bank robbery, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 4:22 PM

FBI agents are looking for a man after a bank in Lisle was robbed on Tuesday morning. At around 11:50 a.m., authorities responded to Old Second Bank, located in the 3100 block of Ogden Avenue on the report of a robbery. The man used a note to demand cash and fled in a vehicle. No weapon was shown or indicated. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHBQ-Fox (Memphis, TN): North Memphis murder suspect captured in Michigan, US Marshals say, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 3:51 PM

A suspect wanted for second-degree murder in Shelby County was captured by U.S. Marshals in Detroit, Michigan. Rodney Berry Jr. was taken into custody in Michigan for warrants of Second Degree Murder, Convicted Felon in Possession of a Handgun, and Possessing a Firearm during the commission of a felony out of Shelby County, U.S. Marshal Tyreece Miller said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTBS-ABC (Shreveport, LA): Florida man arrested for 2004 sex crime in Bossier Parish, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 3:00 PM

Bossier Parish sheriff's deputies have arrested a Florida man for allegedly committing a sex crime in 2004 in the parish. Sheriff Julian Whittington said in a news release Micah Newton, 45, formerly of Haughton, was arrested in Florida by the U.S. Marshals Task Force after detectives obtained an arrest warrant. Whittington said detectives obtained evidence that Newton had sexual assaulted a 10-year-old. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

The Hill: Bipartisan senators introduce legislation to upgrade federal prisons' camera systems, Jordan Williams, September 29, 2021, 1:59 PM

Sens. Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) introduced legislation on Wednesday to upgrade camera systems in federal prisons. The Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021 would require the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to submit to Congress a plan to address deficiencies in security cameras, land-mobile radios, and public address systems. The agency would be required to implement its plan within three years of submitting it to Congress. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: Losing can 'get frustrating' says liberal Justice Sotomayor, Jessika Gresko, September 29, 2021, 8:00 PM

Acknowledging the limits of her own influence on the law as a member of the Supreme Court's

liberal minority, Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Wednesday encouraged citizens to work to change laws they may disagree with, like a recent Texas law that limits access to abortions. Sotomayor, who appeared via Zoom at an American Bar Association event, answered a question from a law student by saying members of the public will not always like the results that courts reach.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#)

CBS: Abortion, guns and religious liberty: Supreme Court gears up for new term filled with contentious disputes, Melissa Quinn, September 30, 2021, 6:03 AM

The Supreme Court is slated to return to the bench for the start of its new term on Monday, with the justices set to take up politically divisive cases involving the Second Amendment, religious liberty and abortion, all while battling bruised public perception of the high court's legitimacy. The justices will convene for in-person arguments in the court's stately courtroom for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, though they'll take the bench before a limited audience due to public health concerns. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Supreme Court to Host Audio Livestream on Its Homepage, Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, September 29, 2021, 2:12 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court will provide direct access to the livestream of oral arguments this fall on its website. The court, which previously provided the feed to certain media outlets, will instead have "a live audio icon" on its homepage, the court said in a press release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Panel recommends 5 new federal judgeships for Oklahoma, Ken Miller, September 29, 2021, 5:00 PM

A judicial panel has recommended the creation of five additional federal judgeships in Oklahoma because of an increased caseload due to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding crimes committed on tribal lands. The Judicial Conference on Tuesday published the recommendation that Congress create three new judgeships in the Eastern District of Oklahoma, based in Muskogee, and two in the state's Northern District, based in Tulsa. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Tribal Tobacco Co. Hits Atty, Firm With \$3.3M Malpractice Suit, Kevin Penton, September 29, 2021, 4:48 PM

An attorney and his firm engaged in legal malpractice by cutting side deals between a cigarette manufacturer and a Native-owned tobacco company's officers, costing the company a \$3.3 million deal, according to a suit filed in Washington state federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Calif. Tribe Seizes Ex-Leader's Assets in \$2.7M Fraud Case, Victoria McKenzie, September 29, 2021, 4:28 PM

A federal judge has allowed the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians to seize California properties of its former economic development director, who now awaits sentencing for using the tribe's money to buy himself luxury vacations, homes and vehicles. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Tulsa World: Tulsa U.S. Attorney's Office adds 24 prosecutors to help with surge in cases due to McGirt ruling, Curtis Killman, September 29, 2021, 8:00 PM

The Tulsa U.S. Attorney's Office adds 24 prosecutors to help with surge in cases due to McGirt ruling. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Tulsa has added 24 additional prosecutors to its ranks to help alleviate the surge in new cases resulting from the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 McGirt decision.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Law360: Court Rejects Challenge To Ill. Cannabis Licensing Scheme, Sarah Jarvis, September 29, 2021, 4:11 PM

An Illinois federal judge has granted summary judgment to a state agency's officials who were facing a civil rights suit for not allowing two medical cannabis dispensary applicants to change the addresses of their proposed dispensaries, finding the pair's equal protection claim didn't pass muster. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

OPIOID CRISIS

AP: Appeals Are Mounting in Purdue Pharma Bankruptcy Settlement, Jennifer Mcdermott And Geoff Mulvihill, September 29, 2021, 4:41 PM

Objections to a historic settlement with Purdue Pharma are mounting in the form of appeals, with Rhode Island's attorney general saying Wednesday the plan doesn't hold the OxyContin maker or its owners accountable for its role in sparking the opioid crisis. Rhode Island appealed Tuesday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York. Separate appeals have already been filed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee, California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland and Washington state, plus some Canadian local governments and other Canadian entities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: [ANALYSIS] 7 Key Details As Pharmacy Giants Head To 1st Opioid Trial, Jeff Overley and Emily Field, September 29, 2021, 10:26 PM

After years of bobbing and weaving, pharmacy titans CVS, Walgreens and Walmart are poised to go toe-to-toe with heavyweight plaintiffs lawyers in the first opioid trial targeting the pharmacy sector. Here, Law360 looks at the showdown's lead lawyers, biggest uncertainties and intensely acrimonious atmosphere. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ADMINISTRATION

WaPo: [EDITORIAL] Rising and spreading murder rates means it's time to act on guns, Editorial Board, September 29, 2021, 2:51 PM

"The fact that this is so routine that it's not even a major headline, and we don't even blink an eye when this keeps happening is heartbreaking." So commented the co-founder of the Violence Project about last week's shooting in a Tennessee grocery store in which 15 people were wounded, one fatally. That lament about the country becoming numb applies not just to the mass shootings that sadly have become all too commonplace in the United States but also to the steady spate of gun violence that has sent the murder rate soaring and scarred countless lives. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CONGRESS

AP: House panel subpoenas organizers of Jan. 6 Trump rally, Mary Clare Jalonick, Eric Tucker, September 29, 2021, 6:40 PM

A House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection has subpoenaed 11 officials who

were involved in planning rallies in support of former President Donald Trump ahead of the violent attack, including one the day of the siege at which the president told his supporters to “fight like hell.” The announcement follows a first round of subpoenas last week that targeted former White House and administration officials who were in contact with Trump before and during the insurrection. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: Senate parliamentarian deals fresh immigration blow to Dems, Alan Fram, September 29, 2021, 6:00 PM

The Senate parliamentarian told Democrats on Wednesday that their newest proposal for helping millions of immigrants stay in the U.S. permanently could not be included in their \$3.5 trillion social and environment bill, the party’s latest setback on the issue. “It’s unfortunate. I disagree with her,” Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., one of the party’s pro-immigration advocates, said of the decision by Elizabeth MacDonough, the chamber’s nonpartisan rules arbiter. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#)

CNN: Lawmakers race the clock to avert shutdown ahead of midnight deadline, Clare Foran, September 30, 2021, 5:02 AM

Government funding expires at midnight and Congress has not yet passed a stopgap funding bill to avert a shutdown, though Democratic leaders are on track to do so later Thursday. Lawmakers are racing the clock with the Senate and House both expected to vote to approve a short-term funding patch to keep the government open. Democrats, who control both chambers of Congress, have so far projected confidence that a shutdown will not occur, but with the deadline rapidly approaching, lawmakers have no room for error. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Sens. Float 24-Hour Rule To Report Ransomware Payments, Ben Kochman, September 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

Leaders of the Senate Homeland Security Committee have introduced legislation that would require ransomware attack victims to report extortion payments within 24 hours, in Congress’ latest bid to address a spree of major cyberattacks that have unfolded in the past year. The Cyber Incident Reporting Act, sponsored by Sens. Gary Peters, D-Mich. , and Rob Portman, R-Ohio. , would also set a 72-hour deadline for critical infrastructure companies to report cyberattacks to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, a division of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Lawmakers Tackle Antitrust, IP Barriers to Cheaper Medicines, Ian Lopez, September 29, 2021, 5:16 PM

House lawmakers advanced legislation to crack down on seemingly anticompetitive conduct aimed at lowering U.S. drug costs, the latest in a spate of activity geared toward making prescription drugs more affordable for Americans. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: FCC Settles Accessibility Rules Violation With Pluto, ViacomCBS, Meghan Genovese, September 29, 2021, 4:19 PM

House Oversight Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney and Republican Rep. James Comer seek a FBI briefing about the agency’s delay in aiding businesses targeted by a ransomware attack this summer. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Scotus Blog: Senators spar over shadow docket in wake of court’s order allowing Texas

abortion law to take effect, Ellena Erskine, September 29, 2021, 8:20 PM

Democratic senators argued Wednesday that rulings on the Supreme Court's "shadow docket" are inconsistent and overly politicized. Republicans called the shadow docket ordinary and said the term itself is designed to make the court's emergency orders seem nefarious. The debate took place at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in light of the court's decision earlier this month refusing to grant emergency relief to groups challenging Texas' law that bans nearly all abortions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- President Biden's domestic agenda is stalled by Democratic infighting as the government is on the brink of a shutdown. House Democrats appear poised to miss a second vote on a bipartisan infrastructure bill this week, highlighting the stubborn stalemate over the larger social benefits package at the core of President Biden's agenda. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- In an urgent plea on Wednesday, federal health officials asked that any American who is pregnant, planning to become pregnant or currently breastfeeding get vaccinated against the coronavirus as soon as possible. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- House lawmakers on Wednesday had their chance to grill the Pentagon's top leaders on the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, digging down into decisions Biden administration officials made before, during and after US forces evacuated the country. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Biden administration is expelling thousands of Haitians who had gathered in Del Rio, Texas in hopes of entering the US After landing in Port-au-Prince, they are brought to a UN processing center. [[NBC](#)]
- The rising cost of childcare has made it unaffordable for many families. Nationwide, the average cost of care per child is \$10,000 per year. [[CBS](#)]
- The largest hospital in Montana can hardly keep up with a surge in COVID-19 patients. The National Guard has been brought in to help care for and screen new patients. [[CBS](#)]
- An apparent gas explosion in Dallas injured four firefighters and four civilians and caused the partial collapse of an apartment building, according to local officials. [[ABC](#)]

- Azriel Clary, who was in a relationship with R. Kelly and testified against the singer at his sex trafficking trial, said "he knows that he is guilty." [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "Britney Spears' father suspended as conservator of singer's estate after 13 years" [[LAT](#), [WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "Biden sticks to his dealmaking strategy with little tangible progress" [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "How Asia, Once a Vaccination Laggard, Is Rewving Up Inoculations" [[NYT](#)]
- "S&P 500 on Track for Quarterly Gains Despite Recent Selloff" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 30, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
National Security
3.
Criminal Law
4.
Civil Rights
5.
Civil Law
6.
Immigration & Border Security
7.
Antitrust
- 8.

- Environment
- 9. Tax
- 10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- 11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
- 12. US Supreme Court
- 13. Native American Affairs
- 14. Marijuana Legalization
- 15. Opioid Crisis
- 16. Administration
- 17. Congress
- 18. Network Evening News Lineup
- 19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

WSJ: Foreign Bribery Prosecutor Daniel Kahn Departs Justice Department, Dylan Tokar,
September 29, 2021, 7:36 PM
A federal prosecutor who oversaw the Justice Department's enforcement of a key antibribery law

across three U.S. presidential administrations is stepping down to return to private practice. Over an 11-year stint at the Justice Department, Daniel Kahn, whose last day was Wednesday, rose from his position as a trial attorney to become its most recognizable expert on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He will return to Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, where he worked previously, a spokeswoman for the law firm said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Law360](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: US jury convicts leader of neo-Nazi threat campaign, Gene Johnson, September 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

A federal jury in Seattle on Wednesday convicted a leader of a neo-Nazi campaign to threaten journalists and Jewish activists in three states. The jury deliberated for about 90 minutes Wednesday following a two-day trial before convicting 25-year-old Kaleb Cole of five felony charges, including conspiracy, mailing threatening communications and interfering with a federally protected activity. He could face a decade in prison when Judge John C. Coughenour sentences him in January. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CBS](#), [Courthouse News](#), [The Hill](#), [KING-NBC \(Seattle, WA\)](#)

Reuters: U.S. Olympic swimmer Klete Keller pleads guilty in U.S. Capitol riot case, Jan Wolfe, September 29, 2021, 5:14 PM

Klete Keller, a former Olympic swimmer who won two gold medals for the United States, on Wednesday pleaded guilty to a felony charge related to his participation in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNBC](#), [CNN](#), [Courthouse News](#), [KCBS-CBS \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#), [KIRO-CBS \(Seattle, WA\)](#), [Inquirer \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [LAT](#), [NBC](#), [Newser](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

Reuters: Two Ohio men get 45 days in jail for roles in U.S. Capitol riot, Jan Wolfe, September 29, 2021, 1:36 PM

Two Ohio men on Wednesday received 45-day sentences after pleading guilty for their participation in the deadly Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot by supporters of former President Donald Trump, becoming the first defendants given jail time for nonviolent misdemeanor offenses committed that day. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg rejected arguments by the two friends, Derek Jancart and Erik Rau, that they should be spared from incarceration because they have accepted responsibility for their actions. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WaPo](#)

Washington Times: [ANALYSIS] On Jan. 6, what did the FBI know?, Andrew P. Napolitano, September 29, 2021, 4:00 PM

The New York Times recently reported that the FBI had an undercover informant amid the mob that entered the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 who had related to them his knowledge of the demonstrators' plans beforehand and his observations of events in the building in real-time. The informant was a genuine member of the Proud Boys, one of the groups the feds are trying to charge with conspiracy to overthrow the government. According to the Times, the informant told the FBI in advance that his colleagues had no plan to disrupt the government. He also reported violence and destruction in the Capitol to his FBI handler as it was happening, and the FBI did nothing timely to stop it. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: FBI's Handling of Summer Ransomware Attack Prompts House Inquiry,

Megan Howard, September 29, 2021, 2:59 PM

House Oversight Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney and Republican Rep. James Comer seek a FBI briefing about the agency's delay in aiding businesses targeted by a ransomware attack this summer. Lawmakers say the FBI reportedly obtained a digital decryptor key that could have unlocked affected systems but withheld the tool for nearly three weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [The Hill](#)

Patch (Doylestown, PA): **Doylestown Woman Admits To Entering US Capitol During Jan. 6 Riot**, Jason Addy, September 29, 2021, 1:25 PM

A Doylestown woman who filmed herself after breaking into the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court. Dawn Bancroft, who owns Cross Fit Sine-Pari in Plumstead Township, threatened violence against Speaker Nancy Pelosi in the video, which she sent to a friend, according to federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSHB-NBC (Kansas City, MO): **2 Leavenworth women plead guilty for role in Jan. 6 Capitol riot**, Sam Hartle, September 29, 2021, 1:19 PM

Two Leavenworth, Kansas, women pleaded guilty in federal court this week for their roles in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. Esther Schwemmer, 55, and Jennifer Parks, 61, reached plea agreements with federal prosecutors this week. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: US prison warden in California accused of inmate sex abuse, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 9:00 PM

The warden of a federal prison in California has been charged with sexually abusing an inmate, authorities said Wednesday. Ray J. Garcia, 54, of Merced, allegedly groped at least one of his female wards, asked at least two inmates to strip naked for him and took and stored photographs of a naked inmate in a cell at the Federal Correctional Institute Dublin in California's San Francisco Bay area, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [KTVU-Fox \(Oakland, CA\)](#) [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

AP: Massachusetts man charged with harassing interracial couple, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 2:00 PM

A Massachusetts man posted racial epithets, crude language and threats of physical harm in response to an interracial couple who had announced their engagement on Facebook, federal prosecutors said Wednesday. Stephen M. DeBerardinis, 45, of Boston and Dedham, is scheduled to make his first court appearance Wednesday. An email seeking comment was left with his federal public defender. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Boston Herald](#), [Daily Beast](#)

LAT: Guilty pleas in robbery of \$500,000 watch at Beverly Hills eatery, Richard Winton, September 29, 2021, 7:22 PM

Two men pleaded guilty Wednesday to participating in an armed robbery at a Beverly Hills restaurant of a diner's \$500,000 watch during which a woman was shot. Malik Lamont Powell, 21, and 18-year-old Khai McGhee, who is also known as Cameron Smith, admitted during a hearing in federal court to being part of a group of five men who carried out the holdup in March on the patio of Il Pastaio on Canon Drive. They each pleaded guilty to three felony robbery and weapons charges. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KNBC-NBC \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#)

Law360: NFLer's Ex-Roommate Convicted In Insider Trading Scheme, Max Jaeger, September 29, 2021, 8:01 PM

A former roommate and "personal assistant" to NFL linebacker Mychal Kendricks was convicted Wednesday for his role in an insider trading scheme with the gridironer and an ex-Goldman Sachs analyst, the government announced. Following a six-day trial, Mark Ramsey, 31, of San Francisco was convicted by a jury on six of 10 counts of securities fraud and conspiracy relating to a pair of insider trades. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Ex-Melrose CEO Gets Nearly 4 Years In Corrupt Payout Case, Pete Brush, September 29, 2021, 7:19 PM

A Manhattan federal judge hit former Melrose Credit Union CEO Alan Kaufman with nearly four years in prison Wednesday for taking unlawful gratuities from one of the lender's biggest clients, telling the defendant he has shown no remorse for his "reprehensible" conduct. The 46-month sentence for Kaufman, 62, was handed down by U. S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan at the end of a lengthy hearing where all wore masks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Ex-Insys Sales Rep Admits Guilt On Day 4 Of Kickbacks Trial, Rachel Scharf, September 29, 2021, 3:00 PM

A former Insys Therapeutics Inc. sales representative pled guilty during a trial on allegations she paid an Ohio doctor kickbacks to prescribe the fentanyl spray Subsys and helped him secure \$1.7 million in fraudulent reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid, prosecutors announced Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

New Jersey Advance Media: N.J. child protective caseworker busted at airport with child pornography, federal prosecutors say, Chris Sheldon, September 29, 2021, 9:14 PM

A caseworker for the state's Division of Child Protection and Permanency was arrested Tuesday after he was found at an airport with child porn on his cellphone, federal prosecutors allege. Trent Collier, 55, of Kearny was charged with one count of possession of child pornography, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

North Jersey Record (Woodland Park, NJ): Woodland Park man charged with fraud for second time, accused of swindling \$1.5 million, Nicholas Katzban, September 29, 2021, 8:03 PM

A Woodland Park man faces federal charges for defrauding investors out of \$1.5 million after he was convicted of wire fraud in a similar scam years before. U.S. Attorneys allege Gregory Ciccone, 43, of Woodland Park, swindled 22 victims into investing in fake companies, such as Platinum Travel and Entertainment and Platinum Enterprises & Concierge Service, promising up to 50% returns within six months by buying blocks of luxury hotel rooms, which he claimed he would resell to "elite clients." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Detroit Free Press: 2 metro Detroiters charged in schemes to sell fake COVID-19 vaccine cards, Kristen Jordan Shamus, September 29, 2021, 7:39 PM

Federal investigators charged two metro Detroiters on Wednesday in schemes to sell phony COVID-19 vaccine cards. Bethann Kierczak, a 37-year-old registered nurse from Southgate, allegedly stole vaccination record cards from the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit starting in May and sold them for \$100-\$200 apiece, primarily using the Facebook Messenger app, according to court documents filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Blade (Toledo, OH): Toledoan gets 25 years in federal prison for narcotics distribution, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 4:17 PM

A Toledo man was sentenced Thursday to 25 years in federal prison for his February convictions on charges of distributing illegal narcotics. Robert Escobar, 51, had pleaded guilty to three counts of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance that stemmed from a federal informant's controlled buys of substances later determined to contain cocaine and a heroin-fentanyl mixture. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Delaware News Journal: Cocaine smuggler who built drug bunker under Bear home convicted by federal jury, Isabel Hughes, September 29, 2021, 3:56 PM

A Bear cocaine smuggler who built a drug bunker complete with a secret entrance, hidden compartment and tunnel under his home has been convicted in federal court in connection with the narcotics operation. Omar Morales Colon, 44, faces a minimum of 10 years in prison for the crimes. He was indicted on a handful of charges in 2017, including conspiracy to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute marijuana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Delaware News Journal: Dover man who threw Molotov cocktail at occupied apartment building sentenced, Isabel Hughes, September 29, 2021, 3:15 PM

A Dover man who threw a Molotov cocktail at an occupied apartment building and smashed its gas meters last summer has been sentenced to five years in federal prison, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday. Benjamin Glanden was charged at the state level on June 29, 2020, just hours after the incident occurred at Liberty Court Apartments in Dover. He was later charged federally with malicious use of a fire to damage interstate commerce. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WMDT-ABC \(Salisbury, MD\)](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: Newark Man Sentenced to Two Years for Conspiring to Defraud Banks of Over \$250,000, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 2:29 PM

A Newark man was sentenced today to 30 months in prison for conspiring to defraud two banks of more than \$250,000 using stolen credit cards and blank checks, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced. According to Acting U.S. Attorney Honig, Qshaun Brown-Guinyard, 27, of Newark, previously pleaded to an information charging him with conspiracy to commit bank fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WABI-CBS/CW (Bangor, ME): Rockland man sentenced after fake distress call, Tom Krosnowski, September 29, 2021, 10:49 PM

A Rockland man was sentenced today after making a false distress call in December 2020. 32-year-old Nathan Libby must pay \$17,500 in restitution to the U.S. Coast Guard. He won't serve any additional jail time; he had served four days. Libby claimed in the call from the Spruce Head Fisherman's Co-op that a fishing boat and crew were taking on water. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFAA-ABC (Dallas, TX): 'Depraved and calculated' | Dallas woman charged with murder-for-hire in husband's killing, Ryan Osborne, Alex Rozier, September 29, 2021, 7:39 PM

The Dallas woman whose husband was gunned down last year now faces a murder-for-hire charge in the case, as federal authorities say she encouraged her boyfriend to commit the murder by posing under fake email accounts, officials announced Wednesday. Jennifer Lynne Faith, 49, was initially charged with obstruction of justice in the death of her husband, Jamie Faith, who was killed Oct. 9, 2020, while he and Jennifer walked their dog near their Oak Cliff home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***Cincinnati Enquirer*: Feds: Man sentenced for aiding illegal firearms purchase connected to killing of Dayton detective**, Quinlan Bentley, September 29, 2021, 10:47 PM

A Butler County man was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in illegally purchasing firearms connected to the killing of Dayton, Ohio, police detective Jorge DelRio. DelRio, a former Dayton detective and Drug Enforcement Administration task force officer, was shot in 2019 while executing a search warrant on Ruskin Road in Dayton. He died from his injuries after spending three days on advanced life support. Arland Mills, 43, of Trenton, Ohio, pleaded guilty to aiding the illegal firearms purchases in November 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WDTN-NBC \(Dayton, OH\)](#), [WHIO-AM \(Dayton, OH\)](#)

***Patch (New Haven, CT)*: New Haven Man, 24, Pleads Guilty To Heroin, Crack Dealing: Feds**, Ellyn Santiago, September 29, 2021, 6:14 PM

A 24-year-old New Haven man pleaded guilty to possessing and distributing heroin, cocaine and crack, the Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut announced Wednesday. James Lee faces a maximum 20 years in prison when sentenced Dec. 21. According to court documents and statements made in court, on March 13, New Haven police approached Lee as he was sitting in a car at a gas station, a car that federal prosecutors said had fled from police on March 8. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***KCRG-ABC (Cedar Rapids, IA)*: Second man involved in Waterloo 'Wild West' shootout sentenced on gun charge**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:46 PM

A man who participated in an exchange of gunfire has been convicted of a firearms charge and sentenced to prison, according to prosecutors. Demetrius Cannon, 35, of Waterloo, pleaded guilty in April to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release after serving his jail term. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KWWL-NBC \(Waterloo, IA\)](#)

***KBZK-CBS (Butte, MT)*: Butte meth dealer sentenced after admitting he received drugs in the mail**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:37 PM

A Butte man was sentenced to five years in prison on Wednesday after pleading guilty in June to receiving methamphetamine in the mail for redistribution. Court documents say law enforcement bought one ounce of meth from 52-year-old Steven Douglas Shipe in June 2019 after learning Shipe was involved in drug trafficking in Montana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***WNEP (Scranton, PA)*: Old Forge man charged in bribery scheme**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 4:41 PM

A man in Lackawanna County has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a slew of charges stemming from a bribery scheme. James Peperno Junior, of Old Forge, is accused of accepting money and promising debt forgiveness to local businesses then giving that money to Robert Semenza, the former president of Old Forge borough council. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WOLF-Fox \(Hazleton, PA\)](#)

***WBW-AM (Topeka, KS)*: Following fight over gun with undercover agents, Kansas City man sentenced to 15 years behind bars**, Sarah Motter, September 29, 2021, 4:16 PM

Following a conviction for attacking an undercover ATF agent over a gun, a Kansas City man has been sentenced to 15 years behind bars. In May 2021, Acting U.S. Attorney Duston Slinkard's Office said Nicholas Newman, 20, of Kansas City pleaded guilty to one count of forcible assault

on a federal officer with a dangerous weapon and guilty to one count of using, carrying, possessing and brandishing a firearm to further a violent crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Wheaton, IL): Former Chicago, Suburban Postal Workers Stole Credit Cards: Feds, Jeff Arnold, September 29, 2021, 4:12 PM

Seven former U.S. Postal workers from Chicago and two more from the suburbs have been charged with participating in schemes to steal credit cards that were sent to residents in the mail, the U.S. Attorney for Northern Illinois said on Tuesday. Indictments against the former employees were unsealed in federal court in Chicago and charges were announced as part of the ongoing Operation Cash On Delivery probe, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WXMI-Fox (Grand Rapids, MI): Grand Rapids local sentenced to five years for arson, Bronson Christian, September 29, 2021, 3:44 PM

One Grand Rapids man has been sentenced to five years in prison after admitting to setting a business on fire. Kevin Daniel Baker admitted to breaking into Austin Jordan Engines, stealing items to support his drug addiction, setting the business on fire to hide evidence of the burglary, and driving away from the scene in a stolen car. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDBJ-CBS (Roanoke, VA): Bland County man pleads guilty to 17 counts of producing child pornography, Pat Thomas, September 29, 2021, 3:34 PM

A Bland County man has pleaded guilty to 17 counts of producing child pornography at his home and illegally possessing a firearm, according to the US Attorney's Office. According to court documents, William Dean Blankenship, 42, was a previously convicted felon living in Bland County. February 12, 2021, the Bland County Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police searched his home after receiving information that he had engaged in sexual acts with children and was in possession of child pornography. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WSET-ABC \(Lynchburg, VA\)](#)

WCCB-CW (Charlotte, NC): Taylorsville Inmate Sentenced For Mailing Threatening Letter To Judge, Prosecutor And Jurors After Being Convicted Of Crime, Brittney Melton, September 29, 2021, 3:30 PM

A Taylorsville inmate was sentenced for sending mail threatening to kill the judge, the judge's family, the District Attorney, and the 12 jurors who convicted him of the crime. Joel Michael Cliett, 45, was sentenced to 30 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release, for mailing a threatening communication, William T. Stetzer, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina announced. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WCNC-NBC \(Charlotte, NC\)](#)

WREX-NBC/CW (Rockford, IL): Rockford man indicted on federal gun charges, Andrew Carrigan, September 29, 2021, 3:17 PM

A Rockford man faces up to 20 years in federal prison on gun charges. James Peterson, 40, of Rockford, was indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts of illegally possessing firearms as a convicted felon. The first count of the indictment alleges that on April 30, 2021, Peterson illegally possessed a loaded Smith & Wesson, M&P Body Guard .380-caliber semi-automatic firearm and an HS Produkt XD45 .45-caliber pistol. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCCB-CW (Charlotte, NC): Charlotte Man To Serve 15 Years In Prison After Police Find Him Dealing Cocaine From Local Motel, Samantha Gilstrap, September 29, 2021, 3:00 PM

Federal authorities have ordered Malik Davis, 41, of Charlotte to serve 15 years in prison and

three years of supervised release for his involvement in selling illegal drugs. According to court documents, CMPD officers learned that Davis was suspected of dealing cocaine from a motel room in Charlotte in June of 2019. On June 29th, 2019, officers conducted a search of the motel and Davis's vehicle. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBTV-CBS (Charlotte, NC): Judge sentences Charlotte man to over 6 years in federal armed carjacking case, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 2:21 PM

A Charlotte man was sentenced to over six years in prison for his role in an armed carjacking. According to U.S. Attorney William Stretzer for the western district of North Carolina, 21-year-old Ricky Lewis Bush was sentenced Tuesday to 78 months in prison for carjacking and gun charges. He was also ordered to serve three years under court supervision after completing his prison term and to pay restitution to the victim. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOP-FM (Washington, DC): 2 DC men arrested on charges related to trafficking of 'ghost guns', Zake Harter, September 29, 2021, 1:40 PM

Two D.C. men have been indicted on charges related to trafficking firearms including untraceable "ghost guns" according to U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C. Milique Wilson, 37, and Joseph Vincent Smith, 36, were indicted on charges of conspiracy, dealing firearms without a license and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. According to the indictment, Wilson and Smith worked with others to bring in firearms from places outside D.C., including locations in Maryland and Virginia, and sell them or ship them elsewhere. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRAL-NBC (Raleigh, NC): Raleigh woman who helped ex-husband make child pornography to serve 5+ years in prison, Brittney Melton, September 29, 2021, 12:39 PM

A Raleigh woman who admitted to helping her ex-husband make sexually explicit videos and photographs with an underage girl was sentenced Wednesday to 68 months in federal prison. Kellie Michelle Smith, 43, pleaded guilty in June to possession of child pornography. Cary police were investigating online peer-to-peer child pornography distribution three years ago when they identified an IP address from which they were able to download a large amount of child pornography. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

WaPo: Appeals court to examine whether Guantánamo detainees have due process rights, Ann E. Marimow and Missy Ryan, September 30, 2021, 5:00 AM

The question of whether detainees at the prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, have due process rights under the Constitution goes before the influential federal appeals court in D.C. on Thursday in the case of a Yemeni man held without charge or trial for nearly 20 years. The Biden administration has backed away from the Trump-era position that inmates at the military facility have no such rights. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Court hears dispute over N.Y. healthcare workers seeking COVID vaccine religious exemption, Emily Zantow, September 29, 2021, 5:40 PM

The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday heard arguments in a case brought by a conservative nonprofit challenging a New York order that prohibits state health care workers from seeking religious exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. We The Patriots USA, Inc. wants the three-judge panel to grant a temporary injunction that would force the state to allow religious exemption requests from health care workers while the court fight continues. [[Continue](#)]

[Reading\]](#)

Lewiston Morning Tribune (Lewiston, ID): **Asotin County agrees to settlement with clerk who was allegedly harassed**, Unattributed, September 30, 2021, 3:36 AM (EDT)

Asotin County is poised to pay a six-figure settlement to a deputy clerk who was allegedly sexually harassed by former Superior Court Judge Scott D. Gallina. According to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice, the county and the United States filed a joint notice of settlement in the case that, if accepted by a federal judge, will require the county to pay the clerk \$100,000. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WXYZ-ABC (Detroit, MI): **New park planned around Dr. Ossian Sweet home in Detroit**, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 6:47 PM

A new city park coming to Detroit's east side is centered around a house, located at the corner of Garland and Charlevoix. "This is an important lesson, not just for African-Americans, not just for Detroiters, but for all Americans," Attorney Butch Hollowell. In 1925, the house was owned by Dr. Ossian Sweet. The city received a federal civil rights grant of \$500,000 dollars for the project a figure Hollowell hopes to match with support from the private sector and philanthropic community. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Star-Telegram (Fort Worth, TX): **Parents sue Grapevine-Colleyville, other school districts with no mask mandates**, Elizabeth Campbell, September 29, 2021, 6:37 PM

Several North Texas school districts are facing a federal civil rights lawsuit for not having mask mandates. On Tuesday, parents filed a class action suit in the Western District of Texas alleging that the districts are violating children's civil rights under the 14th Amendment by failing to protect students during the pandemic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Texas Tribune](#)

WJBF-ABC (Augusta, GA): **Federal judge issues injunction on SC's mask ban; locals react**, Shawn Cabbagestalk, September 29, 2021, 5:09 PM

In a surprise ruling Tuesday, a federal judge issued an injunction against a ban on mask mandates in South Carolina schools. The ruling could open the door for school systems like Aiken County to require masks. "This virus still going on, I feel like they're safer that way, keeping the mask on," Aiken Resident Joanne coats told NewsChannel 6's Shawn Cabbagestalk about the new changes. "I think kids should wear masks to protect themselves," Aiken resident Linda Stone added. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

NYT: **Lesson of the Day: 'Answers to Questions About the Texas Abortion Law'**, Michael Gonchar, September 30, 2021, 4:00 AM

Lesson Overview. A new law that effectively bans most abortions in Texas went into effect on Sept. 1 even though Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court case decided in 1973, established a constitutional right to the procedure. In this lesson, you will learn about the new law and what it means for people in Texas. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [LAT](#)

WaPo: **Texas defends law that has halted most abortions in the state**, Ann E. Marimow and Robert Barnes, September 29, 2021, 1:30 PM

Texas officials on Wednesday defended the state's strict abortion law that bars the procedure as early as six weeks into pregnancy and urged a federal judge to allow the measure to stand. Texas

Attorney General Ken Paxton (R) said the court should dismiss the Biden administration's lawsuit seeking to block the measure that has effectively halted most abortions in the nation's second-most-populous state. The Justice Department, the state said in its court filing, does not have the authority to use the federal courts to enforce a constitutional right to abortion. Rather, the Texas law must be challenged in state court through lawsuits brought by private citizens, Paxton contends. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Former Federal Nurse Gets New Shot at Injury Suit Against U.S., Mary Anne Pazanowski, September 29, 2021, 2:19 PM

A former federal employee can sue the U.S. under the Federal Tort Claims Act for alleged medical negligence that occurred during treatment for a non-workplace-related injury, the Ninth Circuit said. The Federal Employees' Compensation Act didn't bar Sabelita Hawkins' suit for alleged negligence of two doctors who provided her with psychiatric care at a hospital operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit said.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Texas Tribune (Austin, TX): The Justice Department will argue against Texas' abortion law Friday. Here's what you need to know, Reese Oxner, September 30, 2021, 5:00 AM
Texas' near-total ban on abortions became law Sept. 1 and quickly became the target of several lawsuits aiming to stop its enforcement. But as those legal battles continue with one case the subject of a federal court hearing Friday Senate Bill 8 still stands. Abortion providers, doctors, women's rights groups and even the U.S. government are battling to overturn the law, which bans the procedure after approximately six weeks of pregnancy before many know they're pregnant. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFMZ (Allentown, PA): Berks nonprofit to pay \$121,655 for double-billing HUD, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 6:00 PM

The Berks Coalition to End Homelessness (BCEH) will pay \$121,655 to resolve allegations that the public-private partnership organization illegally double-billed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the renovation of a property in Reading, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced Wednesday. Federal prosecutors accuse BCEH of submitting a request on Sept. 14, 2017, to draw approximately \$40,000 from HUD's Continuum of Care Program to pay for framing, electrical, and plumbing work done on a single project. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: U.S. DHS plans to issue new memo ending Trump-era immigration policy, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 6:41 PM

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said on Wednesday it intends to issue a new memo in the coming weeks ending the "remain in Mexico" immigration program. The department issued a memo in June ending the program implemented by former President Donald Trump, formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), but a Texas-based federal judge ruled MPP must be restarted. The U.S. Supreme Court in August rejected an effort by President Joe Biden's administration to block the Texas-based judge's ruling. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [Politico](#)

NYT: Greyhound Agrees to Pay \$2.2 Million Over Immigration Sweeps on Buses, Michael

Levenson, September 29, 2021, 8:00 PM

Greyhound Lines will pay \$2.2 million to resolve a lawsuit filed by Washington State that accused it of allowing U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents to conduct warrantless immigration sweeps on its buses, state officials said this week. Washington State's attorney general said the settlement would be used to provide restitution to passengers who were detained, arrested or deported after immigration agents boarded their buses at the Spokane Intermodal Center, and for partial reimbursement of his office's litigation costs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Arrest blotter ended over immigration enforcement concerns, Justin Jouvenal and AP, September 29, 2021, 5:47 PM

Fairfax County police have stopped publishing a weekly arrest blotter after county officials found it violated a policy that restricts the dissemination of personal information that could aid immigration enforcement. Immigrant rights and civil liberties groups had been pushing for the change, arguing the weekly compilations that include arrestees' addresses and other details could allow U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to target immigrants for deportation and raise privacy concerns. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Deportations of Haitians spark concerns over environmental refugees, Rachel Frazin and Rebecca Beitsch, September 30, 2021, 6:03 AM

The swell of Haitian migrants attempting to come to the U.S. shows the country needs a plan to help environmental refugees, advocates say, while warning that the swift deportation of those camped in Texas is indicative of how climate migrants could be treated in the years to come. The Biden administration in recent days deported some 4,000 migrants back to Haiti without giving them a chance to seek asylum their plight brought to the forefront with images of border officials on horseback dispersing migrants in Del Rio, Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

Law360: 3rd Circ. Says Simple Assault Is Grounds For Deportation, Alyssa Aquino, September 29, 2021, 9:18 PM

The Third Circuit refused to undo deportation orders against a Peruvian national who had a simple assault conviction, ruling that the offense amounted to a removable crime of violence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Illegal immigrants turn to drain pipes to sneak into U.S., Stephen Dinan, September 29, 2021, 9:00 PM

A group of illegal immigrants used a drain pipe Wednesday to sneak into the country in Hidalgo, Texas, according to Border Patrol agents who made the arrest. Agents were tipped to the group after being told people were using the local sewers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

VOA: US Denies Paying Haiti to Take Back Migrants, Sandra Lemaire, September 29, 2021, 8:43 PM

The Biden administration acknowledged Wednesday that it sent \$5.5 million to Haiti to help support asylum-seekers deported from Del Rio, Texas, but it rejected reports that it had "paid" Haiti to take back the rejected migrants. "That is not true," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in response to VOA's question about the reports, which had gone viral on Haitian social media. "We, of course, have been providing a broad range of humanitarian assistance." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: One month after Afghan airlift, answers hard to come by about what

really happened, Stephen Dinan, September 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Biden administration says the Afghanistan airlift was the largest rescue operation in history yet a month after it ended, officials still can't or won't say exactly who was left behind, who made it out of the country or why they were the ones rescued. About 124,000 people escaped Afghanistan, most on U.S.-run flights. More than 60,000 had reached the U.S. as of last week. Some were American citizens, and others were green card holders with permanent immigrant rights. Fewer than 2,000 were special visa holders by dint of their assistance to the U.S. war effort. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Croatians Get Visa Waiver Green Light For US Travel, Grace Dixon, September 29, 2021, 4:15 PM

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that Croatia has become the 40th country to join the United States' Visa Waiver Program, under which citizens of participating countries can travel to the U.S. for up to 90 days without a visa. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: ExxonMobil Jilted Intern's DACA Status Dooms Class Job Bias Suit, Patrick Dorrian, September 29, 2021, 2:08 PM

ExxonMobil Corp. defeated a job discrimination suit by an engineering student whose internship offer was pulled because his status as a Mexican citizen authorized to work in the U.S. under DACA isn't protected by federal anti-bias law, the Eastern District of North Carolina ruled. Aldo De Leon's claims on behalf of a proposed class of similarly situated non-citizens authorized to work in the U.S. but allegedly denied internships or employment with ExxonMobil failed for the same reason, Judge Richard E. Myers II said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Arizona Daily Star: Tucson police chief will finally get his hearing to head Customs and Border Protection, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 11:00 PM

Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus' nomination by President Biden to head U.S. Customs and Border Protection will finally move forward after being stalled in the Senate for months. U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden announced Wednesday that he will schedule Magnus' hearing before the Senate Finance Committee he chairs, which oversees the confirmation process for CBP. He did not immediately provide a date. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KGBT-CBS (Harlingen, TX): Fake border signs to be removed; Wall contractor says feds told them to put them up, Sandra Sanchez, September 29, 2021, 11:39 PM

"No trespassing" signs that were placed on border levee construction sites without government authorization are to be taken down, workers with border wall contractor SLSCO told Border Report on Wednesday afternoon. A supervisory worker with SLSCO told Border Report on Wednesday that the company put the signs up "at the request of the government" and for public safety. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTSM-NBC (El Paso, TX): Fentanyl overdose kills Mexican national in downtown El Paso jail, Aaron J. Montes, September 29, 2021, 7:30 PM

A Mexican national imprisoned at the El Paso County Detention Facility died from a fentanyl overdose in June, according a custodial death report submitted to the Texas Attorney General. "As this case involves federal inmates who are regularly transferred from various detention facilities, we cannot release any information without approval of the responsible federal agency," a spokeswoman for the sheriff's office said. "More specifically, information related to a detainee held on behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection cannot be released pursuant to 8 CFR §

236.6.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Reuters: U.S. Justice Dept antitrust nominee Kanter has confirmation hearing next week, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:04 PM

Jonathan Kanter, President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the antitrust division of the Justice Department, will appear for a confirmation hearing next week before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the committee said on its website. Kanter's nomination is not expected to spark any significant opposition at the hearing on Wednesday. If the committee approves the nomination, it goes to the full Senate for confirmation. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ Signals Shift On SEP Antitrust Policies, Matthew Perlman, September 29, 2021, 8:55 PM

An official in the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division indicated that the agency is taking a more balanced approach to policies surrounding the standard-setting process, after critics saw the prior administration as overly favorable to patentholders. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: FTC's Competition, Consumer Bureau Chiefs Made Permanent, Bryan Koenin, September 29, 2021, 6:41 PM

Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan has fulfilled her promise to make the agency's acting directors for its Consumer Protection and Competition bureaus the units' permanent chiefs in a move that comes as the heads also work to bolster their information-sharing, starting with merger reviews. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Politico](#)

Law360: Tether, Bitfinex Must Face Crypto Market Manipulation Claims, Elise Hansen, September 29, 2021, 5:56 PM

Crypto asset buyers can pursue many of their claims that the company behind cryptocurrency exchange Bitfinex and the stablecoin tether manipulated the digital asset market and artificially inflated prices, a New York federal court found Tuesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: DOJ Signals Stricter Antitrust Enforcement in Patent Disputes, Susan Decker, September 29, 2021, 3:29 PM

The Justice Department's antitrust division will open investigations when it decides participants in standard-setting boards or holders of patents on those standards are harming competition, the division's director of economics says. "Antitrust can and should play a role when the standards-setting process is used to thwart competition and harm consumers," Jeffrey Wilder says at the IAM and GCR Connect SEP Summit, but adds "antitrust claims are not a panacea for failed bilateral negotiation". [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Law360](#)

Bloomberg Law: Tether Fraud, Antitrust Case Advances Against Issuers, Exchanges, Mike Leonard, September 29, 2021, 1:07 PM

DigFinex Inc., which oversees the "tether" cryptocurrency through a web of affiliates, lost its bid to sidestep federal antitrust litigation in Manhattan over an alleged scheme to create a crypto "bubble" using "shadow bankers," manipulative trades, and lies about the nature of the tether "stablecoin." Judge Katherine Polk Failla let the lawsuit move forward Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, where a group of crypto traders brought antitrust, fraud, and market manipulation claims against DigFinex, its top executives, its key subsidiaries,

and its Panama-based bankers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Qualcomm Wins Bid to Undo 250-Million-Member Antitrust Class, Holly Barker, September 29, 2021, 12:20 PM

Qualcomm Inc. won its bid to undo a district court order certifying a class of 250 million people in antitrust litigation over its alleged monopoly of modern cellphone chips, after the Ninth Circuit said Wednesday the court erred in its choice of law analysis. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#), [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

ENVIRONMENT

WaPo: Biden officials finalize a rule making it harder to kill birds, reversing Trump,

Maxine Joselow, September 29, 2021, 1:49 PM

The Biden administration finalized a rule Wednesday revoking a Trump administration policy that eased penalties for killing birds, restoring federal protections that had been in place for a century. The Trump administration's reinterpretation of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act ranked as one of its most contentious wildlife policies. It relaxed legal penalties for energy companies, construction firms and land developers that unintentionally killed birds through activities such as construction and oil drilling. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#)

Law360: Split 9th Circ. Revives Calif. Chemical Water Case, Melissa Angell, September 29, 2021, 8:55 PM

A split Ninth Circuit panel revived California River Watch's lawsuit claiming a California city is placing its residents at risk by delivering water containing potentially toxic chemicals, ruling that the environmental group may have established the chemical can qualify as solid waste since it was dumped into the environment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: EPA Says Decision Paving Way For Pebble Mine Must Go, Andrew Westney, September 29, 2021, 6:53 PM

The federal government has pressed an Alaska federal judge to ditch a Trump-era U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decision to withdraw its objections to a proposed gold and copper mine in Alaska, saying the action should be vacated because the agency made a "serious and fundamental" mistake reaching it. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Truck Co. Navistar Must Face Suit Over EPA Standards Claims, Matthew Santoni, September 29, 2021, 2:23 PM

A Pennsylvania logistics company can continue with its claims that truck manufacturer Navistar misled it about the environmental compliance of its engines, after a federal judge said Navistar's duties went beyond its contractual obligations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Reuters: Wife of convicted Big Law partner loses sanctions bid against U.S., David

Thomas, September 29, 2021, 1:47 PM

A Manhattan federal judge on Tuesday blocked the sanctions request of the wife of a former Big Law partner who was found guilty for his part in one of the largest criminal tax fraud cases in U.S. history. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: IRS Debuts Program To Help Pot Cos. Comply With Tax Law, Katryna Perera, September 29, 2021, 4:26 PM

The IRS has launched a program to help cannabis businesses that operate in states where marijuana is legal pay their federal taxes and properly comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 280E, which prohibits companies from taking a deduction for business expenses if their income is derived from the trafficking of controlled substances. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): Rocky Mount tax preparer to serve prison time for conspiracy to file false tax returns, Conrad Hoyt, September 29, 2021, 1:25 PM

A Rocky Mount woman was sentenced Wednesday to 1 1/3 years in prison for committing conspiracy to prepare and file false tax returns. A press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office also says the 40-year-old Bertha Battle is ordered to pay \$59,268 in restitution for her crimes. The attorney's office says Battle conspired with others to file false tax returns in a three-year period from 2011 to 2016 for clients of Community Tax Services LLC, located in Rocky Mount. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Reuters: Biden's failed nominee on gun policy says he got death threats, no protection, Sarah N. Lynch, September 29, 2021, 10:54 PM

President Joe Biden's failed nominee to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said he faced death threats while the U.S. Senate was considering him but that the administration declined to provide him security. Longtime ATF agent and gun control advocate David Chipman said in an interview on Wednesday that he hired a security adviser after repeatedly telling the FBI and his handlers at the Justice Department who were assigned to help him navigate the confirmation process about the threats. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: U.S. judge: Nation's capital liable for wrongful arrests under struck-down gun ban, Spencer S. Hsu, September 29, 2021, 6:55 PM

A federal judge found the D.C. government liable Wednesday for wrongfully arresting between 2012 and 2014 six people who were accused of violating its ban on carrying handguns in public. U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth did not rule on a motion seeking class-action status, but the decision, if upheld, could clear the way for claims for damages by as many as 4,500 people similarly arrested under the law the courts overturned in 2014, according to court filings. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: Brian Laundrie seen buying cell phone from Florida store on day of disappearance, report says, Stephanie Pagonis, September 29, 2021, 5:27 PM

Brian Laundrie allegedly purchased a cell phone from an AT&T store in his hometown of North Port the day his parents claimed to have last seen him, according to a report. TMZ reported that Laundrie was spotted "with an older woman" inside one of the cell phone stores in North Port, Florida, where he was living with his parents and his fiancée, Gabby Petito, on Sept. 14. The FBI later visited the store and seized footage from the surveillance cameras, the report states. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KAAL-ABC \(Austin, MN\)](#), [KFDM-CBS \(Beaumont, TX\)](#), [KGBT-CBS \(Harlingen, TX\)](#), [WCPO-ABC \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#), [WDTN-NBC \(Dayton, OH\)](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WKRN-ABC \(Nashville, TN\)](#), [WIBW-AM \(Topeka, KS\)](#), [WJW-Fox \(Cleveland, OH\)](#),

[WPBF-ABC \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WRIC-ABC \(Richmond, VA\)](#), [WTSP-CBS \(St. Petersburg, FL\)](#)

Guardian: California scrambles to ban ‘ghost guns’ as untraceable weapons’ popularity soars, Abené Clayton, September 30, 2021, 6:15 AM

Cities across California are ramping up efforts to try to stop the flow of so-called ghost guns into their jurisdictions, as the do-it-yourself weapons appear with increasing frequency at homicide scenes, traffic stops, and community gun buybacks. As state and federal laws meant to bring ghost guns into compliance with traditional firearm laws await implementation, local officials and prosecutors across California are increasingly resorting to bans and lawsuits to regulate the weapons in their cities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Two Ohio police officers arrested in fentanyl distribution case, Caroline Vakil, September 29, 2021, 2:43 PM

Two police officers working in the Columbus Division of Police’s drug cartel unit were arrested in connection to a scheme to distribute over seven kilograms of fentanyl, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Ohio announced on Wednesday. The two officers, identified by prosecutors as Marco Merino and John Kotchkoski, were allegedly involved in distributing the fentanyl and prosecutors also alleged that Merino assisted in the distribution of cocaine by taking bribes to protect its transit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [The Plain Dealer \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WCMH-NBC \(Columbus, OH\)](#), [WSYX-ABC \(Columbus, OH\)](#), [WXIX-Fox \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#)

KRIV-Fox (Houston, TX): Search continues for inmate who fled from US Marshals in Houston, Ronnie Marley and Tiffany Justice, September 30, 2021, 12:45 PM

The search is continuing for an inmate who ran from U.S. Marshals in Houston on Tuesday afternoon. Authorities are searching for Pedro Castillo Hernandez, 29. U.S. Marshal Alfredo Perez tells FOX 26, Hernandez escaped from the moving bus through a very small maintenance panel in the back of the bus, which he said was the size of a microwave door. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KDVR- Fox (Denver, CO): Search continues for final DEA suspect in Arapahoe County, Greg Nieto, September 30, 2021, 12:32 AM

The search continues for a felony suspect wanted by the Drug Enforcement Administration on Wednesday. According to the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office, the Colorado State Patrol stopped a vehicle with three felony suspects at Orchard Street and Florence Road. One was immediately apprehended, the other two were able to, initially, get away. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KPNX-NBC (Phoenix, AZ): FBI data shows record increase in homicides, Phoenix statistically even worse, Michael Doudna, September 30, 2021, 12:07 AM

According to the FBI, homicide rates rose by more than 29% nationwide in 2020 and aggravated assaults increased by around 12%. Overall, 2020 saw the most homicides in the United States since 1995. The numbers in Phoenix were even worse. Homicides in 2020 rose by nearly 44% compared to the 2019 numbers, while aggravated assaults rose by more than 24%. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KARE-NBC \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [KOMU-NBC/CW \(Columbia, MO\)](#), [WTIC-Fox \(Hartford, CT\)](#), [KXXV-ABC \(Waco, TX\)](#), [WLKY-CBS \(Louisville, KY\)](#),

WNCT-CBS/CW (Greenville, NC): Retiring DEA boss reflects on fight against ‘cold, calculating, evil’ cartel operatives, Julian Resendiz, September 29, 2021, 10:48 PM

Kyle W. Williamson got into law enforcement 31 years ago because he wanted to get the bad

guys off the streets. "Some of the surveillances are awfully boring. You spend a lot of hours just watching and waiting. But it's exciting to arrest someone you've been investigating for a long time, gather the evidence and present a case in court," he said. Now 55 and "riding a desk" inside his West Side office, the special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's El Paso Division still finds the job exciting. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJRH-NBC (Tulsa, OK): Domestic violence deaths ongoing threat for Oklahoma women, Mason Mauro, September 29, 2021, 10:27 PM

The latest data from the FBI shows Oklahoma as the eight-ranked state for most women killed by men. The study shows 91 percent of women were killed by men they knew - in most cases a boyfriend or husband. The previous year, Oklahoma ranked third. "If you are feeling oppressed, mistreated, like you have no power in a relationship just reach out," said Lori Gonzalez of Domestic Violence Intervention Services in Tulsa. "Domestic violence is a pattern of power and control tactics." [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFMB-CBS (San Diego, CA): FBI launches hate crime reporting campaign, Heather Hope, September 29, 2021, 9:48 PM

In an effort to push more people to report hate crimes, the FBI is taking their message to the streets literally by putting their public service announcements up on buses, at bus stops and on social media. "We find that people are not reporting these crimes for a variety of reasons," said San Diego FBI special agent William McNamara. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWTV-CBS (Oklahoma City, OK): Oklahoma Lawmakers Discuss Firearm Manufacturing Expansion, Storme Jones, September 29, 2021, 6:31 PM

State lawmakers met Wednesday with the goal of getting firearm manufacturers to set their sights on Oklahoma. [...] According to the ATF, there are 116 firearm manufactures in Oklahoma ranking the state at 14th in the country. "These are good paying jobs, stuff that Oklahomans can just move right into," West said. According to the ATF, there were more than 9 million firearms manufactured in the United States in 2018, the most recent year of data available, generating more than \$37 million in transfer and making taxes in 2019. That's a pot of money West said Oklahoma wants in on. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJTV-CBS (Jackson, MS): Hattiesburg murder suspect arrested in Jackson, DeAngelo Vaxter, September 29, 2021, 5:15 PM

Members of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force arrested a man in Jackson in connection to a Hattiesburg homicide. Nykeus Samson, 23, of Jasper County, was arrested on Tuesday, September 28. He was wanted for second degree murder in connection to a homicide in May 2019. Police said Fredrick "Neal" Paige was shot and killed on Broadacres Drive near Club Nina's. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWWL-NBC (Waterloo, IA): Nineteen people charged with federal gun law violations in Waterloo, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 5:12 PM

The FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, Waterloo Police, and other agencies came together to announce more than a dozen Project Safe Neighborhood arrests and gun charges. Nineteen people have been charged with federal gun crime announced by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa, including 16 from last week. Those charged are between 19 and 28-years-old. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KASI \(Ames, IA\)](#)

KSHB-NBC (Kansas City, MO): FBI Kansas City Division investigating a bank robbery at KCMO Bank of America, Katharine Finnerty, September 29, 2021, 4:44 PM

The FBI Kansas City Division is investigating a bank robbery that occurred Wednesday afternoon at a Bank of America on State Line Road. The suspect was described to be a middle-aged female wearing a long blonde wig, blue face mask, Kansas City Royals baseball hat and a black zip-up blouse, according to the FBI. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KMBC-ABC \(Kansas City, MO\)](#)

WGN (Chicago, IL): FBI looking for man after Lisle bank robbery, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 4:22 PM

FBI agents are looking for a man after a bank in Lisle was robbed on Tuesday morning. At around 11:50 a.m., authorities responded to Old Second Bank, located in the 3100 block of Ogden Avenue on the report of a robbery. The man used a note to demand cash and fled in a vehicle. No weapon was shown or indicated. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHBQ-Fox (Memphis, TN): North Memphis murder suspect captured in Michigan, US Marshals say, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 3:51 PM

A suspect wanted for second-degree murder in Shelby County was captured by U.S. Marshals in Detroit, Michigan. Rodney Berry Jr. was taken into custody in Michigan for warrants of Second Degree Murder, Convicted Felon in Possession of a Handgun, and Possessing a Firearm during the commission of a felony out of Shelby County, U.S. Marshal Tyreece Miller said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTBS-ABC (Shreveport, LA): Florida man arrested for 2004 sex crime in Bossier Parish, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 3:00 PM

Bossier Parish sheriff's deputies have arrested a Florida man for allegedly committing a sex crime in 2004 in the parish. Sheriff Julian Whittington said in a news release Micah Newton, 45, formerly of Haughton, was arrested in Florida by the U.S. Marshals Task Force after detectives obtained an arrest warrant. Whittington said detectives obtained evidence that Newton had sexual assaulted a 10-year-old. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

The Hill: Bipartisan senators introduce legislation to upgrade federal prisons' camera systems, Jordan Williams, September 29, 2021, 1:59 PM

Sens. Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) introduced legislation on Wednesday to upgrade camera systems in federal prisons. The Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021 would require the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to submit to Congress a plan to address deficiencies in security cameras, land-mobile radios, and public address systems. The agency would be required to implement its plan within three years of submitting it to Congress. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

AP: Losing can 'get frustrating' says liberal Justice Sotomayor, Jessika Gresko, September 29, 2021, 8:00 PM

Acknowledging the limits of her own influence on the law as a member of the Supreme Court's

liberal minority, Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Wednesday encouraged citizens to work to change laws they may disagree with, like a recent Texas law that limits access to abortions. Sotomayor, who appeared via Zoom at an American Bar Association event, answered a question from a law student by saying members of the public will not always like the results that courts reach.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#)

CBS: Abortion, guns and religious liberty: Supreme Court gears up for new term filled with contentious disputes, Melissa Quinn, September 30, 2021, 6:03 AM

The Supreme Court is slated to return to the bench for the start of its new term on Monday, with the justices set to take up politically divisive cases involving the Second Amendment, religious liberty and abortion, all while battling bruised public perception of the high court's legitimacy. The justices will convene for in-person arguments in the court's stately courtroom for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, though they'll take the bench before a limited audience due to public health concerns. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Supreme Court to Host Audio Livestream on Its Homepage, Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, September 29, 2021, 2:12 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court will provide direct access to the livestream of oral arguments this fall on its website. The court, which previously provided the feed to certain media outlets, will instead have "a live audio icon" on its homepage, the court said in a press release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Panel recommends 5 new federal judgeships for Oklahoma, Ken Miller, September 29, 2021, 5:00 PM

A judicial panel has recommended the creation of five additional federal judgeships in Oklahoma because of an increased caseload due to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding crimes committed on tribal lands. The Judicial Conference on Tuesday published the recommendation that Congress create three new judgeships in the Eastern District of Oklahoma, based in Muskogee, and two in the state's Northern District, based in Tulsa. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Tribal Tobacco Co. Hits Atty, Firm With \$3.3M Malpractice Suit, Kevin Penton, September 29, 2021, 4:48 PM

An attorney and his firm engaged in legal malpractice by cutting side deals between a cigarette manufacturer and a Native-owned tobacco company's officers, costing the company a \$3.3 million deal, according to a suit filed in Washington state federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Calif. Tribe Seizes Ex-Leader's Assets in \$2.7M Fraud Case, Victoria McKenzie, September 29, 2021, 4:28 PM

A federal judge has allowed the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians to seize California properties of its former economic development director, who now awaits sentencing for using the tribe's money to buy himself luxury vacations, homes and vehicles. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Tulsa World: Tulsa U.S. Attorney's Office adds 24 prosecutors to help with surge in cases due to McGirt ruling, Curtis Killman, September 29, 2021, 8:00 PM

The Tulsa U.S. Attorney's Office adds 24 prosecutors to help with surge in cases due to McGirt ruling. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Tulsa has added 24 additional prosecutors to its ranks to help alleviate the surge in new cases resulting from the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 McGirt decision.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Law360: Court Rejects Challenge To Ill. Cannabis Licensing Scheme, Sarah Jarvis, September 29, 2021, 4:11 PM

An Illinois federal judge has granted summary judgment to a state agency's officials who were facing a civil rights suit for not allowing two medical cannabis dispensary applicants to change the addresses of their proposed dispensaries, finding the pair's equal protection claim didn't pass muster. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

OPIOID CRISIS

AP: Appeals Are Mounting in Purdue Pharma Bankruptcy Settlement, Jennifer Mcdermott And Geoff Mulvihill, September 29, 2021, 4:41 PM

Objections to a historic settlement with Purdue Pharma are mounting in the form of appeals, with Rhode Island's attorney general saying Wednesday the plan doesn't hold the OxyContin maker or its owners accountable for its role in sparking the opioid crisis. Rhode Island appealed Tuesday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York. Separate appeals have already been filed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee, California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland and Washington state, plus some Canadian local governments and other Canadian entities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: [ANALYSIS] 7 Key Details As Pharmacy Giants Head To 1st Opioid Trial, Jeff Overley and Emily Field, September 29, 2021, 10:26 PM

After years of bobbing and weaving, pharmacy titans CVS, Walgreens and Walmart are poised to go toe-to-toe with heavyweight plaintiffs lawyers in the first opioid trial targeting the pharmacy sector. Here, Law360 looks at the showdown's lead lawyers, biggest uncertainties and intensely acrimonious atmosphere. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ADMINISTRATION

WaPo: [EDITORIAL] Rising and spreading murder rates means it's time to act on guns, Editorial Board, September 29, 2021, 2:51 PM

"The fact that this is so routine that it's not even a major headline, and we don't even blink an eye when this keeps happening is heartbreaking." So commented the co-founder of the Violence Project about last week's shooting in a Tennessee grocery store in which 15 people were wounded, one fatally. That lament about the country becoming numb applies not just to the mass shootings that sadly have become all too commonplace in the United States but also to the steady spate of gun violence that has sent the murder rate soaring and scarred countless lives. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CONGRESS

AP: House panel subpoenas organizers of Jan. 6 Trump rally, Mary Clare Jalonick, Eric Tucker, September 29, 2021, 6:40 PM

A House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection has subpoenaed 11 officials who

were involved in planning rallies in support of former President Donald Trump ahead of the violent attack, including one the day of the siege at which the president told his supporters to “fight like hell.” The announcement follows a first round of subpoenas last week that targeted former White House and administration officials who were in contact with Trump before and during the insurrection. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: Senate parliamentarian deals fresh immigration blow to Dems, Alan Fram, September 29, 2021, 6:00 PM

The Senate parliamentarian told Democrats on Wednesday that their newest proposal for helping millions of immigrants stay in the U.S. permanently could not be included in their \$3.5 trillion social and environment bill, the party’s latest setback on the issue. “It’s unfortunate. I disagree with her,” Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., one of the party’s pro-immigration advocates, said of the decision by Elizabeth MacDonough, the chamber’s nonpartisan rules arbiter. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#)

CNN: Lawmakers race the clock to avert shutdown ahead of midnight deadline, Clare Foran, September 30, 2021, 5:02 AM

Government funding expires at midnight and Congress has not yet passed a stopgap funding bill to avert a shutdown, though Democratic leaders are on track to do so later Thursday. Lawmakers are racing the clock with the Senate and House both expected to vote to approve a short-term funding patch to keep the government open. Democrats, who control both chambers of Congress, have so far projected confidence that a shutdown will not occur, but with the deadline rapidly approaching, lawmakers have no room for error. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Sens. Float 24-Hour Rule To Report Ransomware Payments, Ben Kochman, September 29, 2021, 7:00 PM

Leaders of the Senate Homeland Security Committee have introduced legislation that would require ransomware attack victims to report extortion payments within 24 hours, in Congress’ latest bid to address a spree of major cyberattacks that have unfolded in the past year. The Cyber Incident Reporting Act, sponsored by Sens. Gary Peters, D-Mich. , and Rob Portman, R-Ohio. , would also set a 72-hour deadline for critical infrastructure companies to report cyberattacks to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, a division of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Lawmakers Tackle Antitrust, IP Barriers to Cheaper Medicines, Ian Lopez, September 29, 2021, 5:16 PM

House lawmakers advanced legislation to crack down on seemingly anticompetitive conduct aimed at lowering U.S. drug costs, the latest in a spate of activity geared toward making prescription drugs more affordable for Americans. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: FCC Settles Accessibility Rules Violation With Pluto, ViacomCBS, Meghan Genovese, September 29, 2021, 4:19 PM

House Oversight Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney and Republican Rep. James Comer seek a FBI briefing about the agency’s delay in aiding businesses targeted by a ransomware attack this summer. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Scotus Blog: Senators spar over shadow docket in wake of court’s order allowing Texas

abortion law to take effect, Ellena Erskine, September 29, 2021, 8:20 PM

Democratic senators argued Wednesday that rulings on the Supreme Court's "shadow docket" are inconsistent and overly politicized. Republicans called the shadow docket ordinary and said the term itself is designed to make the court's emergency orders seem nefarious. The debate took place at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in light of the court's decision earlier this month refusing to grant emergency relief to groups challenging Texas' law that bans nearly all abortions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- President Biden's domestic agenda is stalled by Democratic infighting as the government is on the brink of a shutdown. House Democrats appear poised to miss a second vote on a bipartisan infrastructure bill this week, highlighting the stubborn stalemate over the larger social benefits package at the core of President Biden's agenda. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- In an urgent plea on Wednesday, federal health officials asked that any American who is pregnant, planning to become pregnant or currently breastfeeding get vaccinated against the coronavirus as soon as possible. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- House lawmakers on Wednesday had their chance to grill the Pentagon's top leaders on the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, digging down into decisions Biden administration officials made before, during and after US forces evacuated the country. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Biden administration is expelling thousands of Haitians who had gathered in Del Rio, Texas in hopes of entering the US After landing in Port-au-Prince, they are brought to a UN processing center. [[NBC](#)]
- The rising cost of childcare has made it unaffordable for many families. Nationwide, the average cost of care per child is \$10,000 per year. [[CBS](#)]
- The largest hospital in Montana can hardly keep up with a surge in COVID-19 patients. The National Guard has been brought in to help care for and screen new patients. [[CBS](#)]
- An apparent gas explosion in Dallas injured four firefighters and four civilians and caused the partial collapse of an apartment building, according to local officials. [[ABC](#)]

- Azriel Clary, who was in a relationship with R. Kelly and testified against the singer at his sex trafficking trial, said "he knows that he is guilty." [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "Britney Spears' father suspended as conservator of singer's estate after 13 years" [[LAT](#), [WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "Biden sticks to his dealmaking strategy with little tangible progress" [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "How Asia, Once a Vaccination Laggard, Is Rewving Up Inoculations" [[NYT](#)]
- "S&P 500 on Track for Quarterly Gains Despite Recent Selloff" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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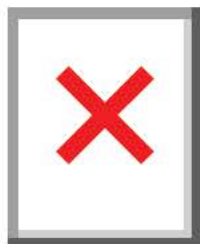
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D R I V I N G T H E D A Y

BREAKING OVERNIGHT: TRUMP GIVES LEWANDOWSKI THE BOOT — “COREY LEWANDOWSKI, one of **DONALD TRUMP**’s longest-serving, highest-profile advisers, has been exiled from the former president’s orbit following allegations, reported earlier Wednesday by POLITICO, that he made unwanted sexual advances toward a major Trump donor,” [Alex Isenstadt reports](#). [Here’s Isenstadt’s scoop](#) from earlier in the day that prompted the move.

GO BIF OR GO HOME — It’s died a million deaths before. Today might be the latest — albeit, perhaps not the last.

Sen. JOE MANCHIN pretty much ensured defeat of the bipartisan infrastructure deal known as BIF, if the House votes on it at all today. The West Virginia Democrat [said in a lengthy statement](#) Wednesday night that he “made clear to the President and Democratic leaders ... that spending trillions more on new and expanded government programs, when we can’t even pay for the essential social programs, like Social Security and Medicare, is the definition of fiscal insanity.”

Well then!

While Manchin signaled he’d support a more modest reconciliation package to roll back the GOP’s 2017 tax cut, that does nothing for Democrats demanding a vote today — or for those vowing to tank it absent a deal. Asked Wednesday night if she intends to pull the vote, Speaker **NANCY PELOSI** reiterated that “the plan is to bring the bill to the floor.” Is she worried she doesn’t have the votes? “One hour at a time,” she said.

A message from Blue Cross Blue Shield Assoc at on:

The racial health disparity crisis in the U.S. is unconscionable and unacceptable. That’s why Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies are working to **reduce disparities in maternal health by 50% in 5 years** – part of our multi-year commitment to promote health equity.

Here are the scenarios we could see play out today, from most to least likely:

1) THE VOTE GETS DELAYED — Moderates have expressed confidence that this won't happen. Mod Squad leader Rep. **JOSH GOTTHEIMER** (D-N.J.) predicted in a Playbook Live interview Wednesday that he'd be "drinking a nice glass of champagne" by the end of the day, celebrating passage of BIF. But other moderate sources told us Wednesday night they're starting to expect a delay.

Implications: Several House Dems have vowed to walk away from reconciliation if this happens. Sen. **KYRSTEN SINEMA** (D-Ariz.) has told this to President **JOE BIDEN** at least twice.

Other moderates are bound to be livid if it goes this way, after Pelosi promised them a vote. "There would be a significant breach of trust that would slow the momentum in moving forward in delivering the Biden agenda," Blue Dog leader Rep. **STEPHANIE MURPHY** (D-Fla.) told reporters Wednesday.

2) THE VOTE MOVES FORWARD — AND GOES DOWN. Some leaders are OK taking votes to the floor and losing to prove a point. Pelosi has never been one of them. She said publicly and in private this week that she won't bring up a bill if it doesn't have the votes. Interestingly, we've heard that some House mods are asking leadership to do this anyway. Better that than no vote at all, they figure.

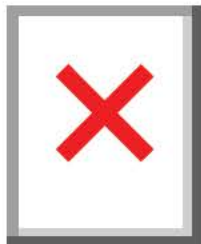
Implications: It would be an embarrassment for party leaders. But BIF looked dead several times in the Senate before it suddenly passed with bipartisan support. A losing vote in the House similarly wouldn't necessarily spell the end.

3.) A LAST-MINUTE DEAL — AND PASSAGE. As unlikely as this sounds, there's still some hope on the Hill and in the White House that Sinema and Biden will reach a last-minute deal. And if it happens, maybe even Manchin would come around.

But even if this transpires, it's far from a sure thing that House progressives would swallow it whole without any negotiation.

BOTTOM LINE: A failed or delayed vote would deal a serious blow to BIF and reconciliation, potentially slowing the process by days or weeks until tempers cool. But we'd be surprised if it's fatal: If Biden and Democratic leaders ask for some more time to figure this out, it's hard to imagine moderates walking away for good.

A message from Blue Cross Blue Shield Assoc at on:



Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies are committed to creating a more equitable health care system. [See how we're promoting health equity.](#)

Good Thursday morning, where it may or may not be infrastructure day. ... Keep the gossip coming to Playbook. Drop us a line: [Rachael Bade](#), [Eugene Daniels](#), [Ryan Lizza](#), [Tara Palmeri](#).

BIDEN'S THURSDAY: The president and VP **KAMALA HARRIS** will receive the President's Daily Brief at 10 a.m.

Press secretary JEN PSAKI will brief at 1 p.m.

THE HOUSE will meet at 10 a.m. and at noon to take up the bill to avert a shutdown and (as of now!) the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Treasury Secretary **JANET YELLEN** and Fed Chair **JEROME POWELL** will testify before the Financial Services Committee at 10 a.m. Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference at 10:45 a.m. House Minority Leader **KEVIN MCCARTHY** will hold his at 11:30 a.m.

THE SENATE is in. HHS Secretary **XAVIER BECERRA** and Education Secretary **MIGUEL CARDONA** will testify before the HELP Committee at 10 a.m.

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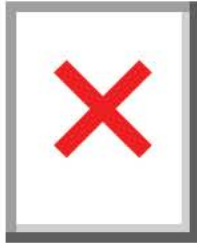


PHOTO OF THE DAY: Rep. B. Pascre (D-Pa.), the Democrats' team coach for the annual congressional baseball game, talks with Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.) after the game at Nationals Park on Wednesday, Sept. 29. [Win McNamee/Getty Images](#)

CONGRESS

TWO INTERESTING DYNAMICS DEVELOPING THIS WEEK:

— **Pelosi-Schumer-Biden finger-pointing:** It's not just House mods who will get rolled today if BIF goes down or the vote is delayed. Biden and Senate Majority Leader **CHUCK SCHUMER** have left Pelosi out on her own. Schumer told his members that he wasn't consulted on Pelosi's plan to decouple the reconciliation and infrastructure bills and did not agree with the strategy. The White House, meanwhile, hasn't lifted a finger to help whip the stand-alone BIF vote in the House.

Asked if the president wanted the infrastructure vote today, Pelosi dodged Wednesday night: "You have to ask the president," she said.

Heather Caygle and Burgess Everett have a must-read on [the widening rift](#) between Schumer and Pelosi — as well as their respective chambers — as this week has unfolded. They note that it's not just disagreements over process on moving the Biden agenda, but also a division on how

to handle the debt limit. Some House Democrats are privately griping that Schumer is squandering time and political capital to engage in a staring contest with Senate Minority Leader **MITCH MCCONNELL** when they have an agenda to pass.

— **Dem moderates fracture:** Sinema has been running herself ragged trying to get to some sort of understanding with the White House. And on Wednesday Gottheimer told us in our interview that he expected a framework could be announced by the vote today. Then Manchin Manchined. Other moderates saw his lengthy statement — which essentially dismissed this week’s scramble as a waste of time — as a gratuitous thumb in the eye to Democrats across the spectrum. And quite possibly harmful to the cause of passing the core infrastructure bill.

IS BIDEN UP TO THE TASK? — [WaPo’s Seung Min Kim details](#) Biden’s strategy the past week of hearing out lawmakers in an effort to develop a compromise. But the lack of movement on all sides is “testing the legislative acumen of a president who prides himself as a consummate creature of Capitol Hill.

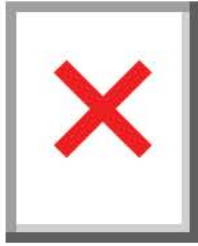
“**Particularly in the House, there are growing calls from Democrats** for Biden to be more forcefully and personally involved with the domestic policy plans, largely viewed as the party’s one and only shot to enact their top priorities ahead of the 2022 midterms,” she writes.

REPUBLICANS FOR BIF — Business groups and some GOP senators are mounting an “all-out drive” to secure Republican votes for BIF and might be the “measure’s last hope,” [NYT’s Jonathan Weisman reports](#).

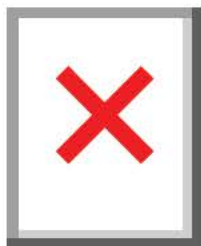
TOP-ED — **Rich Lowry** [writes for POLITICO Magazine](#) that the Democratic line about the reconciliation bill costing nothing because it would be paid for with tax increases is “among the most shameless, patently absurd attempts to change reality through a talking point ever attempted.”

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

WATCH: How did Biden end up with a Haitian migrant problem in Texas? Over the last few weeks, nearly 15,000 Haitian migrants traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border, with hopes of entry into the U.S. From photos of the makeshift Haitian camps in Del Rio, Texas, to the reports of U.S. Border Patrol agents wielding horse reins and grabbing Haitians, everyone is mad at the situation — and at Biden. This week, **Sabrina Rodríguez** joins **Ryan** to break down how Biden ended up with a Haitian migrant problem in the first place and how this could influence future border policy.



A message from Blue Cross Blue Shield Assoc at on:



ALL POLITICS

SMART STORY FROM OUR POLLING GURU — Although “more Americans disapprove of how Biden is handling his role as president than approve,” a solid number “of those disapprovers say their opinion of Biden is soft, meaning they only rate his performance only ‘somewhat’

negatively — not ‘strongly,’” [Steven Shepard writes](#). That indifference “could decide the 2022 midterm elections.”

WITHOUT MENTIONING TRUMP’S NAME — Virginia’s Republican gubernatorial nominee **GLENN YOUNGKIN** is hanging onto Trump’s voter base in the state, while continuing to sidestep comparisons between him and the former president, as evidenced by Tuesday’s debate. [AP’s Steve Peoples and Sarah Rankin report](#) that despite the distance, Youngkin’s team keeps in contact with Trump’s team “behind the scenes,” and “at least a dozen” Youngkin staffers are former Trump campaign staffers.

— **Meanwhile, Dems are getting anxious** that Biden’s slumping approval rating and trouble delivering infrastructure legislation will cost **TERRY MCAULIFFE** the race, [according to WaPo’s Michael Scherer and Sean Sullivan](#): “White House officials are watching the race closely, cognizant of the major problems a defeat could pose heading into 2022.”

NOEM MAN’S LAND — Republican South Dakota Gov. **KRISTI NOEM** denied rumors of an extramarital affair with former Trump aide Lewandowski on Wednesday, [writing in a tweet](#) that the claims are “total garbage and a disgusting lie.”

“**These old, tired attacks on conservative women** are based on a falsehood that we can’t achieve anything without a man’s help. I love **BRYON**. I’m proud of the God-fearing family we’ve raised together. Now I’m getting back to work,” she wrote. [WaPo’s Felicia Sonmez and Josh Dawsey have more](#).

POLICY CORNER

INFLATION WATCH — WSJ headline: [“Dollar Tree to Sell More Items Above \\$1 as Costs Rise”](#)

BETTER KNOW EZRA — **EZRA COHEN**, who used to work under Trump’s national security adviser **MICHAEL FLYNN**, now chairs the bipartisan Public Interest Declassification Board, an entity that advises the president on national classification and declassification policy. Nominated by Trump in January, Cohen has so far received bipartisan praise for his leadership, [Bryan Bender reports](#).

One major thing on his agenda? “Overhauling the government classification system that Democrats and Republicans alike contend shields too many secrets from the public.”

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■ P L A Y B O O K E R S

Woody Harrelson met with Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday, because, you know, she had so much time to blow.

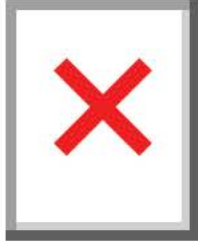
Joe Manchin stopped Arthur Delaney from getting hit by a car.

Cori Bush, Barbara Lee and Pramila Jayapal opened up to NBC's Ali Vitali [about their experiences having abortions](#), as House Oversight prepares to hold a hearing today on state abortion bans.

Dan Crenshaw was fined \$5,000 for refusing to go through House metal detectors.

Dick Cheney complained in 1975 about **Donald Rumsfeld** spending \$100 on coffee.

Doug Emhoff, man about town, [went to Dacha Navy Yard](#).



PLAY BALL! — Republicans won the Congressional Baseball Game for the first time in five years Wednesday night, defeating the Democrats 13-12. Some notable moments from the evening:

- Rep. **Greg Steube** (R-Fla.) [hitting an actual, out-of-the-park home run](#) and [wearing a Trump-signed cap](#).
- Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** [looking quite serious on a phone call](#) in the stands.
- President **Joe Biden** [getting on the phone as well](#) amid his surprise appearance, [donning a Beau Biden Foundation cap](#).
- Rep. **Jimmy Panetta** (D-Calif.) [diving into third](#).
- [@AnnieLinskey](#): “Oh, to be a fly on the wall of the Office of the Congressional Physician tomorrow.”
- Protesters urging Dems to pass a big reconciliation bill with signs reading: [“Our lives are not a game. Pass 3.5T.”](#)
- Biden [handing out Dove ice cream bars](#) with a presidential seal.
- Sen. **Rand Paul** (R-Ky.) getting [backup from supporters](#).
- **Pat McAfee** [providing color commentary](#) from home.

ANOTHER SPORTS BLINK — At the annual ACLI Capital Challenge race Wednesday, the winners included Reps. **Mike Gallagher** (R-Wis.) and **Kathleen Rice** (D-N.Y.), Sen. **Shelley Moore Capito** (R-W.Va.), Justice **Brett Kavanaugh**, U.S. International Trade Commission Chair **Jason Kearns**, acting Peace Corps Director **Carol Spahn**, **Shawn Zeller**, **Sarah Babbage**, **Adam Longo** and **Sandra Smith**. [Full list of winners, including team awards](#)

SPOTTED at the office opening for former VP **Mike Pence**’s new organization, Advancing American Freedom, on Wednesday night, with an interview with the “Ruthless” podcast in front of a live audience: Sens. **James Lankford** (R-Okla.), **Marsha Blackburn** (R-Tenn.), **Todd Young** (R-Ind.) and **Steve Daines** (R-Mont.), Reps. **Greg Pence** (R-Ind.) and **French Hill** (R-Ark.), **Marc Short**, **Mark Calabria**, **Seema Verma**, **Linda McMahon**, **Mary Vought**, **Haley Barbour**, **Laura Schlapp**, **Devin O’Malley**, **Katie** and **Stephen Miller**, **Matt Lloyd**, **Amanda Henneberg**, **Josh Holmes**, **John Ashbrook**, **Michael Duncan**, **Greg Jacob**, **Matt Morgan** and **Matt Sheehan**. [Pence apparently broke out an impression of Mitch McConnell](#)

SPOTTED at a party at **Meena** and **Liaquat Ahamed**’s home Tuesday night celebrating **Peter**

Bergen's new book, "The Rise and Fall of Osama bin Laden" ([\\$30](#)): Iraqi Ambassador **Fareed Yasseen**, **Roya Rahmani**, **Greg Barker**, **Vali Nasr**, **Sam Feist**, **Jane Mayer** and **Bill Hamilton**, **Liza Mundy**, **Toby Harnden**, **Joel Rayburn**, **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, **Mike Isikoff**, **Kim Dozier**, **Mike Doran**, **Sidney Blumenthal**, **Josh Geltzer**, **Luke Hartig**, **Gloria Riviera** and **Jim Sciutto**. **Gina Bennett**, the CIA official who first warned in a classified document about bin Laden and the threat he posed in 1993, also attended, as well as other former CIA officials including **Bob Grenier**, **Reuel Gerecht**, **Sam Wyman** and **Lisa Maddox**.

IN MEMORIAM — Retired Nevada Army National Guard Maj. Gen. **Robert Hebert**, a longtime senior policy adviser to **Harry Reid**, died at 64 in a car crash in California last week. A ceremony to honor him will be held at the Las Vegas Readiness Center at 3 p.m. Saturday. [More from the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — **Kate Karnes** is joining FlexPoint Media as VP. She previously was acting chief digital officer at the White House and special assistant to the president in the Trump administration.

TRUMP ALUMNI — **Noah Evans** is joining Sen. Cynthia Lummis' (R-Wyo.) comms staff. He most recently was at Plus Communications and worked on the 2020 Trump campaign.

TRANSITIONS — **Adrienne Watson** will be deputy spokesperson at the NSC, [Alex Thompson reports](#). She most recently has been comms director at the DNC. ... The Smith-Free Group is adding **Mike Gaffin** and **Sarah Dumont Merchak** as partners. Gaffin most recently was chief political strategist for the Marwood Group, and Merchak most recently was director of legislative affairs for the Federal Housing Finance Agency; both are Hill alums. ... **Daniel Kahn** will rejoin Davis Polk as a partner in the white-collar defense and iInvestigations practice. He most recently was at DOJ as acting deputy assistant A.G. of the criminal division.

ENGAGED — **Scott Binkley**, VP of federal affairs at McGuireWoods, proposed to **Taylor Cheek**, regional finance director at the NRSC, while on a walk with their dog, Thomas, at the Congressional Cemetery's dog park on Monday night. They met working on a gubernatorial race in 2018. [Pic ... Another pic](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Rep. **Dusty Johnson** (R-S.D.) ... NPR's **Ari Shapiro** ... **Nate Tibbits** of Qualcomm ... WaPo's **Perry Bacon Jr.** ... **Greg Mecher** ... **Conor Maguire** ... POLITICO's **Sally Goldenberg** and **Brendan MacArthur** ... Edelman's **Emily Lippard** ... **Lin Whitehouse** of House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn's office ... **Mike Henry** of Sen. Tim Kaine's (D-Va.) office ... **Harrison Fields** of Rep. Byron Donalds' (R-Fla.) office (26) ... **Bobby Donachie** ... **Maggie Rousseau** of the Hub Project ... former Sen. **Blanche Lincoln** (D-Ark.) ... **Craig Minassian** of the Clinton Foundation and Minassian Media ... **Victor Melara** of Leidos ... **Courtney Sanders Felts** of the U.S. Chamber ... **Kodiak Hill-Davis** (31) ... Slingshot Strategies' **Alyssa Cass** ... **Rachel Trello** of

the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation ... **Felix Schein** ... Eli Lilly's **Michael O'Connor** ... **Hildy Kuryk** of Artemis Strategies ... **Sue Andres** ... **Caroline Cirillo** ... **Cynthia McCabe** ... **Mike Milligan** ... **Ben Voelkel** ... AP's **Curt Anderson** ... **Bradley Akubuiro** of Bully Pulpit Interactive ... **Kaylee Mead** ... **Tom Johnson**

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A message from Blue Cross Blue Shield Assoc at on:

Premium assistance that makes health care coverage more affordable will end in 2022. **Congress:** Take action today to expand access and reduce costs by [permanently enhancing premium assistance](#).

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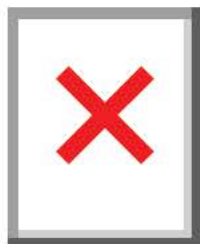
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B T Y I N A S A A N D D E N X D E T L H E O S M P S O N



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President **JOE BIDEN** called footage of border patrol agents on horseback appearing to confront Haitian migrants last week “beyond an embarrassment.” Vice President **KAMALA HARRIS** called the images “horrible” and “deeply troubling,” and Homeland Security Secretary **ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS** said he was “horrified.”

The horse patrol's operations in Del Rio have been temporarily suspended amid an investigation into the agents — but the vocal condemnations belie a more tempered administration response: Customs and Border Protection agents are still patrolling on horseback along at least three other sections of the southern border according to **BRANDON JUDD**, president of the National Border Patrol Council, the union representing the agents.

Judd said the horse patrol is still operating in McAllen, Laredo and to some extent, in El Paso, Texas. “In every southwest border sector, there’s a horse patrol unit,” Judd told us. The horse patrol is sometimes the only option for border agents to enter regions that are inaccessible by any other means, such as 4x4 vehicles or ATVs. “Without the Horse Patrol, these areas would remain unpatrolled and susceptible to transnational criminal activity,” CBP says on its website.

As one former border agent told us, much of the border is in the middle of a river, making it very hard for border agents to handle it any other way.

White House press secretary **JEN PSAKI** acknowledged at Monday’s press briefing that the practice is only suspended in Del Rio, “in response, of course, directly to those horrific photos.” She added, “I think it's important to note that, as [Mayorkas] said, the vast majority of the Border Patrol and the Horse Patrol are doing their job and they're doing their job effectively.”

As part of that job, horseback agents patrolling the border learn to use their reins in a way that prompted accusations they were whipping fleeing Haitian migrants in Del Rio. But Judd said those actions were not what they appeared, explaining that agents are trained to use the reins, “in a twirling fashion to try to keep people back away from the horse.”

“I know when they say, ‘Well, I’m just following orders,’ it makes it sound like they’re just doing what they’re being told to do,” former border patrol agent **JENN BUDD** said in an interview. There's an assumption from agents that policies have "been vetted by the attorneys and that they're safe to do it."

Critics of their behavior, meanwhile, concede it’s unlikely the Del Rio agents will be disciplined after the investigation. That’s in part because the migrants pictured and recorded last week are probably already deported.

“This is actually a very common problem with investigating the border patrol,” **AARON REICHLIN-MELNICK**, a policy counsel for the American Immigration Council said. His organization found via a FOIA investigation [that no action was taken in 97 percent of complaints filed between 2009 and 2012.](#)

“There has been no indication that policies have changed, meaning that in the overwhelming

majority of complaints that are failed against border patrol agents, absolutely no action is taken against those agents, and it is only in an extraordinarily rare circumstances that agents are required to resign or step down,” Reichlin-Melnick said.

The Biden administration has tried to straddle a delicate political line in its reaction to the latest complaints about the CBP, criticizing the actions against Haitian migrants while seeking to show support for the agency as it seeks to contain surging numbers of asylum seekers in recent months. The border patrol union was not placated, [ripping the president for](#) “blaming the Border Patrol agents who were left to clean up the mess his administration created.”

It’s a stark contrast to CBP agents’ cozy relationship with the previous administration. [When he was president, DONALD TRUMP enlisted border patrol agents to join conservative talk show hosts and Republican allies in publicly supporting his border wall](#) — not just in words, but by standing next to him, the Washington Post reported. Trump also brought border agent union leaders to a briefing to talk about the need for a wall. And Judd, a Fox News stalwart, served on Trump’s 2016 transition team.

This is the workplace environment that Tucson, Ariz. Chief of Police **CHRIS MAGNUS**, [an outspoken Trump critic](#), will enter if he is confirmed to lead the CBP. Sen. **RON WYDEN** (D-Ore.) announced earlier today he is lifting his hold on Biden’s nominee for CBP commissioner, after a phone call with Mayorkas. Wyden had been blocking Magnus’ nomination as he pressed DHS to provide more information about the role the department’s law enforcement arms played in policing violent 2020 protests in Portland.

A Democratic Senate aide said he was unaware of any Democrats prepared to vote against Magnus, likely paving the way for his confirmation.

Do you work in the Biden administration? Are you in touch with the White House? Are you EMILY HORNE, spokesperson for the National Security Council?

We want to hear from you — and we’ll keep you anonymous: westwingtips@politico.com.

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A message from Facebook:

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The internet has changed a lot in the last 25 years. That's why Facebook supports updated internet regulations to address today's toughest challenges, including:

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- Reforming Section 230

P R E S I D E N T I A L T R V I A

This question is courtesy of **CHARLES McHUGH**: Aside from Biden, who was the only other president to be born in the state of Pennsylvania?

(Answer at the bottom.)

T H E O V A L

SCOOP — The National Security Council is [bringing on an experienced rapid response and press operative](#) to bulk up its communications, Alex reports.

ADRIENNE WATSON, communications director at the Democratic National Committee, will be deputy spokesperson at the NSC under spokesperson **EMILY HORNE** and will start in early November, according to one official.

“I’m hard pressed to think of someone who has meant more to the strength of the DNC and our Biden-Harris team than Adrienne Watson,” said DNC Executive Director **SAM CORNALE**. “She is as sharp and tough as they come — just ask Alex Thompson.” (Yes, she and Alex have had some...lively disagreements)

NEW ON THE TWITTERS: The State Department’s new Assistant Secretary for Global Public Affairs, **LIZ ALLEN**, has a new Twitter account: @GPA_AS. Allen was a deputy director of communications at the White House and also to Biden as vice president.

PARTY FOUL: The briefings Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this week have been interrupted by reporters failing to silence their cell phones. Shame! Shame! Shame!

NEW DECOR: The vice president has a new addition to her ceremonial office: a bust of Justice **THURGOOD MARSHALL** on loan from Howard University, according to the VP’s office. One of the two Bibles and Harris used during the inauguration belonged to Marshall.

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T H E B U R E A U C R A T S

KHAN'S CRACKDOWN — FTC Chair **LINA KHAN** is [bringing back the old ways of the antitrust and consumer agency](#), one that is less friendly to the companies it regulates and unpersuaded by CEO visits to Washington, **LEAH NYLEN** reports. Khan's leadership has been praised by progressives, but alarmed many GOP lawmakers, including two Republican commissioners on the board and FTC employees.

THE OTHER CAPITAL DASH: D.C.'s political class took time Wednesday morning to participate in an annual three-mile race before heading off to the various crises on the docket. There were too many groan-worthy team names to mention here, but the Department of Transportation team was named "[Pete's Feet](#)," which ...

Sen. **KYRSTEN SINEMA** (D-Ariz.) walked the distance for a time of 45:25 following a marathon series of meetings at the White House the day before. Sinema is recovering from a broken foot that occurred during a June marathon. In 2019, she completed the race in 20:45, the fastest ever run for a female senator.

Supreme Court Justice **BRETT KAVANAUGH**, an avid [distance runner](#), finished with a respectable time of 24:26. CQ Roll Call's Tom Williams also captured this [colorful photo](#) of Kavanaugh at the finish line. *With* **NICK NIEDZWIADK**

A D V I S E A N D C O N S E N T

BBB PITCH — Biden pollster **JOHN ANZALONE** is promoting a [poll done by his firm in 48 battleground congressional districts](#). Anzalone said that voters will "give Members who back the Build Back Better agenda a 15 point bump at the polls." His firm conducted the poll with the pro-Biden outside group Building Back Together. We'll find out shortly if lawmakers are convinced.



A G E N D A S E T T I N G

POPULATING FOGGY BOTTOM — The Biden administration is filling out the senior ranks of the State Department, with the Senate voting 70 to 27 earlier today to confirm **JESSICA LEWIS** as assistant secretary of State for political-military affairs. The Senate also confirmed **TODD ROBINSON** as assistant secretary of State for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs last night, 53 to 41.

W H A T W E ' R E R E A D I N G

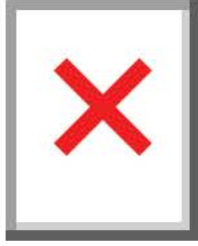
[‘This was a failure’: Biden’s A.T.F. pick says White House left him open to attack](#) (New York Times’ Glenn Thrush)

[Biden administration to enforce unlawful bird deaths by industry](#) (Axios’ Erin Doherty)

W H E R E ' S J O E

He attended former Indiana first lady **SUSAN BAYH**'s funeral at the National Cathedral.

W H E R E ' S K A M A L A



Harris meets with small business owners in her ceremonial office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Jacquelyn Martin/AP Photo

She met with Latina small business leaders at 2 p.m. in her ceremonial office. Rep. **NANETTE BARRAGÁN** (D-Calif.) joined.

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T H E O P P O B O O K

When Biden’s White House counsel **DANA REMUS** was a child, she admitted she had “no eye-hand coordination” when it came to sports.

Remus was slated to attend St. Paul’s — a New Hampshire boarding school that required each student to play sports — so her father tried to teach her how to play squash, to no avail, [according to a 1997 Harvard Crimson article.](#)

She tried track and cross country skiing next. Nope.

According to the Crimson, Remus finally found her stride when she “was convinced by her older sister that crew was a sport that didn't require coordination but rather hard work, something that Remus was used to as an industrious student.”

And she kept it up, eventually becoming captain of Harvard’s rowing team.

HOLD WATER, DANA! CHECK IT DOWN!

T R I V I A A N S W E R

JAMES BUCHANAN [was born in Cove Gap, Pa.](#)

AND A CALL OUT — A big thanks to Charles for sending over this question. Do you have a really hard trivia question about the presidency? Send us your best one and we may use it: westwingtips@politico.com.

We want your trivia, but we also want your feedback. What should we be covering in this newsletter that we're not? What are we getting wrong? Please let us know.

Edited by Emily Cadei

A message from Facebook:

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To: Ramamurti, Arjun R. (OAG)
Sent: September 29, 2021 7:51 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: DOJ Digests <doj-digests@rendon.com>
Date: September 29, 2021 at 6:52:16 AM EDT
To: DoJ-Digests3 Rendon <DOJdesk@rendon.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest
Reply-To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk <dojdesk@rendon.com>

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 29, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
National Security
3.
Criminal Law
4.
Civil Rights
5.
Civil Law
6.
Immigration & Border Security
7.
Antitrust
8.
Environment

9. Tax
10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
12. US Supreme Court
13. Native American Affairs
14. Marijuana Legalization
15. Opioid Crisis
16. Administration
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

DOJ

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12:00 PM (EDT): Press Conference to Announce Project Safe Neighborhood Gun Charges and Arrests in Waterloo, Iowa. Representatives from the United States Attorney's Office and federal and local law enforcement agencies, including the Waterloo Police Departments, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the United States Marshal's Service will be present at the press conference. The purpose of the press conference is to announce more than a dozen recent Project Safe Neighborhood gun charges and arrests in Waterloo.

CONGRESS

- 10:00 AM: House Committee on Oversight and Reform Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Subcommittee hybrid hearing on 'Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part VI): Examining the Biden Administration's Counterterrorism Strategy'. Held virtually and in-person in Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
- 10:00 AM: Senate Committee on the Judiciary, full committee hearing on 'Texas's Unconstitutional Abortion Ban and the Role of the Shadow Docket.. Held in Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Newsweek: **[OPINION] If Durham Seeks To Serve Russiagate Justice, Will AG Garland Let Him?**, Ben Weingarten, September 29, 2021, 6:30 AM

Will the American people receive justice for Russiagate? If justice is to be meted out, will Attorney General Merrick Garland let it be done? Observers like myself, having witnessed the machinations of the Deep State and its auxiliaries over the last five years, have long lamented the answer is "No." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NY Post: **[EDITORIAL] Garland should extend funding for special counsel John Durham's Russiagate probe**, Editorial Board, September 28, 2021, 7:23 PM

Attorney General Merrick Garland has a clear duty to renew funding for special counsel John Durham's investigation into the origins of the Russiagate "scandal" when the current authorization expires at month's end. Back in February, Garland rightly told senators that he has "no reason to think" Durham should be kicked off the case. But the AG hasn't yet OK'd spending for the new fiscal year, which starts Friday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: **US Deports Russian Man Imprisoned for Cybercrimes**, Eric Tucker and Frank Bajak, September 28, 2021, 7:32 PM

In a surprising development, a Russian man who was imprisoned in the U.S. for cybercrimes has been deported to Russia, officials said Tuesday. Aleksei Burkov, 31, facilitated \$20 million in credit card fraud and ran a sophisticated clearinghouse for international criminals. He was sentenced to nine years in prison last year after pleading guilty in federal court in Virginia. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

WaPo: **Judges asked if Jan. 6 plea deals were too lenient. Now, the U.S. for the first time seeks jail for a misdemeanor offender**, Spencer S. Hsu, September 29, 2021, 6:00 AM

Federal judges for months have questioned whether no-prison plea deals offered by the government to low-level Jan. 6 defendants are too lenient to deter future attackers from terrorizing members of Congress. Now judges can decide for themselves, after prosecutors for the first time are requesting jail time at a sentencing hearing scheduled Wednesday morning for a nonviolent misdemeanor offender in the U.S. Capitol breach. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: How the Huawei Case Raised Fears of ‘Hostage Diplomacy’ by China, Katie Benner and David E. Sanger, September 28, 2021, 10:31 PM

The talks between the Justice Department and a top executive from Huawei Technologies, the Chinese telecommunications giant, had stretched over more than 12 months and two presidential administrations, and boiled down to one overarching dispute: whether Meng Wanzhou, daughter of Huawei’s founder, would admit to any wrongdoing. Since her arrest in 2018, Ms. Meng had refused to admit that she had misled the global banking conglomerate HSBC about Huawei’s dealings with Iran a decade ago, even though that was the key to her release from detention in Canada, where she was out on bail at an imposing gated mansion in Vancouver. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Woman who said she wanted to shoot Pelosi in the ‘brain’ pleads guilty to misdemeanor, Rachel Weiner and Spencer S. Hsu, September 28, 2021, 6:45 PM

A woman who said as she left the U.S. Capitol during the riot on Jan. 6 that she had hoped to murder House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) pleaded guilty Tuesday to a misdemeanor charge. “I would like to accept my responsibility for what I did, for my part in January 6,” Dawn Bancroft, 59, of suburban Philadelphia said in federal court in Washington as she admitted to illegally demonstrating. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [BuzzFeed](#), [CNN](#), [Newsweek](#), [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, DC\)](#)

AFP: US federal court greenlights extradition of former Peruvian president, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 7:22 PM

A California federal court on Tuesday authorized the extradition of former Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo to his home country, where he is being prosecuted in a sweeping corruption case. "The court has heard and considered the evidence of criminality and deems it sufficient to sustain the charges of collusion and money laundering," said Judge Thomas Hixson in his ruling. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#)

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] U.S. Military Officials Testify, New Japanese Prime Minister, Proud Boys Post-Trump, September 29, 2021, 5:45 AM

Top U.S. military officials will testify before House lawmakers today on the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. What do they hope to learn? (1:28). And Japan is on track to get a new Prime Minister. What kind of challenges will the incoming leader face? (5:21). Plus, a year after former President Donald Trump acknowledged the Proud Boys during a presidential debate, how active is the far-right extremist group? (8:41) [[Listen](#)]

Washington Examiner: Mark Meadows on FBI informant in Capitol riot crowd: 'There is a whole lot that needs to come out', Daniel Chaitin, September 28, 2021, 10:54 PM

The public does not know the full story about the Capitol riot, according to a top confidant of former President Donald Trump. Mark Meadows, former White House chief of staff when a throng of Trump supporters stormed their way into the U.S. Capitol complex on Jan. 6, made the comment responding to a new report about the presence of an FBI informant in the crowd. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: Just 80 Capitol Riot Cases Have Entered Guilty Pleas So Far, More Than 600 Arrested, Zoe Strozewski, September 28, 2021, 5:54 PM

Though federal agents have found and arrested more than 600 people across the U.S. who were

allegedly involved in the Capitol riot, just 80 cases have entered guilty pleas so far. But as the growing amounts of Jan. 6 evidence force trial delays for those facing charges, the number of people arrested in connection with the riots is also rising nearly on a weekly basis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: CrossFit gym owner among 5 Capitol rioters to strike pleas, Samantha Hawkins, September 28, 2021, 5:00 PM

Five more individuals pleaded guilty Tuesday to storming the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 but will likely avoid jail time as there is no evidence they committed violence. As a federal judge noted on Tuesday, the defendants belong to a group of low-level, nonviolent rioters who tend not to have a criminal past and their conduct on Jan. 6 is a surprising anomaly. "That's one of the largest questions in these cases," U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan said at a hearing for Dawn Bancroft. "So many people, up to Jan. 6, were upstanding members of the community and had never been in trouble. Scores of letters from family members and friends have come in attesting to their character. But, on Jan. 6, they morphed into terrorists." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAVY-NBC (Portsmouth, VA): FBI releases more photos of wanted insurrectionists, suspected of attacking law enforcement, Emma North, September 28, 2021, 11:42 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is still working to apprehend rioters that stormed the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6. Since the insurrection, the FBI has been sharing images of participants accused of assaulting law enforcement officers as they rioted inside and outside of the building. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHEC-NBC (Rochester, NY): Feds release new video of Rochester man charged in January 6 US Capitol attack, Berkeley Brean, September 28, 2021, 6:39 PM

News10NBC has a new video to show you of the only local man charged in the assault on the U.S. Capitol last January 6th. The Department of Justice pinpoints who they believe is Dominic Pezzola and the video shows him in the middle of it. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Lehigh, PA): Lehigh County Man Pleads Guilty To Role In Capitol Riot, Nicole Acosta, September 28, 2021, 5:44 PM

A Lehigh County man whose distinctive leopard-print vest assisted federal authorities in identifying him as a Jan. 6 riot participant has pleaded guilty. Jackson Kostolsky, 32, pleaded guilty to one count of parading, picketing, or demonstrating in a Capitol building, according to court papers. He faces a maximum of six months in prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSTM-NBC (Syracuse, NY): Another Syracuse man arrested for entering U.S. Capitol during January 6 riot, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 5:30 PM

Another Syracuse man is facing federal charges in connection to the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, though the charges are not as serious as an Eastwood man's accusations. Richard Bryan Watrous was charged with entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. The charges were filed on September 21. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KUSA-NBC (Denver, CO): Former Olympic swimmer indicted in Capitol riots expected to accept plea deal, Janet Oravetz, September 28, 2021, 3:08 PM

A former Olympic swimmer who was indicted on seven counts related to the failed insurrection at the US Capitol on Jan. 6 will be in federal court Wednesday afternoon where he's expected to

enter a plea. In August, federal prosecutors said Klete Keller was willing to accept a plea deal that was being offered and a plea hearing is set for 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time Tuesday. Details of the offer have not yet been made public. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

Reuters: Attorney pleads guilty to defrauding investors in case funding scheme, Sierra Jackson, September 28, 2021, 7:43 PM

A New York attorney pleaded guilty on Tuesday to defrauding investors in his now-bankrupt litigation funding business. The U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan said that attorney Jaeson Birnbaum "conned" investors in his company Cash4Cases Inc by convincing them that money they invested would be loaned to tort litigants. The investors were told they could then claim a percentage of the money awarded to litigants. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

AP: Theranos CEO wooed investors while lab director saw trouble, Michael Liedtke, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

Fallen Silicon Valley star Elizabeth Holmes convinced media mogul Rupert Murdoch and other billionaires to invest in her biotechnology startup despite warnings its unconventional blood tests were dangerously unreliable, according to evidence presented Tuesday during her criminal trial. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: Man pleads guilty to trying to set up murder of crime victim, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 6:40 PM

A Sedalia man pleaded guilty Tuesday to trying to hire someone to kill a victim in a statutory sodomy case. Jon Mark Wilson, 57, pleaded guilty in federal court to use of interstate facilities using a cellphone and crossing state lines in the commission of murder for hire. He admitted that he paid \$2,000 to an undercover agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to murder the victim. Wilson was charged in Pettis County with two counts of first-degree statutory sodomy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: 6 Years for Man Who Stole Lawmakers' IDs, Passed Bad Checks, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 5:52 PM

A Florida man has been sentenced to six years and five months in prison for stealing the identities of local, state and federal officials in a case involving more than \$50,000 in fraudulent payments, authorities said. Michael T. Watters, 51, of Ocoee, was sentenced Monday in Orlando federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in July to aggravated identity theft and wire fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Ex-juvenile court judge pleads guilty to child porn charges, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:12 PM

A former juvenile court judge in Wisconsin pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to two counts of distributing child pornography. Brett Blomme, 39, a onetime Milwaukee County children's court judge, faces a minimum mandatory sentence of five years in prison on each count. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 22. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: Bangladeshi human trafficker sentenced for running illegal migrant hotel, smuggling people into US, Asher Notheis, September 28, 2021, 3:54 PM

A Bangladeshi man was sentenced to 46 months in prison Tuesday for participating in a scheme

to smuggle undocumented individuals from Mexico and other countries into the United States, according to the Justice Department. Mohamad Milon Hossain, 41, conspired with and assisted human smugglers operating out of Bangladesh, South and Central America, and Mexico to bring numerous undocumented individuals to the U.S. border in exchange for payment. Hossain assisted in this operation from March 2017 through June 2019, the DOJ reported. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Laredo Morning Times \(Laredo, TX\)](#)

KWTV-CBS (Oklahoma City, OK): Man Convicted Of Child Sex Trafficking Sentenced To 30 Years In Federal Prison, Sylvia Corkill, September 29, 2021, 12:00 AM

A convicted child sex trafficker was sentenced Tuesday and is likely to spend the rest of his life in federal prison. A man instrumental in his arrest spoke to News 9 following the sentencing. In 2018 a well-known local private investigator familiar with Germaine Coulter's criminal past sounded the alarm after he learned Coulter was recruiting and prostituting students at Edmond Santa Fe High School. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Hartford Courant: Danbury man faces federal child exploitation charges, Amanda Blanco, September 28, 2021, 7:36 PM

A Danbury man is facing federal charges for child exploitation and pornography. Wayne Marcell, 35, is charged with sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl from Georgia in June and recording the abuse, said Leonard Boyle, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, in a statement. The victim allegedly met Robert Fyke, 33, of Lubbock, Texas, online in April. Court documents allege that Fyke then picked up the child in Georgia and drove her back to Texas, where she stayed with him for about four weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(Danbury, CT\)](#)

The Daily Item (Lynn, MA): Lynn man indicted on firearms offenses, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

A 32-year-old Lynn man has been indicted in connection with the illegal possession and sale of firearms. Jufrandy Montano faces indictments of dealing in firearms without a license, being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and possession of an unregistered firearm. Following an appearance before the U.S. District Court Magistrate Judith G. Dein on Tuesday, Montano was returned to the State of Maine, where he is currently serving a sentence on unrelated state charges, the U.S. Attorney's office said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Detroit News: 4 Metro Detroiters accused of defrauding COVID business loan program, Charles E. Ramirez, September 28, 2021, 6:50 PM

Four Metro Detroiters are accused of a scheme involving more than \$4 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds, officials said Tuesday. Antonio George, 45, of Novi; Kevin Womble, 37, of Detroit; Andrae Sims, 43, of Farmington Hills; and Sarah Vidal, 31, of Novi each are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement. George, who is a tax preparer, also has been charged with three counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent returns. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Oakland Press \(Troy, MI\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#)

Detroit News: Feds indict 9 Metro Detroiters for using others to illegally buy guns, Charles E. Ramirez, September 28, 2021, 6:40 PM

Nine Metro Detroiters and a Floridian accused of illegally buying guns have been indicted on federal charges, officials said Tuesday. Bishop Allen, 24; Antonio Jackson, 22; James Jackson, 23; Eshon Rose, 22; Reginald Small, 23; Emmanuel Stevens, 21; Donte Turner, 26; and

Chauncey Williams, 21, all of Detroit, as well as Mike Chahoua, 23, of Sterling Heights have been charged, acting U.S. Attorney Saima Mohsin said in a statement. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Macomb Daily \(The Macomb, MI\)](#), [WDIV-NBC \(Detroit, MI\)](#), [WJBK-Fox \(Detroit, MI\)](#)

Salem News (Salem, MA): **Wenham man facing COVID fund fraud charge**, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 6:00 PM

A Wenham man has been charged by federal prosecutors with fraudulently obtaining \$1.2 million in CARES Act funds for two businesses he owns, the U.S. Attorney's office announced Tuesday evening James Joseph Cohen, 58, made an initial appearance Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Boston. He was released on personal recognizance. Prosecutors say in a court filing that Cohen who was formerly known as Jamie Edelkind and who has a 2005 federal bank fraud conviction was the owner of two companies, SARC and Ceromaze, Inc. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Portsmouth Herald (Portsmouth, NH): **60-year-old La. man gets years in prison for illegally having gun**, Ian Lenahan, September 28, 2021, 4:22 PM

A 27-year-old man arrested last winter and charged with attempting to sell a firearm at the Kittery Trading Post while in possession of drug-use paraphernalia was sentenced to prison Tuesday. Sauma Brata Deb of Woburn, Massachusetts, was sentenced in Maine U.S. District Court to serve one year and one day, followed by two years of supervised release, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the state. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Cherry Hill Courier-Post (Cherry Hill, NJ): **Mount Holly man, 20, gets 10-year term for drug crime**, Jim Walsh, September 28, 2021, 3:40 PM

A 20-year-old Mount Holly man has received a 10-year prison term for a drug offense. Dwight Williams was among 19 defendants arrested in late 2018 after an FBI investigation into an open-air drug market on the 400 and 500 blocks of Pine Street in Camden. The drug ring included street level dealers and several layers of managers, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for New Jersey. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Tacoma News Tribune (Tacoma, WA): **Tacoma woman pleads guilty to burning 5 Seattle police cars during George Floyd protest**, Craig Sailor, September 28, 2021, 3:20 PM

A Tacoma woman pleaded guilty Tuesday for setting fire to five police vehicles in downtown Seattle during demonstrations in 2020 following the death of George Floyd. Margaret Aislinn Channon, 26, burned Seattle police department vehicles which were parked in the city's downtown area on May 30, 2020, according to federal authorities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WV News (Clarksburg, WV): **Clarksburg, West Virginia, man accused of sending Mom to hospital with plastic sword attack waives hearing**, Matt Harvey, September 28, 2021, 3:00 PM

[...] Clarissa Mosley, 24, of Chicago, has pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael John Alois to possession of counterfeit obligations. Represented by Assistant Federal Defender Katy Cimino, Mosley and Asante James, 21, of Freeport, Illinois, possessed 69 counterfeit \$100 bills last Dec. 2 in Ritchie County, according to Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Bernard. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Salisbury Post (Salisbury, NC): **Accused White Supremacist Sentenced to Prison on Firearms Offenses**, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 1:56 PM

A Salisbury man will serve more than two years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court to

importing opioids into Savannah, Georgia, via the dark web. Wesley McKeehan, 34, pleaded guilty this month in a federal court in Savannah to distributing oxycodone. In addition to 26 months in prison, Judge R. Stan Baker ordered McKeehan to serve three years of supervised release after completing his prison term. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WSAV-NBC/CW \(Savannah, GA\)](#)

KNOE-CBS (Monroe, LA): 60-year-old La. man gets years in prison for illegally having gun, Matthew Segura, September 28, 2021, 7:07 PM

A 60-year-old Shreveport man was sentenced to 48 months in prison after he was found to be in illegal possession of a loaded firearm during a 2020 traffic stop. Johnny Dewayne Young, Jr., who is white, is a convicted felon and is not allowed to have a firearm. His prison term is expected to be followed by three years of supervised release. The sentencing announcement was made on Sept. 28, 2021, by the United States Attorney's Office Western District of Louisiana. Young was sentenced by United States District Judge Donald E. Walter on the same date. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTBS-ABC \(Shreveport, LA\)](#), [KTAL-NBC \(Shreveport, LA\)](#)

Daily Voice (Fairlawn, NJ): Feds: Paterson Man Admits Laundering \$2.5 Million For International Drug Cartels, Jerry DeMarco, September 28, 2021, 7:05 PM

A Paterson man admitted Tuesday that he laundered more than \$2.5 million for Central and South American drug cartels operating in New Jersey and New York, federal authorities said. Willy Cruz-Bonilla, 24, was among six Passaic County residents charged in a massive network that converted nearly \$27 million in ill-gotten gains to more than 1,000 checks sent to the Dominican Republic, Colombia and elsewhere, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael Honig said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WMBD-CBS (Peoria, IL): A decade behind bars: The sentence for a Washington man who attempted to engage in sexual activity with a minor, Sheridan Hurtig, September 28, 2021, 6:12 PM

A 21-year-old Washington man will spend the next 10 years of his life behind bars. On Tuesday, Sept. 21, Thomas R. Alt, a 21-year-old Washington man, was sentenced to 120 months of imprisonment, to be followed by 15 years of supervised release for attempted enticement of a child to engage in sexual activity. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WEEK-NBC \(Peoria, IL\)](#)

Daily Voice (Mahwah, NJ): Going Postal: Hudson County Man Admits Pulling Over, Pointing Gun At Mail Carrier, Jerry DeMarco, September 28, 2021, 6:05 PM

A Hudson County man admitted Tuesday that he pulled over a postal worker and pointed a gun at him. What motivated Joseph Cartagena, 34, of Jersey City, wasn't clear when he pleaded guilty via videoconference with a federal judge in Newark to one count of assaulting a federal employee. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTVJ-NBC (Miami, FL): Accused White Supremacist Sentenced to Prison on Firearms Offenses, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 6:00 PM

An accused white supremacist who called for a race-based civil war online to thousands of his followers was sentenced Tuesday to nearly three and a half years in prison on multiple firearms offenses. Paul Nicholas Miller, 33, sobbed in court as a judge sentenced him to 41 months in prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): 2 men sentenced for forcing undocumented immigrants to work at family's Mexican restaurant, Sandra Adams, September 28, 2021, 5:51 PM

Two Niagara County men were convicted Tuesday for forcing undocumented immigrants to work

at their Mexican restaurant, according to U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy, Jr. Father, Roberto Montes-Villalpando, 60, of Sanborn, and his son Abraham Montes, 29, of North Tonawanda, were convicted of conspiring to harbor aliens for financial gain and causing serious bodily injury. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOKH-Fox (Oklahoma City, OK): Air Force employee pleads guilty to falsifying claims for government money, Miranda Vondale Foster, September 28, 2021, 5:00 PM

A former Air Force employee has pled guilty to receiving stole government funds through falsified travel claims. According to Acting U.S. Attorney Robert J. Troester, Anthony Ray Jones, 55, of Midwest City, pled guilty to receiving approximately \$55,210.50 in stolen money from the federal government. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WECT-NBC (Wilmington, NC): Duplin man sentenced in Gordon Road gas station robbery, carjacking that ended in crash at elementary, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:47 PM

A Duplin County man is headed to prison for his role in a New Hanover County gas station robbery and carjacking that ended in a crash at an elementary school. A news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office states that Cory Montan Dixon, 40, of Magnolia, was sentenced Tuesday to nearly ten years in prison for the crimes. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WJBF-ABC (Augusta, GA): Texas man sentenced to federal prison for "thousands" of child pornography images, Ashlyn Williams, September 28, 2021, 4:47 PM

A Texas man faces more than 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to distributing child pornography through an internet messaging service. 23-year-old James Lee Kinnison of Cypress Texas was sentenced to 121 months in prison after pleading guilty to distributing child pornography. He will have to pay \$15,000 in restitution as well as serve 15 years of supervised release and register as a sex offender after completing his prison sentence. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WECT-NBC (Wilmington, NC): Elmira man sentenced to nearly 20 years for trafficking methamphetamine, George Stockburger, September 28, 2021, 4:36 PM

Jamal Anderson, 40, was sentenced to more than 19.5 years in prison after he was convicted of conspiring to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Anderson's arrest was announced on Tuesday by U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy, Jr. in Rochester. Assistant U.S. Robert A. Marangola, who handled the case, stated that the charges stem from a long-term, multi-agency investigation into the trafficking of large quantities of methamphetamine in the City of Elmira. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KPIX-CBS (San Francisco, CA): Notorious Norteño Gang Member 'Lil Rhino' Sentenced For Carrying Out Jailhouse Attacks, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:06 PM

A notorious Norteno gang member who goes by the street name 'Lil Rhino' was sentenced Tuesday to eight years in federal prison for taking part in a series of violent attacks on other inmates at the Monterey County Jail. Acting United States Attorney Stephanie M. Hinds said Michael Cazares, also known as 'Lil Rhino', was sentenced after he pleaded guilty to the federal RICO and conspiracy charges in June. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KDRV-ABC (Medford, OR): California man pleads guilty for trafficking drugs through southern Oregon, Jamie Parfitt, September 28, 2021, 3:39 PM

A California man pleaded guilty to federal charges on Tuesday for his role in a major drug

trafficking ring that operated between southern and northeastern Oregon, according to the US Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon. 33-year-old Noel Lomas Murillo of Vacaville entered a guilty plea to conspiring to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Prosecutors said that Murillo's operation worked to bring large quantities of meth in from California for sale in northeastern Oregon and southwestern Washington state. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBBM-CBS (Chicago, IL): Katrina Pierce Indicted On Charges Of Using Homicide Victims' Identities For False Tax Returns, Fraudulent COVID-19 Stimulus Payments, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 3:31 PM

A grand jury has indicted Katrina Pierce, a Chicago woman accused of filing false tax returns and obtaining fraudulent COVID-19 stimulus payments using the identities of homicide victims in Chicago and beyond. The indictment was returned Monday in U.S. District Court. It charges Pierce, 50, with 10 counts of wire fraud, six counts of aggravated identity theft, three counts of making false statements to the U.S. Small Business Administration, and one count of possessing identification documents to defraud the United States. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBTV-CBS (Charlotte, NC): Cabarrus County man sentenced to 50 years for producing, distributing child pornography, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 2:33 PM

A Cabarrus County man was sentenced to 50 years in prison and a lifetime term of supervised release for producing and distributing child pornography, prosecutors said. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of North Carolina, 25-year-old Adam Chase Wallace was indicted in February on four counts of production of child pornography, one count of distribution of child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBAY-ABC (Green Bay, WI): Federal sentencing hearings set for smoke shop owners in synthetics scheme, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 2:20 PM

A Northeast Wisconsin smoke shop owners are scheduled to be sentenced for their roles in a federal drug investigation. Tracy Lynn Sheldon and Chad Allen Zeske pleaded guilty to charges in a synthetic cannabinoids distribution scheme in the Southern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: A jury convicted R. Kelly; will his music face consequences?, Andrew Dalton, Gary Gerard Hamilton and Kristin M. Hall, September 28, 2021, 9:30 PM

Will a criminal conviction do to R. Kelly's music what years of ugly allegations couldn't? It's unlikely that Monday's moment of justice when a federal jury in New York found the 54-year-old R&B superstar guilty of all nine counts in a sex trafficking trial will mean much for his fans, given all the awful things they had learned already, some observers say. "The lines have already been drawn," said Jem Aswad, deputy music editor for the trade publication Variety, who has been covering R. Kelly for 20 years. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WaPo](#)

USA Today: California bill would strip bad cops of badges, but doesn't end immunity from lawsuits, Tami Abdollah, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

A bill passed by the California legislature aims to address problem law enforcement officers who jump from department to department, but it fails to deal with an ambiguity in state law that makes it easier for cops to claim immunity from liability when they hurt or kill people. [...] Last week, efforts to pass federal legislation to reform the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies stalled in the

Senate. Civil rights and police reform advocates say state legislatures are the best remaining venue to strengthen police accountability. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***The Hill*: Federal judge temporarily blocks South Carolina's ban on school mask mandates**, Celine Castronuovo, September 28, 2021, 9:56 PM

A federal judge on Tuesday temporarily blocked South Carolina's statewide ban on school mask mandates, arguing that the provision discriminates against students with disabilities. Judge Mary Geiger Lewis for the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina granted a motion for a preliminary injunction against the one-year law that had been written into the state's budget and put school districts at risk of losing funding should they require students and staff to wear masks. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The State \(Columbia, SC\)](#)

CIVIL LAW

***AP*: Key part of Arizona genetic-abnormality abortion law blocked**, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 10:00 PM

A judge has blocked a key portion of a new Arizona law that would have let prosecutors bring felony charges against doctors who knowingly terminate pregnancies solely because the fetuses have a genetic abnormality such as Down syndrome. U.S. District Judge Douglas Rayes on Tuesday also threw out another provision that would have let prosecutors bring charges against anyone who helped raise money or pay for abortions done solely because of genetic abnormality. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Arizona Republic](#), [The Hill](#), [Reuters](#)

***Valley Tribune (San Gabriel Valley, CA)*: San Gabriel Valley residents arrested in alleged \$2.5 million scam involving Target gift cards**, Unattributed, September 28, 9:19 PM (EDT)

Three San Gabriel Valley residents and a San Bernardino County resident were arrested Tuesday in connection with an alleged fraud scheme that induced people into purchasing thousands of Target gift cards, which were then used at stores in Los Angeles and Orange counties to purchase electronics and other goods. Bowen Hu, 26, of Hacienda Heights, and Tairan Shi, 27, of Diamond Bar, both Chinese nationals, are among four people named in a federal indictment detailing the alleged fraud scheme, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [My News LA](#), [Patch \(Diamond Bar-Walnut, CA\)](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

***AP*: Florida sues Biden administration over immigration policy**, Brendan Farrington, September 28, 2021, 5:04 PM

Florida filed suit against President Joe Biden's administration Tuesday claiming his immigration policy is illegal, and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an order barring state agencies from assisting with the relocation of undocumented immigrants arriving in the state. DeSantis' order authorized the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol "to detain any aircraft, bus, or other vehicle within the State of Florida reasonably believed to be transporting illegal aliens to Florida from the Southwest Border" if allowed by federal and state law. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [KAKE-ABC \(Wichita, KS\)](#), [Law360](#), [Miami Herald](#), [WTVJ-NBC \(Miami, FL\)](#)

***NYT*: [OPINION] Biden Is Taking a Page Out of Trump's Immigration Playbook**, Spencer

Bokat-Lindell, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

Last week, as images emerged from the southern border of Border Patrol agents on horseback chasing Haitians and brandishing reins, the senior U.S. envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote, resigned in protest over what he called the Biden administration's "inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees" seeking to enter the country. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: Fairfax County ends arrest blotter over concerns data could be used in effort to deport immigrants, Justin Jouvenal, September 28, 2021, 3:38 PM

Fairfax County police have stopped publishing a weekly arrest blotter after county officials found it violated a policy that restricts the dissemination of personal information that could aid immigration enforcement. Immigrant rights and civil liberties groups had been pushing for the change, arguing the weekly compilations that include arrestees' addresses and other details could allow U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to target immigrants for deportation and raise privacy concerns. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Split 9th Circ. Revives Honduran Woman's Asylum Bid, Melissa Angell, September 28, 2021, 10:48 PM

A split Ninth Circuit panel on Tuesday revived a Honduran woman's asylum bid and ruled the Board of Immigration Appeals violated her right to due process when it dismissed her pro se appeal after she failed to file a brief. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Feds Say Workers' Green Card Suit Is Congress' Problem, Grace Dixon, September 28, 2021, 10:26 PM

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has sought to shake off claims from nearly 200 green card applicants challenging the agency's alleged processing delays, telling a Maryland federal court that the issue is for Congress to resolve, not the courts. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: State Dept. Must Reserve 966 Diversity Visas Past Deadline, Jennifer Doherty, September 28, 2021, 8:02 PM

A D.C. federal judge ordered the U.S. State Department to reserve 966 diversity visas beyond the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, saying applicants were likely to prevail on their claims that the department unlawfully delayed processing. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: 5th Circ. Says Deportation Requires Proper Hearing Notice, Khorri Atkinson, September 28, 2021, 7:46 PM

The Fifth Circuit on Monday granted an Uruguayan immigrant's bid for the Board of Immigration Appeals to hold a rehearing in his removal proceedings, agreeing that the BIA did not properly send him a notice to appear as required by U.S. Supreme Court precedent. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

BuzzFeed: The Biden Administration Is Providing Legal Representation For Certain Immigrant Children In Eight US Cities, Hamed Aleaziz, September 28, 2021, 4:16 PM

The Biden administration will provide government-funded legal representation to certain unaccompanied immigrant children in deportation proceedings in eight US cities as part of an effort to boost legal access in the immigration court system, according to agency officials. The new effort, labeled the Counsel for Children Initiative, comes months after the Biden White House dealt with an increase in children arriving at the southern border, leading to overcrowded detention facilities and a scramble to find appropriate locations to hold them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NPR: Biden Says Border Agents Will Be Held Accountable For Misconduct. A Critic Has Doubts, Amy Isackson, Miguel Macias, and Ari Shapiro, September 28, 2021, 7:15 PM
When photographs emerged of U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback chasing down migrants at the southern border, President Biden promised accountability. "I promise you: Those people will pay," he said. "They will be investigated. There will be consequences." The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Border Patrol, has pledged an investigation and placed the agents on administrative duty. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Anchorage Daily News: Alaska seafood shippers who objected to \$350 million in federal fines lose a round in court, Alex DeMarban, September 28, 2021, 11:00 PM
A federal judge on Tuesday sided against Alaska seafood shippers who say they and other companies have wrongly been hit with more \$350 million in penalty notices from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for alleged violations of the Jones Act. U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason in Anchorage denied a request by Kloosterboer International Forwarding and Alaska Reefer Management to stop the federal government from imposing further penalties as the case proceeds, according to her 25-page order. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Laredo Morning Times (Laredo, TX): Calle 18 gang member arrested in foiled human smuggling attempt, Cesar Rodriguez, September 28, 2021, 7:15 PM
A Calle 18 gang member has been arrested for being in the country illegally, according to the U.S. Border Patrol. The incident dates back to Sept. 22, when the Medina County Sheriff's Office informed Cotulla Station agents they had pulled over a vehicle involved in a human smuggling attempt. Sheriff's officials are pursuing smuggling of persons charges while agents took custody of six migrants. One migrant was identified as Alex Oswaldo Guevara, a 43-year-old citizen of El Salvador and a Calle 18 gang member. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Seattle Times: [OPINION] ICE arrests in Washington tell stories of suffering that goes unseen, Angelina Snodgrass Godoy, September 28, 2021, 4:59 PM
In recent days, images of Border Patrol agents on horseback whipping Haitian asylum seekers at the Texas-Mexico border have reminded Americans of the racist origins and current practices of our nation's immigration enforcement agencies. While Washingtonians are right to recoil from these images, the practice of unlawfully expelling asylum-seekers happens in our state, too, we just haven't seen pictures. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KERO-ABC (Bakersfield, CA): Moshannon Valley to Become Immigrant Detention Center, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 12:00 AM
Clearfield County took public comment and voted on allowing an area prison to operate as an immigrant detention center. Clearfield County commissioners approved a five-year agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, and the privately-run GEO group to operate Moshannon Valley Correctional Center as an immigrant detention center. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFDA-CBS (Amarillo, TX): Biden administration to publish new rule reinstating DACA after court loss, Freixys Casado, September 28, 2021, 7:38 PM
President Biden is trying to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, also known as DACA. A proposed rule to protect the program is set to be formally published today to address a federal judge's concerns about the program. This summer, Federal Judge Andrew Hanen found DACA to be unlawful and blocked officials from taking new applications because of how it was implemented. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Law360: FTC Settles Antitrust Case Against Alabama Dental Board, Matthew Perlman, September 28, 2021, 9:18 PM

The Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday that Alabama's dental regulator has agreed to stop enforcing rules the agency contends impeded competition in the state from teledentistry platforms that provide clear teeth aligner therapies. The FTC said in a statement that the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama has agreed to settle charges that it violated antitrust law with rules requiring licensed dentists be on site when dental alignment imaging scans are performed. "These scans are routinely administered by dental hygienists and other non-dentist practitioners," the FTC said in a statement Tuesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Fortress Beats Intel Antitrust Suit Over Patent Purchases, Ryan Davis, September 28, 2021, 8:51 PM

A California federal judge entered judgment in favor of Fortress Investment Group on Tuesday in Intel's suit accusing the hedge fund of running an anti-competitive patent aggregation scheme, a decision that came less than two weeks after a hearing where Fortress argued the claims were entirely speculative. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: FTC's Khan Urges Antitrust Legislation to Protect Gig Workers, Siri Bulusu, September 28, 2021, 7:51 PM

FTC Chair Lina Khan urged Congress to consider passing legislation to give gig workers greater protections to organize under antitrust laws. Employees' labor organizing is exempted from the Clayton Act's purview. But collective actions by workers classified as non-employees may be susceptible to prosecution under antitrust laws and private lawsuits, Khan said in a Tuesday letter to the House Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ Bars Google Drive For Sharing Docs In Monopoly Case, Bryan Koenig, September 28, 2021, 7:57 PM

Google's legal team is spending days burning information onto hard drives because Justice Department security protocols prevent the sharing of discovery via the cloud, the parties told the D. C. federal judge handling the search and search advertising monopolization case on Tuesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: FTC Expanding, Toughening Merger Probes, Matthew Perlman, September 28, 2021, 7:08 PM

The Federal Trade Commission is continuing to shake up the agency's merger review procedures, with an official saying in a blog post Tuesday that information requests will be broader than in the past and will be shared more freely among the commissioners. The FTC has implemented a number of procedural moves in recent months, pointing to the volume of mergers enforcers are receiving, but the changes have also sparked harsh criticism from the commission's Republican minority and others. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Opt-Out Litigants Fight BCBS' \$2.67B Antitrust Settlement, Christopher Cole, September 28, 2021, 6:03 PM

Individuals who opted out of Blue Cross Blue Shield's \$2.67 billion antitrust settlement have filed their own suit in Florida federal court, saying the deal doesn't compensate health plan subscribers

enough for the Sherman Act violations they've alleged. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Minn. Contractor Admits To Rigging Public Contracts Bids, J. Edward Moreno, September 28, 2021, 5:24 PM

A Minnesota concrete contractor pled guilty Monday to rigging bids on public concrete repair and construction contracts. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

WaPo: A pit bull was killed after being forced to fight another dog. His owner will now spend 10 years in prison, Jonathan Edwards, September 29, 2021, 5:57 AM

Les Meyers's dog won the fight, but victory was not enough to save him. After the win, Meyers unleashed the unnamed pit bull one last time for a "courtesy scratch," a dogfighting ritual in which the victor attacks a vanquished opponent or its corpse to show its "gameness." The display, in illegal dogfighting circles, brings prestige to a handler. [...] Federal agents and local sheriff's deputies found the dog's body under the bumper of Meyers's Chrysler PT Cruiser when they raided the property as the second and final dogfight was about to start. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Environmentalists Urge Biden to Toughen Auto Emission Proposal, Keith Laing, September 28, 2021, 4:11 PM

Environmental groups are urging President Joe Biden to floor it on his plans to place higher limits on greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks as some carmakers argue the current proposals are good enough. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

Law360: Counties' VW Tampering Claims Not Barred, Feds Tell Justices, Linda Chiem, September 28, 2021, 6:45 PM

The federal government told the U.S. Supreme Court that the Clean Air Act does not bar two counties from pursuing claims that Volkswagen owes them additional penalties for flouting local anti-tampering laws in connection with its 2015 "clean diesel" emissions-cheating scandal. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Biden Deals Final Blow To Trump-Era Royalty Valuation Rule, Morgan Conley, September 28, 2021, 5:31 PM

Royalties for oil and gas produced on federal lands will be calculated the way they were before the Trump administration's eleventh-hour changes to valuation regulations, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Existing Laws Offer Environmental Justice Tools, Official Says, Dean Scott, September 28, 2021, 4:34 PM

The Justice Department has plenty of options under existing environmental laws to help local communities long suffering from air or water pollution even without an environmental justice statute, the head of a new federal environmental justice litigation team said Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Reuters: Valero sues U.S. for \$400 million in tax refunds, Sebastien Malo, September 28,

2021, 6:22 PM

Valero Energy Corp sued the federal government on Tuesday in San Antonio, Texas, federal court, demanding a refund of about \$400 million in federal income taxes the refiner says it overpaid. The San Antonio-based company claims the Internal Revenue Service has wrongly refused to return funds it collected for the tax years 2005 to 2008, even after Valero corrected the tax filings that led to its alleged overpayment. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

Law360: DOJ Says Swiss Firm Helped US Taxpayers Hide Over \$60M, Dylan Moroses, September 28, 2021, 7:43 PM

A Swiss financial services company and its six executives face tax fraud charges for helping three U.S. taxpayers hide more than \$60 million in income from the Internal Revenue Service for years, the U.S. Department of Justice said Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAVY-NBC (Portsmouth, VA): Virginia Beach man sentenced to 48 months for \$2.5 million tax fraud, Julius Ayo, September 28, 2021, 7:39 PM

A Virginia Beach man has been sentenced to 48 months (4 years) after pleading guilty to defrauding the IRS out of more than \$2.5 million in taxes. According to the Department of Justice, court documents show that 53-year-old Richard Yanek hid assets, made false statements about his ability to pay, used a nominee company to conduct business and diverted huge sums of money to pay creditors instead of the IRS. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

NYT: ‘This Was a Failure’: Biden’s A.T.F. Pick Says White House Left Him Open to Attack, Glenn Thrush, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

David Chipman’s defeat was a loss for gun control groups, which saw the appointment of a strong director as the most important move the president could make on guns. David Chipman’s confirmation odyssey began with a short congratulatory buzz from Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in April and ended, he said, with a long, rueful call from the presidential adviser Steve Ricchetti admitting the White House had fallen “short.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: [EDITORIAL] The 2020 Murder Spike, Editorial Board, September 28, 2021, 7:04 PM

Sometimes the result of bad public policies takes years to play out. But that wasn’t the case with last year’s political assault on police in the wake of George Floyd’s murder. The predictable result of less policing was more violent crime in 2020, as Federal Bureau of Investigation data has now confirmed. Homicides in the U.S. rose by nearly 30% in 2020, the biggest single-year spike since the feds began collecting data 60 years ago, according to crime statistics from nearly 16,000 law enforcement agencies. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram face pressure to stop illegal drug sales as overdose deaths soar, Rachel Lerman and Gerrit De Vynck, September 28, 2021, 3:27 PM

Social apps have struggled to curb drug sales for years. They’re still not doing enough, say parent groups and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Amy Neville lost her son last year after he took a pill made with fentanyl. Alex, 14 years old, connected with a drug dealer on social media app Snapchat to buy the pills, she said. She has since protested outside Snap’s headquarters and called on the company in a letter signed by six other parents to set up an external committee of law enforcement representatives, parents and public health experts to review the company’s progress on addressing the availability of drugs on its site. [[Continue](#)

[Reading\]](#)

CNN: Attorney for Gabby Petito's family skeptical that fiancé Brian Laundrie's family will help FBI search, Eric Levenson and Madeline Holcombe, September 28, 2021, 5:50 PM

An attorney for Gabby Petito's family expressed skepticism Tuesday that the parents of her fiancé Brian Laundrie would help in the FBI's ongoing search for him. "The Laundrie's did not help us find Gabby. They're sure not going to help us find Brian," family attorney Richard Stafford said. "For Brian, we're asking you to turn yourself in to the FBI or the nearest law enforcement agency."

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WTVG-ABC \(Toledo, OH\)](#)

CNN: DEA warns of sharp increase in fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl and meth, Nadia Kounang, September 28, 2021, 2:34 PM

The US Drug Enforcement Administration on Monday issued a public safety alert about a sharp increase of fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl and methamphetamine. This is the first such alert issued by the DEA in six years. According to the agency, more than 9.5 million counterfeit pills have been seized this year, more than the last two years combined. In a news release, the agency said DEA lab tests revealed there has also been a dramatic rise in pills containing at least 2 milligrams of the drug, which is considered a lethal dose. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KARE-NBC \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [KELO-AM \(Sioux Falls, SD\)](#), [KOTV-CBS \(Tulsa, OK\)](#), [News12WC \(Yonkers, NY\)](#), [Patch \(Salem, MA\)](#), [WACH-Fox \(Columbia, SC\)](#), [WBIR-NBC \(Knoxville, TN\)](#), [WDAF-Fox \(Kansas City, MO\)](#), [WGN \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WTOP-FM \(Washington, DC\)](#)

The Columbus Dispatch (Columbus, OH): Two Columbus police narcotics officers arrested by the FBI, charges to be unsealed Wednesday, Bethany Bruner, September 28, 2021, 9:29 PM

Two Columbus police narcotics officers who worked in the division's cartel unit were arrested Tuesday by FBI agents, sources have told The Dispatch. The officers John J. Kotchkoski, 33, and Marco Merino, 44 were arrested on charges that are expected to be unsealed during court hearings for the officers on Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Columbus. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: Police searching for gun that was in an FBI Pittsburgh vehicle that was stolen from a Pittsburgh park, Megan Tomasic, September 28, 2021, 7:40 PM

FBI agents and the Pittsburgh police are searching for a gun that was inside a vehicle owned by the FBI that was stolen Tuesday, officials said. An FBI vehicle was stolen from Schenley Park around 1:30 p.m., said FBI Pittsburgh spokeswoman Catherine Policicchio. Inside was a Glock 19M 9mm. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KDKA-CBS \(Pittsburgh, PA\)](#), [WPXI-NBC \(Pittsburgh, PA\)](#)

KRQE-CBS/Fox (Albuquerque, NM): FBI seeking suspect in NE Albuquerque bank robbery, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 12:07 AM

The FBI is investigating another bank robbery in Albuquerque, this time at the Bank of the West on Eubank and Menaul. Investigators say around 3 p.m. Tuesday a Hispanic or Asian man walked in and handed the teller a demand note. The man was wearing sunglasses, a blue baseball cap with a white Nike symbol, dark denim jeans and a black gaiter mask. He was seen leaving on foot, west on Snow Heights. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KCBD-NBC \(Lubbock, TX\)](#)

WJBK-Fox (Detroit, MI): FBI bust Detroit area ring that used stolen credit cards to buy guns illegally, Dave Spencer and David Komer, September 29, 2021, 12:00 AM

The FBI says an organized crime ring was conducting "straw purchases" using stolen credit card information to buy guns. Now, 10 people are facing federal charges. The straw purchases nickname from the FBI comes, because the crime happens so often. Each suspect is facing 10 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTP-ABC (Saint Paul, MN): Feds release images of person of interest in northeast Minneapolis church arson, Richard Reeve, September 28, 2021, 11:03 PM

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is hoping for fresh leads on the arson of Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church. The storied 107-year-old house of worship was gutted by fire back in April. Now the ATF is releasing video and stills of a man they say was spotted near the fire scene. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KMSP-Fox \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [KOLO-ABC \(Reno, NV\)](#)

KHOU-CBS (Houston, TX): US Marshals searching for wanted suspect who escaped and may still be in handcuffs, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 10:51 PM

U.S. Marshals are searching for a man who they said escaped while in the process of being arrested for violating his probation. Officials are looking for Pedro Castillo-Hernandez, who was initially in custody for illegal entry. U.S. Marshals said Castillo-Hernandez violated his probation and while in the process of being taken into custody escaped. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KPRC-NBC \(Houston, TX\)](#), [KMPH-Fox \(Fresno, CA\)](#)

WBFF-Fox (Baltimore, MD): Maryland's Most Wanted | Man accused of 'revenge' home invasion may have fled to Florida, Dan Lampariello, September 28, 2021, 9:00 PM

A man with Baltimore ties, accused committed a home invasion at the home of an ex-girlfriend, is the subject of this week's Maryland's Most Wanted. According to the U.S. Marshals Service, 20-year-old Rmani Lindo has been on the run for nearly 10 months and should be considered armed and dangerous. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KECI-NBC (Missoula, MT): Project Safe Neighborhoods evaluates high crime numbers during pandemic, Mackenzie Quinn, September 28, 2021, 6:39 PM

Violent crime in Montana is up 26.9% since 2016, with over half of those reports occurring in 2020. Attorneys are trying to curb those numbers through a special program called Project Safe Neighborhoods. "We chose Yellowstone County and Missoula County as our two PSN sites," explained Lee Johnson, investigation bureau chief with the Montana Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTU-Fox (Salt Lake City, UT): In-Depth: FBI report shows spike in Utah murders, Max Roth, September 28, 2021, 6:16 PM

The FBI's annual report, Crime in the United States, shows a spike in violent crime across the country, with the trend clear in Utah. Utah lost 92 lives to murder in 2020, the highest number since the FBI began to tally the number in 1960. Despite that, Utah's overall murder rate is far lower than the national average with 2.9 deaths per 100,000 Utahns compared to 5.4 deaths per 100,000 Americans. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KOKH-Fox \(Oklahoma, OK\)](#), [WDRB-Fox \(Louisville, KY\)](#), [WICS-ABC \(Springfield, IL\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#), [WOIO-CBS \(Cleveland, OH\)](#)

WTVY-CBS (Dothan, AL): Investigation continues after Thursday morning break-in at Abbeville pharmacy, Justin Walker, September 28, 2021, 4:52 PM

Henry County law enforcement officers are actively searching for the suspects responsible for a Thursday morning break-in at an Abbeville pharmacy. [...] Blankenship says they've reached out to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Birmingham and the state pharmaceutical board. They've also talked to other nearby law enforcement agencies who have had similar crimes like this recently, all in an effort to find the suspects responsible. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBTV-CBS (Charlotte, NC): Chester County man arrested for planning to distribute almost 1,000 pills filled with fentanyl, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:23 PM

The Chester County Sheriff's Office has arrested a man following the discovery of a large amount of fentanyl disguised as pills while serving a search warrant. Investigators with the Chester County Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Violent Crimes Unit assisted ATF (alcohol, tobacco and firearms) agents with the execution of the warrant at a home on Ashford Road in Chester on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WXIX-Fox (Cincinnati, OH): Reward offered in Northern Kentucky gun store burglary, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:20 PM

A reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the burglary of Goodies Pawn on August 31 in Hebron. A man wearing a camouflage jacket and backpack broke through the glass front door of the pawnshop in the 2200 block of Petersburg Road around 11:24 p.m. and took a large number of firearms, officials with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WLWT-NBC \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#)

WMBF-NBC (Myrtle Beach, SC): FBI, ATF assisting in Robeson County death investigation; body identified, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 2:12 PM

The Robeson County Sheriff's Office confirms a body was discovered Tuesday afternoon near Lumberton. Deputies were called to Woodland Avenue around 12:50 p.m. to a body being found on the side of the road. The body was identified as 26-year-old Eddie Tart IV of Lumberton. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WPDE-ABC \(Florence, SC\)](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Texas inmate executed for fatally stabbing 2 brothers, Juan A. Lozano and Michael Graczyk, September 28, 2021, 8:00 PM

A Texas inmate was executed Tuesday evening for fatally stabbing two Houston-area brothers during a robbery in their home more than 30 years ago. Rick Rhoades, 57, was executed by lethal injection at the state penitentiary in Huntsville. He was condemned for the September 1991 killings of Charles Allen, 31, and Bradley Allen, 33. The brothers were killed less than a day after Rhoades had been released on parole after serving a sentence for burglary. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [Fox](#), [SCOTUSblog](#)

Washington Times: Allies flock to Texas death-row inmate asking for chaplain at execution, Mark A. Kellner, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

John Henry Ramirez, awaiting execution at Texas' Huntsville Unit prison, wants the same thing Americans granted convicted Nazi war criminals facing the gallows after the Nuremberg trials: a chaplain to pray with at the hour of death. [...] The Supreme Court halted Ramirez's Sept. 8th execution following the inmate's appeal over the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's refusal

to allow the Rev. Dana Moore, pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, into the death chamber to “lay hands” on Ramirez and pray with him before dying. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

Bloomberg Law: **[AUDIO] Supreme Court’s Texas Abortion Ruling Spurs Lawsuits**, David Schultz, September 28, 2021, 4:27 PM

The Supreme Court’s bombshell 5 to 4 ruling this month on Texas’s new abortion restrictions law was both an end and a beginning. It put an end to the hopes of abortion rights activists who wanted to overturn this law before it took effect, but it also marked the beginning of a frenzy of litigation aimed at getting this issue back before the court as quickly as possible. [\[Listen\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: **High Court Can Skip Counties’ VW Diesel Software Case, U.S. Says**, Martina Barash, September 28, 2021, 3:07 PM

Two counties’ anti-tampering claims against Volkswagen AG over its post-sale emissions software updates to diesel vehicles should be allowed to proceed without U.S. Supreme Court review because the Clean Air Act doesn’t block them, the Biden administration said in a brief. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: **Pork Producers Ask High Court To Review Calif. Pig Care Law**, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, September 28, 2021, 2:00 PM

Agriculture industry groups on Monday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit’s decision to uphold a California ballot initiative that banned in-state sales of pork born from sows kept in confined housing. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Reuters: **U.S. judiciary seeks more Oklahoma judges after Supreme Court ruling**, Nate Raymond, September 28, 2021, 5:15 PM

The federal judiciary is asking Congress for five more judges in Oklahoma following a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that recognized parts of Oklahoma as Native American reservation land and barred state prosecutions of crimes in those areas. The request on Tuesday from the U.S. Judicial Conference, the judiciary’s policymaking body, came in addition to a recommendation it made to Congress earlier this year to create 79 new judgeships, mostly in district courts to help alleviate growing caseloads nationally. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [Law360](#), [The Oklahoman](#)

Law360: **DOI Asks 8th Circ. To Kill Mount Rushmore Fireworks Crusade**, Victoria McKenzie, September 28, 2021, 10:39 PM

U.S. government attorneys have asked the Eighth Circuit to dismiss the South Dakota governor’s ongoing fight with the National Park Service over its refusal to approve a fireworks permit at Mount Rushmore on July Fourth, highlighting the agency’s consideration of public health and environmental risks. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: **Fla. Businesses Revolt Against Tribe’s Sports Betting Permit**, Victoria McKenzie, September 28, 2021, 3:55 PM

A trio of wealthy property owners in Florida are suing the federal government over the Seminole

Tribe's 2021 gambling compact, which they say was approved in violation of the state constitution and will create an explosion of online sports betting across non-tribal lands. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Law360: DC Circ. Hears DEA Should Not Oversee Hemp Manufacturing, Sam Reisman, September 28, 2021, 9:36 PM

Hemp industry advocates told the D. C. Circuit Tuesday the federal 2018 Farm Bill should have barred the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration from taking action against manufacturers and processors involved in creating legal hemp products. In an opening brief, the trade group Hemp Industries Association said it had sought a declaratory judgment giving hemp processors immunity from DEA enforcement, but the lower court had misconstrued its claim as a challenge to a DEA rule published in August 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tulsa World: [EDITORIAL] Open up legitimate banking to cannabis businesses to reduce crime, Mike Simons, September 29, 2021, 1:00 AM

The U.S. Senate ought to pass the National Defense Authorization Act with the provision that allows the marijuana industry to use the banking system. For too long, Congress has ignored the growing acceptance and various uses of marijuana, keeping the drug listed as a Schedule I substance; that's the same category as cocaine and LSD. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Reuters: Drug distributors strike 1st opioid settlement with Native American tribe for \$75 mln, Nate Raymond, September 28, 2021, 5:08 PM

The three largest U.S. drug distributors will pay more than \$75 million to resolve claims they fueled an opioid epidemic in the Cherokee Nation's territory in Oklahoma, marking the first settlement with a tribal government in the litigation over the U.S. addiction crisis. Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin on Tuesday said the settlement, which will be paid over 6-1/2 years, would "enable us to increase our investments in mental health treatment facilities and other programs to help our people recover." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [AP](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Law360](#), [NPR](#), [The Oklahoman](#), [Tulsa World \(Tulsa, OK\)](#)

Reuter: New York bankruptcy judge who oversaw Purdue Pharma case to retire, Maria Chutchian, September 28, 2021, 3:46 PM

A judge popular among attorneys who like to bring their complicated Chapter 11 cases before him will retire next year, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York announced on Tuesday. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain in White Plains, New York, who recently oversaw the bankruptcy of OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma LP and approved controversial legal protections for the Sackler family members that owned the company, will retire on June 30, 2022. Before joining the bench in 2002 he was a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WJS](#)

City Newspaper (Rochester, NY): As opioid epidemic rages on, supervised injection sites still at a stalemate, Gino Fanelli, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

Often overlooked during the pandemic has been the nation's other health crisis: the opioid epidemic. But more than 95,000 Americans died of drug overdoses over the 12-month period

that ended in February, according to the latest federal data available, eclipsing the toll from any year since the opioid epidemic began in the 1990s. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

The Hill: Federal agencies submit plans to improve voting access after Biden order, Brett Samuels, September 28, 2021, 2:08 PM

More than a dozen federal agencies on Tuesday submitted actions they will take to strengthen voting access after President Biden called on them to do so amid difficulty getting voting rights legislation through Congress. Various departments announced steps to encourage voter registration and improve ballot access in response to an executive order Biden signed in March. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. House passes bill to end disparities in crack cocaine sentences, Sarah N. Lynch, September 28, 2021, 5:50 PM

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a bill to permanently end the sentencing disparities between crack cocaine and powder, a policy that has led to the disproportionate incarceration of African Americans. In a bipartisan vote of 361-66, the House approved the EQUAL Act, short for Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

CNN: Senators introduce cyber bill to mandate reporting on ransomware and critical infrastructure attacks, Geneva Sands, September 28, 2021, 6:05 PM

The top senators on the Homeland Security Committee introduced legislation on Tuesday to require critical infrastructure companies to report cyberattacks to the federal government and to mandate that most organizations tell the federal government if they make ransomware payments. If enacted, the bill will create the first national requirement for critical infrastructure entities to report when their systems have been breached. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

CNN: GOP enthusiasm for prosecuting Capitol rioters has fallen, Pew poll finds, Marshall Cohen and Ariel Edwards-Levy, September 28, 2021, 2:47 PM

Republicans' appetite for seeing January 6 rioters prosecuted has fallen sharply over the course of the year, according to a Pew Research Center survey released Tuesday. A sizable majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 57%, still say it's at least somewhat important that federal law enforcement agencies find and prosecute those who broke into and rioted at the US Capitol -- but that's down from 79% in a March poll. Only about one-quarter now consider such prosecutions very important, down from half who felt that way in the spring. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Roll Call: Jan. 6 probe could affect future congressional oversight, Chris Marquette, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

The House Jan. 6 select committee's pursuit of what led to the attack on the Capitol is shaping up to be a fight over congressional oversight authority that may have lasting effects on the way the legislative branch conducts investigations. The panel in August asked 35 telecommunications, email and social media companies, such as Apple and Verizon, to preserve records from April 1, 2020, through Jan. 31, 2021 relating to certain people who could be of interest to the

inquiry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: Jan. 6 committee prepares legal arsenal for likely subpoena fights, Kyle Cheney And Nicholas Wu, September 29, 2021, 4:30 AM

The House committee investigating Donald Trump's role in the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol is quietly devising plans to pressure hostile witnesses to spill their secrets. The select panel's leaders are preparing a narrow set of legal and tactical options as they brace for Trump allies to invoke a wide range of constitutional protections to avoid testifying from claiming executive privilege to invoking their constitutional right to avoid self-incrimination. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The end of the 20-year war in Afghanistan was a "strategic failure," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Mark Milley told lawmakers, while Pentagon leaders directly contradicted Pres. Biden by saying they advised him to keep thousands of troops in the country. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Pfizer says they submitted data to the FDA showing that their COVID vaccine is safe and effective among children ages 5-11. If the shot is authorized, kids could start getting the vaccine by late October. More than a quarter of new COVID infections nationwide are among kids. In hard-hit Georgia, one county continues to feud over masks in schools as nearly 5,000 students and staff contract the deadly virus. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CBS-2](#), [NBC](#), [NBC-1](#)]
- More than 800,000 federal workers and a million contracts could be furloughed if Congress can't reach a deal to fund the government by Thursday night. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The family of Gabby Petito called on her fiancé, Brian Laundrie, to turn himself in during a Tuesday press conference. Laundrie's family insists they don't know where he is. [[CBS](#)]
- The man who stormed into a Maryland newspaper office in 2018 and fatally shot five people was sentenced to five consecutive life terms with no possibility of parole. [[CBS](#)]
- North Korea said Wednesday it successfully tested a new hypersonic missile it implied was being developed as nuclear capable, as it continues to expand its military capabilities and pressure Washington and Seoul over long-stalled negotiations over its nuclear weapons. [[CBS](#)]
- The UN estimates 160 million children are performing forced labor worldwide. We spoke to

one boy who was sold into servitude to pay off the debt for his mother's funeral, but was able to escape three years later. [[CBS](#)]

- Costco is limiting the purchase of toilet paper and paper towels. COVID-19 disruptions have caused a lack of dock workers and truckers, which has created bottlenecks in shipping. [[ABC](#)]
- The rural rail line is a major shipping and passenger thoroughfare. BNSF, which maintains the tracks, says they have been regularly inspected. As the investigation continues, we're learning more about the three people killed, including a couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "As Trump hints at comeback, democracy advocates fear a 'worst-case scenario'" [[WaPo](#)]
- "Retailers' Latest Headache: Shutdowns at Their Vietnamese Suppliers" [[NYT](#)]
- "Stock Futures Move Higher in Wake of Wall Street Rout" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 29, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
National Security
3.
Criminal Law
4.
Civil Rights
5.
Civil Law
6.
Immigration & Border Security
7.
Antitrust
8.
Environment

9. Tax
10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
12. US Supreme Court
13. Native American Affairs
14. Marijuana Legalization
15. Opioid Crisis
16. Administration
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

DOJ

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12:00 PM (EDT): Press Conference to Announce Project Safe Neighborhood Gun Charges and Arrests in Waterloo, Iowa. Representatives from the United States Attorney's Office and federal and local law enforcement agencies, including the Waterloo Police Departments, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the United States Marshal's Service will be present at the press conference. The purpose of the press conference is to announce more than a dozen recent Project Safe Neighborhood gun charges and arrests in Waterloo.

CONGRESS

- 10:00 AM: House Committee on Oversight and Reform Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Subcommittee hybrid hearing on 'Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part VI): Examining the Biden Administration's Counterterrorism Strategy'. Held virtually and in-person in Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
- 10:00 AM: Senate Committee on the Judiciary, full committee hearing on 'Texas's Unconstitutional Abortion Ban and the Role of the Shadow Docket.. Held in Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Newsweek: **[OPINION] If Durham Seeks To Serve Russiagate Justice, Will AG Garland Let Him?**, Ben Weingarten, September 29, 2021, 6:30 AM

Will the American people receive justice for Russiagate? If justice is to be meted out, will Attorney General Merrick Garland let it be done? Observers like myself, having witnessed the machinations of the Deep State and its auxiliaries over the last five years, have long lamented the answer is "No." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NY Post: **[EDITORIAL] Garland should extend funding for special counsel John Durham's Russiagate probe**, Editorial Board, September 28, 2021, 7:23 PM

Attorney General Merrick Garland has a clear duty to renew funding for special counsel John Durham's investigation into the origins of the Russiagate "scandal" when the current authorization expires at month's end. Back in February, Garland rightly told senators that he has "no reason to think" Durham should be kicked off the case. But the AG hasn't yet OK'd spending for the new fiscal year, which starts Friday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: **US Deports Russian Man Imprisoned for Cybercrimes**, Eric Tucker and Frank Bajak, September 28, 2021, 7:32 PM

In a surprising development, a Russian man who was imprisoned in the U.S. for cybercrimes has been deported to Russia, officials said Tuesday. Aleksei Burkov, 31, facilitated \$20 million in credit card fraud and ran a sophisticated clearinghouse for international criminals. He was sentenced to nine years in prison last year after pleading guilty in federal court in Virginia. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

WaPo: **Judges asked if Jan. 6 plea deals were too lenient. Now, the U.S. for the first time seeks jail for a misdemeanor offender**, Spencer S. Hsu, September 29, 2021, 6:00 AM

Federal judges for months have questioned whether no-prison plea deals offered by the government to low-level Jan. 6 defendants are too lenient to deter future attackers from terrorizing members of Congress. Now judges can decide for themselves, after prosecutors for the first time are requesting jail time at a sentencing hearing scheduled Wednesday morning for a nonviolent misdemeanor offender in the U.S. Capitol breach. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: How the Huawei Case Raised Fears of ‘Hostage Diplomacy’ by China, Katie Benner and David E. Sanger, September 28, 2021, 10:31 PM

The talks between the Justice Department and a top executive from Huawei Technologies, the Chinese telecommunications giant, had stretched over more than 12 months and two presidential administrations, and boiled down to one overarching dispute: whether Meng Wanzhou, daughter of Huawei’s founder, would admit to any wrongdoing. Since her arrest in 2018, Ms. Meng had refused to admit that she had misled the global banking conglomerate HSBC about Huawei’s dealings with Iran a decade ago, even though that was the key to her release from detention in Canada, where she was out on bail at an imposing gated mansion in Vancouver. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Woman who said she wanted to shoot Pelosi in the ‘brain’ pleads guilty to misdemeanor, Rachel Weiner and Spencer S. Hsu, September 28, 2021, 6:45 PM

A woman who said as she left the U.S. Capitol during the riot on Jan. 6 that she had hoped to murder House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) pleaded guilty Tuesday to a misdemeanor charge. “I would like to accept my responsibility for what I did, for my part in January 6,” Dawn Bancroft, 59, of suburban Philadelphia said in federal court in Washington as she admitted to illegally demonstrating. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [BuzzFeed](#), [CNN](#), [Newsweek](#), [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, DC\)](#)

AFP: US federal court greenlights extradition of former Peruvian president, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 7:22 PM

A California federal court on Tuesday authorized the extradition of former Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo to his home country, where he is being prosecuted in a sweeping corruption case. "The court has heard and considered the evidence of criminality and deems it sufficient to sustain the charges of collusion and money laundering," said Judge Thomas Hixson in his ruling. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#)

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] U.S. Military Officials Testify, New Japanese Prime Minister, Proud Boys Post-Trump, September 29, 2021, 5:45 AM

Top U.S. military officials will testify before House lawmakers today on the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. What do they hope to learn? (1:28). And Japan is on track to get a new Prime Minister. What kind of challenges will the incoming leader face? (5:21). Plus, a year after former President Donald Trump acknowledged the Proud Boys during a presidential debate, how active is the far-right extremist group? (8:41) [[Listen](#)]

Washington Examiner: Mark Meadows on FBI informant in Capitol riot crowd: 'There is a whole lot that needs to come out', Daniel Chaitin, September 28, 2021, 10:54 PM

The public does not know the full story about the Capitol riot, according to a top confidant of former President Donald Trump. Mark Meadows, former White House chief of staff when a throng of Trump supporters stormed their way into the U.S. Capitol complex on Jan. 6, made the comment responding to a new report about the presence of an FBI informant in the crowd. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: Just 80 Capitol Riot Cases Have Entered Guilty Pleas So Far, More Than 600 Arrested, Zoe Strozewski, September 28, 2021, 5:54 PM

Though federal agents have found and arrested more than 600 people across the U.S. who were

allegedly involved in the Capitol riot, just 80 cases have entered guilty pleas so far. But as the growing amounts of Jan. 6 evidence force trial delays for those facing charges, the number of people arrested in connection with the riots is also rising nearly on a weekly basis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: CrossFit gym owner among 5 Capitol rioters to strike pleas, Samantha Hawkins, September 28, 2021, 5:00 PM

Five more individuals pleaded guilty Tuesday to storming the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 but will likely avoid jail time as there is no evidence they committed violence. As a federal judge noted on Tuesday, the defendants belong to a group of low-level, nonviolent rioters who tend not to have a criminal past and their conduct on Jan. 6 is a surprising anomaly. "That's one of the largest questions in these cases," U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan said at a hearing for Dawn Bancroft. "So many people, up to Jan. 6, were upstanding members of the community and had never been in trouble. Scores of letters from family members and friends have come in attesting to their character. But, on Jan. 6, they morphed into terrorists." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAVY-NBC (Portsmouth, VA): FBI releases more photos of wanted insurrectionists, suspected of attacking law enforcement, Emma North, September 28, 2021, 11:42 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is still working to apprehend rioters that stormed the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6. Since the insurrection, the FBI has been sharing images of participants accused of assaulting law enforcement officers as they rioted inside and outside of the building. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHEC-NBC (Rochester, NY): Feds release new video of Rochester man charged in January 6 US Capitol attack, Berkeley Brean, September 28, 2021, 6:39 PM

News10NBC has a new video to show you of the only local man charged in the assault on the U.S. Capitol last January 6th. The Department of Justice pinpoints who they believe is Dominic Pezzola and the video shows him in the middle of it. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Lehigh, PA): Lehigh County Man Pleads Guilty To Role In Capitol Riot, Nicole Acosta, September 28, 2021, 5:44 PM

A Lehigh County man whose distinctive leopard-print vest assisted federal authorities in identifying him as a Jan. 6 riot participant has pleaded guilty. Jackson Kostolsky, 32, pleaded guilty to one count of parading, picketing, or demonstrating in a Capitol building, according to court papers. He faces a maximum of six months in prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSTM-NBC (Syracuse, NY): Another Syracuse man arrested for entering U.S. Capitol during January 6 riot, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 5:30 PM

Another Syracuse man is facing federal charges in connection to the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, though the charges are not as serious as an Eastwood man's accusations. Richard Bryan Watrous was charged with entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. The charges were filed on September 21. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KUSA-NBC (Denver, CO): Former Olympic swimmer indicted in Capitol riots expected to accept plea deal, Janet Oravetz, September 28, 2021, 3:08 PM

A former Olympic swimmer who was indicted on seven counts related to the failed insurrection at the US Capitol on Jan. 6 will be in federal court Wednesday afternoon where he's expected to

enter a plea. In August, federal prosecutors said Klete Keller was willing to accept a plea deal that was being offered and a plea hearing is set for 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time Tuesday. Details of the offer have not yet been made public. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

Reuters: Attorney pleads guilty to defrauding investors in case funding scheme, Sierra Jackson, September 28, 2021, 7:43 PM

A New York attorney pleaded guilty on Tuesday to defrauding investors in his now-bankrupt litigation funding business. The U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan said that attorney Jaeson Birnbaum "conned" investors in his company Cash4Cases Inc by convincing them that money they invested would be loaned to tort litigants. The investors were told they could then claim a percentage of the money awarded to litigants. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

AP: Theranos CEO wooed investors while lab director saw trouble, Michael Liedtke, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

Fallen Silicon Valley star Elizabeth Holmes convinced media mogul Rupert Murdoch and other billionaires to invest in her biotechnology startup despite warnings its unconventional blood tests were dangerously unreliable, according to evidence presented Tuesday during her criminal trial. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: Man pleads guilty to trying to set up murder of crime victim, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 6:40 PM

A Sedalia man pleaded guilty Tuesday to trying to hire someone to kill a victim in a statutory sodomy case. Jon Mark Wilson, 57, pleaded guilty in federal court to use of interstate facilities using a cellphone and crossing state lines in the commission of murder for hire. He admitted that he paid \$2,000 to an undercover agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to murder the victim. Wilson was charged in Pettis County with two counts of first-degree statutory sodomy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: 6 Years for Man Who Stole Lawmakers' IDs, Passed Bad Checks, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 5:52 PM

A Florida man has been sentenced to six years and five months in prison for stealing the identities of local, state and federal officials in a case involving more than \$50,000 in fraudulent payments, authorities said. Michael T. Watters, 51, of Ocoee, was sentenced Monday in Orlando federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in July to aggravated identity theft and wire fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Ex-juvenile court judge pleads guilty to child porn charges, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:12 PM

A former juvenile court judge in Wisconsin pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to two counts of distributing child pornography. Brett Blomme, 39, a onetime Milwaukee County children's court judge, faces a minimum mandatory sentence of five years in prison on each count. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 22. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Examiner: Bangladeshi human trafficker sentenced for running illegal migrant hotel, smuggling people into US, Asher Notheis, September 28, 2021, 3:54 PM

A Bangladeshi man was sentenced to 46 months in prison Tuesday for participating in a scheme

to smuggle undocumented individuals from Mexico and other countries into the United States, according to the Justice Department. Mohamad Milon Hossain, 41, conspired with and assisted human smugglers operating out of Bangladesh, South and Central America, and Mexico to bring numerous undocumented individuals to the U.S. border in exchange for payment. Hossain assisted in this operation from March 2017 through June 2019, the DOJ reported. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Laredo Morning Times \(Laredo, TX\)](#)

KWTV-CBS (Oklahoma City, OK): Man Convicted Of Child Sex Trafficking Sentenced To 30 Years In Federal Prison, Sylvia Corkill, September 29, 2021, 12:00 AM

A convicted child sex trafficker was sentenced Tuesday and is likely to spend the rest of his life in federal prison. A man instrumental in his arrest spoke to News 9 following the sentencing. In 2018 a well-known local private investigator familiar with Germaine Coulter's criminal past sounded the alarm after he learned Coulter was recruiting and prostituting students at Edmond Santa Fe High School. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Hartford Courant: Danbury man faces federal child exploitation charges, Amanda Blanco, September 28, 2021, 7:36 PM

A Danbury man is facing federal charges for child exploitation and pornography. Wayne Marcell, 35, is charged with sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl from Georgia in June and recording the abuse, said Leonard Boyle, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, in a statement. The victim allegedly met Robert Fyke, 33, of Lubbock, Texas, online in April. Court documents allege that Fyke then picked up the child in Georgia and drove her back to Texas, where she stayed with him for about four weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(Danbury, CT\)](#)

The Daily Item (Lynn, MA): Lynn man indicted on firearms offenses, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

A 32-year-old Lynn man has been indicted in connection with the illegal possession and sale of firearms. Jufrandy Montano faces indictments of dealing in firearms without a license, being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and possession of an unregistered firearm. Following an appearance before the U.S. District Court Magistrate Judith G. Dein on Tuesday, Montano was returned to the State of Maine, where he is currently serving a sentence on unrelated state charges, the U.S. Attorney's office said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Detroit News: 4 Metro Detroiters accused of defrauding COVID business loan program, Charles E. Ramirez, September 28, 2021, 6:50 PM

Four Metro Detroiters are accused of a scheme involving more than \$4 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds, officials said Tuesday. Antonio George, 45, of Novi; Kevin Womble, 37, of Detroit; Andrae Sims, 43, of Farmington Hills; and Sarah Vidal, 31, of Novi each are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement. George, who is a tax preparer, also has been charged with three counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent returns. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Oakland Press \(Troy, MI\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#)

Detroit News: Feds indict 9 Metro Detroiters for using others to illegally buy guns, Charles E. Ramirez, September 28, 2021, 6:40 PM

Nine Metro Detroiters and a Floridian accused of illegally buying guns have been indicted on federal charges, officials said Tuesday. Bishop Allen, 24; Antonio Jackson, 22; James Jackson, 23; Eshon Rose, 22; Reginald Small, 23; Emmanuel Stevens, 21; Donte Turner, 26; and

Chauncey Williams, 21, all of Detroit, as well as Mike Chahoua, 23, of Sterling Heights have been charged, acting U.S. Attorney Saima Mohsin said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Macomb Daily \(The Macomb, MI\)](#), [WDIV-NBC \(Detroit, MI\)](#), [WJBK-Fox \(Detroit, MI\)](#)

Salem News (Salem, MA): **Wenham man facing COVID fund fraud charge**, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 6:00 PM

A Wenham man has been charged by federal prosecutors with fraudulently obtaining \$1.2 million in CARES Act funds for two businesses he owns, the U.S. Attorney's office announced Tuesday evening James Joseph Cohen, 58, made an initial appearance Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Boston. He was released on personal recognizance. Prosecutors say in a court filing that Cohen who was formerly known as Jamie Edelkind and who has a 2005 federal bank fraud conviction was the owner of two companies, SARC and Ceromaze, Inc. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Portsmouth Herald (Portsmouth, NH): **60-year-old La. man gets years in prison for illegally having gun**, Ian Lenahan, September 28, 2021, 4:22 PM

A 27-year-old man arrested last winter and charged with attempting to sell a firearm at the Kittery Trading Post while in possession of drug-use paraphernalia was sentenced to prison Tuesday. Sauma Brata Deb of Woburn, Massachusetts, was sentenced in Maine U.S. District Court to serve one year and one day, followed by two years of supervised release, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the state. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Cherry Hill Courier-Post (Cherry Hill, NJ): **Mount Holly man, 20, gets 10-year term for drug crime**, Jim Walsh, September 28, 2021, 3:40 PM

A 20-year-old Mount Holly man has received a 10-year prison term for a drug offense. Dwight Williams was among 19 defendants arrested in late 2018 after an FBI investigation into an open-air drug market on the 400 and 500 blocks of Pine Street in Camden. The drug ring included street level dealers and several layers of managers, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for New Jersey. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tacoma News Tribune (Tacoma, WA): **Tacoma woman pleads guilty to burning 5 Seattle police cars during George Floyd protest**, Craig Sailor, September 28, 2021, 3:20 PM

A Tacoma woman pleaded guilty Tuesday for setting fire to five police vehicles in downtown Seattle during demonstrations in 2020 following the death of George Floyd. Margaret Aislinn Channon, 26, burned Seattle police department vehicles which were parked in the city's downtown area on May 30, 2020, according to federal authorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WV News (Clarksburg, WV): **Clarksburg, West Virginia, man accused of sending Mom to hospital with plastic sword attack waives hearing**, Matt Harvey, September 28, 2021, 3:00 PM

[...] Clarissa Mosley, 24, of Chicago, has pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael John Alois to possession of counterfeit obligations. Represented by Assistant Federal Defender Katy Cimino, Mosley and Asante James, 21, of Freeport, Illinois, possessed 69 counterfeit \$100 bills last Dec. 2 in Ritchie County, according to Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Bernard. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Salisbury Post (Salisbury, NC): **Accused White Supremacist Sentenced to Prison on Firearms Offenses**, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 1:56 PM

A Salisbury man will serve more than two years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court to

importing opioids into Savannah, Georgia, via the dark web. Wesley McKeehan, 34, pleaded guilty this month in a federal court in Savannah to distributing oxycodone. In addition to 26 months in prison, Judge R. Stan Baker ordered McKeehan to serve three years of supervised release after completing his prison term. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WSAV-NBC/CW \(Savannah, GA\)](#)

KNOE-CBS (Monroe, LA): 60-year-old La. man gets years in prison for illegally having gun, Matthew Segura, September 28, 2021, 7:07 PM

A 60-year-old Shreveport man was sentenced to 48 months in prison after he was found to be in illegal possession of a loaded firearm during a 2020 traffic stop. Johnny Dewayne Young, Jr., who is white, is a convicted felon and is not allowed to have a firearm. His prison term is expected to be followed by three years of supervised release. The sentencing announcement was made on Sept. 28, 2021, by the United States Attorney's Office Western District of Louisiana. Young was sentenced by United States District Judge Donald E. Walter on the same date. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTBS-ABC \(Shreveport, LA\)](#), [KTAL-NBC \(Shreveport, LA\)](#)

Daily Voice (Fairlawn, NJ): Feds: Paterson Man Admits Laundering \$2.5 Million For International Drug Cartels, Jerry DeMarco, September 28, 2021, 7:05 PM

A Paterson man admitted Tuesday that he laundered more than \$2.5 million for Central and South American drug cartels operating in New Jersey and New York, federal authorities said. Willy Cruz-Bonilla, 24, was among six Passaic County residents charged in a massive network that converted nearly \$27 million in ill-gotten gains to more than 1,000 checks sent to the Dominican Republic, Colombia and elsewhere, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael Honig said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WMBD-CBS (Peoria, IL): A decade behind bars: The sentence for a Washington man who attempted to engage in sexual activity with a minor, Sheridan Hurtig, September 28, 2021, 6:12 PM

A 21-year-old Washington man will spend the next 10 years of his life behind bars. On Tuesday, Sept. 21, Thomas R. Alt, a 21-year-old Washington man, was sentenced to 120 months of imprisonment, to be followed by 15 years of supervised release for attempted enticement of a child to engage in sexual activity. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WEEK-NBC \(Peoria, IL\)](#)

Daily Voice (Mahwah, NJ): Going Postal: Hudson County Man Admits Pulling Over, Pointing Gun At Mail Carrier, Jerry DeMarco, September 28, 2021, 6:05 PM

A Hudson County man admitted Tuesday that he pulled over a postal worker and pointed a gun at him. What motivated Joseph Cartagena, 34, of Jersey City, wasn't clear when he pleaded guilty via videoconference with a federal judge in Newark to one count of assaulting a federal employee. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTVJ-NBC (Miami, FL): Accused White Supremacist Sentenced to Prison on Firearms Offenses, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 6:00 PM

An accused white supremacist who called for a race-based civil war online to thousands of his followers was sentenced Tuesday to nearly three and a half years in prison on multiple firearms offenses. Paul Nicholas Miller, 33, sobbed in court as a judge sentenced him to 41 months in prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): 2 men sentenced for forcing undocumented immigrants to work at family's Mexican restaurant, Sandra Adams, September 28, 2021, 5:51 PM

Two Niagara County men were convicted Tuesday for forcing undocumented immigrants to work

at their Mexican restaurant, according to U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy, Jr. Father, Roberto Montes-Villalpando, 60, of Sanborn, and his son Abraham Montes, 29, of North Tonawanda, were convicted of conspiring to harbor aliens for financial gain and causing serious bodily injury. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOKH-Fox (Oklahoma City, OK): Air Force employee pleads guilty to falsifying claims for government money, Miranda Vondale Foster, September 28, 2021, 5:00 PM

A former Air Force employee has pled guilty to receiving stole government funds through falsified travel claims. According to Acting U.S. Attorney Robert J. Troester, Anthony Ray Jones, 55, of Midwest City, pled guilty to receiving approximately \$55,210.50 in stolen money from the federal government. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WECT-NBC (Wilmington, NC): Duplin man sentenced in Gordon Road gas station robbery, carjacking that ended in crash at elementary, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:47 PM

A Duplin County man is headed to prison for his role in a New Hanover County gas station robbery and carjacking that ended in a crash at an elementary school. A news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office states that Cory Montan Dixon, 40, of Magnolia, was sentenced Tuesday to nearly ten years in prison for the crimes. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WJBF-ABC (Augusta, GA): Texas man sentenced to federal prison for "thousands" of child pornography images, Ashlyn Williams, September 28, 2021, 4:47 PM

A Texas man faces more than 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to distributing child pornography through an internet messaging service. 23-year-old James Lee Kinnison of Cypress Texas was sentenced to 121 months in prison after pleading guilty to distributing child pornography. He will have to pay \$15,000 in restitution as well as serve 15 years of supervised release and register as a sex offender after completing his prison sentence. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WECT-NBC (Wilmington, NC): Elmira man sentenced to nearly 20 years for trafficking methamphetamine, George Stockburger, September 28, 2021, 4:36 PM

Jamal Anderson, 40, was sentenced to more than 19.5 years in prison after he was convicted of conspiring to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. Anderson's arrest was announced on Tuesday by U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy, Jr. in Rochester. Assistant U.S. Robert A. Marangola, who handled the case, stated that the charges stem from a long-term, multi-agency investigation into the trafficking of large quantities of methamphetamine in the City of Elmira. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KPIX-CBS (San Francisco, CA): Notorious Norteño Gang Member 'Lil Rhino' Sentenced For Carrying Out Jailhouse Attacks, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:06 PM

A notorious Norteño gang member who goes by the street name 'Lil Rhino' was sentenced Tuesday to eight years in federal prison for taking part in a series of violent attacks on other inmates at the Monterey County Jail. Acting United States Attorney Stephanie M. Hinds said Michael Cazares, also known as 'Lil Rhino', was sentenced after he pleaded guilty to the federal RICO and conspiracy charges in June. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KDRV-ABC (Medford, OR): California man pleads guilty for trafficking drugs through southern Oregon, Jamie Parfitt, September 28, 2021, 3:39 PM

A California man pleaded guilty to federal charges on Tuesday for his role in a major drug

trafficking ring that operated between southern and northeastern Oregon, according to the US Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon. 33-year-old Noel Lomas Murillo of Vacaville entered a guilty plea to conspiring to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Prosecutors said that Murillo's operation worked to bring large quantities of meth in from California for sale in northeastern Oregon and southwestern Washington state. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBBM-CBS (Chicago, IL): Katrina Pierce Indicted On Charges Of Using Homicide Victims' Identities For False Tax Returns, Fraudulent COVID-19 Stimulus Payments, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 3:31 PM

A grand jury has indicted Katrina Pierce, a Chicago woman accused of filing false tax returns and obtaining fraudulent COVID-19 stimulus payments using the identities of homicide victims in Chicago and beyond. The indictment was returned Monday in U.S. District Court. It charges Pierce, 50, with 10 counts of wire fraud, six counts of aggravated identity theft, three counts of making false statements to the U.S. Small Business Administration, and one count of possessing identification documents to defraud the United States. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBTV-CBS (Charlotte, NC): Cabarrus County man sentenced to 50 years for producing, distributing child pornography, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 2:33 PM

A Cabarrus County man was sentenced to 50 years in prison and a lifetime term of supervised release for producing and distributing child pornography, prosecutors said. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of North Carolina, 25-year-old Adam Chase Wallace was indicted in February on four counts of production of child pornography, one count of distribution of child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBAY-ABC (Green Bay, WI): Federal sentencing hearings set for smoke shop owners in synthetics scheme, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 2:20 PM

A Northeast Wisconsin smoke shop owners are scheduled to be sentenced for their roles in a federal drug investigation. Tracy Lynn Sheldon and Chad Allen Zeske pleaded guilty to charges in a synthetic cannabinoids distribution scheme in the Southern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: A jury convicted R. Kelly; will his music face consequences?, Andrew Dalton, Gary Gerard Hamilton and Kristin M. Hall, September 28, 2021, 9:30 PM

Will a criminal conviction do to R. Kelly's music what years of ugly allegations couldn't? It's unlikely that Monday's moment of justice when a federal jury in New York found the 54-year-old R&B superstar guilty of all nine counts in a sex trafficking trial will mean much for his fans, given all the awful things they had learned already, some observers say. "The lines have already been drawn," said Jem Aswad, deputy music editor for the trade publication Variety, who has been covering R. Kelly for 20 years. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WaPo](#)

USA Today: California bill would strip bad cops of badges, but doesn't end immunity from lawsuits, Tami Abdollah, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

A bill passed by the California legislature aims to address problem law enforcement officers who jump from department to department, but it fails to deal with an ambiguity in state law that makes it easier for cops to claim immunity from liability when they hurt or kill people. [...] Last week, efforts to pass federal legislation to reform the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies stalled in the

Senate. Civil rights and police reform advocates say state legislatures are the best remaining venue to strengthen police accountability. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***The Hill*: Federal judge temporarily blocks South Carolina's ban on school mask mandates**, Celine Castronuovo, September 28, 2021, 9:56 PM

A federal judge on Tuesday temporarily blocked South Carolina's statewide ban on school mask mandates, arguing that the provision discriminates against students with disabilities. Judge Mary Geiger Lewis for the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina granted a motion for a preliminary injunction against the one-year law that had been written into the state's budget and put school districts at risk of losing funding should they require students and staff to wear masks. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The State \(Columbia, SC\)](#)

CIVIL LAW

***AP*: Key part of Arizona genetic-abnormality abortion law blocked**, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 10:00 PM

A judge has blocked a key portion of a new Arizona law that would have let prosecutors bring felony charges against doctors who knowingly terminate pregnancies solely because the fetuses have a genetic abnormality such as Down syndrome. U.S. District Judge Douglas Rayes on Tuesday also threw out another provision that would have let prosecutors bring charges against anyone who helped raise money or pay for abortions done solely because of genetic abnormality. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Arizona Republic](#), [The Hill](#), [Reuters](#)

***Valley Tribune (San Gabriel Valley, CA)*: San Gabriel Valley residents arrested in alleged \$2.5 million scam involving Target gift cards**, Unattributed, September 28, 9:19 PM (EDT)

Three San Gabriel Valley residents and a San Bernardino County resident were arrested Tuesday in connection with an alleged fraud scheme that induced people into purchasing thousands of Target gift cards, which were then used at stores in Los Angeles and Orange counties to purchase electronics and other goods. Bowen Hu, 26, of Hacienda Heights, and Tairan Shi, 27, of Diamond Bar, both Chinese nationals, are among four people named in a federal indictment detailing the alleged fraud scheme, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [My News LA](#), [Patch \(Diamond Bar-Walnut, CA\)](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

***AP*: Florida sues Biden administration over immigration policy**, Brendan Farrington, September 28, 2021, 5:04 PM

Florida filed suit against President Joe Biden's administration Tuesday claiming his immigration policy is illegal, and Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed an order barring state agencies from assisting with the relocation of undocumented immigrants arriving in the state. DeSantis' order authorized the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Highway Patrol "to detain any aircraft, bus, or other vehicle within the State of Florida reasonably believed to be transporting illegal aliens to Florida from the Southwest Border" if allowed by federal and state law. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [KAKE-ABC \(Wichita, KS\)](#), [Law360](#), [Miami Herald](#), [WTVJ-NBC \(Miami, FL\)](#)

***NYT*: [OPINION] Biden Is Taking a Page Out of Trump's Immigration Playbook**, Spencer

Bokat-Lindell, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

Last week, as images emerged from the southern border of Border Patrol agents on horseback chasing Haitians and brandishing reins, the senior U.S. envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote, resigned in protest over what he called the Biden administration's "inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees" seeking to enter the country. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: Fairfax County ends arrest blotter over concerns data could be used in effort to deport immigrants, Justin Jouvenal, September 28, 2021, 3:38 PM

Fairfax County police have stopped publishing a weekly arrest blotter after county officials found it violated a policy that restricts the dissemination of personal information that could aid immigration enforcement. Immigrant rights and civil liberties groups had been pushing for the change, arguing the weekly compilations that include arrestees' addresses and other details could allow U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to target immigrants for deportation and raise privacy concerns. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Split 9th Circ. Revives Honduran Woman's Asylum Bid, Melissa Angell, September 28, 2021, 10:48 PM

A split Ninth Circuit panel on Tuesday revived a Honduran woman's asylum bid and ruled the Board of Immigration Appeals violated her right to due process when it dismissed her pro se appeal after she failed to file a brief. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Feds Say Workers' Green Card Suit Is Congress' Problem, Grace Dixon, September 28, 2021, 10:26 PM

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has sought to shake off claims from nearly 200 green card applicants challenging the agency's alleged processing delays, telling a Maryland federal court that the issue is for Congress to resolve, not the courts. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: State Dept. Must Reserve 966 Diversity Visas Past Deadline, Jennifer Doherty, September 28, 2021, 8:02 PM

A D.C. federal judge ordered the U.S. State Department to reserve 966 diversity visas beyond the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, saying applicants were likely to prevail on their claims that the department unlawfully delayed processing. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: 5th Circ. Says Deportation Requires Proper Hearing Notice, Khorri Atkinson, September 28, 2021, 7:46 PM

The Fifth Circuit on Monday granted an Uruguayan immigrant's bid for the Board of Immigration Appeals to hold a rehearing in his removal proceedings, agreeing that the BIA did not properly send him a notice to appear as required by U.S. Supreme Court precedent. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

BuzzFeed: The Biden Administration Is Providing Legal Representation For Certain Immigrant Children In Eight US Cities, Hamed Aleaziz, September 28, 2021, 4:16 PM

The Biden administration will provide government-funded legal representation to certain unaccompanied immigrant children in deportation proceedings in eight US cities as part of an effort to boost legal access in the immigration court system, according to agency officials. The new effort, labeled the Counsel for Children Initiative, comes months after the Biden White House dealt with an increase in children arriving at the southern border, leading to overcrowded detention facilities and a scramble to find appropriate locations to hold them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NPR: Biden Says Border Agents Will Be Held Accountable For Misconduct. A Critic Has Doubts, Amy Isackson, Miguel Macias, and Ari Shapiro, September 28, 2021, 7:15 PM
When photographs emerged of U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback chasing down migrants at the southern border, President Biden promised accountability. "I promise you: Those people will pay," he said. "They will be investigated. There will be consequences." The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Border Patrol, has pledged an investigation and placed the agents on administrative duty. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Anchorage Daily News: Alaska seafood shippers who objected to \$350 million in federal fines lose a round in court, Alex DeMarban, September 28, 2021, 11:00 PM
A federal judge on Tuesday sided against Alaska seafood shippers who say they and other companies have wrongly been hit with more \$350 million in penalty notices from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for alleged violations of the Jones Act. U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason in Anchorage denied a request by Kloosterboer International Forwarding and Alaska Reefer Management to stop the federal government from imposing further penalties as the case proceeds, according to her 25-page order. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Laredo Morning Times (Laredo, TX): Calle 18 gang member arrested in foiled human smuggling attempt, Cesar Rodriguez, September 28, 2021, 7:15 PM
A Calle 18 gang member has been arrested for being in the country illegally, according to the U.S. Border Patrol. The incident dates back to Sept. 22, when the Medina County Sheriff's Office informed Cotulla Station agents they had pulled over a vehicle involved in a human smuggling attempt. Sheriff's officials are pursuing smuggling of persons charges while agents took custody of six migrants. One migrant was identified as Alex Oswaldo Guevara, a 43-year-old citizen of El Salvador and a Calle 18 gang member. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Seattle Times: [OPINION] ICE arrests in Washington tell stories of suffering that goes unseen, Angelina Snodgrass Godoy, September 28, 2021, 4:59 PM
In recent days, images of Border Patrol agents on horseback whipping Haitian asylum seekers at the Texas-Mexico border have reminded Americans of the racist origins and current practices of our nation's immigration enforcement agencies. While Washingtonians are right to recoil from these images, the practice of unlawfully expelling asylum-seekers happens in our state, too, we just haven't seen pictures. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KERO-ABC (Bakersfield, CA): Moshannon Valley to Become Immigrant Detention Center, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 12:00 AM
Clearfield County took public comment and voted on allowing an area prison to operate as an immigrant detention center. Clearfield County commissioners approved a five-year agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, and the privately-run GEO group to operate Moshannon Valley Correctional Center as an immigrant detention center. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KFDA-CBS (Amarillo, TX): Biden administration to publish new rule reinstating DACA after court loss, Freixys Casado, September 28, 2021, 7:38 PM
President Biden is trying to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, also known as DACA. A proposed rule to protect the program is set to be formally published today to address a federal judge's concerns about the program. This summer, Federal Judge Andrew Hanen found DACA to be unlawful and blocked officials from taking new applications because of how it was implemented. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Law360: FTC Settles Antitrust Case Against Alabama Dental Board, Matthew Perlman, September 28, 2021, 9:18 PM

The Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday that Alabama's dental regulator has agreed to stop enforcing rules the agency contends impeded competition in the state from teledentistry platforms that provide clear teeth aligner therapies. The FTC said in a statement that the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama has agreed to settle charges that it violated antitrust law with rules requiring licensed dentists be on site when dental alignment imaging scans are performed. "These scans are routinely administered by dental hygienists and other non-dentist practitioners," the FTC said in a statement Tuesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Fortress Beats Intel Antitrust Suit Over Patent Purchases, Ryan Davis, September 28, 2021, 8:51 PM

A California federal judge entered judgment in favor of Fortress Investment Group on Tuesday in Intel's suit accusing the hedge fund of running an anti-competitive patent aggregation scheme, a decision that came less than two weeks after a hearing where Fortress argued the claims were entirely speculative. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: FTC's Khan Urges Antitrust Legislation to Protect Gig Workers, Siri Bulusu, September 28, 2021, 7:51 PM

FTC Chair Lina Khan urged Congress to consider passing legislation to give gig workers greater protections to organize under antitrust laws. Employees' labor organizing is exempted from the Clayton Act's purview. But collective actions by workers classified as non-employees may be susceptible to prosecution under antitrust laws and private lawsuits, Khan said in a Tuesday letter to the House Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ Bars Google Drive For Sharing Docs In Monopoly Case, Bryan Koenig, September 28, 2021, 7:57 PM

Google's legal team is spending days burning information onto hard drives because Justice Department security protocols prevent the sharing of discovery via the cloud, the parties told the D. C. federal judge handling the search and search advertising monopolization case on Tuesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: FTC Expanding, Toughening Merger Probes, Matthew Perlman, September 28, 2021, 7:08 PM

The Federal Trade Commission is continuing to shake up the agency's merger review procedures, with an official saying in a blog post Tuesday that information requests will be broader than in the past and will be shared more freely among the commissioners. The FTC has implemented a number of procedural moves in recent months, pointing to the volume of mergers enforcers are receiving, but the changes have also sparked harsh criticism from the commission's Republican minority and others. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Opt-Out Litigants Fight BCBS' \$2.67B Antitrust Settlement, Christopher Cole, September 28, 2021, 6:03 PM

Individuals who opted out of Blue Cross Blue Shield's \$2.67 billion antitrust settlement have filed their own suit in Florida federal court, saying the deal doesn't compensate health plan subscribers

enough for the Sherman Act violations they've alleged. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Minn. Contractor Admits To Rigging Public Contracts Bids, J. Edward Moreno, September 28, 2021, 5:24 PM

A Minnesota concrete contractor pled guilty Monday to rigging bids on public concrete repair and construction contracts. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

WaPo: A pit bull was killed after being forced to fight another dog. His owner will now spend 10 years in prison, Jonathan Edwards, September 29, 2021, 5:57 AM

Les Meyers's dog won the fight, but victory was not enough to save him. After the win, Meyers unleashed the unnamed pit bull one last time for a "courtesy scratch," a dogfighting ritual in which the victor attacks a vanquished opponent or its corpse to show its "gameness." The display, in illegal dogfighting circles, brings prestige to a handler. [...] Federal agents and local sheriff's deputies found the dog's body under the bumper of Meyers's Chrysler PT Cruiser when they raided the property as the second and final dogfight was about to start. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Environmentalists Urge Biden to Toughen Auto Emission Proposal, Keith Laing, September 28, 2021, 4:11 PM

Environmental groups are urging President Joe Biden to floor it on his plans to place higher limits on greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks as some carmakers argue the current proposals are good enough. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

Law360: Counties' VW Tampering Claims Not Barred, Feds Tell Justices, Linda Chiem, September 28, 2021, 6:45 PM

The federal government told the U.S. Supreme Court that the Clean Air Act does not bar two counties from pursuing claims that Volkswagen owes them additional penalties for flouting local anti-tampering laws in connection with its 2015 "clean diesel" emissions-cheating scandal. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Biden Deals Final Blow To Trump-Era Royalty Valuation Rule, Morgan Conley, September 28, 2021, 5:31 PM

Royalties for oil and gas produced on federal lands will be calculated the way they were before the Trump administration's eleventh-hour changes to valuation regulations, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Existing Laws Offer Environmental Justice Tools, Official Says, Dean Scott, September 28, 2021, 4:34 PM

The Justice Department has plenty of options under existing environmental laws to help local communities long suffering from air or water pollution even without an environmental justice statute, the head of a new federal environmental justice litigation team said Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Reuters: Valero sues U.S. for \$400 million in tax refunds, Sebastien Malo, September 28,

2021, 6:22 PM

Valero Energy Corp sued the federal government on Tuesday in San Antonio, Texas, federal court, demanding a refund of about \$400 million in federal income taxes the refiner says it overpaid. The San Antonio-based company claims the Internal Revenue Service has wrongly refused to return funds it collected for the tax years 2005 to 2008, even after Valero corrected the tax filings that led to its alleged overpayment. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

Law360: DOJ Says Swiss Firm Helped US Taxpayers Hide Over \$60M, Dylan Moroses, September 28, 2021, 7:43 PM

A Swiss financial services company and its six executives face tax fraud charges for helping three U.S. taxpayers hide more than \$60 million in income from the Internal Revenue Service for years, the U.S. Department of Justice said Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAVY-NBC (Portsmouth, VA): Virginia Beach man sentenced to 48 months for \$2.5 million tax fraud, Julius Ayo, September 28, 2021, 7:39 PM

A Virginia Beach man has been sentenced to 48 months (4 years) after pleading guilty to defrauding the IRS out of more than \$2.5 million in taxes. According to the Department of Justice, court documents show that 53-year-old Richard Yanek hid assets, made false statements about his ability to pay, used a nominee company to conduct business and diverted huge sums of money to pay creditors instead of the IRS. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

NYT: ‘This Was a Failure’: Biden’s A.T.F. Pick Says White House Left Him Open to Attack, Glenn Thrush, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

David Chipman’s defeat was a loss for gun control groups, which saw the appointment of a strong director as the most important move the president could make on guns. David Chipman’s confirmation odyssey began with a short congratulatory buzz from Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in April and ended, he said, with a long, rueful call from the presidential adviser Steve Ricchetti admitting the White House had fallen “short.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: [EDITORIAL] The 2020 Murder Spike, Editorial Board, September 28, 2021, 7:04 PM

Sometimes the result of bad public policies takes years to play out. But that wasn’t the case with last year’s political assault on police in the wake of George Floyd’s murder. The predictable result of less policing was more violent crime in 2020, as Federal Bureau of Investigation data has now confirmed. Homicides in the U.S. rose by nearly 30% in 2020, the biggest single-year spike since the feds began collecting data 60 years ago, according to crime statistics from nearly 16,000 law enforcement agencies. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram face pressure to stop illegal drug sales as overdose deaths soar, Rachel Lerman and Gerrit De Vynck, September 28, 2021, 3:27 PM

Social apps have struggled to curb drug sales for years. They’re still not doing enough, say parent groups and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Amy Neville lost her son last year after he took a pill made with fentanyl. Alex, 14 years old, connected with a drug dealer on social media app Snapchat to buy the pills, she said. She has since protested outside Snap’s headquarters and called on the company in a letter signed by six other parents to set up an external committee of law enforcement representatives, parents and public health experts to review the company’s progress on addressing the availability of drugs on its site. [[Continue](#)

[Reading\]](#)

CNN: Attorney for Gabby Petito's family skeptical that fiancé Brian Laundrie's family will help FBI search, Eric Levenson and Madeline Holcombe, September 28, 2021, 5:50 PM

An attorney for Gabby Petito's family expressed skepticism Tuesday that the parents of her fiancé Brian Laundrie would help in the FBI's ongoing search for him. "The Laundrie's did not help us find Gabby. They're sure not going to help us find Brian," family attorney Richard Stafford said. "For Brian, we're asking you to turn yourself in to the FBI or the nearest law enforcement agency."

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WTVG-ABC \(Toledo, OH\)](#)

CNN: DEA warns of sharp increase in fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl and meth, Nadia Kounang, September 28, 2021, 2:34 PM

The US Drug Enforcement Administration on Monday issued a public safety alert about a sharp increase of fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl and methamphetamine. This is the first such alert issued by the DEA in six years. According to the agency, more than 9.5 million counterfeit pills have been seized this year, more than the last two years combined. In a news release, the agency said DEA lab tests revealed there has also been a dramatic rise in pills containing at least 2 milligrams of the drug, which is considered a lethal dose. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KARE-NBC \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [KELO-AM \(Sioux Falls, SD\)](#), [KOTV-CBS \(Tulsa, OK\)](#), [News12WC \(Yonkers, NY\)](#), [Patch \(Salem, MA\)](#), [WACH-Fox \(Columbia, SC\)](#), [WBIR-NBC \(Knoxville, TN\)](#), [WDAF-Fox \(Kansas City, MO\)](#), [WGN \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WTOP-FM \(Washington, DC\)](#)

The Columbus Dispatch (Columbus, OH): Two Columbus police narcotics officers arrested by the FBI, charges to be unsealed Wednesday, Bethany Bruner, September 28, 2021, 9:29 PM

Two Columbus police narcotics officers who worked in the division's cartel unit were arrested Tuesday by FBI agents, sources have told The Dispatch. The officers John J. Kotchkoski, 33, and Marco Merino, 44 were arrested on charges that are expected to be unsealed during court hearings for the officers on Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Columbus. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: Police searching for gun that was in an FBI Pittsburgh vehicle that was stolen from a Pittsburgh park, Megan Tomasic, September 28, 2021, 7:40 PM

FBI agents and the Pittsburgh police are searching for a gun that was inside a vehicle owned by the FBI that was stolen Tuesday, officials said. An FBI vehicle was stolen from Schenley Park around 1:30 p.m., said FBI Pittsburgh spokeswoman Catherine Policicchio. Inside was a Glock 19M 9mm. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KDKA-CBS \(Pittsburgh, PA\)](#), [WPXI-NBC \(Pittsburgh, PA\)](#)

KRQE-CBS/Fox (Albuquerque, NM): FBI seeking suspect in NE Albuquerque bank robbery, Unattributed, September 29, 2021, 12:07 AM

The FBI is investigating another bank robbery in Albuquerque, this time at the Bank of the West on Eubank and Menaul. Investigators say around 3 p.m. Tuesday a Hispanic or Asian man walked in and handed the teller a demand note. The man was wearing sunglasses, a blue baseball cap with a white Nike symbol, dark denim jeans and a black gaiter mask. He was seen leaving on foot, west on Snow Heights. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KCBD-NBC \(Lubbock, TX\)](#)

WJBK-Fox (Detroit, MI): FBI bust Detroit area ring that used stolen credit cards to buy guns illegally, Dave Spencer and David Komer, September 29, 2021, 12:00 AM

The FBI says an organized crime ring was conducting "straw purchases" using stolen credit card information to buy guns. Now, 10 people are facing federal charges. The straw purchases nickname from the FBI comes, because the crime happens so often. Each suspect is facing 10 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTP-ABC (Saint Paul, MN): Feds release images of person of interest in northeast Minneapolis church arson, Richard Reeve, September 28, 2021, 11:03 PM

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is hoping for fresh leads on the arson of Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church. The storied 107-year-old house of worship was gutted by fire back in April. Now the ATF is releasing video and stills of a man they say was spotted near the fire scene. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KMSP-Fox \(Minneapolis, MN\)](#), [KOLO-ABC \(Reno, NV\)](#)

KHOU-CBS (Houston, TX): US Marshals searching for wanted suspect who escaped and may still be in handcuffs, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 10:51 PM

U.S. Marshals are searching for a man who they said escaped while in the process of being arrested for violating his probation. Officials are looking for Pedro Castillo-Hernandez, who was initially in custody for illegal entry. U.S. Marshals said Castillo-Hernandez violated his probation and while in the process of being taken into custody escaped. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KPRC-NBC \(Houston, TX\)](#), [KMPH-Fox \(Fresno, CA\)](#)

WBFF-Fox (Baltimore, MD): Maryland's Most Wanted | Man accused of 'revenge' home invasion may have fled to Florida, Dan Lampariello, September 28, 2021, 9:00 PM

A man with Baltimore ties, accused committed a home invasion at the home of an ex-girlfriend, is the subject of this week's Maryland's Most Wanted. According to the U.S. Marshals Service, 20-year-old Rmani Lindo has been on the run for nearly 10 months and should be considered armed and dangerous. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KECI-NBC (Missoula, MT): Project Safe Neighborhoods evaluates high crime numbers during pandemic, Mackenzie Quinn, September 28, 2021, 6:39 PM

Violent crime in Montana is up 26.9% since 2016, with over half of those reports occurring in 2020. Attorneys are trying to curb those numbers through a special program called Project Safe Neighborhoods. "We chose Yellowstone County and Missoula County as our two PSN sites," explained Lee Johnson, investigation bureau chief with the Montana Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTU-Fox (Salt Lake City, UT): In-Depth: FBI report shows spike in Utah murders, Max Roth, September 28, 2021, 6:16 PM

The FBI's annual report, Crime in the United States, shows a spike in violent crime across the country, with the trend clear in Utah. Utah lost 92 lives to murder in 2020, the highest number since the FBI began to tally the number in 1960. Despite that, Utah's overall murder rate is far lower than the national average with 2.9 deaths per 100,000 Utahns compared to 5.4 deaths per 100,000 Americans. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KOKH-Fox \(Oklahoma, OK\)](#), [WDRB-Fox \(Louisville, KY\)](#), [WICS-ABC \(Springfield, IL\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#), [WOIO-CBS \(Cleveland, OH\)](#)

WTVY-CBS (Dothan, AL): Investigation continues after Thursday morning break-in at Abbeville pharmacy, Justin Walker, September 28, 2021, 4:52 PM

Henry County law enforcement officers are actively searching for the suspects responsible for a Thursday morning break-in at an Abbeville pharmacy. [...] Blankenship says they've reached out to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Birmingham and the state pharmaceutical board. They've also talked to other nearby law enforcement agencies who have had similar crimes like this recently, all in an effort to find the suspects responsible. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBTV-CBS (Charlotte, NC): Chester County man arrested for planning to distribute almost 1,000 pills filled with fentanyl, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:23 PM

The Chester County Sheriff's Office has arrested a man following the discovery of a large amount of fentanyl disguised as pills while serving a search warrant. Investigators with the Chester County Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Violent Crimes Unit assisted ATF (alcohol, tobacco and firearms) agents with the execution of the warrant at a home on Ashford Road in Chester on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WXIX-Fox (Cincinnati, OH): Reward offered in Northern Kentucky gun store burglary, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 4:20 PM

A reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the burglary of Goodies Pawn on August 31 in Hebron. A man wearing a camouflage jacket and backpack broke through the glass front door of the pawnshop in the 2200 block of Petersburg Road around 11:24 p.m. and took a large number of firearms, officials with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WLWT-NBC \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#)

WMBF-NBC (Myrtle Beach, SC): FBI, ATF assisting in Robeson County death investigation; body identified, Unattributed, September 28, 2021, 2:12 PM

The Robeson County Sheriff's Office confirms a body was discovered Tuesday afternoon near Lumberton. Deputies were called to Woodland Avenue around 12:50 p.m. to a body being found on the side of the road. The body was identified as 26-year-old Eddie Tart IV of Lumberton. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WPDE-ABC \(Florence, SC\)](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Texas inmate executed for fatally stabbing 2 brothers, Juan A. Lozano and Michael Graczyk, September 28, 2021, 8:00 PM

A Texas inmate was executed Tuesday evening for fatally stabbing two Houston-area brothers during a robbery in their home more than 30 years ago. Rick Rhoades, 57, was executed by lethal injection at the state penitentiary in Huntsville. He was condemned for the September 1991 killings of Charles Allen, 31, and Bradley Allen, 33. The brothers were killed less than a day after Rhoades had been released on parole after serving a sentence for burglary. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [Fox](#), [SCOTUSblog](#)

Washington Times: Allies flock to Texas death-row inmate asking for chaplain at execution, Mark A. Kellner, September 28, 2021, 7:00 PM

John Henry Ramirez, awaiting execution at Texas' Huntsville Unit prison, wants the same thing Americans granted convicted Nazi war criminals facing the gallows after the Nuremberg trials: a chaplain to pray with at the hour of death. [...] The Supreme Court halted Ramirez's Sept. 8th execution following the inmate's appeal over the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's refusal

to allow the Rev. Dana Moore, pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, into the death chamber to “lay hands” on Ramirez and pray with him before dying. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

Bloomberg Law: **[AUDIO] Supreme Court’s Texas Abortion Ruling Spurs Lawsuits**, David Schultz, September 28, 2021, 4:27 PM

The Supreme Court’s bombshell 5 to 4 ruling this month on Texas’s new abortion restrictions law was both an end and a beginning. It put an end to the hopes of abortion rights activists who wanted to overturn this law before it took effect, but it also marked the beginning of a frenzy of litigation aimed at getting this issue back before the court as quickly as possible. [\[Listen\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: **High Court Can Skip Counties’ VW Diesel Software Case, U.S. Says**, Martina Barash, September 28, 2021, 3:07 PM

Two counties’ anti-tampering claims against Volkswagen AG over its post-sale emissions software updates to diesel vehicles should be allowed to proceed without U.S. Supreme Court review because the Clean Air Act doesn’t block them, the Biden administration said in a brief. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: **Pork Producers Ask High Court To Review Calif. Pig Care Law**, Juan Carlos Rodriguez, September 28, 2021, 2:00 PM

Agriculture industry groups on Monday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit’s decision to uphold a California ballot initiative that banned in-state sales of pork born from sows kept in confined housing. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Reuters: **U.S. judiciary seeks more Oklahoma judges after Supreme Court ruling**, Nate Raymond, September 28, 2021, 5:15 PM

The federal judiciary is asking Congress for five more judges in Oklahoma following a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that recognized parts of Oklahoma as Native American reservation land and barred state prosecutions of crimes in those areas. The request on Tuesday from the U.S. Judicial Conference, the judiciary’s policymaking body, came in addition to a recommendation it made to Congress earlier this year to create 79 new judgeships, mostly in district courts to help alleviate growing caseloads nationally. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [Law360](#), [The Oklahoman](#)

Law360: **DOI Asks 8th Circ. To Kill Mount Rushmore Fireworks Crusade**, Victoria McKenzie, September 28, 2021, 10:39 PM

U.S. government attorneys have asked the Eighth Circuit to dismiss the South Dakota governor’s ongoing fight with the National Park Service over its refusal to approve a fireworks permit at Mount Rushmore on July Fourth, highlighting the agency’s consideration of public health and environmental risks. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: **Fla. Businesses Revolt Against Tribe’s Sports Betting Permit**, Victoria McKenzie, September 28, 2021, 3:55 PM

A trio of wealthy property owners in Florida are suing the federal government over the Seminole

Tribe's 2021 gambling compact, which they say was approved in violation of the state constitution and will create an explosion of online sports betting across non-tribal lands. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Law360: DC Circ. Hears DEA Should Not Oversee Hemp Manufacturing, Sam Reisman, September 28, 2021, 9:36 PM

Hemp industry advocates told the D. C. Circuit Tuesday the federal 2018 Farm Bill should have barred the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration from taking action against manufacturers and processors involved in creating legal hemp products. In an opening brief, the trade group Hemp Industries Association said it had sought a declaratory judgment giving hemp processors immunity from DEA enforcement, but the lower court had misconstrued its claim as a challenge to a DEA rule published in August 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tulsa World: [EDITORIAL] Open up legitimate banking to cannabis businesses to reduce crime, Mike Simons, September 29, 2021, 1:00 AM

The U.S. Senate ought to pass the National Defense Authorization Act with the provision that allows the marijuana industry to use the banking system. For too long, Congress has ignored the growing acceptance and various uses of marijuana, keeping the drug listed as a Schedule I substance; that's the same category as cocaine and LSD. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Reuters: Drug distributors strike 1st opioid settlement with Native American tribe for \$75 mln, Nate Raymond, September 28, 2021, 5:08 PM

The three largest U.S. drug distributors will pay more than \$75 million to resolve claims they fueled an opioid epidemic in the Cherokee Nation's territory in Oklahoma, marking the first settlement with a tribal government in the litigation over the U.S. addiction crisis. Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin on Tuesday said the settlement, which will be paid over 6-1/2 years, would "enable us to increase our investments in mental health treatment facilities and other programs to help our people recover." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [AP](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Law360](#), [NPR](#), [The Oklahoman](#), [Tulsa World \(Tulsa, OK\)](#)

Reuter: New York bankruptcy judge who oversaw Purdue Pharma case to retire, Maria Chutchian, September 28, 2021, 3:46 PM

A judge popular among attorneys who like to bring their complicated Chapter 11 cases before him will retire next year, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York announced on Tuesday. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain in White Plains, New York, who recently oversaw the bankruptcy of OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma LP and approved controversial legal protections for the Sackler family members that owned the company, will retire on June 30, 2022. Before joining the bench in 2002 he was a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WJS](#)

City Newspaper (Rochester, NY): As opioid epidemic rages on, supervised injection sites still at a stalemate, Gino Fanelli, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

Often overlooked during the pandemic has been the nation's other health crisis: the opioid epidemic. But more than 95,000 Americans died of drug overdoses over the 12-month period

that ended in February, according to the latest federal data available, eclipsing the toll from any year since the opioid epidemic began in the 1990s. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

The Hill: Federal agencies submit plans to improve voting access after Biden order, Brett Samuels, September 28, 2021, 2:08 PM

More than a dozen federal agencies on Tuesday submitted actions they will take to strengthen voting access after President Biden called on them to do so amid difficulty getting voting rights legislation through Congress. Various departments announced steps to encourage voter registration and improve ballot access in response to an executive order Biden signed in March. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. House passes bill to end disparities in crack cocaine sentences, Sarah N. Lynch, September 28, 2021, 5:50 PM

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a bill to permanently end the sentencing disparities between crack cocaine and powder, a policy that has led to the disproportionate incarceration of African Americans. In a bipartisan vote of 361-66, the House approved the EQUAL Act, short for Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

CNN: Senators introduce cyber bill to mandate reporting on ransomware and critical infrastructure attacks, Geneva Sands, September 28, 2021, 6:05 PM

The top senators on the Homeland Security Committee introduced legislation on Tuesday to require critical infrastructure companies to report cyberattacks to the federal government and to mandate that most organizations tell the federal government if they make ransomware payments. If enacted, the bill will create the first national requirement for critical infrastructure entities to report when their systems have been breached. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

CNN: GOP enthusiasm for prosecuting Capitol rioters has fallen, Pew poll finds, Marshall Cohen and Ariel Edwards-Levy, September 28, 2021, 2:47 PM

Republicans' appetite for seeing January 6 rioters prosecuted has fallen sharply over the course of the year, according to a Pew Research Center survey released Tuesday. A sizable majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 57%, still say it's at least somewhat important that federal law enforcement agencies find and prosecute those who broke into and rioted at the US Capitol -- but that's down from 79% in a March poll. Only about one-quarter now consider such prosecutions very important, down from half who felt that way in the spring. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Roll Call: Jan. 6 probe could affect future congressional oversight, Chris Marquette, September 29, 2021, 5:00 AM

The House Jan. 6 select committee's pursuit of what led to the attack on the Capitol is shaping up to be a fight over congressional oversight authority that may have lasting effects on the way the legislative branch conducts investigations. The panel in August asked 35 telecommunications, email and social media companies, such as Apple and Verizon, to preserve records from April 1, 2020, through Jan. 31, 2021 relating to certain people who could be of interest to the

inquiry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: Jan. 6 committee prepares legal arsenal for likely subpoena fights, Kyle Cheney And Nicholas Wu, September 29, 2021, 4:30 AM

The House committee investigating Donald Trump's role in the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol is quietly devising plans to pressure hostile witnesses to spill their secrets. The select panel's leaders are preparing a narrow set of legal and tactical options as they brace for Trump allies to invoke a wide range of constitutional protections to avoid testifying from claiming executive privilege to invoking their constitutional right to avoid self-incrimination. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The end of the 20-year war in Afghanistan was a "strategic failure," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Mark Milley told lawmakers, while Pentagon leaders directly contradicted Pres. Biden by saying they advised him to keep thousands of troops in the country. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Pfizer says they submitted data to the FDA showing that their COVID vaccine is safe and effective among children ages 5-11. If the shot is authorized, kids could start getting the vaccine by late October. More than a quarter of new COVID infections nationwide are among kids. In hard-hit Georgia, one county continues to feud over masks in schools as nearly 5,000 students and staff contract the deadly virus. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CBS-2](#), [NBC](#), [NBC-1](#)]
- More than 800,000 federal workers and a million contracts could be furloughed if Congress can't reach a deal to fund the government by Thursday night. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The family of Gabby Petito called on her fiancé, Brian Laundrie, to turn himself in during a Tuesday press conference. Laundrie's family insists they don't know where he is. [[CBS](#)]
- The man who stormed into a Maryland newspaper office in 2018 and fatally shot five people was sentenced to five consecutive life terms with no possibility of parole. [[CBS](#)]
- North Korea said Wednesday it successfully tested a new hypersonic missile it implied was being developed as nuclear capable, as it continues to expand its military capabilities and pressure Washington and Seoul over long-stalled negotiations over its nuclear weapons. [[CBS](#)]
- The UN estimates 160 million children are performing forced labor worldwide. We spoke to

one boy who was sold into servitude to pay off the debt for his mother's funeral, but was able to escape three years later. [[CBS](#)]

- Costco is limiting the purchase of toilet paper and paper towels. COVID-19 disruptions have caused a lack of dock workers and truckers, which has created bottlenecks in shipping. [[ABC](#)]
- The rural rail line is a major shipping and passenger thoroughfare. BNSF, which maintains the tracks, says they have been regularly inspected. As the investigation continues, we're learning more about the three people killed, including a couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "As Trump hints at comeback, democracy advocates fear a 'worst-case scenario'" [[WaPo](#)]
- "Retailers' Latest Headache: Shutdowns at Their Vietnamese Suppliers" [[NYT](#)]
- "Stock Futures Move Higher in Wake of Wall Street Rout" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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Subject: Fwd: Abbreviated AM Clips
To: Attorney General Garland (JMD)
Sent: September 27, 2021 7:44 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Date: September 27, 2021 at 7:32:53 AM EDT
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>, "Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)" (b) (6), "Seidman, Ricki (OASG)" (b) (6), "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b) (6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b) (6)
Subject: Abbreviated AM Clips

NATIONAL SECURITY

Bloomberg: China Says Xi Personally Gave Orders on Handling of Huawei Case,
Unattributed, September 27, 2021, 4:53 AM

President Xi Jinping handed down orders for handling the case of Huawei Technologies Co. executive Meng Wanzhou, China said, as Beijing seeks to cast her release as a diplomatic win over the U.S. "General Secretary Xi Jinping made important instructions," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Monday at a regular press briefing, referring to the 68-year-old's title as head of the ruling Communist Party. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: Covert Postal Service unit probed Jan. 6 social media, Betsy Woodruff Swan,
September 27, 2021, 4:30 AM

In the days after the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, an obscure arm of the U.S. Postal Service did some serious internet sleuthing. On Jan. 11, the United States Postal Inspection Service's Internet Covert Operations Program — better known as iCOP — sent bulletins to law enforcement agencies around the country on how to view social media posts that had been deleted. It also described its scrutiny of posts on the fringe social media network Wimkin. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

Washington Post: 40 years later, a dwindling band of Iran hostages awaits a promised payment, Anne Gearan, September 26, 4:53 PM

Nearly 35 years had passed, so long since the homecoming for the 52 Americans taken hostage by Iranian militants that the group had dwindled to 39, when what felt like a measure of justice was finally delivered. It was late 2015, and a law signed by President Barack Obama promised restitution to the former hostages whose 444-day ordeal began with the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979. But the full promised payments of up to \$4.44 million \$10,000 for each day of captivity never came. Hostages or their families have received only a small portion

from a special fund that administrators now say is out of money. There will be no payments for 2022. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): Federal judge acquits Sen. Katrina Robinson of 15 of 20 counts, Courtney Anderson, September 26, 2021, 9:16 PM

A federal judge has acquitted embattled Tennessee State Senator Katrina Robinson of 15 of the 20 counts against her. According to court records, Robinson has been acquitted of counts one through 10 and counts 13 through 17. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Fox: Border Patrol agents who Biden said would 'pay' could get minimal punishment, officials say, William La Jeunesse , Adam Shaw, September 27, 2021, 6:00 AM

The Border Patrol agents who were pictured blocking migrants on horseback in Del Rio and who President Biden promised would "pay" as he echoed false claims the agents "strapped" migrants -- could get little more than a few days suspension, if the investigation turns out as some senior administration officials hope. The agents are at the center of a Department of Homeland Security investigation after images emerged which Democratic lawmakers and left-wing activists claimed showed them using "whips" against migrants. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NBC: Biden in a bind on the border: 'The politics finally got the better of their policy', Alex Seitz-Wald, September 27, 2021, 3:30 AM

Democratic Rep. Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts, called the Border Patrol "egregious and white supremacist." Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said it was "worse than what we witnessed in slavery." The pair spent years targeting similar criticism at former President Donald Trump for his handling of the border. But this time, they were talking about fellow Democrat President Joe Biden's administration, which continues to deport Haitian migrants and others seeking asylum at the U.S. southern border under a controversial Trump-era public health order. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Honolulu Star-Advertiser: 6 people indicted in continuing federal tax fraud investigation, Peter Boylan, September 27, 2021, 5:51 AM

A federal investigation into a scheme to file false tax returns and then use Hawaii businesses, banks and trusts to launder the refunds resulted in the indictment of two women who allegedly conspired to manage more than \$1.6 million in proceeds, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: FBI investigating Missouri cops who let dog bite Black man, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 3:00 PM

The FBI has opened an investigation into the arrest of a Black man in Missouri during which cellphone video shows three white officers allowing a police dog to repeatedly bite him. Woodson Terrace police Chief Randy Halstead said in an email to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that his department was "fully cooperating" with the investigations being conducted by the FBI and the St. Louis County prosecutor's office into last week's arrest. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

USA Today: Synthetic opioid strong enough to 'kill more than 50M people' seized in

California, authorities say, Jordan Mendoza, September 26, 2021, 6:41 PM

Two Southern California residents were charged in a massive drug bust that resulted in authorities seizing more than 46 pounds of an extremely lethal synthetic opioid. [...] Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is typically used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. When administered to humans, the drug is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, according to the DEA. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WINK-CBS (Fort Myers, FL): FBI back at Laundry house; Authorities still searching for Brian Laundry, Emma Heaton, Zach Oliveri, September 26, 2021, 10:27 PM

It's been more than one week since investigators began looking for Brian Laundry in Sarasota County. Last week, authorities began searching for Laundry in Carlton Reserve. Brian was the last person to have spent time with Gabby. And now, there's a federal warrant out for his arrest for using a bank card that wasn't his after her death. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WJW-Fox \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#)

WBRZ-ABC (Baton Rouge, LA): Body of missing 2-year-old from Baton Rouge found in Mississippi; stepfather charged in her disappearance, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 4:42 PM

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 27, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. National Security

2. Criminal Law
3. Civil Law
4. Immigration & Border Security
5. Antitrust
6. Environment
7. Tax
8. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
9. Criminal Justice/Corrections
10. US Supreme Court
11. Congress
12. Network Evening News Lineup
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DOJ

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Unattributed, September 27, 2021, 4:53 AM

President Xi Jinping handed down orders for handling the case of Huawei Technologies Co. executive Meng Wanzhou, China said, as Beijing seeks to cast her release as a diplomatic win over the U.S. “General Secretary Xi Jinping made important instructions,” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Monday at a regular press briefing, referring to the 68-year-old’s title as head of the ruling Communist Party. [[Continue Reading](#)]

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ENVIRONMENT

VOA: US Environment Agency Moves to Cut Industrial Gas Linked to Climate Change, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 9:40 PM

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has announced a new rule sharply limiting some gasses used in household machines. The rule aims to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons, called HFCs, by 85 percent over the next 15 years. HFCs are industrial chemicals used in appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners. They also have other uses. The Environmental Protection agency, or EPA, says the chemicals are greenhouse gasses. Such gasses trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The EPA says HFCs are thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide in trapping heat. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Honolulu Star-Advertiser: 6 people indicted in continuing federal tax fraud investigation, Peter Boylan, September 27, 2021, 5:51 AM

A federal investigation into a scheme to file false tax returns and then use Hawaii businesses, banks and trusts to launder the refunds resulted in the indictment of two women who allegedly conspired to manage more than \$1.6 million in proceeds, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: FBI investigating Missouri cops who let dog bite Black man, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 3:00 PM

The FBI has opened an investigation into the arrest of a Black man in Missouri during which cellphone video shows three white officers allowing a police dog to repeatedly bite him. Woodson Terrace police Chief Randy Halstead said in an email to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that his department was “fully cooperating” with the investigations being conducted by the FBI and the St. Louis County prosecutor’s office into last week’s arrest. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

USA Today: Synthetic opioid strong enough to 'kill more than 50M people' seized in California, authorities say, Jordan Mendoza, September 26, 2021, 6:41 PM

Two Southern California residents were charged in a massive drug bust that resulted in authorities seizing more than 46 pounds of an extremely lethal synthetic opioid. [...] Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is typically used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. When administered to humans, the drug is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, according to the DEA. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WINK-CBS (Fort Myers, FL): FBI back at Laundrie house; Authorities still searching for Brian Laundrie, Emma Heaton, Zach Oliveri, September 26, 2021, 10:27 PM

It’s been more than one week since investigators began looking for Brian Laundrie in Sarasota County. Last week, authorities began searching for Laundrie in Carlton Reserve. Brian was the last person to have spent time with Gabby. And now, there’s a federal warrant out for his arrest for using a bank card that wasn’t his after her death. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WJW-Fox \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#)

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): U.S. Marshals searching for Memphis murder suspect, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 9:46 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service says it is searching for a man in connection with a 2020 homicide in Memphis. The U.S Marshals Two Rivers Violent Fugitive Task Force is reportedly searching for 30-year-old Robert Williams. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WHBQ-Fox \(Memphis, TN\)](#)

WVNY-ABC (Burlington, VT): FBI arrests former West Pawlet man in Alaska after alleged death threats, Mike Hoey, September 26, 2021, 9:36 PM

A man who moved earlier this year from Rutland County to Alaska is facing federal charges in that state of making long-distance death threats against Vermonters, according to the Bennington Banner. Brian Tarbell, 34, moved in April from West Pawlet to Kasilof, Alaska. The FBI arrested him earlier this month at an airport in that area; the newspaper reports that Tarbell was on his way to Vermont at the time with a rifle, two handguns and ammunition in his possession. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

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KSDK-NBC (St. Louis, MO): St. Louis Police asking the public to help solve three connected murders, Pepper Baker, September 26, 2021, 2:08 PM

The FBI and ATF have teamed up with St. Louis city and county police to track down whoever is responsible for at least three murders. Police released a very specific list of ways the public can help them. St. Louis City and County police believe three murders that each occurred three days apart from one another in mid-September, are connected -- along with other attacks. They also say in at least some of the cases sex workers were targeted. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

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[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: **[OPINION] Neil Gorsuch Is Channeling the Ghost of Scalia**, Noah Feldman, September 26, 2021, 3:29 PM

Neil Gorsuch has big ambitions. Every Supreme Court justice wants to do good work, write good opinions and influence the trajectory of American law. Justice Gorsuch wants more: intellectual leadership of the conservative legal movement. That would make him the heir to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, whom he replaced in 2017 after the Senate refused to vote on President Barack Obama's nomination [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

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The Hill: **Republicans criticizing Afghan refugees face risks**, Morgan Chalfant, September 26, 2021, 5:03 PM

Some Republicans are betting that sowing fear about the U.S. accepting thousands of Afghan refugees will aid them in the midterms, a risk that could backfire, as polls show a majority support allowing those who fled to enter the country. Republicans broadly have unified behind attacks on Biden's handling of immigration issues and those seeking entry into the United States. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

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ABC: World News Tonight with Linsey Davis

CBS: Evening News with Jericka Duncan

NBC: Nightly News with Kate Snow

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MORNING HEADLINES

- "Angela Merkel's party on brink of a narrow defeat in Germany vote" [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "The Economy Looks Solid. But These Are the Big Risks Ahead." [[NYT](#)]
- "Stock Futures Rise; Oil Prices Near Three-Year High" [[WSJ](#)]

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. National Security

2. Criminal Law
3. Civil Law
4. Immigration & Border Security
5. Antitrust
6. Environment
7. Tax
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ENVIRONMENT

VOA: US Environment Agency Moves to Cut Industrial Gas Linked to Climate Change, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 9:40 PM

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has announced a new rule sharply limiting some gasses used in household machines. The rule aims to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons, called HFCs, by 85 percent over the next 15 years. HFCs are industrial chemicals used in appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners. They also have other uses. The Environmental Protection agency, or EPA, says the chemicals are greenhouse gasses. Such gasses trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The EPA says HFCs are thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide in trapping heat. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Honolulu Star-Advertiser: 6 people indicted in continuing federal tax fraud investigation, Peter Boylan, September 27, 2021, 5:51 AM

A federal investigation into a scheme to file false tax returns and then use Hawaii businesses, banks and trusts to launder the refunds resulted in the indictment of two women who allegedly conspired to manage more than \$1.6 million in proceeds, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: FBI investigating Missouri cops who let dog bite Black man, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 3:00 PM

The FBI has opened an investigation into the arrest of a Black man in Missouri during which cellphone video shows three white officers allowing a police dog to repeatedly bite him. Woodson Terrace police Chief Randy Halstead said in an email to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that his department was “fully cooperating” with the investigations being conducted by the FBI and the St. Louis County prosecutor’s office into last week’s arrest. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

USA Today: Synthetic opioid strong enough to 'kill more than 50M people' seized in California, authorities say, Jordan Mendoza, September 26, 2021, 6:41 PM

Two Southern California residents were charged in a massive drug bust that resulted in authorities seizing more than 46 pounds of an extremely lethal synthetic opioid. [...] Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is typically used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. When administered to humans, the drug is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, according to the DEA. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WINK-CBS (Fort Myers, FL): FBI back at Laundrie house; Authorities still searching for Brian Laundrie, Emma Heaton, Zach Oliveri, September 26, 2021, 10:27 PM

It’s been more than one week since investigators began looking for Brian Laundrie in Sarasota County. Last week, authorities began searching for Laundrie in Carlton Reserve. Brian was the last person to have spent time with Gabby. And now, there’s a federal warrant out for his arrest for using a bank card that wasn’t his after her death. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WJW-Fox \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#)

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): U.S. Marshals searching for Memphis murder suspect, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 9:46 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service says it is searching for a man in connection with a 2020 homicide in Memphis. The U.S Marshals Two Rivers Violent Fugitive Task Force is reportedly searching for 30-year-old Robert Williams. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WHBQ-Fox \(Memphis, TN\)](#)

WVNY-ABC (Burlington, VT): FBI arrests former West Pawlet man in Alaska after alleged death threats, Mike Hoey, September 26, 2021, 9:36 PM

A man who moved earlier this year from Rutland County to Alaska is facing federal charges in that state of making long-distance death threats against Vermonters, according to the Bennington Banner. Brian Tarbell, 34, moved in April from West Pawlet to Kasilof, Alaska. The FBI arrested him earlier this month at an airport in that area; the newspaper reports that Tarbell was on his way to Vermont at the time with a rifle, two handguns and ammunition in his possession. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WBRZ-ABC (Baton Rouge, LA): Body of missing 2-year-old from Baton Rouge found in Mississippi; stepfather charged in her disappearance, Unattributed, September 26, 2021,

4:42 PM

The body of a toddler from Baton Rouge was found in a remote area of Mississippi after a days-long search for the missing child. Nevaeh Allen, 2, was found dead in the Logtown area of Hancock County on Sunday, the Baton Rouge Police Department confirmed Sunday. The FBI, in conjunction with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, shut down Logtown Road off Mississippi 604 in Pearlinton on Sunday to search for the body of Navaeh, who was reportedly last seen in Baton Rouge neighborhood when her stepfather put her down for a nap on Friday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KATC-ABC/CW \(Lafayette, LA\)](#), [WAFB-CBS \(Baton Rouge, LA\)](#), [WDSU-NBC \(New Orleans, LA\)](#)

KSDK-NBC (St. Louis, MO): St. Louis Police asking the public to help solve three connected murders, Pepper Baker, September 26, 2021, 2:08 PM

The FBI and ATF have teamed up with St. Louis city and county police to track down whoever is responsible for at least three murders. Police released a very specific list of ways the public can help them. St. Louis City and County police believe three murders that each occurred three days apart from one another in mid-September, are connected -- along with other attacks. They also say in at least some of the cases sex workers were targeted. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Critics say prison problems go beyond buildings, Kim Chandler, September 26, 2021, 5:00 PM

Alabama lawmakers return to Montgomery on Monday to vote on a \$1.3 billion prison construction plan proponents say will help address the state's longstanding problems in corrections, but critics argue the troubles go much deeper and won't be remedied with brick, mortar and bars. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey called a special session next week for lawmakers to vote on the construction plan as well as a sentencing and supervision bill. Ivey said Alabama is risking a federal takeover of the prison system. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Montgomery Advertiser](#)

AP: Judge will consider ending restrictions for John Hinckley, Ben Finley, September 27, 2021, 1:01 AM

Lawyers are scheduled to meet in federal court on Monday to discuss whether John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, should be freed from court-imposed restrictions ranging from how his medical care is overseen to keeping officials updated on what his computer passwords are. Hinckley, 66, moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, from a Washington hospital in 2016. Since then, the court-imposed conditions have included doctors and therapists overseeing his psychiatric medication and deciding how often he attends individual and group therapy sessions. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

WaPo: [OPINION] Supreme Court observers see trouble ahead as public approval of justices erodes, Robert Barnes and Seung Min Kim, September 26, 2021, 5:36 PM

The Supreme Court's approval rating is plummeting, its critics are more caustic, and justices are feeling compelled to plead the case to the public that they are judicial philosophers, not politicians in robes. All of this as the court embarks Oct. 4 on one of the most potentially divisive terms in years. Docketed cases concern gun control, separation of church and state, and the biggest showdown in decades on the future of *Roe v. Wade* and the constitutional right to an abortion.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: [OPINION] Neil Gorsuch Is Channeling the Ghost of Scalia, Noah Feldman, September 26, 2021, 3:29 PM

Neil Gorsuch has big ambitions. Every Supreme Court justice wants to do good work, write good opinions and influence the trajectory of American law. Justice Gorsuch wants more: intellectual leadership of the conservative legal movement. That would make him the heir to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, whom he replaced in 2017 after the Senate refused to vote on President Barack Obama's nomination [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: 4 Supreme Court Cases Involving Access To Justice To Watch, Marco Poggio, September 26, 2021, 8:02 PM

Lawyers are eagerly anticipating the U.S. Supreme Court's upcoming term and arguments on several legal issues touching on the core of the Constitution. Among the high-stakes matters on the court's docket this term are the right to access abortion and the right to carry guns in self-defense, both of which are flashpoints in the country's deep political divide. Other cases before the court involve the right to a fair trial, surveillance and equal protection under the law. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CONGRESS

CNN: [VIDEO] Member of January 6th committee says if subpoenaed Trump loyalists don't testify, committee prepared to involve DOJ, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 10:00 PM

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, a Democrat from California and member of the January 6th committee, tells CNN's Pamela Brown that if the four subpoenaed Trump loyalists refuse to testify, the committee is prepared to involve the Department of Justice. [\[Watch\]](#)

The Hill: Republicans criticizing Afghan refugees face risks, Morgan Chalfant, September 26, 2021, 5:03 PM

Some Republicans are betting that sowing fear about the U.S. accepting thousands of Afghan refugees will aid them in the midterms, a risk that could backfire, as polls show a majority support allowing those who fled to enter the country. Republicans broadly have unified behind attacks on Biden's handling of immigration issues and those seeking entry into the United States. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with Linsey Davis

CBS: Evening News with Jericka Duncan

NBC: Nightly News with Kate Snow

- A team of investigators and Amtrak officials are in Montana trying to find out what caused a deadly train derailment. 160 people were on board and three were killed. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Family and friends gathered for Gabby Petito's memorial on New York's Long Island today. Long lines formed outside the Moloney Funeral Home as the public came to pay respects to Gabby Petito. The 22-year-old's step-father asked the public to be inspired by how his step-daughter treated others. More than 100 firefighters were in attendance to support Petito's step-father who is a fireman [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- New COVID cases are falling, but the United States has fallen from the top of the world's list of most vaccinated countries - now ranking 47th - largely due to the 70 million Americans who are not getting the shots. People across the country got their Pfizer booster shots this weekend. Doctors in the US say there's not enough data to support mixing vaccines. Health officials encourage booster shots for those eligible. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden's \$3.5 trillion agenda is in peril, with Democrats still at odds ahead of some key votes. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- The makeshift migrant camp under a bridge in Del Rio, Texas is no more. More than 12,000 migrants, mostly Haitian, remain in the US seeking asylum. US officials are reopening an international border crossing in southern Texas that had been closed for more than a week. The port of entry at Del Rio was closed after thousands of migrants set up camp below the international bridge crossing. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- George Floyd's death, and the protests it ignited across the country led to demands for fundamental changes in policing, with the 2nd largest city police force in Illinois starting to use an immersive virtual reality system for training. [[CBS](#)]
- Kathryn Benson-Billing watched with alarm as a woman holding a toddler leaped onto a picnic table bench Saturday in a concessions area at San Diego's Petco Park. The woman lost her balance but jumped back up. Then, within a matter of seconds, she fell. In a horrifying moment, both woman and child tipped over the side of the facility and fell the equivalent of six stories to the street below. [[CBS](#)]
- Missing Illinois State University student Jelani Day's body has been found, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office said Thursday. The 25-year-old was reported missing on August 25 after he didn't show up to class in Bloomington, Ill., for several days. [[ABC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "Angela Merkel's party on brink of a narrow defeat in Germany vote" [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "The Economy Looks Solid. But These Are the Big Risks Ahead." [[NYT](#)]
- "Stock Futures Rise; Oil Prices Near Three-Year High" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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Sent: September 27, 2021 7:13 AM (UTC-04:00)

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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Weekend Digest
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**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
September 26, 2021
2:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Department of Justice News
2. DOJ Grants
3. National Security
4. Criminal Law
5. Civil Rights
6. Civil Law
7. Immigration & Border Security
8. Antitrust
9. Tax
10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
12. Marijuana Legalization
13. Congress
14. Network Evening News Lineup
15. Sunday Morning Talk Shows
16. Afternoon Headlines

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

NY Daily News: **China releases two Canadian men from prison, PM Trudeau says**,

Brandon Sapienza, September 25, 2021, 6:35 PM

Two men who were imprisoned in China for nearly three years have returned home to Canada. “These two men have gone through an unbelievable difficult ordeal for the past 1,000 days, they have shown strength, perseverance and grace and we are all inspired by that,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said during a late Friday night news conference in Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [KXXV-ABC \(Waco, TX\)](#)

DOJ GRANTS

Kennebec Journal (Augusta, ME): **Central Maine business briefs: UMF names director of Campus Safety Grant**, September 25, 2021, 3:48 PM

UMF names director of university’s Campus Safety Grant. Alex Warner has been named the director of the University of Maine at Farmington’s three-year Campus Safety Grant. In the fall of 2020, UMF was awarded almost \$300,000 by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHIO-CBS (Dayton, OH): **DOJ awards more than \$200,000 to help victims of crime support services in Ohio**, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 6:25 PM

Service providers who support victims of crime in Ohio will have their databases improved with new federal funding. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime awarded the Ohio Attorney General’s Office a \$215,000 Building State Technology Capacity grant on Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Arizona Mirror (Phoenix, AZ): **Arizona ‘Justice for J6’ rally draws small crowd of extremists, GOP officials**, Jerod MacDonald-Evoy, September 25, 2021, 9:30 PM (EDT)

Only a few dozen people, many of them members of a violent extremist organization, showed up at the Arizona Capitol on Saturday for a rally claiming that Donald Trump supporters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 did nothing wrong and were being held as “political prisoners.” “It was an awesome, awesome day,” former state Republican legislator Anthony Kern told attendees about being at the Capitol on Jan. 6. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Naples Daily News (Naples, FL): **Third attorney takes over U.S. Capitol riot case of East Naples man with Proud Boys ties**, Michael Braun, September 25, 2021, 5:55 PM

The East Naples man suspected of participating in the U.S. Capitol riot in January is now being represented by a Tampa attorney, replacing the high-profile lawyer who had taken over the case in March. Christopher Worrell, 50, was arrested after FBI agents executed a search and arrest warrant at his home on March 12. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS (St. Louis, MO): Video shows former Tennessee deputy-in-training fighting, dragging capitol police officers, Jeremy Finley, September 25, 2021, 2:42 PM (EDT)

A newly released video of Ronald McAbee shows the former Williamson County deputy-in-training fighting a capitol police officer and dragging another downstairs during the January 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. capitol. At the time of the riot, court records show McAbee was on medical leave by the sheriff's office, where he was working as a correctional officer in preparation to take part in deputy training. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: At least 16 indicted after federal firearms sweep in Iowa, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 4:00 PM

At least 16 people in eastern Iowa were charged with gun crimes after a two-day sweep by federal authorities this week. Grand juries met Wednesday through Friday in the U.S. District Court for Northern Iowa and issued the indictments, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MotherJones: A Fed-Up Judge Rips a January 6 Defendant: "You've Disgraced This Country", Ali Breland, September 25, 2021, 5:15 PM

A federal judge in Washington, DC, ripped into a Capitol riot defendant who'd just pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge on Friday, criticizing him for taking part in "attack on our government." "You've disgraced this country in the eyes of the world, and my inclination would be to lock you up, but since the government isn't asking me to do that...I won't," yelled US District Court Judge Reggie Walton at Anthony Mariotto during a video hearing, according to Politico. "I find it outrageous that American citizens would do what you did, so you better walk the straight and narrow, sir, you understand?" [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Free Press - Tampa (Apollo Beach, FL), Mississippi Man Gets Over 21 Years In Prison After Shooting U.S. Marshal In The Neck, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 9:22 AM

A Mississippi man was sentenced earlier this week, to 257 months in federal prison for assault of a federal officer and discharging a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. According to court documents, on July 21, 2020, a member of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force (USMS agent) was shot in the neck by Joseph Dale Sonnier, while executing an outstanding arrest warrant. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: Trial of former NU professor accused of grisly River North murder expected to start Monday, Matthew Hendrickson, September 26, 2021, 6:30 AM (EDT)

Jury selection in the trial of a former Northwestern University microbiologist accused of murdering his boyfriend with a British man who flew to the United States to participate in the killing is expected to start Monday. Opening statements in 47-year-old Wyndham Lathem's trial and

testimony from at least one of the prosecution's witnesses are also scheduled to take place Monday. The trial is expected to last two weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Chicago Tribune: Jurors weigh complex racketeering case against R. Kelly in New York as the superstar singer awaits his legal fate, Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau, September 26, 2021, 6:00 AM

For six weeks, while attorneys sparred and accusers gave emotional testimony about the disgraced R&B superstar at the defense table, the jurors who will determine R. Kelly's fate have watched in silence. Now, after 50 witnesses and hours of arguments, their work has begun. The jurors will have far more complicated decisions to make than they likely anticipated when they were called for duty back in the summer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Watertown Daily Times (Watertown, NY): Hogansburg man sentenced by federal judge to 30 months in drug case, Blaine Alvoie, September 25, 2021, 10:15 PM

Tyren Terrance, 26, of Hogansburg, was sentenced Thursday to 30 months in prison in a marijuana distribution case, Acting U.S. Attorney Antoinette Bacon and Special Agent Ray Donovan of the Drug Enforcement Administration announced. Terrance pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute, and possessing with intent to distribute, more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. As part of Terrance's May 2021 guilty plea, he admitted that he and a co-conspirator used two pickup trucks to move 10 hockey bags full of marijuana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Salem Statesman Journal (Salem, OR): Jefferson grass seed company pleads guilty in fraud scheme, Whitney Woodworth, September 25, 2021, 5:23 PM (EDT)

A Jefferson-based wholesale grass seed distributor pleaded guilty Friday in federal court to knowingly concealing a scheme to defraud a fellow seed company. ProSeeds Marketing, Inc., pleaded guilty to one count of misprision of a felony for its role in defrauding Jacklin Seed Company, then a subsidiary of the J.R. Simplot Company. According to court documents, ProSeeds had a longstanding commercial relationship with the Jacklin Seed Company and routinely contracted with Jacklin for the purchase and sale of grass seed. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: Former California pastor sentenced to 14 years in prison over \$33M fraud scheme, Muri Assuncao, September 25, 2021, 4:54 PM

The former pastor of a church in Orange County, Calif. was sentenced Friday to 14 years in federal prison for his role in a massive investment scam that took in more than \$33 million from investors. U.S. District Judge Josephine L. Staton sentenced 39-year-old Kent R.E. Whitney to 168 months behind bars for masterminding a scheme to defraud investors through the Church of the Healthy Self (CHS), a nonprofit corporation, and its related entities, including CHS Asset Management, Inc. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal (Lubbock, TX): Defense attorneys in Bart Reagor bank fraud case seek to block proposed video evidence, Gabriel Monte, September 25, 2021, 4:28 PM (EDT)

Attorneys for Bart Reagor are asking the federal judge presiding over his bank fraud case to stop prosecutors from showing video evidence in which he bragged about obtaining his wealth through "other people's money" and that everything he did was planned. The request was among multiple motions and briefs filed last week ahead of Reagor's Oct. 12 trial in Amarillo before Judge Matthew J. Kacsmark. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Dallas Morning News: 11 charged with defrauding elderly victims of money by wooing them through dating sites, feds say, Hojun Choi, September 25, 2021, 4:00 PM (EDT)

Eleven people have been indicted in connection with a scheme that targeted elderly people for money, the U.S. attorney's office for the Northern District of Texas announced Friday. All 11 were arrested in a large-scale operation Wednesday morning, the U.S. attorney's office said. Most are tied to a transnational organized crime syndicate originating in Nigeria, the office said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTKR-CBS (Norfolk, VA): Chesapeake man sentenced to 15 years in prison for interstate methamphetamine conspiracy, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 12:55 PM

A Chesapeake man was sentenced to 15 years in prison for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine, the Department of Justice said. According to court documents, on May 20, 2020, an Arizona State Trooper stopped 45-year-old Jeremy Wayne Johnson and his passenger on Interstate 17 near Mayer, Arizona, because Johnson was speeding and texting on his phone while driving. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTKR-CBS (Norfolk, VA): 2 Hampton Roads conspirators convicted on drug trafficking, money laundering charges, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 12:27 PM

Two Suffolk residents were convicted by a federal jury on charges relating to drug trafficking and money laundering in the Hampton Roads area. According to court records, 42-year-old Jose Luis Cruz-Colon and 31-year-old Natassja Lopez-Alvarado were responsible for importing kilogram quantities of cocaine into the Hampton Roads area for distribution, then sending the proceeds of their sales to Puerto Rico to further the drug trafficking conspiracy. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Georgia Man Pleads Guilty To Child Exploitation, Ashley Cox, September 25, 2021, 10:02 PM

A Macon resident has pleaded guilty to child sexual exploitation after investigators discovered multiple juvenile victims across the country ranging in age from 10-years-old to 16-years-old who he contacted on social media, coercing them to send him sexually explicit and pornographic images and videos. Deon M. Moore, 37, of Macon, pleaded guilty to sexual exploitation of a child before U.S. District Judge Marc Treadwell. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): Executive Pleads Guilty To Conspiracy To Evade Federal Excise Taxes On Dominican Cigars, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 9:52 PM

A California tobacco company executive on Thursday admitted his participation in a fraudulent scheme to avoid the payment of millions of dollars in excise taxes on imported tobacco products. Akrum Alrahib, 43, of Los Angeles, California, was the President of Trendsettah USA, Inc.

(“Trendsettah”), a California tobacco company authorized to transact business in Florida. Trendsettah sold various tobacco products, such as large cigars, and marijuana paraphernalia, such as “blunt wraps,” most of which were imported from the Dominican Republic through Miami. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WFAA-ABC (Dallas, TX): 11 face fraud charges in North Texas for schemes that targeted elderly victims on dating sites, officials say, Alex Cruz, September 25, 2021, 5:48 PM (EDT)
Eleven people were indicted on fraud charges in North Texas Friday for schemes that targeted elderly victims on dating sites, officials said. The U.S. Attorney's Office announced a federal grand jury returned the indictments in the Northern District of Texas after the suspects were arrested Wednesday morning in a "large-scale operation." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

NBC: Calls for Civil Rights Investigation Into Rikers as Court Pressures NYC to Fix Crisis, Michael Sisak, September 25, 2021, 5:07 PM
New York City faced mounting pressure Friday to solve its spiraling jail crisis, with members of Congress calling for a federal civil rights investigation and a court-appointed monitor blasting the city for a failure of leadership amid staggering violence, self-harm and the deaths this year of at least 12 inmates. U.S. District Judge Laura Swain, overseeing a jail consent decree, said on an emergency conference call Friday that the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex is “clearly in a state of danger and crisis.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Two federal judges rule local Tennessee school districts can mandate masks, Celine Castronuovo, September 25, 2021, 10:31 PM
Two federal judges in separate rulings Friday said that Tennessee school districts could implement mask mandates, despite GOP Gov. Bill Lee's executive order stating that parents could opt out of the coronavirus requirements. In one of the decisions, U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer of the Eastern District of Tennessee granted a motion from a group of Knox County students and parents for a preliminary injunction against the executive order. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson, AZ): Home health company with Tucson offices settles federal kickback claim for \$17M, Carol Ann Alaimo, September 25, 2021, 10:06 PM
A national home health-care firm with six Tucson-area locations has agreed to pay \$17 million to settle government claims it paid a kickback to the owner of a chain of retirement homes for patient referrals later used to file false Medicare claims. New Jersey-based Bayada, which offers home-health services in 22 states, did not admit fault in the settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: NYC Temporarily Blocked From Imposing School Vaccine Mandate, Ian Fisher, September 25, 2021, 7:08 PM

New York City's school system, the largest in the U.S., has been temporarily blocked from imposing a mandate forcing teachers and other staff to get vaccinated against Covid-19, according to a ruling from a federal judge. That mandate is scheduled to go into effect on Monday at midnight. Late Friday, a judge from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit referred the case to a three-judge panel "on an expedited basis." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): Huntsville jury hits defense contractor with potentially more than \$100M damages in fraud case, Lee Rop, September 25, 2021, 8:32 PM (EDT)

A Huntsville federal court jury verdict Friday could result in a defense contractor having to pay more than \$100 million to whistleblowers and the federal government after jurors found the company fraudulently induced the U.S. Army into contracts with Saudi Arabia, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Attorneys for the defendants declined to comment outside the federal courthouse after the verdict was read. A plaintiffs' attorney said later that their clients and the U.S. government stand to receive triple the damages awarded by the jury. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: U.S. border agents briefly detain 14 Mexican soldiers in El Paso, Tomas Bravo, Lizbeth Diaz, Anthony Esposito, and Dan Grebler, September 25, 2021, 5:35 PM (EDT)

Fourteen Mexican soldiers were detained early Saturday morning for several hours by U.S. border agents after they crossed into El Paso, Texas, from Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [El Paso Times \(El Paso, TX\)](#)

ABC: What is Title 42? Amid backlash, Biden administration defends use of Trump-era order to expel migrants, Armando Garcia, Deena Zaru, and Quinn Owen, September 26, 2021, 11:09 AM

President Joe Biden vowed to implement a more humane approach to immigration than his predecessor, but now the Biden administration is facing backlash over its use of a Trump-era order to rapidly expel thousands of migrants, mostly Haitian nationals, without giving them a chance to apply for asylum within the United States. The process is known as Title 42, a reference to part of a U.S. public health code, and according to advocates challenging the administration in court, its use violates U.S. asylum laws. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Mayorkas: About 4,000 migrants in Del Rio have been expelled under Covid-19 public health rule, Priscilla Alvarez and Chandelis Duster, September 26, 2021, 11:09 AM
About 4,000 migrants apprehended by US Customs and Border Protection in Del Rio, Texas,

over the last weeks have been expelled under a public health authority, known as Title 42, and 10,000 to 12,000 migrants have been released into the United States, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Sunday. "That is a public health authority. It is not an immigration policy. It is exercised as the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control (and Prevention), has ordered, in light of the arc of the pandemic," Mayorkas told CNN's Jake Tapper on "State of the Union." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Mayorkas Says U.S. Won't Protect Southern Border With Wall, Craig Torres, September 26, 2021, 11:46 AM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the Biden administration won't build walls on the border despite a pickup in crossings. "We have seen large numbers of individuals encountered at our border making a claim for asylum for humanitarian relief," Mayorkas said in an interview with Fox News Sunday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Border chaos reverberates deep in America's heartland, Stephen Dinan, September 26, 2021, 11:13 AM

Iron County in Utah is about the furthest thing from a border community. But Sheriff Kenneth Carpenter says incidents like a traffic stop this month on the interstate, where a deputy nabbed a motorist for reckless driving and found five pounds of methamphetamine and \$8,000 in cash, are a result of the chaos that's erupted on the U.S.-Mexico boundary. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Mayorkas: Investigation into border agents will be fair despite Biden's vow that 'people will pay', Valerie Richardson, September 26, 2021, 11:07 AM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas insisted Sunday that the mounted border agents under investigation for their treatment of Haitian migrants would receive a fair hearing, despite President Biden's declaration that "those people will pay." Mr. Mayorkas said his department would rely on the facts as determined by an independent investigation, even though he said last week that the images of the agents swinging their reins as they sought to deter migrants crossing the Rio Grande "horrified us." [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: DHS secretary: We are working in a 'completely broken' immigration system, Joseph Choi, September 26, 2021, 11:08 AM (EDT)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Sunday said that the U.S. is capable of addressing the immigration crisis at the southern border, but acknowledged that "we are working in a completely broken system." Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," Mayorkas pointed to the Biden administration's actions in Del Rio, Texas, where thousands of Haitian migrants had been camped out under a bridge. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTF-NPR (Harrisburg, PA): The border is reopening at Del Rio after the U.S. clears migrant camp, Dave Mistich & Carrie Khan, September 26, 2021, 8:08 AM (EDT)

U.S. officials are reopening an international border crossing in southern Texas that had been closed for more than a week. The port of entry at Del Rio was closed after thousands of migrants set up camp below the international bridge crossing. U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued

a statement outlining plans to allow passenger traffic to resume at 4 p.m. local time Saturday.
[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSFX-Fox (Wilmington, NC): **Biden administration has removed just 2K of 30,000 migrants who surged border in Del Rio**, Adam Shaw, September 25, 2021, 9:11 PM

The Biden administration has removed just 2,000 of the more than 30,000 migrants who surged to the border in Del Rio in September, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Friday. Scenes of approximately 15,000 migrants camped under the Del Rio bridge drew national and international headlines, as well as outrage from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

The Daily Wire: **FTC Chair Reveals 'Assertive Posture' Toward Antitrust Policy**, Ben Zeisloft, September 26, 2021, 10:15 AM

Lina Khan, the chair of the Federal Trade Commission, has released new details about her policy priorities. In a 69 to 28 July vote, the Senate confirmed Khan a thirty-two-year-old law professor at Columbia University to lead the FTC, which handles the federal government's enforcement of antitrust and consumer protection laws. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

Reuters: **Deputy chief of Russia's Novatek says he will fight U.S. tax charges**, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 5:16 AM

Mark Gyetvay, a deputy chief of Russian natural gas producer Novatek, who was arrested last week in the United States on tax charges, said on social media on Sunday that he had pleaded not guilty and would fight the charges. "Dear friends and colleagues. On Thursday I was indicted for baseless tax charges that I already settled through a voluntary program, and pleaded not guilty. I will vigorously fight these charges and will continue to discuss gas topics as normal," Gyetvay wrote on Twitter. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Detroit News (Detroit, MI): **Detroit Councilman Scott Benson says he does not 'engage in criminality'**, James David Dickson, September 25, 2021, 11:00 PM

A month after a high-profile FBI raid at his home and City Hall offices, Councilman Scott Benson is insisting he doesn't "engage in criminality" or take his constituents for granted. The councilman made the remarks in a Saturday interview with The Detroit News about his reelection campaign.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Critics say prison problems go beyond buildings, Kim Chandler, September 26, 2021, 9:30 AM

Alabama lawmakers return to Montgomery on Monday to vote on a \$1.3 billion prison construction plan proponents say will help address the state's longstanding problems in corrections, but critics argue the troubles go much deeper and won't be remedied with brick, mortar and bars. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey called a special session next week for lawmakers to vote on the construction plan as well as a sentencing and supervision bill. Ivey said Alabama is risking a federal takeover of the prison system. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Intercept: Federal prisons' switch to scanning mail is a surveillance nightmare, Lauren Gill, September 26, 2021, 6:00 AM

In a Pennsylvania federal prison, Joe used to trace his girlfriend's handwriting with his finger as the faint smell of her perfume wafted into his cell. Her letters elicited rare feelings of intimacy in an otherwise cold environment. But after his facility, United States Penitentiary Canaan, replaced physical mail with photocopies in 2019, those feelings have disappeared. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Forbes: The Making Of New York's \$150 Million 'Cannabis Campus', Will Yakowicz, September 26, 2021, 6:30 AM

About 60 miles north of Manhattan, at the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains and past a few cow pastures, stands the red brick buildings of the old Mid-Orange Correctional Facility in Warwick, New York. In 2011, then-New York Governor Andrew Cuomo shuttered the prison. [...] Unlike his great-grandfather, who waited for Prohibition to end, Kovler isn't holding back while federal legalization is worked out in Congress. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Des Moines Register (Des Moines, IA): [OPINION] It's time to legalize recreational marijuana in Iowa and nationally, Greg Ganske, September 26, 2021, 7:55 AM (EDT)

Iowa should legalize recreational marijuana, and the federal government should eliminate barriers to marijuana recreational use as determined by the states. I am not advocating marijuana use any more than I advocated tobacco use in 2000 when I introduced in Congress a bipartisan bill to allow tobacco regulation by the Food and Drug Administration. That bill served as a guide for FDA regulation of tobacco. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Kansas City Star: For one Black marijuana entrepreneur, 'touching the flower' is no longer goal, Jeanne Kuang, September 26, 2021, 6:00 AM (EDT)

Marne Madison said she's just about done trying to open a dispensary in Missouri. The former

president of Missouri's chapter of Minorities for Medical Marijuana was denied two licenses in the state's fledgling program, one for her own dispensary, the other for cultivation as part of a collective. [...] Those without ready capital face a steep climb for a spot in the legal market. Because weed remains illegal at the federal level, bank loans aren't usually an option. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Kansas City Star: What happens to crime where recreational marijuana is legal? Here's what we know, Jeanne Kuang, September 26, 2021, 5:00 AM

While national polls show increasing support for legalization of recreational marijuana, opposition remains strong among Missouri law enforcement and medical groups. One of those voices is Kansas City Police Chief Rick Smith. In a 2019 blog post, Smith linked 10 of the city's homicides to marijuana-related motives, but did not provide details. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

CBS: NYC Congressional Representatives Call On President Biden To Intervene In Rikers Island Crisis, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 9:37 PM

Eleven Congressional representatives from New York City are calling on President Joe Biden to intervene in the crisis on Rikers Island. In a letter initiated by Bronx Rep. Ritchie Torres, elected leaders also called for the Department of Justice to open a civil rights investigation into the conditions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Florida Star (Jacksonville, FL): Senators Fail to Reach Deal on George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, Stacy M. Brown, September 25, 2021, 4:52 PM

Talks to enact the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act were halted on Wednesday after a bipartisan Senate negotiations team announced it failed to reach a deal. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-South Carolina) called off the talks. No further discussions are in the works. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight did not air due to college football

CBS: Weekend News with Jamie Yuccas

NBC: Nightly News with Jose Diaz-Balart did not air due to the 43rd Ryder Cup

- The delta variant is exacerbating the pandemic as the number of COVID deaths has increased 26%, while the number of infections has decreased by 16%. State health officials are in the process of helping Americans understand who qualifies for booster shots. The number of Americans being vaccinated fell 35.9% in the last three weeks. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said infections among the unvaccinated are fueling the pandemic. [[CBS](#)]

- Across California, 11 major wildfires are burning, with more than 9,800 firefighters working to contain the blazes. This weekend's cooler temperatures and lighter winds are expected to slow the spread of the fires. However, the fires continue to be fueled by the extreme drought in the region. [\[CBS\]](#)
- After two weeks of searching for Brian Laundrie in a nature preserve, authorities have scaled back their search. Laundrie is wanted for unauthorized use of a debit card and for questioning the disappearance of Gabby Petito, whose funeral is scheduled for Sunday. [\[CBS\]](#)
- The border crossing in Del Rio, Texas, was opened Saturday following the removal of thousands of Haitian migrants this week. Viral images of Border Patrol Agents hitting the migrants have drawn sharp rebukes, primarily from African-American lawmakers. [\[CBS\]](#)
- President Biden's domestic agenda faces more problems as it faces increasing opposition from republicans and moderate democrats. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent a letter stating her intent to pass the infrastructure bill along with a trillion-dollar spending plan and a resolution to fund the government by the end of this week. [\[CBS\]](#)
- Nine people were killed in a suicide attack targeting the presidential palace in Mogadishu, Somalia. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. [\[CBS\]](#)
- Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou returned to China today after agreeing to defer US charges against her until late 2022. In return, Beijing released two Canadians who were detained in retaliation for the arrest of Wanzhou. The deal ended a nearly three-year legal saga that has complicated relations between the United States, China, and Canada. Huawei may face fraud charges. [\[CBS\]](#)

SUNDAY MORNING TALK SHOWS

ABC This Week with George Stephanopoulos

- *This Week* began with coverage of the President's domestic agenda, looming government shutdown, and potential debt default. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined the program and said Democrats would pass a \$1tn bipartisan infrastructure bill this week. Pelosi also said she would work to build consensus on Joe Biden's separate \$3.5tn social spending agenda, which has caused divisions within the Democratic party. Democrats have slim majorities in Congress and must unite to overcome Republican opposition to the \$3.5 trillion spending plan, known as the Build Back Better Act. [\[Watch-1\]](#)[\[Watch-2\]](#)

CBS Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan

- *Face the Nation* began with coverage of President Biden's COVID booster plan and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, who discussed boosters and encouraged unvaccinated individuals to get vaccinated. Dr. Walensky also addressed the use of available healthcare resources as the COVID crisis continues. [\[Watch-1\]](#), [\[Watch-2\]](#)
- President Biden's police reform negotiations between Senate Democrats and Republicans have stalled. South Carolina Senator Tim Scott joined the program and discussed the failed negotiations and Democrats' decision to walk away from police reform negotiations. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal joined the program to discuss the divisions within the

Democrat majority regarding President Biden's infrastructure bill and a \$3.5 trillion domestic spending bill. Congresswoman Jayapal also discussed police reform. [\[Watch\]](#)

- Political analyst John Dickerson appeared on the program to discuss President Biden's falling polling numbers and the challenges he faces in his role as the President and from those within his party. [\[Watch\]](#)
- The confrontation between the US and China has involved selling nuclear submarines to Australia, causing diplomatic issues with France. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison appeared on the show to discuss Australia's security interests regarding foreign interference and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic [\[Watch\]](#)
- Margaret Brennan interviewed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, covering various issues, including the Taliban in Afghanistan and human rights abuses in Turkey. [\[Watch\]](#)

NBC Meet the Press with Chuck Todd

- *Meet the Press* began with coverage of President Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill and a string of setbacks. New Jersey Senator Cory Booker joined Todd to discuss the need for Democrats to come together to support the president's agenda. [\[Watch-1\]](#), [\[Watch-2\]](#), [\[Watch-3\]](#)
- Next, Todd brought Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on the show to discuss removing Haitian migrants from Del Rio, Texas, and share the Administration's perspective on the issue. More than 12,400 migrants were released into the U.S., 8,000 returned to Mexico, and 2000+ expelled to Haiti. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Bob Woodward and Robert Costa joined Todd to discuss their co-authored book "PERIL" surrounding the Capitol's January 6, 2021 insurrection. The co-authors went on to discuss former President Trump and his influence on the Republican party. [\[Watch\]](#)
- A panel joined Todd to discuss President Biden's Progressive Agenda pushing the passage of his Infrastructure Bill and a \$3.5 trillion domestic spending bill. Discussion regarding Democratic progressives and moderates continue to battle over spending contained within both bills and the issues regarding COVID booster shots. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Data Download reviewed the approval ratings of the Supreme Court in light of the political issues surrounding abortion rights. Approval ratings of the Court in July were noted to be evenly rated among Democrats and Republicans. However, as abortions arose in September, there was a noticeable partisan divide in the SCOTUS approval ratings. [\[Watch\]](#)
- The panel returned to discuss the Arizona audit, former President Trump's response to the results, Republicans aligning with former President Trump, and the implications for the November 2022 elections. [\[Watch\]](#)

FOX News Sunday with Chris Wallace

- The program began Sunday with coverage of the Biden administration's handling of thousands of Haitian immigrants assembled at a southern border crossing in Del Rio, Texas, and ensuing criticism surrounding the president's immigration policy. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas joined the program to discuss the US immigration system, which he characterized as "broken," and defended the recent deportation of thousands of Haitian migrants. However, Mayorkas admitted that most Haitian migrants who crossed the southern US border in recent weeks have already been released into the United States, and more may follow them. [\[Watch-1\]](#)[\[Watch-2\]](#)

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott joined Fox News Sunday to discuss the Biden administration's immigration policy, criticizing the president and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for failing to secure the sovereignty of the United States. Abbott also discussed a new bill passed by the Texas legislature that bans abortions after six weeks and a new election law Abbot signed this month that Democrats argue is meant to suppress votes. [[Watch-1](#)][[Watch-2](#)]

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- “Covid’s Hidden Toll: One Million Children Who Lost Parents” [[WSJ](#)]
- “A Changed Germany Sees the End of an Era as Merkel Nears the Exit” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#)]
- “Biden’s \$4 trillion agenda in peril with Democrats still at odds ahead of key House votes” [[WaPo](#)]
- “L.A. police, fire agencies hotbeds of vaccine opposition and coronavirus outbreaks” [[LAT](#)]

END

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**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
September 26, 2021
2:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Department of Justice News
2. DOJ Grants
3. National Security
4. Criminal Law
5. Civil Rights
6. Civil Law
7. Immigration & Border Security
8. Antitrust
9. Tax
10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
12. Marijuana Legalization
13. Congress
14. Network Evening News Lineup
15. Sunday Morning Talk Shows
16. Afternoon Headlines

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

NY Daily News: **China releases two Canadian men from prison, PM Trudeau says,**

Brandon Sapienza, September 25, 2021, 6:35 PM

Two men who were imprisoned in China for nearly three years have returned home to Canada. “These two men have gone through an unbelievable difficult ordeal for the past 1,000 days, they have shown strength, perseverance and grace and we are all inspired by that,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said during a late Friday night news conference in Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [KXXV-ABC \(Waco, TX\)](#)

DOJ GRANTS

Kennebec Journal (Augusta, ME): **Central Maine business briefs: UMF names director of Campus Safety Grant,** September 25, 2021, 3:48 PM

UMF names director of university’s Campus Safety Grant. Alex Warner has been named the director of the University of Maine at Farmington’s three-year Campus Safety Grant. In the fall of 2020, UMF was awarded almost \$300,000 by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHIO-CBS (Dayton, OH): **DOJ awards more than \$200,000 to help victims of crime support services in Ohio,** Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 6:25 PM

Service providers who support victims of crime in Ohio will have their databases improved with new federal funding. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime awarded the Ohio Attorney General’s Office a \$215,000 Building State Technology Capacity grant on Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Arizona Mirror (Phoenix, AZ): **Arizona ‘Justice for J6’ rally draws small crowd of extremists, GOP officials,** Jerod MacDonald-Evoy, September 25, 2021, 9:30 PM (EDT)

Only a few dozen people, many of them members of a violent extremist organization, showed up at the Arizona Capitol on Saturday for a rally claiming that Donald Trump supporters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 did nothing wrong and were being held as “political prisoners.” “It was an awesome, awesome day,” former state Republican legislator Anthony Kern told attendees about being at the Capitol on Jan. 6. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Naples Daily News (Naples, FL): **Third attorney takes over U.S. Capitol riot case of East Naples man with Proud Boys ties,** Michael Braun, September 25, 2021, 5:55 PM

The East Naples man suspected of participating in the U.S. Capitol riot in January is now being represented by a Tampa attorney, replacing the high-profile lawyer who had taken over the case in March. Christopher Worrell, 50, was arrested after FBI agents executed a search and arrest warrant at his home on March 12. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS (St. Louis, MO): Video shows former Tennessee deputy-in-training fighting, dragging capitol police officers, Jeremy Finley, September 25, 2021, 2:42 PM (EDT)

A newly released video of Ronald McAbee shows the former Williamson County deputy-in-training fighting a capitol police officer and dragging another downstairs during the January 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. capitol. At the time of the riot, court records show McAbee was on medical leave by the sheriff's office, where he was working as a correctional officer in preparation to take part in deputy training. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: At least 16 indicted after federal firearms sweep in Iowa, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 4:00 PM

At least 16 people in eastern Iowa were charged with gun crimes after a two-day sweep by federal authorities this week. Grand juries met Wednesday through Friday in the U.S. District Court for Northern Iowa and issued the indictments, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MotherJones: A Fed-Up Judge Rips a January 6 Defendant: "You've Disgraced This Country", Ali Breland, September 25, 2021, 5:15 PM

A federal judge in Washington, DC, ripped into a Capitol riot defendant who'd just pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge on Friday, criticizing him for taking part in "attack on our government." "You've disgraced this country in the eyes of the world, and my inclination would be to lock you up, but since the government isn't asking me to do that...I won't," yelled US District Court Judge Reggie Walton at Anthony Mariotto during a video hearing, according to Politico. "I find it outrageous that American citizens would do what you did, so you better walk the straight and narrow, sir, you understand?" [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Free Press - Tampa (Apollo Beach, FL), Mississippi Man Gets Over 21 Years In Prison After Shooting U.S. Marshal In The Neck, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 9:22 AM

A Mississippi man was sentenced earlier this week, to 257 months in federal prison for assault of a federal officer and discharging a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. According to court documents, on July 21, 2020, a member of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force (USMS agent) was shot in the neck by Joseph Dale Sonnier, while executing an outstanding arrest warrant. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: Trial of former NU professor accused of grisly River North murder expected to start Monday, Matthew Hendrickson, September 26, 2021, 6:30 AM (EDT)

Jury selection in the trial of a former Northwestern University microbiologist accused of murdering his boyfriend with a British man who flew to the United States to participate in the killing is expected to start Monday. Opening statements in 47-year-old Wyndham Lathem's trial and

testimony from at least one of the prosecution's witnesses are also scheduled to take place Monday. The trial is expected to last two weeks. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Chicago Tribune: Jurors weigh complex racketeering case against R. Kelly in New York as the superstar singer awaits his legal fate, Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau, September 26, 2021, 6:00 AM

For six weeks, while attorneys sparred and accusers gave emotional testimony about the disgraced R&B superstar at the defense table, the jurors who will determine R. Kelly's fate have watched in silence. Now, after 50 witnesses and hours of arguments, their work has begun. The jurors will have far more complicated decisions to make than they likely anticipated when they were called for duty back in the summer. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Watertown Daily Times (Watertown, NY): Hogansburg man sentenced by federal judge to 30 months in drug case, Blaine Alvoie, September 25, 2021, 10:15 PM

Tyren Terrance, 26, of Hogansburg, was sentenced Thursday to 30 months in prison in a marijuana distribution case, Acting U.S. Attorney Antoinette Bacon and Special Agent Ray Donovan of the Drug Enforcement Administration announced. Terrance pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute, and possessing with intent to distribute, more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. As part of Terrance's May 2021 guilty plea, he admitted that he and a co-conspirator used two pickup trucks to move 10 hockey bags full of marijuana. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Salem Statesman Journal (Salem, OR): Jefferson grass seed company pleads guilty in fraud scheme, Whitney Woodworth, September 25, 2021, 5:23 PM (EDT)

A Jefferson-based wholesale grass seed distributor pleaded guilty Friday in federal court to knowingly concealing a scheme to defraud a fellow seed company. ProSeeds Marketing, Inc., pleaded guilty to one count of misprision of a felony for its role in defrauding Jacklin Seed Company, then a subsidiary of the J.R. Simplot Company. According to court documents, ProSeeds had a longstanding commercial relationship with the Jacklin Seed Company and routinely contracted with Jacklin for the purchase and sale of grass seed. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NY Daily News: Former California pastor sentenced to 14 years in prison over \$33M fraud scheme, Muri Assuncao, September 25, 2021, 4:54 PM

The former pastor of a church in Orange County, Calif. was sentenced Friday to 14 years in federal prison for his role in a massive investment scam that took in more than \$33 million from investors. U.S. District Judge Josephine L. Staton sentenced 39-year-old Kent R.E. Whitney to 168 months behind bars for masterminding a scheme to defraud investors through the Church of the Healthy Self (CHS), a nonprofit corporation, and its related entities, including CHS Asset Management, Inc. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal (Lubbock, TX): Defense attorneys in Bart Reagor bank fraud case seek to block proposed video evidence, Gabriel Monte, September 25, 2021, 4:28 PM (EDT)

Attorneys for Bart Reagor are asking the federal judge presiding over his bank fraud case to stop prosecutors from showing video evidence in which he bragged about obtaining his wealth through "other people's money" and that everything he did was planned. The request was among multiple motions and briefs filed last week ahead of Reagor's Oct. 12 trial in Amarillo before Judge Matthew J. Kacsmark. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Dallas Morning News: 11 charged with defrauding elderly victims of money by wooing them through dating sites, feds say, Hojun Choi, September 25, 2021, 4:00 PM (EDT)

Eleven people have been indicted in connection with a scheme that targeted elderly people for money, the U.S. attorney's office for the Northern District of Texas announced Friday. All 11 were arrested in a large-scale operation Wednesday morning, the U.S. attorney's office said. Most are tied to a transnational organized crime syndicate originating in Nigeria, the office said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTKR-CBS (Norfolk, VA): Chesapeake man sentenced to 15 years in prison for interstate methamphetamine conspiracy, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 12:55 PM

A Chesapeake man was sentenced to 15 years in prison for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine, the Department of Justice said. According to court documents, on May 20, 2020, an Arizona State Trooper stopped 45-year-old Jeremy Wayne Johnson and his passenger on Interstate 17 near Mayer, Arizona, because Johnson was speeding and texting on his phone while driving. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTKR-CBS (Norfolk, VA): 2 Hampton Roads conspirators convicted on drug trafficking, money laundering charges, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 12:27 PM

Two Suffolk residents were convicted by a federal jury on charges relating to drug trafficking and money laundering in the Hampton Roads area. According to court records, 42-year-old Jose Luis Cruz-Colon and 31-year-old Natassja Lopez-Alvarado were responsible for importing kilogram quantities of cocaine into the Hampton Roads area for distribution, then sending the proceeds of their sales to Puerto Rico to further the drug trafficking conspiracy. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Georgia Man Pleads Guilty To Child Exploitation, Ashley Cox, September 25, 2021, 10:02 PM

A Macon resident has pleaded guilty to child sexual exploitation after investigators discovered multiple juvenile victims across the country ranging in age from 10-years-old to 16-years-old who he contacted on social media, coercing them to send him sexually explicit and pornographic images and videos. Deon M. Moore, 37, of Macon, pleaded guilty to sexual exploitation of a child before U.S. District Judge Marc Treadwell. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): Executive Pleads Guilty To Conspiracy To Evade Federal Excise Taxes On Dominican Cigars, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 9:52 PM

A California tobacco company executive on Thursday admitted his participation in a fraudulent scheme to avoid the payment of millions of dollars in excise taxes on imported tobacco products. Akrum Alrahib, 43, of Los Angeles, California, was the President of Trendsettah USA, Inc.

(“Trendsettah”), a California tobacco company authorized to transact business in Florida. Trendsettah sold various tobacco products, such as large cigars, and marijuana paraphernalia, such as “blunt wraps,” most of which were imported from the Dominican Republic through Miami. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WFAA-ABC (Dallas, TX): 11 face fraud charges in North Texas for schemes that targeted elderly victims on dating sites, officials say, Alex Cruz, September 25, 2021, 5:48 PM (EDT)
Eleven people were indicted on fraud charges in North Texas Friday for schemes that targeted elderly victims on dating sites, officials said. The U.S. Attorney's Office announced a federal grand jury returned the indictments in the Northern District of Texas after the suspects were arrested Wednesday morning in a "large-scale operation." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

NBC: Calls for Civil Rights Investigation Into Rikers as Court Pressures NYC to Fix Crisis, Michael Sisak, September 25, 2021, 5:07 PM
New York City faced mounting pressure Friday to solve its spiraling jail crisis, with members of Congress calling for a federal civil rights investigation and a court-appointed monitor blasting the city for a failure of leadership amid staggering violence, self-harm and the deaths this year of at least 12 inmates. U.S. District Judge Laura Swain, overseeing a jail consent decree, said on an emergency conference call Friday that the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex is “clearly in a state of danger and crisis.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Two federal judges rule local Tennessee school districts can mandate masks, Celine Castronuovo, September 25, 2021, 10:31 PM
Two federal judges in separate rulings Friday said that Tennessee school districts could implement mask mandates, despite GOP Gov. Bill Lee's executive order stating that parents could opt out of the coronavirus requirements. In one of the decisions, U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer of the Eastern District of Tennessee granted a motion from a group of Knox County students and parents for a preliminary injunction against the executive order. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson, AZ): Home health company with Tucson offices settles federal kickback claim for \$17M, Carol Ann Alaimo, September 25, 2021, 10:06 PM
A national home health-care firm with six Tucson-area locations has agreed to pay \$17 million to settle government claims it paid a kickback to the owner of a chain of retirement homes for patient referrals later used to file false Medicare claims. New Jersey-based Bayada, which offers home-health services in 22 states, did not admit fault in the settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: NYC Temporarily Blocked From Imposing School Vaccine Mandate, Ian Fisher, September 25, 2021, 7:08 PM

New York City's school system, the largest in the U.S., has been temporarily blocked from imposing a mandate forcing teachers and other staff to get vaccinated against Covid-19, according to a ruling from a federal judge. That mandate is scheduled to go into effect on Monday at midnight. Late Friday, a judge from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit referred the case to a three-judge panel "on an expedited basis." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): Huntsville jury hits defense contractor with potentially more than \$100M damages in fraud case, Lee Rop, September 25, 2021, 8:32 PM (EDT)

A Huntsville federal court jury verdict Friday could result in a defense contractor having to pay more than \$100 million to whistleblowers and the federal government after jurors found the company fraudulently induced the U.S. Army into contracts with Saudi Arabia, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Attorneys for the defendants declined to comment outside the federal courthouse after the verdict was read. A plaintiffs' attorney said later that their clients and the U.S. government stand to receive triple the damages awarded by the jury. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: U.S. border agents briefly detain 14 Mexican soldiers in El Paso, Tomas Bravo, Lizbeth Diaz, Anthony Esposito, and Dan Grebler, September 25, 2021, 5:35 PM (EDT)

Fourteen Mexican soldiers were detained early Saturday morning for several hours by U.S. border agents after they crossed into El Paso, Texas, from Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [El Paso Times \(El Paso, TX\)](#)

ABC: What is Title 42? Amid backlash, Biden administration defends use of Trump-era order to expel migrants, Armando Garcia, Deena Zaru, and Quinn Owen, September 26, 2021, 11:09 AM

President Joe Biden vowed to implement a more humane approach to immigration than his predecessor, but now the Biden administration is facing backlash over its use of a Trump-era order to rapidly expel thousands of migrants, mostly Haitian nationals, without giving them a chance to apply for asylum within the United States. The process is known as Title 42, a reference to part of a U.S. public health code, and according to advocates challenging the administration in court, its use violates U.S. asylum laws. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Mayorkas: About 4,000 migrants in Del Rio have been expelled under Covid-19 public health rule, Priscilla Alvarez and Chandelis Duster, September 26, 2021, 11:09 AM
About 4,000 migrants apprehended by US Customs and Border Protection in Del Rio, Texas,

over the last weeks have been expelled under a public health authority, known as Title 42, and 10,000 to 12,000 migrants have been released into the United States, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Sunday. "That is a public health authority. It is not an immigration policy. It is exercised as the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control (and Prevention), has ordered, in light of the arc of the pandemic," Mayorkas told CNN's Jake Tapper on "State of the Union." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: Mayorkas Says U.S. Won't Protect Southern Border With Wall, Craig Torres, September 26, 2021, 11:46 AM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the Biden administration won't build walls on the border despite a pickup in crossings. "We have seen large numbers of individuals encountered at our border making a claim for asylum for humanitarian relief," Mayorkas said in an interview with Fox News Sunday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Border chaos reverberates deep in America's heartland, Stephen Dinan, September 26, 2021, 11:13 AM

Iron County in Utah is about the furthest thing from a border community. But Sheriff Kenneth Carpenter says incidents like a traffic stop this month on the interstate, where a deputy nabbed a motorist for reckless driving and found five pounds of methamphetamine and \$8,000 in cash, are a result of the chaos that's erupted on the U.S.-Mexico boundary. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: Mayorkas: Investigation into border agents will be fair despite Biden's vow that 'people will pay', Valerie Richardson, September 26, 2021, 11:07 AM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas insisted Sunday that the mounted border agents under investigation for their treatment of Haitian migrants would receive a fair hearing, despite President Biden's declaration that "those people will pay." Mr. Mayorkas said his department would rely on the facts as determined by an independent investigation, even though he said last week that the images of the agents swinging their reins as they sought to deter migrants crossing the Rio Grande "horrified us." [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: DHS secretary: We are working in a 'completely broken' immigration system, Joseph Choi, September 26, 2021, 11:08 AM (EDT)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Sunday said that the U.S. is capable of addressing the immigration crisis at the southern border, but acknowledged that "we are working in a completely broken system." Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," Mayorkas pointed to the Biden administration's actions in Del Rio, Texas, where thousands of Haitian migrants had been camped out under a bridge. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTF-NPR (Harrisburg, PA): The border is reopening at Del Rio after the U.S. clears migrant camp, Dave Mistich & Carrie Khan, September 26, 2021, 8:08 AM (EDT)

U.S. officials are reopening an international border crossing in southern Texas that had been closed for more than a week. The port of entry at Del Rio was closed after thousands of migrants set up camp below the international bridge crossing. U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued

a statement outlining plans to allow passenger traffic to resume at 4 p.m. local time Saturday.
[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSFX-Fox (Wilmington, NC): **Biden administration has removed just 2K of 30,000 migrants who surged border in Del Rio**, Adam Shaw, September 25, 2021, 9:11 PM

The Biden administration has removed just 2,000 of the more than 30,000 migrants who surged to the border in Del Rio in September, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Friday. Scenes of approximately 15,000 migrants camped under the Del Rio bridge drew national and international headlines, as well as outrage from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.
[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

The Daily Wire: **FTC Chair Reveals 'Assertive Posture' Toward Antitrust Policy**, Ben Zeisloft, September 26, 2021, 10:15 AM

Lina Khan, the chair of the Federal Trade Commission, has released new details about her policy priorities. In a 69 to 28 July vote, the Senate confirmed Khan a thirty-two-year-old law professor at Columbia University to lead the FTC, which handles the federal government's enforcement of antitrust and consumer protection laws. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

Reuters: **Deputy chief of Russia's Novatek says he will fight U.S. tax charges**, Unattributed, September 26, 2021, 5:16 AM

Mark Gyetvay, a deputy chief of Russian natural gas producer Novatek, who was arrested last week in the United States on tax charges, said on social media on Sunday that he had pleaded not guilty and would fight the charges. "Dear friends and colleagues. On Thursday I was indicted for baseless tax charges that I already settled through a voluntary program, and pleaded not guilty. I will vigorously fight these charges and will continue to discuss gas topics as normal," Gyetvay wrote on Twitter. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Detroit News (Detroit, MI): **Detroit Councilman Scott Benson says he does not 'engage in criminality'**, James David Dickson, September 25, 2021, 11:00 PM

A month after a high-profile FBI raid at his home and City Hall offices, Councilman Scott Benson is insisting he doesn't "engage in criminality" or take his constituents for granted. The councilman made the remarks in a Saturday interview with The Detroit News about his reelection campaign.
[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Critics say prison problems go beyond buildings, Kim Chandler, September 26, 2021, 9:30 AM

Alabama lawmakers return to Montgomery on Monday to vote on a \$1.3 billion prison construction plan proponents say will help address the state's longstanding problems in corrections, but critics argue the troubles go much deeper and won't be remedied with brick, mortar and bars. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey called a special session next week for lawmakers to vote on the construction plan as well as a sentencing and supervision bill. Ivey said Alabama is risking a federal takeover of the prison system. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Intercept: Federal prisons' switch to scanning mail is a surveillance nightmare, Lauren Gill, September 26, 2021, 6:00 AM

In a Pennsylvania federal prison, Joe used to trace his girlfriend's handwriting with his finger as the faint smell of her perfume wafted into his cell. Her letters elicited rare feelings of intimacy in an otherwise cold environment. But after his facility, United States Penitentiary Canaan, replaced physical mail with photocopies in 2019, those feelings have disappeared. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Forbes: The Making Of New York's \$150 Million 'Cannabis Campus', Will Yakowicz, September 26, 2021, 6:30 AM

About 60 miles north of Manhattan, at the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains and past a few cow pastures, stands the red brick buildings of the old Mid-Orange Correctional Facility in Warwick, New York. In 2011, then-New York Governor Andrew Cuomo shuttered the prison. [...] Unlike his great-grandfather, who waited for Prohibition to end, Kovler isn't holding back while federal legalization is worked out in Congress. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Des Moines Register (Des Moines, IA): [OPINION] It's time to legalize recreational marijuana in Iowa and nationally, Greg Ganske, September 26, 2021, 7:55 AM (EDT)

Iowa should legalize recreational marijuana, and the federal government should eliminate barriers to marijuana recreational use as determined by the states. I am not advocating marijuana use any more than I advocated tobacco use in 2000 when I introduced in Congress a bipartisan bill to allow tobacco regulation by the Food and Drug Administration. That bill served as a guide for FDA regulation of tobacco. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Kansas City Star: For one Black marijuana entrepreneur, 'touching the flower' is no longer goal, Jeanne Kuang, September 26, 2021, 6:00 AM (EDT)

Marne Madison said she's just about done trying to open a dispensary in Missouri. The former

president of Missouri's chapter of Minorities for Medical Marijuana was denied two licenses in the state's fledgling program, one for her own dispensary, the other for cultivation as part of a collective. [...] Those without ready capital face a steep climb for a spot in the legal market. Because weed remains illegal at the federal level, bank loans aren't usually an option. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Kansas City Star: What happens to crime where recreational marijuana is legal? Here's what we know, Jeanne Kuang, September 26, 2021, 5:00 AM

While national polls show increasing support for legalization of recreational marijuana, opposition remains strong among Missouri law enforcement and medical groups. One of those voices is Kansas City Police Chief Rick Smith. In a 2019 blog post, Smith linked 10 of the city's homicides to marijuana-related motives, but did not provide details. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

CBS: NYC Congressional Representatives Call On President Biden To Intervene In Rikers Island Crisis, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 9:37 PM

Eleven Congressional representatives from New York City are calling on President Joe Biden to intervene in the crisis on Rikers Island. In a letter initiated by Bronx Rep. Ritchie Torres, elected leaders also called for the Department of Justice to open a civil rights investigation into the conditions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Florida Star (Jacksonville, FL): Senators Fail to Reach Deal on George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, Stacy M. Brown, September 25, 2021, 4:52 PM

Talks to enact the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act were halted on Wednesday after a bipartisan Senate negotiations team announced it failed to reach a deal. Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-South Carolina) called off the talks. No further discussions are in the works. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight did not air due to college football

CBS: Weekend News with Jamie Yuccas

NBC: Nightly News with Jose Diaz-Balart did not air due to the 43rd Ryder Cup

- The delta variant is exacerbating the pandemic as the number of COVID deaths has increased 26%, while the number of infections has decreased by 16%. State health officials are in the process of helping Americans understand who qualifies for booster shots. The number of Americans being vaccinated fell 35.9% in the last three weeks. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said infections among the unvaccinated are fueling the pandemic. [[CBS](#)]

- Across California, 11 major wildfires are burning, with more than 9,800 firefighters working to contain the blazes. This weekend's cooler temperatures and lighter winds are expected to slow the spread of the fires. However, the fires continue to be fueled by the extreme drought in the region. [\[CBS\]](#)
- After two weeks of searching for Brian Laundrie in a nature preserve, authorities have scaled back their search. Laundrie is wanted for unauthorized use of a debit card and for questioning the disappearance of Gabby Petito, whose funeral is scheduled for Sunday. [\[CBS\]](#)
- The border crossing in Del Rio, Texas, was opened Saturday following the removal of thousands of Haitian migrants this week. Viral images of Border Patrol Agents hitting the migrants have drawn sharp rebukes, primarily from African-American lawmakers. [\[CBS\]](#)
- President Biden's domestic agenda faces more problems as it faces increasing opposition from republicans and moderate democrats. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent a letter stating her intent to pass the infrastructure bill along with a trillion-dollar spending plan and a resolution to fund the government by the end of this week. [\[CBS\]](#)
- Nine people were killed in a suicide attack targeting the presidential palace in Mogadishu, Somalia. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. [\[CBS\]](#)
- Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou returned to China today after agreeing to defer US charges against her until late 2022. In return, Beijing released two Canadians who were detained in retaliation for the arrest of Wanzhou. The deal ended a nearly three-year legal saga that has complicated relations between the United States, China, and Canada. Huawei may face fraud charges. [\[CBS\]](#)

SUNDAY MORNING TALK SHOWS

ABC This Week with George Stephanopoulos

- *This Week* began with coverage of the President's domestic agenda, looming government shutdown, and potential debt default. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined the program and said Democrats would pass a \$1tn bipartisan infrastructure bill this week. Pelosi also said she would work to build consensus on Joe Biden's separate \$3.5tn social spending agenda, which has caused divisions within the Democratic party. Democrats have slim majorities in Congress and must unite to overcome Republican opposition to the \$3.5 trillion spending plan, known as the Build Back Better Act. [\[Watch-1\]](#)[\[Watch-2\]](#)

CBS Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan

- *Face the Nation* began with coverage of President Biden's COVID booster plan and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, who discussed boosters and encouraged unvaccinated individuals to get vaccinated. Dr. Walensky also addressed the use of available healthcare resources as the COVID crisis continues. [\[Watch-1\]](#), [\[Watch-2\]](#)
- President Biden's police reform negotiations between Senate Democrats and Republicans have stalled. South Carolina Senator Tim Scott joined the program and discussed the failed negotiations and Democrats' decision to walk away from police reform negotiations. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal joined the program to discuss the divisions within the

Democrat majority regarding President Biden's infrastructure bill and a \$3.5 trillion domestic spending bill. Congresswoman Jayapal also discussed police reform. [\[Watch\]](#)

- Political analyst John Dickerson appeared on the program to discuss President Biden's falling polling numbers and the challenges he faces in his role as the President and from those within his party. [\[Watch\]](#)
- The confrontation between the US and China has involved selling nuclear submarines to Australia, causing diplomatic issues with France. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison appeared on the show to discuss Australia's security interests regarding foreign interference and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic [\[Watch\]](#)
- Margaret Brennan interviewed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, covering various issues, including the Taliban in Afghanistan and human rights abuses in Turkey. [\[Watch\]](#)

NBC Meet the Press with Chuck Todd

- *Meet the Press* began with coverage of President Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill and a string of setbacks. New Jersey Senator Cory Booker joined Todd to discuss the need for Democrats to come together to support the president's agenda. [\[Watch-1\]](#), [\[Watch-2\]](#), [\[Watch-3\]](#)
- Next, Todd brought Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on the show to discuss removing Haitian migrants from Del Rio, Texas, and share the Administration's perspective on the issue. More than 12,400 migrants were released into the U.S., 8,000 returned to Mexico, and 2000+ expelled to Haiti. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Bob Woodward and Robert Costa joined Todd to discuss their co-authored book "PERIL" surrounding the Capitol's January 6, 2021 insurrection. The co-authors went on to discuss former President Trump and his influence on the Republican party. [\[Watch\]](#)
- A panel joined Todd to discuss President Biden's Progressive Agenda pushing the passage of his Infrastructure Bill and a \$3.5 trillion domestic spending bill. Discussion regarding Democratic progressives and moderates continue to battle over spending contained within both bills and the issues regarding COVID booster shots. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Data Download reviewed the approval ratings of the Supreme Court in light of the political issues surrounding abortion rights. Approval ratings of the Court in July were noted to be evenly rated among Democrats and Republicans. However, as abortions arose in September, there was a noticeable partisan divide in the SCOTUS approval ratings. [\[Watch\]](#)
- The panel returned to discuss the Arizona audit, former President Trump's response to the results, Republicans aligning with former President Trump, and the implications for the November 2022 elections. [\[Watch\]](#)

FOX News Sunday with Chris Wallace

- The program began Sunday with coverage of the Biden administration's handling of thousands of Haitian immigrants assembled at a southern border crossing in Del Rio, Texas, and ensuing criticism surrounding the president's immigration policy. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas joined the program to discuss the US immigration system, which he characterized as "broken," and defended the recent deportation of thousands of Haitian migrants. However, Mayorkas admitted that most Haitian migrants who crossed the southern US border in recent weeks have already been released into the United States, and more may follow them. [\[Watch-1\]](#)[\[Watch-2\]](#)

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott joined Fox News Sunday to discuss the Biden administration's immigration policy, criticizing the president and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for failing to secure the sovereignty of the United States. Abbott also discussed a new bill passed by the Texas legislature that bans abortions after six weeks and a new election law Abbot signed this month that Democrats argue is meant to suppress votes. [[Watch-1](#)][[Watch-2](#)]

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- “Covid’s Hidden Toll: One Million Children Who Lost Parents” [[WSJ](#)]
- “A Changed Germany Sees the End of an Era as Merkel Nears the Exit” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#)]
- “Biden’s \$4 trillion agenda in peril with Democrats still at odds ahead of key House votes” [[WaPo](#)]
- “L.A. police, fire agencies hotbeds of vaccine opposition and coronavirus outbreaks” [[LAT](#)]

END

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From: Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: Abbreviated Weekend Clips
To: Attorney General Garland (JMD)
Sent: September 26, 2021 3:16 PM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Date: September 26, 2021 at 2:36:20 PM EDT
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>, "Seidman, Ricki (OASG)" (b) (6), "Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)" (b) (6), "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b) (6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b) (6)
Subject: Abbreviated Weekend Clips

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

WaPo: Meng Wanzhou can return to China, admits helping Huawei conceal dealings in Iran, Shayna Jacobs and Amanda Coletta, September 24, 2021, 9:43 PM

Meng Wanzhou, a top Huawei Technologies executive detained for nearly three years in Canada, can return home to China after striking a deal with U.S. Justice Department officials in which she acknowledged helping to conceal the company's direct dealings in Iran, which violated U.S. sanctions. While Meng admitted illegal conduct to satisfy the terms of the agreement, she did not have to plead guilty as part of the deferred prosecution agreement. Her criminal case and detention have had major geopolitical implications, further souring relations between Beijing and both Washington and Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [BBC](#), [CNET](#), [FT](#)

AP: Canadians home after Huawei CFO resolves US charges, Rob Gillies, September 25, 2021, 8:38 AM

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hugged two Canadians who landed in Canada on Saturday following what amounted to a high-stakes prisoner swap involving China, the U.S. and Canada.

Trudeau greeted Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor after their plane landed in Calgary, Alberta early Saturday. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [Reuters](#), [Politico](#), [Newsweek](#), [WSJ](#)

CNN: Justice Department appoints David Neal as director of the nation's immigration courts, Priscilla Alvarez, September 24, 2021, 1:50 PM

Attorney General Merrick Garland has announced the appointment of David Neal to lead the Executive Office for Immigration Review, which oversees the nation's immigration courts. Neal previously served on the panel for two decades before departing under the Trump administration when a number of immigration judges resigned in response to the

administration's policies. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [BuzzFeed](#)

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): Indiana to receive \$3.5M from DOJ for anti-crime initiatives, Jacey Crawford, September 24, 2021, 8:58 PM

Indiana is set to receive over \$3.5 million from the Department of Justice to support community safety efforts, the DOJ announced Friday. Indianapolis will receive just over \$1 million of the grant. Several other cities and counties across the state will receive portions of the funds, as well. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHIO-CBS (Dayton, OH): DOJ awards more than \$200,000 to help victims of crime support services in Ohio, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 6:25 PM

Service providers who support victims of crime in Ohio will have their databases improved with new federal funding. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime awarded the Ohio Attorney General's Office a \$215,000 Building State Technology Capacity grant on Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

CNN: Justice Department unseals Capitol riot charges against FreedomWorks organizer, Hannah Rabinowitz, September 24, 2021, 3:19 PM

The Justice Department unsealed charges on Thursday against an organizer from the conservative advocacy group FreedomWorks for his alleged role in the January 6 insurrection.

Brandon Prenzlin was charged last week with four federal misdemeanors for what prosecutors say was just over three minutes inside the Capitol. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

NYT: Among Those Who Marched Into the Capitol on Jan. 6: An F.B.I. Informant, Alan Feuer and Adam Goldman, September 25, 2021, 5:00 AM

As scores of Proud Boys made their way, chanting and shouting, toward the Capitol on Jan. 6, one member of the far-right group was busy texting a real-time account of the march. The recipient was his F.B.I. handler. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Chicago Tribune: Jurors weigh complex racketeering case against R. Kelly in New York as the superstar singer awaits his legal fate, Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau,

September 26, 2021, 6:00 AM For six weeks, while attorneys sparred and accusers gave emotional testimony about the disgraced R&B superstar at the defense table, the jurors who will determine R. Kelly's fate have watched in silence. Now, after 50 witnesses and hours of arguments, their work has begun. The jurors will have far more complicated decisions to make than they likely anticipated when they were called for duty back in the summer.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: At least 16 indicted after federal firearms sweep in Iowa, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 4:00 PM

At least 16 people in eastern Iowa were charged with gun crimes after a two-day sweep by federal authorities this week. Grand juries met Wednesday through Friday in the U.S. District Court for Northern Iowa and issued the indictments, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Georgia probation officer pleads guilty to faking records, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 11:24 AM

A probation officer for the federal court system in Georgia has pleaded guilty to creating false records while on the job. Court records show Enoch Eller Jr. of Augusta pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to making false statements. Prosecutors say 47-year-old Eller, a probation officer for the federal court in the Southern District of Georgia, falsely documented drug testing and other personal contacts with criminal defendants awaiting trial that he never performed. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Federal judge dismisses execution lawsuit in Alabama, reprimands AG's office, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 12:21 AM (EDT)

A federal judge on Friday paved the way for Alabama to proceed with a lethal injection next month, but also reprimanded the state attorney general's office for giving false information to the court during the litigation centered on forms given to death row inmates for selecting an execution method. Chief U.S. District Judge Emily C. Marks dismissed a lawsuit that argued the state failed to give Willie Smith, who has an IQ below 75, required help under the Americans with Disabilities Act in filling out forms that affected the timing of his execution. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WUAL-NPR \(Tuscaloosa, AL\)](#)

Dallas Morning News: 11 charged with defrauding elderly victims of money by wooing them through dating sites, feds say, Hojun Choi, September 25, 2021, 4:00 PM (EDT)

Eleven people have been indicted in connection with a scheme that targeted elderly people for money, the U.S. attorney's office for the Northern District of Texas announced Friday. All 11 were arrested in a large-scale operation Wednesday morning, the U.S. attorney's office said. Most are tied to a transnational organized crime syndicate originating in Nigeria, the office said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Ex-California pastor gets 14 years after \$33M fraud scheme, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 10:30 PM

A former Southern California pastor was sentenced Friday to 14 years in federal prison for masterminding a church-based investment scheme that bilked hundreds of victims of more than \$33 million. The former pastor of the Westminster-based Church for the Healthy Self, Kent R.E. Whitney, was ordered to pay more than \$22 million in restitution. He pleaded guilty last year to mail fraud and filing a false federal income tax return. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Ex-New England mob boss loses appeal of conviction for 1993 murder, Nate Raymond, September 24, 2021, 8:35 PM

A federal appeals court on Friday upheld the conviction of an octogenarian former New England mob boss sentenced to life in prison for the 1993 murder of a nightclub owner whose remains were discovered in Rhode Island five years ago. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, AR): Guilty on all counts: Federal jury convicts Danville man in racketeering case tied to Arkansas-based white supremacy gang, Dale Ellis, September 25, 2021, 5:31 AM (EDT)

A Danville man accused of racketeering and drug-trafficking conspiracy in a federal investigation of a violent Pope County white-supremacist gang was convicted Friday on all counts. The verdict closes out the six-year investigation that resulted in convictions for 54 defendants. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOP-CBS (Washington, D.C.): Prince George's Co. man sentenced to 5 years for building 'ghost guns,' distributing drugs, Matthew Delaney, September 24, 2021, 5:24 PM

A man from Prince George's County, Maryland, will serve five years in prison for

manufacturing “ghost guns” as well as distributing heroin and cocaine, according to authorities. The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia said that Keith Robert Marshall, 34, of District Heights, built the ghost guns in the basement of his home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTU-Fox (Salt Lake City, UT): Utahn accused in Capitol riot asks judge to suppress his interview with FBI, Nate Carlisle, September 24, 2021, 2:24 PM

A Utah man accused of crimes at the U.S. Capitol insurrection in January says an FBI agent didn't read him his rights. A lawyer for John E. Sullivan filed a motion Thursday asking a judge to suppress his client's Jan. 11 interview with the FBI agent in Salt Lake City. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

NYT: Former Louisiana Trooper Faces Federal Civil Rights Charge, Derrick Bryson Taylor, September 24, 2021, 2:30 PM

A federal grand jury indicted a former Louisiana state trooper on Thursday on a federal civil rights violation, finding that he repeatedly clubbed a Black man with a flashlight during a traffic stop that was recorded by his body camera. The former trooper, Jacob Brown, 31, was charged with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, the U.S. attorney's office for the Western District of Louisiana said in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Court indicates it may wait to rule on Georgia abortion law, Kate Brumback, September 25, 2021, 9:06 AM

A federal appeals court seemed to indicate Friday that it would wait until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case that seeks to overturn its landmark decision guaranteeing a woman's right to an abortion before ruling on the appeal of a lower court's ruling blocking a restrictive Georgia abortion law. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear arguments in December on an attempt by Mississippi to overturn the high court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which affirmed the right to an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Second Tennessee judge blocks Gov. Lee's mask opt-out, Kimberlee Kruesi, September 24, 2021, 2:13 PM

A federal judge on Friday handed down a second blow to Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee's contentious order allowing parents to opt out of school mask requirements, ruling that Knox County Schools must implement a mask mandate to help protect children with health problems amid the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer's decision also blocks Lee's order from being implemented while the legal battle continues to move its way through court. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WDEF-CBS \(Chattanooga, TN\)](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): U.S. Appeals Court judges say Mississippi's Supreme Court abortion case could influence Georgia abortion case, Hayley Mason, September 24, 2021, 7:37 PM

The U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit heard oral arguments Friday morning in the lawsuit over Georgia's six-week abortion ban. The law passed the Georgia legislature in 2019 and was signed into law, slated to take effect January 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Jury orders city of Roy to pay \$3.26M to men shot by police, Unattributed,

September 25, 2021, 12:06 PM (EDT)

A federal jury has awarded two men who live south of Tacoma a total of \$3.26 million for injuries suffered when they were shot by one of the town of Roy's two police officers during a drunken joy ride in a 2019 snowstorm. The verdict is one of the largest reached in the Western District of Washington involving a nonfatal police shooting, The Seattle Times reported. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): **Huntsville jury hits defense contractor with potentially more than \$100M damages in fraud case**, Lee Rop, September 25, 2021, 8:32 PM (EDT)

A Huntsville federal court jury verdict Friday could result in a defense contractor having to pay more than \$100 million to whistleblowers and the federal government after jurors found the company fraudulently induced the U.S. Army into contracts with Saudi Arabia, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Attorneys for the defendants declined to comment outside the federal courthouse after the verdict was read. A plaintiffs' attorney said later that their clients and the U.S. government stand to receive triple the damages awarded by the jury. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: **U.S. border agents briefly detain 14 Mexican soldiers in El Paso**, Tomas Bravo, Lizbeth Diaz, Anthony Esposito, and Dan Grebler, September 25, 2021, 5:35 PM (EDT)

Fourteen Mexican soldiers were detained early Saturday morning for several hours by U.S. border agents after they crossed into El Paso, Texas, from Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [El Paso Times \(El Paso, TX\)](#)

AP: **Texas migrant camp empty, Haitians await word on their fate**, Maria Verza and Juan Lozano, September 25, 2021, 12:59 AM

No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people — most of them Haitians — huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum.

Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: **Mayorkas says Haitian migrants under Del Rio bridge were not tested for COVID-19**, Adam Shaw, September 24, 2021, 7:01 PM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Friday told reporters that the nearly 15,000 migrants who were camped out under the Del Rio bridge in squalid conditions last week were not tested for COVID-19, and he does not know if anyone got sick with the contagious virus while there. Mayorkas was asked about the Biden administration's use of Title 42 public health protections that are deployed to quickly expel migrants who have come to the border, using the COVID-19 pandemic as a rationale. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Law360: **Virginia Doctor Pleads Guilty In \$1.8M Rx Fraud Scheme**, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 9:10 PM

A Washington-area physician has admitted participating in a "fraud scheme" to prescribe pain

and scar creams in order to receive a kickback from a pharmacist, defrauding health insurance programs out of \$1.8 million, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said Friday. Leonard Rosen, a 72-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Manassas, Virginia, entered a pre-indictment guilty plea for his role in the seven-figure scam, a spokesperson with the U. S. Department of Justice told Law360. A criminal complaint was unavailable on Friday, but the spokesperson said Rosen faces one count of health care fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

CNN: More than 190 fugitives arrested in New Jersey operation dubbed 'Clean Sweep', Alaa Elassar, September 25, 2021, 6:07 AM

A multi-agency law enforcement operation in New Jersey resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, according to the US Marshals Service. Operation "Clean Sweep" focused on capturing some of the state's "most violent offenders," including gang members, sex offenders, and violent criminals, US Marshals said in a news release on Wednesday.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: FBI agents question Afghan rescue groups, Lara Seligman, Betsy Woodruff Swan, Erin Banco, and Alexander Ward, September 24, 2021, 2:37 PM

The FBI has been reaching out to members of the veterans' groups working to evacuate American citizens and at-risk Afghans and inquiring about their activities, in at least one case visiting a group leader at his home. Agents have visited, emailed and called members of Task Force Pineapple and Task Force Dunkirk, two of the more prominent organizations, and other groups with a host of queries. The Bureau has asked groups about financial records, to provide manifests and make sure no federal laws are violated, according to eight group members and congressional aides familiar with the moves. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Detroit News (Detroit, MI): Detroit Councilman Scott Benson says he does not 'engage in criminality', James David Dickson, September 25, 2021, 11:00 PM

A month after a high-profile FBI raid at his home and City Hall offices, Councilman Scott Benson is insisting he doesn't "engage in criminality" or take his constituents for granted. The councilman made the remarks in a Saturday interview with The Detroit News about his reelection campaign. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): ATF helping with investigation into weapon used in Collierville Kroger shooting, by: Jessica Gertler, September 24, 2021, 9:12 PM (EDT)

Many questions remain about the gunman in the Collierville Kroger shooting, including what gun he used and where he got it. WREG is looking into what happens with the evidence law enforcement collects and what information can they actually get. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAS-NBC (Fort Worth, TX): Acting Director of the ATF and Fort Worth Native Shares His Journey With Hometown Students, Vince Sims, September 24, 2021, 5:43 PM

Marvin Richardson is the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Friday, he spoke with students that are part of the My Brother's Keeper program at Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. His office may be in Washington, D.C. but Fort Worth is home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPDE-ABC/CW (Florence, SC): FBI launches hate crime reporting campaign in SC, Heath Ellison, September 24, 2021, 4:46 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently launched a hate crime reporting campaign in

South Carolina. The advertising blitz is attempting to encourage residents to report hate crimes to law enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS/MyNetworkTV (St. Louis, MO): **Sex offender dresses up as doctor, escapes mental hospital**, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 1:02 AM (EDT)

A dangerous sex offender is on the loose and U.S. Marshals across the Midwest are looking for him after he managed to slip out of a mental hospital. John Colt dressed as a doctor and walked out of a facility that's west of Wichita, Kansas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Government: **Dylann Roof's death sentence should stand**, Meg Kinnard, September 25, 2021, 10:33 AM

Attorneys for the federal government have opposed Dylann Roof's request for a new appellate hearing, arguing that the South Carolina man was properly convicted and sentenced for the 2015 racist slayings of nine members of a Black congregation. In court documents filed Thursday, federal prosecutors argued that a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals correctly ruled last month that the government had proven its case against Roof, despite his protestations on several points. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Lawyers to urge no restrictions for Reagan shooter Hinckley, Ben Finley, September 25, 2021, 9:07 AM

Lawyers for John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, are scheduled to argue in court Monday that the 66-year-old should be freed from restrictions placed on him after he moved out of a Washington hospital in 2016. Since Hinckley's move to Williamsburg, Virginia, a federal judge has made him live under various conditions that dictate much of his life. For instance, doctors and therapists must oversee his psychiatric medication and decide how often he attends individual and group therapy sessions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: A champion of COVID-19 vaccines, Newsom fights plan to mandate them for prison guards, Richard Winton, September 25, 2021, 3:36 PM (EDT)

Seeking a vaccine mandate for all state prison guards and staff, a federal court-appointed receiver overseeing the medical care of California's prisons argued Friday that there have been 11 coronavirus-related deaths since August among corrections employees who were not fully vaccinated and outbreaks at 21 prisons. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Des Moines Register (Des Moines, IA): **[OPINION] It's time to legalize recreational marijuana in Iowa and nationally**, Greg Ganske, September 26, 2021, 7:55 AM (EDT)

Iowa should legalize recreational marijuana, and the federal government should eliminate barriers to marijuana recreational use as determined by the states. I am not advocating marijuana use any more than I advocated tobacco use in 2000 when I introduced in Congress a bipartisan bill to allow tobacco regulation by the Food and Drug Administration. That bill served as a guide for FDA regulation of tobacco. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

BuzzFeed: **Republican Lawmakers Are Pressing Ahead With Anti-Abortion Laws, With**

Or Without The Supreme Court's Help, Zoe Tillman and Kadia Goba, September 24, 2021, 4:31 PM (EDT)

A two-year fight over the constitutionality of Georgia's six-week abortion ban finally reached a federal appeals court on Friday. But a judge kicked off arguments by asking if the court should put the case on hold and wait to see what the US Supreme Court does in another abortion case that's before the justices now. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Oklahoma court lifts stays in 2 McGirt-related decisions, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 1:08 PM

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday lifted stays in two cases it overturned based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on tribal lands by non-American Indians against Native Americans. The court lifted stays of its previous reversals of the murder conviction of Shawn McDaniel and the child neglect conviction of Victor Castro-Huerta. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

The Hill: Harris says images of Border Patrol on horseback evoked 'times of slavery', Cameron Jenkins, September 25, 2021, 8:28 AM EDT

Vice President Harris on Friday further condemned the actions of Border Patrol agents on horseback who appeared to use reins to threaten Haitian migrants, comparing the incident to "times of slavery." Harris made her comments during an appearance on ABC's "The View," describing how the imagery, which circulated widely on social media, reminded her of tactics "used against the Indigenous people of our country" and "used against African Americans during times of slavery." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law 360: Biden Taps Migrant Advocate To Helm ICE's Prosecution Arm, Mike LaSusa, September 24, 2021, 5:02 PM

President Joe Biden has appointed a longtime immigrant rights lawyer at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's new top prosecutor, the agency confirmed to Law360 on Friday. Kerry Doyle, a Massachusetts-based attorney with decades of experience defending immigrants from enforcement actions, will head ICE's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, which represents the agency when it moves to deport people. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

AP: Congress, court pressure New York City to fix jails crisis, Michael R. Sisak, September 24, 2021, 5:58 PM

New York City faced mounting pressure Friday to solve its spiraling jail crisis, with members of Congress calling for a federal civil rights investigation and a court-appointed monitor blasting the city for a failure of leadership amid staggering violence, self-harm and the deaths this year of at least 12 inmates. U.S. District Judge Laura Swain, overseeing a jail consent decree, said on an emergency conference call Friday that the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex is "clearly in a state of danger and crisis." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

Washington Times: Rep. Ted Lieu leads effort to scrap Department of Justice's investigations into Chinese influence, Ryan Lovelace, September 24, 2021, 5:40 PM

Rep. Ted Lieu, California Democrat, is leading an effort to undermine the federal government's investigations of Chinese influence over scientists, researchers, and others engaged in alleged economic espionage. Mr. Lieu believes such investigations are racially biased against Chinese Americans and must be stopped. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

- UK Thang has been identified as the gunman involved in the deadly Kroger supermarket shooting in Tennessee. Thang had previously done business with the grocery store as a third-party vendor. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The migrant camp on the border of Del Rio, Texas, has been cleared out. Some migrants were sent back to Haiti, while others will remain in the US for their asylum cases to be heard. President Biden stated the Border Agents who violently confronted migrants “will pay” while Homeland Security Secretary said he would wait for an investigation. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The search for Brian Laundrie continues, as a federal warrant was issued for separate credit card charges. The Petito case has brought up other missing person cases that have been overlooked because they are from minority communities. Ms. Petito's funeral is scheduled for this Sunday. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden is facing pressure over his infrastructure bill as his poll numbers fall. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is bringing the bipartisan Infrastructure bill to the floor for a vote on Monday, while the other costlier economic package will be brought to a vote later this week. Unfortunately, progressive and moderate lawmakers are still at odds on the cost of the Economic Package and may not find any resolutions. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- The results of a Republican-led election audit in Arizona have confirmed that President Biden won by an even more significant margin. Democrats have called the audit useless, ridiculous, and a waste of time. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

- Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou returned to China today after agreeing to defer US charges against her until late 2022. In return, Beijing released two Canadians who were detained in retaliation for the arrest of Wanzhou. The deal ended a nearly three-year legal saga that has complicated relations between the United States, China, and Canada. Huawei may face fraud charges. [[CBS](#)]
- After two weeks of searching for Brian Laundrie in a nature preserve, authorities have scaled back their search. Laundrie is wanted for unauthorized use of a debit card and for questioning the disappearance of Gabby Petito, whose funeral is scheduled for Sunday. [[CBS](#)]
- The border crossing in Del Rio, Texas, was opened Saturday following the removal of thousands of Haitian migrants this week. Viral images of Border Patrol Agents hitting the migrants have drawn sharp rebukes, primarily from African-American lawmakers. [[CBS](#)]
- President Biden's domestic agenda faces more problems as it faces increasing opposition from republicans and moderate democrats. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent a letter stating her intent to pass the infrastructure bill along with a trillion-dollar spending plan and a resolution to fund the government by the end of this week. [[CBS](#)]
- Nine people were killed in a suicide attack targeting the presidential palace in Mogadishu, Somalia. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. [[CBS](#)]

ABC This Week with George Stephanopoulos

- *This Week* began with coverage of the President's domestic agenda, looming government shutdown, and potential debt default. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined the program and said Democrats would pass a \$1tn bipartisan infrastructure bill this week. Pelosi also said she would work to build consensus on Joe Biden's separate \$3.5tn social spending agenda, which has caused divisions within the Democratic party. Democrats have slim majorities in Congress and must unite to overcome Republican opposition to the \$3.5 trillion spending plan, known as the Build Back Better Act. [\[Watch-1\]](#)[\[Watch-2\]](#)

CBS Face the Nation with Margaret Brennan

- President Biden's police reform negotiations between Senate Democrats and Republicans have stalled. South Carolina Senator Tim Scott joined the program and discussed the failed negotiations and Democrats' decision to walk away from police reform negotiations. [\[Watch\]](#)

NBC Meet the Press with Chuck Todd

- Todd brought Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on the show to discuss removing Haitian migrants from Del Rio, Texas, and share the Administration's perspective on the issue. More than 12,400 migrants were released into the U.S., 8,000 returned to Mexico, and 2000+ expelled to Haiti. [\[Watch\]](#)
- Data Download reviewed the approval ratings of the Supreme Court in light of the political issues surrounding abortion rights. Approval ratings of the Court in July were noted to be evenly rated among Democrats and Republicans. However, as abortions arose in September, there was a noticeable partisan divide in the SCOTUS approval ratings. [\[Watch\]](#)
- The panel returned to discuss the Arizona audit, former President Trump's response to the results, Republicans aligning with former President Trump, and the implications for the November 2022 elections. [\[Watch\]](#)

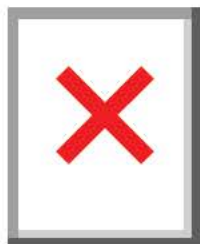
FOX News Sunday with Chris Wallace

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott joined Fox News Sunday to discuss the Biden administration's immigration policy, criticizing the president and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for failing to secure the sovereignty of the United States. Abbott also discussed a new bill passed by the Texas legislature that bans abortions after six weeks and a new election law Abbot signed this month that Democrats argue is meant to suppress votes. [\[Watch-1\]](#)[\[Watch-2\]](#) [Brief AG Garland mention in Wallace's questioning on immigration: "...and in fact, the U.S. Attorney General, Merrick Garland, has written to you and threatened to sue arguing that you and your state are overstepping your authority..."]

From: POLITICO Paybook
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Damned BIF you do, damned BIF you don't
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: September 26, 2021 11:17 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sep 26, 2021

[View in browser](#)



B T Y A R A P A L M E R I



Presented by

DRIVING THE DAY

“The next few days will be a time of intensity.”

With those words to colleagues Saturday, House Speaker **NANCY PELOSI** teed up the pivotal week to come — one which will shape the trajectory of the Biden presidency, the 2022 campaign and the nation’s economy for years to come.

“This week, we must pass a Continuing Resolution, Build Back Better Act and the BIF,”

Pelosi wrote.

Today, Pelosi added this: “I’m never bringing a bill to the floor that doesn’t have the votes,” [she said on ABC’s “This Week.”](#) So where does that leave things?

Where we’re at: The continuing resolution has already passed the House, the BIF is awaiting a vote (which Pelosi had promised would be held Monday) and Saturday night, the House Budget Committee moved forward the mammoth reconciliation package, aka BBB. The BBB is headed for a vote on the floor this week, even while it’s far from final as Democratic leaders grasp for “an endgame compromise that can pass both the House and Senate,” [write Jennifer Scholtes and Caitlin Emma.](#)

The policy disagreements: [WSJ’s Gabriel Rubin has a useful breakdown](#) of five key areas of discord among Democrats on the BBB (in addition to the overall cost): health care, climate, long-term home care and child care, immigration and taxes. (Nothing too complicated!). ***A couple good reads on that front:***

— **Health care:** [WaPo’s Paul Kane breaks down the health care debate](#), in which competing priorities are being championed by Pelosi (shoring up the Affordable Care Act), Sen. **BERNIE SANDERS** (expanding Medicare) and House Majority Whip **JIM CLYBURN** (expanding Medicaid). Which will get the ax if Dems have to downsize?

— **Taxes:** House Dems want to expand their Child Tax Credit payment program by expanding the definition of what it means to be someone’s “child” so that kids being raised by someone who isn’t a relative can benefit — which, [reports Brian Faler](#), could pose a huge bureaucratic headache for the IRS.

The political reality: Democrats are increasingly convinced that the only way they can salvage their midterm prospects is to muscle through the infrastructure and reconciliation bills and “hold up tangible achievements to voters,” [writes NYT’s Jonathan Martin](#). But, much like on the policy front, Democrats disagree over the best course of action politically.

“**Liberals believe voters will punish them in 2022** if they do not fulfill Mr. Biden’s sweeping campaign agenda, in part because it would demoralize their core voters and ensure that some of them would stay home,” Martin writes. “Some moderates, however, think that the historically difficult first midterm for the president’s party would be made worse if they handed Republicans fodder to portray them as tax-and-spend liberals at a moment when inflation has jumped.”

— **That gridlock risks depressing the enthusiasm of Democratic voters,** [writes AP’s Steve Peoples](#). Party strategists tell him that failure to pass the BBB “could devastate Democrats in the 2022 vote and raise questions about Biden’s path to reelection if he decides to seek a second

term.” Cue **JAMES CARVILLE**: “Quoting Benjamin Franklin, if they don’t hang together, they’ll hang separately.”

— **Biden’s weak poll numbers are already endangering TERRY MCAULIFFE** in Virginia’s gubernatorial race. “Voters didn’t send Democrats to Washington to sit around and chitty-chat all day,” McAuliffe told J-Mart. “They need to get this done.” [Washington Examiner’s David Drucker finds the same thing in Virginia](#)

— **Meanwhile, GOP leaders are delighted at Democrats’ dilemma.** Senate Minority Leader **MITCH MCCONNELL** tells the NYT: “It’ll have a serious negative impact if they don’t pass it, and it’ll have a serious negative impact if they do pass it.”

— **But the whole situation is not without risks for Republicans.** As GOP leadership mounts a major whipping campaign against the BIF, it’s become “a complicated vote for many moderate House Republicans, who are under intense pressure from party leaders not to deliver a win for Biden — and potentially hurt their chances of flipping the House,” [report Sarah Ferris and Nicholas Wu](#). Still, that pressure goes both ways: Minority Leader **KEVIN MCCARTHY**’s hard opposition to the bill has “inflam[ed] many of his conference’s moderates,” setting up the BIF vote as a gauge of GOP leadership’s ability to marshal its members.

Good Sunday morning, and thanks for reading Playbook. Drop us a line: [Rachael Bade](#), [Eugene Daniels](#), [Ryan Lizza](#), [Tara Palmeri](#).

A message from Facebook:

Why Facebook supports reforming Section 230

The internet has changed a lot in the last 25 years—the last time comprehensive internet regulations were passed.

[Facebook supports updated regulations](#) —like reforming Section 230, to set standards for the way larger tech companies enforce rules about content.

WHOSE PARTY IS IT? — At the biennial Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference this weekend in Michigan, GOP bigwigs gathered at the Grand Hotel to hobnob, listen to 2024 hopefuls and chart a course for the party in the midterms and beyond. And though the party faithful agreed on many of the particulars (e.g. opposition to masking mandates and critical race theory in schools), disagreements about a broader question hung over the event: What exactly is former President **DONALD TRUMP**'s role in the party's future?

— **One side of things:** “I hope President Trump runs again,” Sen. **LINDSEY GRAHAM** (R-S.C.) said on Saturday night, [per Detroit News’ Craig Mauger](#). *Flashback to Wednesday:* Trump slammed Graham in a statement for being “unwilling to fight” to overturn the results of the 2020 election. (FWIW, our favorite Graham line from Mackinac, on golfing with Trump: “I’ve come to like him, and *he* likes him. That gets us through 18 holes. The first nine, I’ll tell him why I like him. The back nine is why *he* likes him.”)

— **The other side:** “Ours is not a movement dependent on any one person,” **BETSY DEVOS** said Saturday, also lamenting that conservative “principles have been overtaken by personalities,” [per Freep’s Paul Egan](#). (DeVos, you may remember, resigned as Trump’s secretary of education following the Jan. 6 insurrection, and [supported invoking the 25th amendment](#) to remove him from power.)

Meanwhile, Trump held a rally Saturday night in Perry, Ga., with a bevy of GOP political candidates. Speaker after speaker pushed lies about the integrity of the 2020 election, [reports the Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), and Trump trained much of his ire on those Republicans who didn’t bow to his desire to overturn the results — especially Gov. **BRIAN KEMP**.

— “**At one point, Trump said STACEY ABRAMS would be a better governor than Kemp,**” the AJC writes. Said Trump: “Stacey, would you like to take his place? It’s OK with me.”

— **Trump also brought on stage** Lance Cpl. **HUNTER CLARK**, who was photographed pulling a baby over a wall to get to safety during the evacuations from Kabul, [per Fox News](#). “In the front row, Trump left 13 empty seats with roses placed atop them to pay tribute to the 13 U.S. service members who lost their lives.”



THREE TOP SUNDAY READS...

— **Today, Germans go to the polls to pick ANGELA MERKEL’s successor.** Over her 16 years in power, she’s been one constant in the shifting sands of the European Union experiment as it has suffered through terror attacks, a financial and austerity crisis, Brexit, a mass influx of immigrants and now a pandemic. After the election results are announced, she’ll leave behind not just a world that has radically shifted, but also a Germany that has evolved into a “modern society — and a country less defined by its history,” [writes NYT’s Katherine Benhold](#).

— **How the anti-vax movement penetrated the NBA — and started winning.** [Rolling Stone’s Matt Sullivan reports](#) that the league, which a year ago earned plaudits for its ultra-serious handling of the pandemic, is now in the midst of a full-blown civil war over the virus that’s spilling over into public view. At the annual summer meeting of the NBA player’s union, star players made clear that a vaccine requirement mandated by the league would be a “non-starter.”

— **Was the push to overturn the 2020 election a low point for U.S. democracy, or just a dress rehearsal?** That sobering thought comes from election law expert Rick Hasen [in a new Q&A with our own Zack Stanton](#). Says Hasen: “The rhetoric is so overheated that I think it provides the basis for millions of people to accept an *actual* stolen election as payback for the falsely claimed earlier ‘stolen’ election. People are going to be more willing to cheat if they think they’ve been cheated out of their just desserts.” **Companion reading:** [“Can Joe Biden Recover?”](#) by NYT’s Ross Douthat: “Along with any worries about Trump stealing the next presidential election ... Democrats should recognize the possibility that he might simply win it. What’s gone wrong for Biden is a combination of bad luck, bad choices and inherent weakness.”

SUNDAY BEST ...

Rep. PRAMILA JAYAPAL (D-Wash.) on the BIF vote this week on CNN’s “State of the Union”: “I don’t believe there will be a vote [Monday]. ... I mean, the speaker is an incredibly good vote-counter. And she knows exactly where her caucus stands. And we have been really clear on that.”

— **On the moment that [she broke into tears in the Oval Office meeting with Biden](#)**: “I hope we never stop feeling the emotion of why we’re here and why it’s important to do what we’re doing. But it was a lovely moment. And the president also sheds tears when he tells stories. And it’s one of the beautiful things about him, is the compassion. And I felt like we shared that moment, because I know, from talking to him before, that he also identifies with the immigrant experience of his ancestors, his — the previous generation. So it was wonderful.”

Rep. JOSH GOTTHEIMER (D-N.J.) on the BIF vote on “State of the Union”: “Every single Democrat in the House voted to bring it to the floor for a vote this week. We’re going to do it. We’re going to have the votes. It will come up [Monday], and we’re going to vote this week, early this week.”

Sen. CORY BOOKER (D-N.J.) on the infrastructure bill and reconciliation on NBC’s “Meet the Press”: “We see this as one package. The president as recently as last week has said, ‘Look, don’t separate this. This is one package that we’re looking at.’ And so I just want to make sure this is not about a bunch of people who are battling it out in Congress. This is about the American people.”

DHS Secretary ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS on the images from the border on “Meet the Press”: “I’m intensely and immensely proud of the men and women of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In fact, in Del Rio, Texas, I saw them act heroically. You know, what those images suggest does not reflect who CBP is, who we are as a department, nor who we are as a country.”

— **On bipartisan criticism**: “Getting hit from both sides in the matter of immigration is no surprise. We are in the epicenter of the country’s divide, regrettably.”

Texas Gov. GREG ABBOTT on Biden’s threat that border agents could lose their jobs on “Fox News Sunday”: “I have worked side by side with those border patrol agents, I want them to know something: If they are at risk of losing their job, got a president who is abandoning his duty to secure the border, you have a job in the state of Texas. I will hire you to help Texas secure our border.”

BIDEN’S SUNDAY — The president will return to the White House from Camp David.

INTRODUCING CONGRESS MINUTES: Need to follow the action on Capitol Hill blow-by-blow? Check out Minutes, POLITICO's new platform that delivers the latest exclusives, twists and much more in real time. Get it on your desktop or download the POLITICO mobile app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#). [GET A FIRST LOOK AT CONGRESS MINUTES HERE.](#)

■ P L A Y B O O K R E A D S

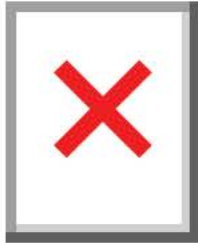


PHOTO OF THE DAY: Michael Kovrig embraces his wife Valérie Nadeau after arriving in Toronto on Saturday, Sept. 25, after China, the U.S. and Canada completed a high-stakes prisoner swap including Kovrig and Michael Spavor, who were being held by China, in exchange for a Huawei executive. Frank Gunn/The Canadian Press via AP

THE WHITE HOUSE

COALITION CRUMBLING? — The floodgates opened this week for Democratic criticism of Biden’s immigration approach, [Sabrina Rodríguez reports](#). The more aggressive pushback now constitutes “a crack in the Democratic coalition that threatens the party’s morale and unity,” Sabrina writes.

— **The Atlantic’s Caitlin Dickerson declares, [“Democrats’ Free Pass on Immigration Is Over:](#)** As he extends Trump-era policies, President Biden discovers that many voters are no longer willing to give him the benefit of the doubt.”

CONGRESS

WHAT WENT WRONG — Negotiators’ failure to reach an accord on even a slimmed-down police reform bill can be traced to Congress missing the moment, [NBC’s Leigh Ann Caldwell writes](#): Too much time had elapsed since the mass protests last year in the wake of **GEORGE FLOYD’s** murder. By the end of this summer, “[t]he political will was gone. So was the momentum.”

ANOTHER ONE — Rep. **BRIAN BABIN** (R-Texas) tested positive for the coronavirus Saturday, [he announced](#). A dentist, Babin is fully vaccinated and started having “mild, cold-like symptoms” Friday, he said.

POLITICS ROUNDUP

IT’S NOT JUST FOR DEMOCRATS — In the wake of **GAVIN NEWSOM’s** blowout win in the California recall election, a consensus emerged that he’d found success by nationalizing the race and making it about Trump, and that the approach offered a model for other Dems.

But [as the AP finds in Arkansas](#), where **SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS’** gubernatorial campaign is in full swing, some Republicans are just as eager to nationalize their campaigns, too — talking up Trump, taking swings at Biden and often straying from the local issues.

A message from Facebook:

Facebook invested \$13B in teams and technology to enhance safety

It's working: We lead the industry in stopping bad actors online. In the past few months, we took down:

- 1.7B fake accounts
- 3.8M drugs and firearms sales posts
- 7.1M terrorism-related posts

Our work to reduce harmful content is never done. [Learn more about how we're making our platforms safer.](#)

BEYOND THE BELTWAY

2022 WATCH — With Rep. **KAREN BASS** (D-Calif.) jumping in, the Los Angeles mayoral race is surging to the forefront of California’s political minds, [report the L.A. Times’ David Zahniser, Dakota Smith and Benjamin Oreskes](#). Homelessness is the top issue in the city’s first “wide-open mayoral election since 2013,” which will also constitute another battle between progressives and the center-left.

POLICY CORNER

UNDER THE HOOD — Extremism researchers have been handed a massive data dump after Anonymous hacked Epik, “an Internet-services company popular with the far right,” and revealed hundreds of thousands of transactions that lay bare who’s behind hate online, [WaPo’s Drew Harwell, Hannah Allam, Jeremy Merrill and Craig Timberg report](#). “[I]t could take months before they can process the full cache — the equivalent of tens of millions of pages. Many are digging for information on who owns and administers extremist domains about which little was previously known.”

PRO-POT, ANTI-FEDERAL LEGALIZATION — Some say that it’s high time for federal action to loosen marijuana restrictions. But the current system — a patchwork of state-sanctioned fiefdoms — has become entrenched, and some business owners, regulators and lawmakers are worried that a shakeup “will invite industry behemoths to eat up small companies and push minority-owned firms out altogether,” [Natalie Fertig writes](#).

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

A MAJOR DEEP DIVE — Yahoo News is out this morning with [an explosive investigation by Zach Dorfman, Sean D. Naylor and Michael Isikoff](#): “In 2017, as **JULIAN ASSANGE** began his fifth year holed up in Ecuador’s embassy in London, the CIA plotted to kidnap the WikiLeaks founder, spurring heated debate among Trump administration officials over the legality and practicality of such an operation.

“Some senior officials inside the CIA and the Trump administration even discussed killing Assange , going so far as to request ‘sketches’ or ‘options’ for how to assassinate him. Discussions over kidnapping or killing Assange occurred ‘at the highest levels’ of the Trump administration, said a former senior counterintelligence official. “There seemed to be no boundaries.”

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■ P L A Y B O O K E R S

OUT AND ABOUT — The cast and producers of HBO's limited series about the Watergate break-in called "The White House Plumbers" (directed by "Veep" showrunner **David Mandel**) had dinner outside on Friday night at Cafe Milano. **SPOTTED: Woody Harrelson**, who plays E. Howard Hunt, and **Justin Theroux**, who plays G. Gordon Liddy; Other guests included **John McCarthy**, **Reema Dodin**, **Liz Johnson**, **Symone Sanders**, **Shawn Townsend**, **Domnhall Gleeson**, **Ike Barinholtz**, **Tara Grace**, **Tammy Haddad**, **Len Amato**, **Gregg Fienberg**, **Annie Fitzgerald** and **David Bernad**, the executive producer who got pitched the show after hearing the inside story from his father, a D.C. neurologist. Bernad was also toasted for his recent show, "The White Lotus." Dinner guests asked Symone Sanders about what happened at "The View" earlier Friday.

BIRTHWEEK (was Wednesday): **Shadi Hamid** of the Brookings Institution

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Rep. **Barry Moore** (R-Ala.) ... **Beto O'Rourke** ... WaPo's **Dave Weigel** (4-0) and **Kathleen Parker** (7-0) ... **Evan Hollander** of the House Appropriations Committee ... **Robert Kagan** ... POLITICO's **Patterson Clark** and **Casey Miles** ... APCO Worldwide's **Josie Martin** ... former Rep. **Frank Guinta** (R-N.H.) ... **Bill Scher** ... **Jordan Cohen** of the NYT ... **Ben Freed** ... **Missy Edwards** of Missy Edwards Strategies ... **Jon Rosborough** ... **Tom Gannon** of Mastercard ... **David Sanders** ... **Mark Isakowitz** of Google ... photographer **Stephen Voss** ... **Jeff Eshelman** of IPAA ... **Doug Sosnik** ... **Greg Lorjuste** ... **Sam Drzymala** ... **John Fitzpatrick** ... **Dayne Cutrell** ... **Brennan Georgianni** of the American Cleaning Institute ... **Matt Krack** of Fair Fight Action ... former New Jersey Gov. **Christine Todd Whitman** ... former Arizona Gov. **Jan Brewer** ... **Max Schechter** ... **Sam Myers Sr.** ... **Wally Stern** (93)

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**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
September 25, 2021
2:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
US Attorneys
3.
National Security
4.
Criminal Law
5.
Civil Rights
6.
Civil Law
7.
Immigration & Border Security
8.
Antitrust

9. Environment
10. Tax
11. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
12. Criminal Justice/Corrections
13. US Supreme Court
14. Native American Affairs
15. Marijuana Legalization
16. Administration
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Afternoon Headlines

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: Canadians home after Huawei CFO resolves US charges, Rob Gillies, September 25, 2021, 8:38 AM

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hugged two Canadians who landed in Canada on Saturday following what amounted to a high-stakes prisoner swap involving China, the U.S. and Canada. Trudeau greeted Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor after their plane landed in Calgary, Alberta early Saturday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Canadians released after Huawei CFO resolves US charges, Eric Tucker, Jim Mustian, and Rob Gillies, September 25, 2021, 1:08 AM

Two Canadians detained in China on spying charges were released from prison and flown out of the country on Friday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, just after a top executive of Chinese communications giant Huawei Technologies reached a deal with the U.S. Justice Department

over fraud charges and flew to China. The frenetic chain of events involving the global powers brought an abrupt end to legal and geopolitical wrangling that for the past three years has roiled relations between Washington, Beijing and Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [Reuters](#), [Politico](#), [Newsweek](#), [WSJ](#), [Washington Examiner](#),

WaPo: Meng Wanzhou can return to China, admits helping Huawei conceal dealings in Iran, Shayna Jacobs and Amanda Coletta, September 24, 2021, 9:43 PM

Meng Wanzhou, a top Huawei Technologies executive detained for nearly three years in Canada, can return home to China after striking a deal with U.S. Justice Department officials in which she acknowledged helping to conceal the company's direct dealings in Iran, which violated U.S. sanctions. While Meng admitted illegal conduct to satisfy the terms of the agreement, she did not have to plead guilty as part of the deferred prosecution agreement. Her criminal case and detention have had major geopolitical implications, further souring relations between Beijing and both Washington and Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [BBC](#), [CNET](#), [FT](#)

Bloomberg Law: [PODCAST] What's Happening in the Boston Marathon Bomber Case?

Jordan S. Rubin, September 24, 2021, 3:36 PM

When Supreme Court justices return to the courtroom for the new term in October, they'll consider the government's quest to reinstate Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's death sentences. The court will hear arguments on Oct. 13 about pretrial publicity and mitigating evidence, as the justices decide whether to reverse an appeals court ruling that vacated Tsarnaev's sentences for the 2013 bombing that killed three people and injured hundreds more. Attorney General Merrick Garland imposed an execution moratorium this past summer, raising the question of how that will play into the case, if at all. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): Indiana to receive \$3.5M from DOJ for anti-crime initiatives, Jacey Crawford, September 24, 2021, 8:58 PM

Indiana is set to receive over \$3.5 million from the Department of Justice to support community safety efforts, the DOJ announced Friday. Indianapolis will receive just over \$1 million of the grant. Several other cities and counties across the state will receive portions of the funds, as well. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

WTOP-CBS (Washington, DC): US Senate panel advances Barron's nomination for US attorney in Md, Danielle E. Gaines, September 25, 2021, 9:46 AM

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee voted on Thursday to advance President Biden's first slate of U.S. attorney nominees, including Del. Erik Barron (D-Prince George's), who is nominated to the post in Maryland. A vote by the entire U.S. Senate is expected in the next few weeks. If confirmed, Barron, 47, would be the first Black U.S. attorney in Maryland's history. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

USA Today: Trump supporter who took House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's beer at Capitol riot pleads guilty, Nolan Clay, September 24, 2021, 5:20 PM

During the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, Trump supporter Andrew Craig Ericson plopped his feet up on a table inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's conference room and posed for a photo. He then

took a "selfie" and posted both on Snapchat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Illinois man ran business telling clients how to launch computer attacks: DOJ,
Brooke Crothers, September 25, 2021, 7: 51 AM

An Illinois man ran a successful computer takedown service until the feds stepped in. The man, Matthew Gatrel, 32, of St. Charles, was found guilty by a federal jury for running websites that "allowed paying users" to launch distributed denial of service, or DDoS, attacks, according to the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Justice Department unseals Capitol riot charges against FreedomWorks organizer, Hannah Rabinowitz, September 24, 2021, 3:19 PM

The Justice Department unsealed charges on Thursday against an organizer from the conservative advocacy group FreedomWorks for his alleged role in the January 6 insurrection. Brandon Prenzlin was charged last week with four federal misdemeanors for what prosecutors say was just over three minutes inside the Capitol. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Portland Press Herald, (Portland, ME): Federal judge again denies release for Mainer charged in Capitol riot, Megan Gray, September 24, 2021, 6:01 PM

A judge has again denied release to a Lebanon man who is facing federal charges stemming from his participation in the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol. Kyle Fitzsimons, 37, is one of more than 600 people who have been charged in connection with the Jan. 6 insurrection. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Treasure Coast Newspapers (Port St. Lucie, FL): 'America was not great on that day': Fort Pierce man negotiates plea deal in Jan. 6 Capitol riot case, Corey Arwood, September 24, 2021, 4:55 PM

A U.S. District Court judge for the District of Columbia said a Fort Pierce man "disgraced this country in the eyes of the world" during a Friday hearing in which he pleaded guilty to one of five charges related to his involvement in the Jan. 6 riot on the Capitol. Anthony "Tony" Mariotto documented his time inside the U.S. Capitol in selfies and cell phone video. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Georgia probation officer pleads guilty to faking records, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 11:24 AM

A probation officer for the federal court system in Georgia has pleaded guilty to creating false records while on the job. Court records show Enoch Eller Jr. of Augusta pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to making false statements. Prosecutors say 47-year-old Eller, a probation officer for the federal court in the Southern District of Georgia, falsely documented drug testing and other personal contacts with criminal defendants awaiting trial that he never performed. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Federal judge dismisses execution lawsuit in Alabama, reprimands AG's office, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 12:21 AM (EDT)

A federal judge on Friday paved the way for Alabama to proceed with a lethal injection next month, but also reprimanded the state attorney general's office for giving false information to the court during the litigation centered on forms given to death row inmates for selecting an execution

method. Chief U.S. District Judge Emily C. Marks dismissed a lawsuit that argued the state failed to give Willie Smith, who has an IQ below 75, required help under the Americans with Disabilities Act in filling out forms that affected the timing of his execution.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WUAL-NPR \(Tuscaloosa, AL\)](#)

AP: Ex-California pastor gets 14 years after \$33M fraud scheme, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 10:30 PM

A former Southern California pastor was sentenced Friday to 14 years in federal prison for masterminding a church-based investment scheme that bilked hundreds of victims of more than \$33 million. The former pastor of the Westminster-based Church for the Healthy Self, Kent R.E. Whitney, was ordered to pay more than \$22 million in restitution. He pleaded guilty last year to mail fraud and filing a false federal income tax return. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Ex-New England mob boss loses appeal of conviction for 1993 murder, Nate Raymond, September 24, 2021, 8:35 PM

A federal appeals court on Friday upheld the conviction of an octogenarian former New England mob boss sentenced to life in prison for the 1993 murder of a nightclub owner whose remains were discovered in Rhode Island five years ago. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Former WA employee charged with stealing unemployment funds, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 7:14 PM

Authorities say a former employee with the state Employment Security Department was arrested Friday and charged with defrauding the government of at least \$360,000 in jobless benefits. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle said Friday that Reyes De La Cruz, III, 47, of Moses Lake is "alleged to have personally enriched himself by at least \$130,000 " and to have helped others fraudulently obtain tens of thousands of dollars in benefits. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NPR: The Elizabeth Holmes Trial Sparks A Silicon Valley Debate: Why Not Other Tech CEOs? Bobby Allyn, September 25, 2021, 7:07 AM

Selling an idea in Silicon Valley takes not only a grand vision but also swagger and bluster, says Margaret O'Mara, a historian of the tech industry. "Being able to tell a good story is part of being a successful founder, being able to persuade investors to put money into your company," she said. And Elizabeth Holmes, the former CEO of Theranos, did just that. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: Trump supporter who took House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's beer at Capitol riot pleads guilty, Nolan Clay, September 24, 2021, 5:20 PM

During the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, Trump supporter Andrew Craig Ericson plopped his feet up on a table inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's conference room and posed for a photo. He then took a "selfie" and posted both on Snapchat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: Among Those Who Marched Into the Capitol on Jan. 6: An F.B.I. Informant, Alan Feuer and Adam Goldman, September 25, 2021, 5:00 AM

As scores of Proud Boys made their way, chanting and shouting, toward the Capitol on Jan. 6, one member of the far-right group was busy texting a real-time account of the march. The recipient was his F.B.I. handler. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Jurors in R. Kelly federal trial are done for the day after deliberating for about four hours, Sonia Moghe, September 24, 2021, 6:22 PM

Jurors on Friday began their deliberations in R. Kelly's federal trial in Brooklyn, where he faces racketeering and sex trafficking charges. The jury deliberated about four hours in the afternoon before the case was adjourned until Monday. Before leaving for the day, they sent a note saying, "We the jurors have not reached a verdict." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Chicago Tribune](#)

The Independent (New York City, NY): **Man jailed for suffocating ex-girlfriend to death in suitcase he abandoned by roadside**, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 9:45 AM (EDT)

A man who tied up his ex-girlfriend inside a suitcase and left her to suffocate to death by the side of a road in Connecticut has been sentenced to 30 years in prison. Javier Da Silva Rojas, 26, from Queens, New York, pled guilty last year to one count of kidnapping resulting in death for his savage attack on 24-year-old Valerie Reyes, a book shop worker and aspiring tattoo artist. At a sentencing hearing in White Plains on Thursday, Ms Reyes' mother Norma Sanchez called Da Silva a "selfish, greedy and soulless person" who "deserve[s] nothing but pain and rejection".

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Virginia Doctor Pleads Guilty In \$1.8M Rx Fraud Scheme**, Jonathan Capriel, September 24, 2021, 9:10 PM

A Washington-area physician has admitted participating in a "fraud scheme" to prescribe pain and scar creams in order to receive a kickback from a pharmacist, defrauding health insurance programs out of \$1.8 million, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said Friday. Leonard Rosen, a 72-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Manassas, Virginia, entered a pre-indictment guilty plea for his role in the seven-figure scam, a spokesperson with the U.S. Department of Justice told Law360. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Cousin Of Ticket Fraudster Avoids Prison For Role In Scam**, Pete Brush, September 24, 2021, 3:07 PM

A Manhattan federal judge on Friday sentenced a former compliance professional to a year of home confinement for using a sports and theater ticket resale business to funnel money away from its investors and toward his now-incarcerated cousin. U.S. District Judge Ronnie Abrams allowed defendant James "J" Siniscalchi, 48, to avoid prison but hit him with a \$10,000 fine and directed him to make \$1.9 million of restitution and complete 100 hours of community service.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

MLive Media Group (Grand Rapids, MI): **Woman sentenced to 5 years in prison for delivering heroin that killed advocate**, Mitchell Kukulka, September 25, 2021, 9:18 AM (EDT)

Tears came from both sides of the courtroom as a Jackson County woman was sentenced for delivering the drugs that killed a local advocate for addicts. Melissa Simons, 36, was sentenced 5 to 20 years in prison by Jackson Circuit Judge John McBain on Sept. 22. Simons pleaded guilty to the charge of delivery of controlled substance less than 50 grams on Oct. 15, 2019. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, AR): **Guilty on all counts: Federal jury convicts Danville man in racketeering case tied to Arkansas-based white supremacy gang**, Dale Ellis, September 25, 2021, 5:31 AM (EDT)

A Danville man accused of racketeering and drug-trafficking conspiracy in a federal investigation of a violent Pope County white-supremacist gang was convicted Friday on all counts. The verdict closes out the six-year investigation that resulted in convictions for 54 defendants. The jury of seven men and five women began deliberations about 9:15 a.m. Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Dayton Daily News (Dayton, OH): **New vaccine policy issued for Dayton federal courthouse employees, visitors**, Parker Perry, September 25, 2021, 3:26 AM

A new order will require employees of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio to submit verification that they are vaccinated or be required to get tested for the COVID-19 virus twice a week. Unvaccinated employees will also be required to wear a mask at all times in the courthouse and maintain social distance from others. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Idaho State Journal (Pocatello, ID): **Three local residents sentenced in federal court in methamphetamine distribution case**, September 25, 2021, 12:45 AM (EDT)

Jesse Kirby, 45, Trevor Van Horn, 31, and Debra Trujillo, 63, all of Idaho Falls, were sentenced to federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced Friday. Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill sentenced Kirby to 110 months imprisonment, Van Horn to 100 months imprisonment, and Trujillo to 96 months imprisonment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Anchorage Daily News, Media (Anchorage, AK): **State of Alaska employee arrested on charges of possessing child pornography**, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 10:51 PM (EDT)

The FBI arrested an Eagle River man and state of Alaska employee who they say possessed and accessed child pornography, the agency said Friday. John Daniel Brooks, 51, told investigators that he had more than 1,000 images and videos of child pornography on the hard drive attached to his work computer, according to charging documents filed in U.S. District Court in Anchorage on Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tampa Bay Times (Saint Petersburg, FL): **Tampa woman accused of trying to hire hitman to kill spouse of former flame**, Amy Gehrt, September 24, 2021, 11:10 PM (EDT)

A 50-year-old accountant from Tampa has been arrested after authorities say she tried to arrange a hit on the spouse of her former lover on the dark web, according to federal authorities. DeAnna Marie Stinson created an account June 24 on a website on the dark web that claimed to offer murder-for-hire services, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tampa. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Greater New Milford Spectrum (Danbury, CT): **Meriden man sentenced to 6 years in prison for trafficking heroin from Bridgeport stores**, Liz Hardaway, September 24, 2021, 9:30 PM (EDT)

A Meriden man was sentenced to more than six years in prison for trafficking heroin in Bridgeport storefronts, according to Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard Boyle. An investigation into Meriden resident Eddy Antonio Torres Morel, 51, revealed he was trafficking narcotics from two stores, Big Daddy's Deli and Jamal's Market, on East Main Street in Bridgeport, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Shelton Herald (Sheldon, CT): **Shelton doctor arrested for fraudulent prescriptions of Xanax, Adderall, feds say**, Liz Hardway, September 24, 2021, 9:30 AM

A Shelton doctor was arrested Friday after allegedly illegally distributing prescription medication, according to Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard Boyle. Law enforcement have been investigating Trumbull resident Dr. David Ciancimino, 62, since October 2020. Ciancimino practiced psychiatry and neurology from an office on Corporate Drive in Shelton. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Spokesman-Review (Spokane, WA): **Richland man who was extradited from Kazakhstan pleads guilty to child pornography charge**, Kip Hill, September 24, 2021, 9:00 PM

A Richland man who was working abroad in Kazakhstan when federal authorities found hundreds of sexually explicit images and videos of minors in his home pleaded guilty Thursday to a child pornography charge. Trent Drexel Howard, 50, is in custody of the Benton County Jail pending a sentencing hearing in January. [[Continue Reading](#)]

City News Service (Los Angeles, CA): **Lakeside Man Who Held 3 Hostage in His Home Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison**, Unattributed, September 7:00 PM (EDT)

A Lakeside man who held three people hostage at his home was sentenced Friday to 10 years in federal prison. Joseph Anthony Martino, 47, pleaded guilty last year to charges of kidnapping and being a felon in possession of a firearm for confining the three victims at gunpoint at his home on April 1, 2019. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Martino held the victims at gunpoint "in order to confront one of the victims about a personal relationship." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Trussville Tribune (Trussville, AL): **Convicted felon sentenced for illegal firearm possession**, Hannah Caveron, September 24, 2021, 6:53 PM

U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and FBI Special Agent in Charge Johnnie Sharp, Jr. announced a federal judge sentenced a convicted felon for illegally possessing a firearm on Friday, September 24. U.S. District Court Judge Corey L. Maze sentenced Jack David "Jackie" Stovall, II, 73, of Anniston, to 36 months in prison followed by 36 months supervised release for being a felon in possession of a firearm. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Jacksonville Journal-Courier (Jacksonville, IL): **Three Pike men face federal charges of sexual exploitation of a child**, David C.L. Bauer, September 24, 2021, 6:06 PM (EDT)

Three Pike County residents are facing federal charges after being accused of coercing a minor into sexually explicit conduct and recording the act. The indictment in U.S. District Court in Springfield was handed up Sept. 9 but not unsealed until Friday, when the last of the three was arraigned in federal court. The three-count indictment, which is a formal charge by a grand jury and is not proof of guilt, asserts that the three men Anthony M. Westemeyer, Bobby J. Warner and Michael Wallace, all of Nebo in May enticed a child to engage in explicit conduct and that it was recorded and stored on a computer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMCH- CBS (Manchester, IA): **Center Point Man Sentenced for Wire Fraud**, Janelle Tucker, September 25, 2021, 7:31 AM (EDT)

A Center Point man has been sentenced for wire fraud. 63-year old Larry Wells was sentenced to five months in federal prison. The U.S. Department of Justice says Wells received nearly \$17,000 in fraudulently obtained CARES Act unemployment funds from the states of Maine and New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJTV-Fox (Lubbock, TX): **Federal officials seek probe into dispute between New York, Seneca Nation over casino pact**, Steve Bittenbender, September 25, 2021, 9:44 AM

The U.S. Department of the Interior has called for an investigation into a long-standing legal battle regarding the gaming compact between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the state of New York, claiming that a \$470 million judgment placed against the tribal nation violates federal laws. In a filing Friday in a federal court in New York, lawyers for the Senecas submitted a copy of a Sept.

15 letter by Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland to E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, who chairs the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAS-NBC (Fort Worth, TX): 35 Indicted in Romance Scheme That Siphoned \$17 Million From Older Adults: DOJ, Unattributed, September 24, 2021 8:14 PM (EDT)

Federal investigators with the Department of Justice say 35 people in North Texas are accused of conducting romance schemes to defraud and steal money from older adult Americans. Officials with the U.S. Attorney's Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas and the FBI announced a multi-year investigation into a wide-ranging criminal enterprise operating out of North Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFMD-Fox (Frederick, MD): Hagerstown Man Charged With Bank Fraud, Kevin McManus September 24, 2021 - 7:17 pm

A Hagerstown man has been charged with making false statements and bank fraud to obtain money from the Payroll Protection Program. A criminal complaint has been filed against Jeffrey Breden, 47. The criminal complaint, which is similar to a grand jury indictment, was signed on September 23rd, 2020, and unsealed upon Breden's arrest on September 23rd, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KIMA-CBS/CW (Yakima, WA): Yakima gang member sentenced to 120 months in Federal prison, Adrian Delgado, September 24, 2021, 7:00 PM (EDT)

Joseph H. Harrington, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Orlando Raul Rodriguez, a/k/a "Toon," age 31, of Yakima, was sentenced Friday, September 24, after having pleaded guilty on June 22, 2021, of brandishing a firearm while committing a crime of violence and for illegal possession of a firearm. United States District Judge Salvador Mendoza, Jr. sentenced Rodriguez to a 120-month term of imprisonment, to be followed by a 3-year term of court supervision after he is released from federal prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMVT-CBS/CW (Twin Falls, ID): Three sentenced in Southeast Idaho Methamphetamine distribution case, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:59 PM (EDT)

Jesse Kirby, 45, Trevor Van Horn, 31, and Debra Trujillo, 63, all of Idaho Falls, were sentenced to federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced Friday. Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill sentenced Kirby to nine years imprisonment, Van Horn to eight years imprisonment, and Trujillo to eight years imprisonment. Kirby, Van Horn, and Trujillo were ordered to serve an additional five years of supervised release upon completion of their sentences. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KLKN-ABC (Lincoln, NE): California man sentenced to 12 years in prison by a Lincoln federal court, Nolan Dorn, September 24, 2021, 5:36 PM (EDT)

United States Attorney Jan Sharp announced the sentencing of 45-year old Gilbert Cruz Hernandez of Hemet, California Friday in a federal court in Lincoln. Hernandez will serve a 144 month sentence for possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine. On August 8, 2020, a NSP trooper initially pulled over Hernandez for a traffic violation on I-80 in Lincoln. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOP-CBS (Washington, D.C.): Prince George's Co. man sentenced to 5 years for building 'ghost guns,' distributing drugs, Matthew Delaney, September 24, 2021, 5:24 PM

A man from Prince George's County, Maryland, will serve five years in prison for manufacturing "ghost guns" as well as distributing heroin and cocaine, according to authorities. The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia said that Keith Robert Marshall, 34, of District Heights, built the ghost guns in the basement of his home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJTV-Fox (Lubbock, TX): One of 11 'romance' scammers arrested in Lubbock, charged with mail & wire fraud conspiracy, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:08 PM

A federal grand jury has indicted 11 defendants in the Northern District of Texas for defrauding elderly victims in romance schemes, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Prerak Shah. The 11 defendants, all arrested during a large-scale operation Wednesday morning, are charged with a variety of financial crimes, including conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KAMC-ABC (Lubbock, TX): Man arrested in Lubbock, part of federal crackdown on international fraud case, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:04 PM (EDT)

A man was arrested in Lubbock Wednesday and charged with scamming elderly people out of money, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Justice. Uwadiale Esezobor, 36, was one of 11 people arrested for the scheme. He was charged with mail & wire fraud conspiracy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRON-MyNetwork (San Francisco, CA): Afghan evacuee accused of sexually assaulting children at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, Fernie Ortiz, September 24, 2021, 4:40 PM (EDT)

Two Afghan evacuees face criminal charges stemming from separate incidents at Fort McCoy in western Wisconsin, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin announced Wednesday. Bahrullah Noori, 20, is accused of using force to engage in a sexual act with a minor. He also faces three counts of engaging in a sexual act with a minor, one of which also alleges the use of force. The U.S. Attorney's Office said all of the accusers were younger than 16, and all were at least four years younger than Noori. In a separate incident, Mohammad Haroon Imaad, 32, allegedly strangled and suffocated his spouse on Sept. 7. He's charged with assault. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KGTV-ABC (San Diego, CA): Lakeside man sentenced to 10 years in prison for holding 3 people hostage, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 4:37 PM

A Lakeside man who held three people hostage at his home was sentenced Friday to 10 years in federal prison. Joseph Anthony Martino, 47, pleaded guilty last year to charges of kidnapping and being a felon in possession of a firearm for confining the three victims at gunpoint at his home on April 1, 2019. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): Hamburg man gets 30 years in prison for producing child pornography, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 4:20 PM

A Hamburg man learned his fate Friday for his conviction to a charge of production of child pornography. U.S. District Court Judge Frank Geraci, Jr. sentenced Robert Chapline, 61, to 30 years in prison. The U.S. Attorney's office says between February of 2016 and October of 2017, Chapline coerced a minor took pictures of the victim getting out of a shower and then posing in a bedroom. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WIAT-CBS (Birmingham, AL): Anniston man to spend 3 years in prison for illegally possessing guns as a felon, Tanner Brooks, September 24, 2021, 4:09 PM (EDT)

On Friday, an Anniston man was sentenced to three years in prison for being a felon in possession of guns. Jack David “Jackie” Stovall II, 73, pleaded guilty to the charge back in July and was also fined \$40,000. In addition to his sentence, he will have three years of supervised release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBW-CBS (Topeka, KS): 15 charged for conspiracy to distribute cocaine, Sarah Motter, September 24, 2021, 4:06 PM (EDT)

Homeland Security and Drug Enforcement Agency Officers have stopped at least 11 pounds of cocaine from hitting Kansas City streets. Acting U.S. Attorney’s Duston Slinkard’s Office says a federal grand jury in Kansas City indicted 15 people with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five kilograms (over 11 pounds) or more of cocaine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTU-Fox (Salt Lake City, UT): Utahn accused in Capitol riot asks judge to suppress his interview with FBI, Nate Carlisle, September 24, 2021, 2:24 PM

A Utah man accused of crimes at the U.S. Capitol insurrection in January says an FBI agent didn’t read him his rights. A lawyer for John E. Sullivan filed a motion Thursday asking a judge to suppress his client’s Jan. 11 interview with the FBI agent in Salt Lake City. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Court indicates it may wait to rule on Georgia abortion law, Kate Brumback, September 25, 2021, 9:06 AM

A federal appeals court seemed to indicate Friday that it would wait until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case that seeks to overturn its landmark decision guaranteeing a woman’s right to an abortion before ruling on the appeal of a lower court’s ruling blocking a restrictive Georgia abortion law. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear arguments in December on an attempt by Mississippi to overturn the high court’s decision in Roe v. Wade, which affirmed the right to an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Second Tennessee judge blocks Gov. Lee’s mask opt-out, Kimberlee Kruesi, September 24, 2021, 2:13 PM

A federal judge on Friday handed down a second blow to Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee’s contentious order allowing parents to opt out of school mask requirements, ruling that Knox County Schools must implement a mask mandate to help protect children with health problems amid the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer’s decision also blocks Lee’s order from being implemented while the legal battle continues to move its way through court. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WDEF-CBS \(Chattanooga, TN\)](#)

NYT: Former Louisiana Trooper Faces Federal Civil Rights Charge, Derrick Bryson Taylor, September 24, 2021, 2:30 PM

A federal grand jury indicted a former Louisiana state trooper on Thursday on a federal civil rights violation, finding that he repeatedly clubbed a Black man with a flashlight during a traffic stop that was recorded by his body camera. The former trooper, Jacob Brown, 31, was charged with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, the U.S. attorney’s office for the Western District of Louisiana said in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KDKA-CBS (Pittsburgh, PA): Former Jail Guard Accused Of Violating Inmate's Civil Rights, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 8:45 AM

A former corrections officer who fought with an inmate who tossed a banana peel at him has been charged with violating the inmates civil rights, according to federal prosecutors. The charge filed Thursday stems from an October 2018 brawl at the Cuyahoga County Jail in Cleveland that lasted for seven minutes and was captured on surveillance footage. Prosecutors said the guard John McCloud, 28, of Parma told supervisors that he blacked out when he fought and wrestled with the inmate, whose name has not been released. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): U.S. Appeals Court judges say Mississippi's Supreme Court abortion case could influence Georgia abortion case, Hayley Mason, September 24, 2021, 7:37 PM

The U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit heard oral arguments Friday morning in the lawsuit over Georgia's six-week abortion ban. The law passed the Georgia legislature in 2019 and was signed into law, slated to take effect January 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

AP: Jury orders city of Roy to pay \$3.26M to men shot by police, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 12:06 PM (EDT)

A federal jury has awarded two men who live south of Tacoma a total of \$3.26 million for injuries suffered when they were shot by one of the town of Roy's two police officers during a drunken joy ride in a 2019 snowstorm. The verdict is one of the largest reached in the Western District of Washington involving a nonfatal police shooting, The Seattle Times reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: SEC Sues UK Father And Son, 2 Others In Microcap Scam, Katryna Perera, September 24, 2021 6:49 PM

The U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed two separate complaints in New York federal court on Thursday alleging that four individuals and five entities ran a fraudulent transatlantic microcap scheme that generated more than \$10 million in unlawful stock sales. The complaints were filed against three U.K. residents, one U.S. resident and five entities that are based around the world. In one of the complaints, the SEC alleges that a father son duo from the U. K. illegally disguised their control of publicly traded companies in the U. S. and through their control engineered a "pump-and-dump" scheme of their stocks. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Texas migrant camp empty, Haitians await word on their fate, Maria Verza and Juan Lozano, September 25, 2021, 12:59 AM

No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people most of them Haitians huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum. Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Mayorkas says Haitian migrants under Del Rio bridge were not tested for COVID-19, Adam Shaw, September 24, 2021, 7:01 PM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Friday told reporters that the nearly 15,000 migrants who were camped out under the Del Rio bridge in squalid conditions last week were not

tested for COVID-19, and he does not know if anyone got sick with the contagious virus while there. Mayorkas was asked about the Biden administration's use of Title 42 public health protections that are deployed to quickly expel migrants who have come to the border, using the COVID-19 pandemic as a rationale. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Bisexual Libyan Gets New Hearing to Argue He Should Stay in U.S.,

Bernie Pazanowski, September 24, 2021, 3:05 PM

A bisexual Libyan who converted to Christianity is entitled to a new hearing to determine whether he can stay in the U.S. under the Convention Against Torture, the Fifth Circuit said Friday. Muntaser Abushagif requested asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under CAT in 2011, saying he'd be tortured if he was returned to Libya. The Board of Immigration Appeals denied the request. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: Numbers game: 10,000 Del Rio migrants processed — leaked figures show how many were released,

Anna Giaritelli, September 24, 2021 8:45 PM

More than 10,000 migrants who were camped under a bridge have been processed by Border Patrol agents since last Saturday as the Biden administration moves to clear out the site, the Washington Examiner has learned. As of 5 p.m. local time Friday, 10,000 people who waded across the Rio Grande from Acuna, Mexico, to Del Rio have had their information entered into Border Patrol's tracking system over the past seven days, according to data reviewed by the Washington Examiner on Friday evening. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOLD-CBS (Tucson, AZ): Texas migrant camp empty, Haitians await word on their fate,

Maria Vera and Juan Lozano, September 25, 2021, 2:37 AM

No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people most of them Haitians huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum. Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Law360: 'Nontraditional Questions' Appearing In FTC Merger Probes,

Bryan Koenig, September 24, 2021, 9:44 PM

In at least some merger probes the Federal Trade Commission appears in recent months to have started asking questions that antitrust attorneys say they've never fielded before, including queries about unionization at the merging companies, environmental issues and corporate governance practices. Vinson & Elkins LLP antitrust practice chair Darren Tucker first cast light on the new lines of questioning during the FTC's Sept. 15 open meeting, telling the commissioners that "in an increasing number of FTC merger investigations," staffers have sought information about how the deals would impact unionization, franchising and environmental, social and governance, or ESG, issues. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: QVC Ducks Antitrust Claim In Suzanne Somers Diet Pill Row,

Matt Fair, September 24, 2021, 6:57 PM

A Pennsylvania federal judge has nixed a claim alleging antitrust violations on the part of QVC Inc. as part of a broader lawsuit from actress and entrepreneur Suzanne Somers accusing the home shopping giant of scheming to freeze her out of the market for nutritional supplements. U.S. District Judge Chad Kenney ruled Thursday that Somers and her company, SLC Sweet Inc., had failed to show that the so-called direct response television programming market allegedly

monopolized by QVC offered a singularly unique means to reach potential customers that other retailers, such as brick-and-mortar stores, did not provide. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) .

ENVIRONMENT

*Bloomberg Law: **Chevron, Dow Among Entities Sued by California Over Landfill***, David McAfee, September 24, 2021, 5:58 PM

Chevron USA Inc., Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and other major companies engaging in hazardous waste treatment were hit with a lawsuit in federal court in California Friday by the state's Department of Toxic Substances Control, which alleges it is owed fees for the cleanup of a landfill in Contra Costa County. The agency's civil action also names Dow Chemical Co., Shell Oil Co., and several others. It seeks recovery of response costs at the Vine Hill Complex landfill in Martinez, Calif. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

*Bloomberg Law: **EPA Sued Over Decision Allowing Farm Use of Herbicide Paraquat***, Stephen Lee, September 24, 2021, 3:38 PM

A coalition of environmentalists and farmworker groups sued the EPA in a California federal court on Friday over its July decision to let farmers keep using the pesticide paraquat. That decision wasn't supported by substantial evidence and contravenes the Environmental Protection Agency's obligations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, according to Jonathan Kalmuss-Katz, a senior attorney at the environmental law firm Earthjustice, which filed the petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

*MLive Media Group (Grand Rapids, MI): **West Branch man gets 30 months in federal prison on tax convictions***, Cole Waterman, September 25, 2021, 9:56 AM (EDT)

A West Branch man has been sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for filing false tax returns and aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns. Sentenced was Christopher Fratine, 53, who pleaded guilty in July 2019 to five counts of making a false tax return and four counts of aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns before U.S. District Judge Thomas L. Ludington in Bay City. Sentencing was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

*Law360: **Virginia Doctor Pleads Guilty In \$1.8M Rx Fraud Scheme***, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 9:10 PM

A Washington-area physician has admitted participating in a "fraud scheme" to prescribe pain and scar creams in order to receive a kickback from a pharmacist, defrauding health insurance programs out of \$1.8 million, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said Friday. Leonard Rosen, a 72-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Manassas, Virginia, entered a pre-indictment guilty plea for his role in the seven-figure scam, a spokesperson with the U. S. Department of Justice told Law360. A criminal complaint was unavailable on Friday, but the spokesperson said Rosen faces one count of health care fraud. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

*CNN: **More than 190 fugitives arrested in New Jersey operation dubbed 'Clean Sweep'***,

Alaa Elassar, September 25, 2021, 6:07 AM

A multi-agency law enforcement operation in New Jersey resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, according to the US Marshals Service. Operation "Clean Sweep" focused on capturing some of the state's "most violent offenders," including gang members, sex offenders, and violent criminals, US Marshals said in a news release on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: **FBI agents question Afghan rescue groups**, Lara Seligman, Betsy Woodruff Swan, Erin Banco, and Alexander Ward, September 24, 2021, 2:37 PM

The FBI has been reaching out to members of the veterans' groups working to evacuate American citizens and at-risk Afghans and inquiring about their activities, in at least one case visiting a group leader at his home. Agents have visited, emailed and called members of Task Force Pineapple and Task Force Dunkirk, two of the more prominent organizations, and other groups with a host of queries. The Bureau has asked groups about financial records, to provide manifests and make sure no federal laws are violated, according to eight group members and congressional aides familiar with the moves. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Sioux City Journal (Sioux City, IA): **Dakota County readies for jail expansion**, Nick Hytrek, September 25, 2021, 12:55 PM

Dakota County is nearing launch of a second phase of jail construction the county's sheriff says will be entirely funded with money received for housing an increased number of federal prisoners. The 112-bed addition will raise the jail's capacity to 248 beds and require the addition of 16 or 17 jailers whose salaries also will be offset by payments from the U.S. Marshals Service, which has contracted with Dakota County to pay an increased daily rate per inmate that will nearly double in the immediate months after the jail expansion opens. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Farmington Daily Times (Farmington, NM): **FBI arrests man identified in Sept. 23 Amber Alert for firearm charges**, Joshua Kellogg, September 25, 2021, 7:13 AM (EDT)

The man who was identified in a Sept. 23 Amber Alert for allegedly taking his four children during a domestic dispute was arrested by federal agents on firearm-related charges. Rinaldo Peshlakai, 41, of Rock Springs was arrested by FBI special agents on Sept. 24 in Gallup, according to an FBI news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): **ATF helping with investigation into weapon used in Collierville Kroger shooting**, by: Jessica Gertler, September 24, 2021, 9:12 PM (EDT)

Many questions remain about the gunman in the Collierville Kroger shooting, including what gun he used and where he got it. WREG is looking into what happens with the evidence law enforcement collects and what information can they actually get. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAS-NBC (Fort Worth, TX): **Acting Director of the ATF and Fort Worth Native Shares His Journey With Hometown Students**, Vince Sims, September 24, 2021, 5:43 PM

Marvin Richardson is the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Friday, he spoke with students that are part of the My Brother's Keeper program at Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. His office may be in Washington, D.C. but Fort Worth is home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPDE-ABC/CW (Florence, SC): **FBI launches hate crime reporting campaign in SC**, Heath Ellison, September 24, 2021, 4:46 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently launched a hate crime reporting campaign in South

Carolina. The advertising blitz is attempting to encourage residents to report hate crimes to law enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS/MyNetworkTV (St. Louis, MO): Sex offender dresses up as doctor, escapes mental hospital, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 1:02 AM (EDT)

A dangerous sex offender is on the loose and U.S. Marshals across the Midwest are looking for him after he managed to slip out of a mental hospital. John Colt dressed as a doctor and walked out of a facility that's west of Wichita, Kansas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Government: Dylann Roof's death sentence should stand, Meg Kinnard, September 25, 2021, 10:33 AM

Attorneys for the federal government have opposed Dylann Roof's request for a new appellate hearing, arguing that the South Carolina man was properly convicted and sentenced for the 2015 racist slayings of nine members of a Black congregation. In court documents filed Thursday, federal prosecutors argued that a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals correctly ruled last month that the government had proven its case against Roof, despite his protestations on several points. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Lawyers to urge no restrictions for Reagan shooter Hinckley, Ben Finley, September 25, 2021, 9:07 AM

Lawyers for John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, are scheduled to argue in court Monday that the 66-year-old should be freed from restrictions placed on him after he moved out of a Washington hospital in 2016. Since Hinckley's move to Williamsburg, Virginia, a federal judge has made him live under various conditions that dictate much of his life. For instance, doctors and therapists must oversee his psychiatric medication and decide how often he attends individual and group therapy sessions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: A champion of COVID-19 vaccines, Newsom fights plan to mandate them for prison guards, Richard Winton, September 25, 2021, 3:36 PM (EDT)

Seeking a vaccine mandate for all state prison guards and staff, a federal court-appointed receiver overseeing the medical care of California's prisons argued Friday that there have been 11 coronavirus-related deaths since August among corrections employees who were not fully vaccinated and outbreaks at 21 prisons. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

BuzzFeed: Republican Lawmakers Are Pressing Ahead With Anti-Abortion Laws, With Or Without The Supreme Court's Help, Zoe Tillman and Kadia Goba, September 24, 2021, 4:31 PM (EDT)

A two-year fight over the constitutionality of Georgia's six-week abortion ban finally reached a federal appeals court on Friday. But a judge kicked off arguments by asking if the court should put the case on hold and wait to see what the US Supreme Court does in another abortion case that's before the justices now. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Oklahoma court lifts stays in 2 McGirt-related decisions, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 1:08 PM

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday lifted stays in two cases it overturned based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on tribal lands by non-American Indians against Native Americans. The court lifted stays of its previous reversals of the murder conviction of Shawn McDaniel and the child neglect conviction of Victor Castro-Huerta. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Daily Ardmoreite (Ardmore, OK): **[Opinion] Guest column: Marijuana prohibition re-established in Chickasaw nation**, Jason May, September 25, 2021, 12:43 PM (EDT)

As the fallout from the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* continues to be felt in our community, one unforeseen consequence is what amounts to the reversal of State Question 788 as it relates to Indians within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. Post-McGirt, the state of Oklahoma does not have jurisdiction to prosecute members of any federally-recognized Indian tribe for crimes that occur within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Great Falls Tribune (Helena, MT): **Fort Belknap Indian Community selected to help improve National Crime Information databases**, Nora Mabie, September 24, 2021, 3:23 PM (EDT)

The Fort Belknap Indian Community was among 12 tribes selected by the Department of Justice to participate in the expansion of the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information. The program supports tribal governments in accessing, entering and exchanging data with national crime information systems, including systems maintained by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Rolling Stone: **How One Weed Company Is Skirting Marijuana Rules to Sell THC Products in All 50 States**, Mary Jane Gibson, September 25, 2021, 9:41 AM

Last month, Wisconsin-based company LiftedMade launched a new kind of weed product: a THC-infused flavor-popping crystal candy, called Urb Rocks. Like most other THC products, it will get you high. Unlike other products, though, the THC in Urb Rocks is sourced from hemp, which means it's technically legal for sale in most states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Cannabis Bill Roundup: House OKs SAFE Act In Defense Bill**, Sam Reisman, September 24, 2021, 8:40 PM

The U.S. House of Representatives once again passed cannabis banking legislation, this time as part of a must-pass defense package, while Mississippi lawmakers announced that they had a deal for legalizing medical marijuana. Here are the major developments in cannabis reform policy from the past week. On Capitol Hill, the House on Thursday approved a \$768.1 billion defense policy and budget bill for 2022, which includes an amendment put forth by Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D.-Colo., inserting the SAFE Banking Act, a bill to open up financial institutions to the cannabis industry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

The Hill: Harris says images of Border Patrol on horseback evoked 'times of slavery', Cameron Jenkins, September 25, 2021, 8:28 AM EDT

Vice President Harris on Friday further condemned the actions of Border Patrol agents on horseback who appeared to use reins to threaten Haitian migrants, comparing the incident to "times of slavery." Harris made her comments during an appearance on ABC's "The View," describing how the imagery, which circulated widely on social media, reminded her of tactics "used against the Indigenous people of our country" and "used against African Americans during times of slavery." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law 360: Biden Taps Migrant Advocate To Helm ICE's Prosecution Arm, Mike LaSusa, September 24, 2021, 5:02 PM

President Joe Biden has appointed a longtime immigrant rights lawyer at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's new top prosecutor, the agency confirmed to Law360 on Friday. Kerry Doyle, a Massachusetts-based attorney with decades of experience defending immigrants from enforcement actions, will head ICE's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, which represents the agency when it moves to deport people. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

AP: Congress, court pressure New York City to fix jails crisis, Michael R. Sisak, September 24, 2021, 5:58 PM

New York City faced mounting pressure Friday to solve its spiraling jail crisis, with members of Congress calling for a federal civil rights investigation and a court-appointed monitor blasting the city for a failure of leadership amid staggering violence, self-harm and the deaths this year of at least 12 inmates. U.S. District Judge Laura Swain, overseeing a jail consent decree, said on an emergency conference call Friday that the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex is "clearly in a state of danger and crisis." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

Washington Times: Rep. Ted Lieu leads effort to scrap Department of Justice's investigations into Chinese influence, Ryan Lovelace, September 24, 2021, 5:40 PM

Rep. Ted Lieu, California Democrat, is leading an effort to undermine the federal government's investigations of Chinese influence over scientists, researchers, and others engaged in alleged economic espionage. Mr. Lieu believes such investigations are racially biased against Chinese Americans and must be stopped. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The CDC has approved administering Pfizer booster shots to eligible Americans, including individuals 65 y/o and older, long-term care facility residents, individuals 18 and older with underlying medical conditions, and frontline workers whose jobs put them at higher risks.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky defended her decision to include frontline workers including teachers, and people who work in childcare, grocery stores, and healthcare.

[[ABC-1](#), [ABC-2](#) [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

- UK Thang has been identified as the gunman involved in the deadly Kroger supermarket shooting in Tennessee. Thang had previously done business with the grocery store as a third-party vendor. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The migrant camp on the border of Del Rio, Texas, has been cleared out. Some migrants were sent back to Haiti, while others will remain in the US for their asylum cases to be heard. President Biden stated the Border Agents who violently confronted migrants “will pay” while Homeland Security Secretary said he would wait for an investigation. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The search for Brian Laundrie continues, as a federal warrant was issued for separate credit card charges. The Petito case has brought up other missing person cases that have been overlooked because they are from minority communities. Ms. Petito’s funeral is scheduled for this Sunday. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Evacuation orders have been issued for wildfires in California, most recently with the Fawn Fire located north of Redding. Alexandra Souverneva has been charged with arson and a special allegation for starting multiple fires during a state of emergency. In addition, charges have been filed against Pacific Gas and Electric for its role in a fire that killed four people last year. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- President Biden is facing pressure over his infrastructure bill as his poll numbers fall. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is bringing the bipartisan Infrastructure bill to the floor for a vote on Monday, while the other costlier economic package will be brought to a vote later this week. Unfortunately, progressive and moderate lawmakers are still at odds on the cost of the Economic Package and may not find any resolutions. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- The results of a Republican-led election audit in Arizona have confirmed that President Biden won by an even more significant margin. Democrats have called the audit useless, ridiculous, and a waste of time. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- Eight people have been arrested and face criminal charges in the death of Virginia Commonwealth University student Adam Oakes. Oakes died of alcohol poisoning after a night of hazing at the Delta Chi Fraternity. [[CBS](#)]
- Several storm systems are developing in the Atlantic region. Hurricane Sam is expected to strengthen to Category 4. Subtropical storm Teresa formed north of Bermuda in the

Atlantic Ocean with 45 mph winds and is being watched for further developments. [\[NBC\]](#)

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- “Stablecoins in Spotlight as U.S. Begins to Lay Ground for Rules on Cryptocurrencies” [\[WSJ\]](#)
- “To Get Back Arrested Executive, China Uses a Hardball Tactic: Seizing Foreigners” [\[NYT\]](#)
- “Changes in booster shot guidance leads to confusion, chaos for doctors and the vaccinated” [\[WaPo\]](#)
- “California to offer COVID booster shots for teachers, healthcare workers, seniors” [\[LAT\]](#)

END

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**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
September 25, 2021
2:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
US Attorneys
3.
National Security
4.
Criminal Law
5.
Civil Rights
6.
Civil Law
7.
Immigration & Border Security
8.
Antitrust

9. Environment
10. Tax
11. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
12. Criminal Justice/Corrections
13. US Supreme Court
14. Native American Affairs
15. Marijuana Legalization
16. Administration
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Afternoon Headlines

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: Canadians home after Huawei CFO resolves US charges, Rob Gillies, September 25, 2021, 8:38 AM

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hugged two Canadians who landed in Canada on Saturday following what amounted to a high-stakes prisoner swap involving China, the U.S. and Canada. Trudeau greeted Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor after their plane landed in Calgary, Alberta early Saturday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Canadians released after Huawei CFO resolves US charges, Eric Tucker, Jim Mustian, and Rob Gillies, September 25, 2021, 1:08 AM

Two Canadians detained in China on spying charges were released from prison and flown out of the country on Friday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, just after a top executive of Chinese communications giant Huawei Technologies reached a deal with the U.S. Justice Department

over fraud charges and flew to China. The frenetic chain of events involving the global powers brought an abrupt end to legal and geopolitical wrangling that for the past three years has roiled relations between Washington, Beijing and Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [Reuters](#), [Politico](#), [Newsweek](#), [WSJ](#), [Washington Examiner](#),

WaPo: Meng Wanzhou can return to China, admits helping Huawei conceal dealings in Iran, Shayna Jacobs and Amanda Coletta, September 24, 2021, 9:43 PM

Meng Wanzhou, a top Huawei Technologies executive detained for nearly three years in Canada, can return home to China after striking a deal with U.S. Justice Department officials in which she acknowledged helping to conceal the company's direct dealings in Iran, which violated U.S. sanctions. While Meng admitted illegal conduct to satisfy the terms of the agreement, she did not have to plead guilty as part of the deferred prosecution agreement. Her criminal case and detention have had major geopolitical implications, further souring relations between Beijing and both Washington and Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [BBC](#), [CNET](#), [FT](#)

Bloomberg Law: [PODCAST] What's Happening in the Boston Marathon Bomber Case?

Jordan S. Rubin, September 24, 2021, 3:36 PM

When Supreme Court justices return to the courtroom for the new term in October, they'll consider the government's quest to reinstate Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's death sentences. The court will hear arguments on Oct. 13 about pretrial publicity and mitigating evidence, as the justices decide whether to reverse an appeals court ruling that vacated Tsarnaev's sentences for the 2013 bombing that killed three people and injured hundreds more. Attorney General Merrick Garland imposed an execution moratorium this past summer, raising the question of how that will play into the case, if at all. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): Indiana to receive \$3.5M from DOJ for anti-crime initiatives, Jacey Crawford, September 24, 2021, 8:58 PM

Indiana is set to receive over \$3.5 million from the Department of Justice to support community safety efforts, the DOJ announced Friday. Indianapolis will receive just over \$1 million of the grant. Several other cities and counties across the state will receive portions of the funds, as well. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

WTOP-CBS (Washington, DC): US Senate panel advances Barron's nomination for US attorney in Md, Danielle E. Gaines, September 25, 2021, 9:46 AM

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee voted on Thursday to advance President Biden's first slate of U.S. attorney nominees, including Del. Erik Barron (D-Prince George's), who is nominated to the post in Maryland. A vote by the entire U.S. Senate is expected in the next few weeks. If confirmed, Barron, 47, would be the first Black U.S. attorney in Maryland's history. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

USA Today: Trump supporter who took House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's beer at Capitol riot pleads guilty, Nolan Clay, September 24, 2021, 5:20 PM

During the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, Trump supporter Andrew Craig Ericson plopped his feet up on a table inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's conference room and posed for a photo. He then

took a "selfie" and posted both on Snapchat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Illinois man ran business telling clients how to launch computer attacks: DOJ,

Brooke Crothers, September 25, 2021, 7: 51 AM

An Illinois man ran a successful computer takedown service until the feds stepped in. The man, Matthew Gatrel, 32, of St. Charles, was found guilty by a federal jury for running websites that "allowed paying users" to launch distributed denial of service, or DDoS, attacks, according to the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Justice Department unseals Capitol riot charges against FreedomWorks

organizer, Hannah Rabinowitz, September 24, 2021, 3:19 PM

The Justice Department unsealed charges on Thursday against an organizer from the conservative advocacy group FreedomWorks for his alleged role in the January 6 insurrection. Brandon Prenzlin was charged last week with four federal misdemeanors for what prosecutors say was just over three minutes inside the Capitol. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Portland Press Herald, (Portland, ME): Federal judge again denies release for Mainer charged in Capitol riot, Megan Gray, September 24, 2021, 6:01 PM

A judge has again denied release to a Lebanon man who is facing federal charges stemming from his participation in the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol. Kyle Fitzsimons, 37, is one of more than 600 people who have been charged in connection with the Jan. 6 insurrection. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Treasure Coast Newspapers (Port St. Lucie, FL): 'America was not great on that day': Fort Pierce man negotiates plea deal in Jan. 6 Capitol riot case, Corey Arwood, September 24, 2021, 4:55 PM

A U.S. District Court judge for the District of Columbia said a Fort Pierce man "disgraced this country in the eyes of the world" during a Friday hearing in which he pleaded guilty to one of five charges related to his involvement in the Jan. 6 riot on the Capitol. Anthony "Tony" Mariotto documented his time inside the U.S. Capitol in selfies and cell phone video. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Georgia probation officer pleads guilty to faking records, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 11:24 AM

A probation officer for the federal court system in Georgia has pleaded guilty to creating false records while on the job. Court records show Enoch Eller Jr. of Augusta pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to making false statements. Prosecutors say 47-year-old Eller, a probation officer for the federal court in the Southern District of Georgia, falsely documented drug testing and other personal contacts with criminal defendants awaiting trial that he never performed. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Federal judge dismisses execution lawsuit in Alabama, reprimands AG's office, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 12:21 AM (EDT)

A federal judge on Friday paved the way for Alabama to proceed with a lethal injection next month, but also reprimanded the state attorney general's office for giving false information to the court during the litigation centered on forms given to death row inmates for selecting an execution

method. Chief U.S. District Judge Emily C. Marks dismissed a lawsuit that argued the state failed to give Willie Smith, who has an IQ below 75, required help under the Americans with Disabilities Act in filling out forms that affected the timing of his execution.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WUAL-NPR \(Tuscaloosa, AL\)](#)

AP: Ex-California pastor gets 14 years after \$33M fraud scheme, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 10:30 PM

A former Southern California pastor was sentenced Friday to 14 years in federal prison for masterminding a church-based investment scheme that bilked hundreds of victims of more than \$33 million. The former pastor of the Westminster-based Church for the Healthy Self, Kent R.E. Whitney, was ordered to pay more than \$22 million in restitution. He pleaded guilty last year to mail fraud and filing a false federal income tax return. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Ex-New England mob boss loses appeal of conviction for 1993 murder, Nate Raymond, September 24, 2021, 8:35 PM

A federal appeals court on Friday upheld the conviction of an octogenarian former New England mob boss sentenced to life in prison for the 1993 murder of a nightclub owner whose remains were discovered in Rhode Island five years ago. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Former WA employee charged with stealing unemployment funds, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 7:14 PM

Authorities say a former employee with the state Employment Security Department was arrested Friday and charged with defrauding the government of at least \$360,000 in jobless benefits. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle said Friday that Reyes De La Cruz, III, 47, of Moses Lake is "alleged to have personally enriched himself by at least \$130,000 " and to have helped others fraudulently obtain tens of thousands of dollars in benefits. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NPR: The Elizabeth Holmes Trial Sparks A Silicon Valley Debate: Why Not Other Tech CEOs? Bobby Allyn, September 25, 2021, 7:07 AM

Selling an idea in Silicon Valley takes not only a grand vision but also swagger and bluster, says Margaret O'Mara, a historian of the tech industry. "Being able to tell a good story is part of being a successful founder, being able to persuade investors to put money into your company," she said. And Elizabeth Holmes, the former CEO of Theranos, did just that. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: Trump supporter who took House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's beer at Capitol riot pleads guilty, Nolan Clay, September 24, 2021, 5:20 PM

During the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, Trump supporter Andrew Craig Ericson plopped his feet up on a table inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's conference room and posed for a photo. He then took a "selfie" and posted both on Snapchat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: Among Those Who Marched Into the Capitol on Jan. 6: An F.B.I. Informant, Alan Feuer and Adam Goldman, September 25, 2021, 5:00 AM

As scores of Proud Boys made their way, chanting and shouting, toward the Capitol on Jan. 6, one member of the far-right group was busy texting a real-time account of the march. The recipient was his F.B.I. handler. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Jurors in R. Kelly federal trial are done for the day after deliberating for about four hours, Sonia Moghe, September 24, 2021, 6:22 PM

Jurors on Friday began their deliberations in R. Kelly's federal trial in Brooklyn, where he faces racketeering and sex trafficking charges. The jury deliberated about four hours in the afternoon before the case was adjourned until Monday. Before leaving for the day, they sent a note saying, "We the jurors have not reached a verdict." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Chicago Tribune](#)

The Independent (New York City, NY): **Man jailed for suffocating ex-girlfriend to death in suitcase he abandoned by roadside**, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 9:45 AM (EDT)

A man who tied up his ex-girlfriend inside a suitcase and left her to suffocate to death by the side of a road in Connecticut has been sentenced to 30 years in prison. Javier Da Silva Rojas, 26, from Queens, New York, pled guilty last year to one count of kidnapping resulting in death for his savage attack on 24-year-old Valerie Reyes, a book shop worker and aspiring tattoo artist. At a sentencing hearing in White Plains on Thursday, Ms Reyes' mother Norma Sanchez called Da Silva a "selfish, greedy and soulless person" who "deserve[s] nothing but pain and rejection".

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Virginia Doctor Pleads Guilty In \$1.8M Rx Fraud Scheme**, Jonathan Capriel, September 24, 2021, 9:10 PM

A Washington-area physician has admitted participating in a "fraud scheme" to prescribe pain and scar creams in order to receive a kickback from a pharmacist, defrauding health insurance programs out of \$1.8 million, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said Friday. Leonard Rosen, a 72-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Manassas, Virginia, entered a pre-indictment guilty plea for his role in the seven-figure scam, a spokesperson with the U.S. Department of Justice told Law360. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Cousin Of Ticket Fraudster Avoids Prison For Role In Scam**, Pete Brush, September 24, 2021, 3:07 PM

A Manhattan federal judge on Friday sentenced a former compliance professional to a year of home confinement for using a sports and theater ticket resale business to funnel money away from its investors and toward his now-incarcerated cousin. U.S. District Judge Ronnie Abrams allowed defendant James "J" Siniscalchi, 48, to avoid prison but hit him with a \$10,000 fine and directed him to make \$1.9 million of restitution and complete 100 hours of community service.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

MLive Media Group (Grand Rapids, MI): **Woman sentenced to 5 years in prison for delivering heroin that killed advocate**, Mitchell Kukulka, September 25, 2021, 9:18 AM (EDT)

Tears came from both sides of the courtroom as a Jackson County woman was sentenced for delivering the drugs that killed a local advocate for addicts. Melissa Simons, 36, was sentenced 5 to 20 years in prison by Jackson Circuit Judge John McBain on Sept. 22. Simons pleaded guilty to the charge of delivery of controlled substance less than 50 grams on Oct. 15, 2019. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, AR): **Guilty on all counts: Federal jury convicts Danville man in racketeering case tied to Arkansas-based white supremacy gang**, Dale Ellis, September 25, 2021, 5:31 AM (EDT)

A Danville man accused of racketeering and drug-trafficking conspiracy in a federal investigation of a violent Pope County white-supremacist gang was convicted Friday on all counts. The verdict closes out the six-year investigation that resulted in convictions for 54 defendants. The jury of seven men and five women began deliberations about 9:15 a.m. Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Dayton Daily News (Dayton, OH): **New vaccine policy issued for Dayton federal courthouse employees, visitors**, Parker Perry, September 25, 2021, 3:26 AM

A new order will require employees of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio to submit verification that they are vaccinated or be required to get tested for the COVID-19 virus twice a week. Unvaccinated employees will also be required to wear a mask at all times in the courthouse and maintain social distance from others. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Idaho State Journal (Pocatello, ID): **Three local residents sentenced in federal court in methamphetamine distribution case**, September 25, 2021, 12:45 AM (EDT)

Jesse Kirby, 45, Trevor Van Horn, 31, and Debra Trujillo, 63, all of Idaho Falls, were sentenced to federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced Friday. Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill sentenced Kirby to 110 months imprisonment, Van Horn to 100 months imprisonment, and Trujillo to 96 months imprisonment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Anchorage Daily News, Media (Anchorage, AK): **State of Alaska employee arrested on charges of possessing child pornography**, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 10:51 PM (EDT)

The FBI arrested an Eagle River man and state of Alaska employee who they say possessed and accessed child pornography, the agency said Friday. John Daniel Brooks, 51, told investigators that he had more than 1,000 images and videos of child pornography on the hard drive attached to his work computer, according to charging documents filed in U.S. District Court in Anchorage on Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tampa Bay Times (Saint Petersburg, FL): **Tampa woman accused of trying to hire hitman to kill spouse of former flame**, Amy Gehrt, September 24, 2021, 11:10 PM (EDT)

A 50-year-old accountant from Tampa has been arrested after authorities say she tried to arrange a hit on the spouse of her former lover on the dark web, according to federal authorities. DeAnna Marie Stinson created an account June 24 on a website on the dark web that claimed to offer murder-for-hire services, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tampa. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Greater New Milford Spectrum (Danbury, CT): **Meriden man sentenced to 6 years in prison for trafficking heroin from Bridgeport stores**, Liz Hardaway, September 24, 2021, 9:30 PM (EDT)

A Meriden man was sentenced to more than six years in prison for trafficking heroin in Bridgeport storefronts, according to Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard Boyle. An investigation into Meriden resident Eddy Antonio Torres Morel, 51, revealed he was trafficking narcotics from two stores, Big Daddy's Deli and Jamal's Market, on East Main Street in Bridgeport, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Shelton Herald (Sheldon, CT): **Shelton doctor arrested for fraudulent prescriptions of Xanax, Adderall, feds say**, Liz Hardway, September 24, 2021, 9:30 AM

A Shelton doctor was arrested Friday after allegedly illegally distributing prescription medication, according to Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard Boyle. Law enforcement have been investigating Trumbull resident Dr. David Ciancimino, 62, since October 2020. Ciancimino practiced psychiatry and neurology from an office on Corporate Drive in Shelton. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Spokesman-Review (Spokane, WA): **Richland man who was extradited from Kazakhstan pleads guilty to child pornography charge**, Kip Hill, September 24, 2021, 9:00 PM

A Richland man who was working abroad in Kazakhstan when federal authorities found hundreds of sexually explicit images and videos of minors in his home pleaded guilty Thursday to a child pornography charge. Trent Drexel Howard, 50, is in custody of the Benton County Jail pending a sentencing hearing in January. [[Continue Reading](#)]

City News Service (Los Angeles, CA): **Lakeside Man Who Held 3 Hostage in His Home Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison**, Unattributed, September 7:00 PM (EDT)

A Lakeside man who held three people hostage at his home was sentenced Friday to 10 years in federal prison. Joseph Anthony Martino, 47, pleaded guilty last year to charges of kidnapping and being a felon in possession of a firearm for confining the three victims at gunpoint at his home on April 1, 2019. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Martino held the victims at gunpoint "in order to confront one of the victims about a personal relationship." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Trussville Tribune (Trussville, AL): **Convicted felon sentenced for illegal firearm possession**, Hannah Caveron, September 24, 2021, 6:53 PM

U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and FBI Special Agent in Charge Johnnie Sharp, Jr. announced a federal judge sentenced a convicted felon for illegally possessing a firearm on Friday, September 24. U.S. District Court Judge Corey L. Maze sentenced Jack David "Jackie" Stovall, II, 73, of Anniston, to 36 months in prison followed by 36 months supervised release for being a felon in possession of a firearm. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Jacksonville Journal-Courier (Jacksonville, IL): **Three Pike men face federal charges of sexual exploitation of a child**, David C.L. Bauer, September 24, 2021, 6:06 PM (EDT)

Three Pike County residents are facing federal charges after being accused of coercing a minor into sexually explicit conduct and recording the act. The indictment in U.S. District Court in Springfield was handed up Sept. 9 but not unsealed until Friday, when the last of the three was arraigned in federal court. The three-count indictment, which is a formal charge by a grand jury and is not proof of guilt, asserts that the three men — Anthony M. Westemeyer, Bobby J. Warner and Michael Wallace, all of Nebo — in May enticed a child to engage in explicit conduct and that it was recorded and stored on a computer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMCH- CBS (Manchester, IA): **Center Point Man Sentenced for Wire Fraud**, Janelle Tucker, September 25, 2021, 7:31 AM (EDT)

A Center Point man has been sentenced for wire fraud. 63-year old Larry Wells was sentenced to five months in federal prison. The U.S. Department of Justice says Wells received nearly \$17,000 in fraudulently obtained CARES Act unemployment funds from the states of Maine and New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJTV-Fox (Lubbock, TX): **Federal officials seek probe into dispute between New York, Seneca Nation over casino pact**, Steve Bittenbender, September 25, 2021, 9:44 AM

The U.S. Department of the Interior has called for an investigation into a long-standing legal battle regarding the gaming compact between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the state of New York, claiming that a \$470 million judgment placed against the tribal nation violates federal laws. In a filing Friday in a federal court in New York, lawyers for the Senecas submitted a copy of a Sept.

15 letter by Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland to E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, who chairs the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAS-NBC (Fort Worth, TX): 35 Indicted in Romance Scheme That Siphoned \$17 Million From Older Adults: DOJ, Unattributed, September 24, 2021 8:14 PM (EDT)

Federal investigators with the Department of Justice say 35 people in North Texas are accused of conducting romance schemes to defraud and steal money from older adult Americans. Officials with the U.S. Attorney's Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas and the FBI announced a multi-year investigation into a wide-ranging criminal enterprise operating out of North Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFMD-Fox (Frederick, MD): Hagerstown Man Charged With Bank Fraud, Kevin McManus September 24, 2021 - 7:17 pm

A Hagerstown man has been charged with making false statements and bank fraud to obtain money from the Payroll Protection Program. A criminal complaint has been filed against Jeffrey Breden, 47. The criminal complaint, which is similar to a grand jury indictment, was signed on September 23rd, 2020, and unsealed upon Breden's arrest on September 23rd, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KIMA-CBS/CW (Yakima, WA): Yakima gang member sentenced to 120 months in Federal prison, Adrian Delgado, September 24, 2021, 7:00 PM (EDT)

Joseph H. Harrington, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Orlando Raul Rodriguez, a/k/a "Toon," age 31, of Yakima, was sentenced Friday, September 24, after having pleaded guilty on June 22, 2021, of brandishing a firearm while committing a crime of violence and for illegal possession of a firearm. United States District Judge Salvador Mendoza, Jr. sentenced Rodriguez to a 120-month term of imprisonment, to be followed by a 3-year term of court supervision after he is released from federal prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMVT-CBS/CW (Twin Falls, ID): Three sentenced in Southeast Idaho Methamphetamine distribution case, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:59 PM (EDT)

Jesse Kirby, 45, Trevor Van Horn, 31, and Debra Trujillo, 63, all of Idaho Falls, were sentenced to federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced Friday. Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill sentenced Kirby to nine years imprisonment, Van Horn to eight years imprisonment, and Trujillo to eight years imprisonment. Kirby, Van Horn, and Trujillo were ordered to serve an additional five years of supervised release upon completion of their sentences. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KLKN-ABC (Lincoln, NE): California man sentenced to 12 years in prison by a Lincoln federal court, Nolan Dorn, September 24, 2021, 5:36 PM (EDT)

United States Attorney Jan Sharp announced the sentencing of 45-year old Gilbert Cruz Hernandez of Hemet, California Friday in a federal court in Lincoln. Hernandez will serve a 144 month sentence for possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine. On August 8, 2020, a NSP trooper initially pulled over Hernandez for a traffic violation on I-80 in Lincoln. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOP-CBS (Washington, D.C.): Prince George's Co. man sentenced to 5 years for building 'ghost guns,' distributing drugs, Matthew Delaney, September 24, 2021, 5:24 PM

A man from Prince George's County, Maryland, will serve five years in prison for manufacturing "ghost guns" as well as distributing heroin and cocaine, according to authorities. The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia said that Keith Robert Marshall, 34, of District Heights, built the ghost guns in the basement of his home. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KJTV-Fox (Lubbock, TX): One of 11 'romance' scammers arrested in Lubbock, charged with mail & wire fraud conspiracy, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:08 PM

A federal grand jury has indicted 11 defendants in the Northern District of Texas for defrauding elderly victims in romance schemes, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Prerak Shah. The 11 defendants, all arrested during a large-scale operation Wednesday morning, are charged with a variety of financial crimes, including conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KAMC-ABC (Lubbock, TX): Man arrested in Lubbock, part of federal crackdown on international fraud case, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:04 PM (EDT)

A man was arrested in Lubbock Wednesday and charged with scamming elderly people out of money, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Justice. Uwadiale Esezobor, 36, was one of 11 people arrested for the scheme. He was charged with mail & wire fraud conspiracy. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KRON-MyNetwork (San Francisco, CA): Afghan evacuee accused of sexually assaulting children at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, Fernie Ortiz, September 24, 2021, 4:40 PM (EDT)

Two Afghan evacuees face criminal charges stemming from separate incidents at Fort McCoy in western Wisconsin, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin announced Wednesday. Bahrullah Noori, 20, is accused of using force to engage in a sexual act with a minor. He also faces three counts of engaging in a sexual act with a minor, one of which also alleges the use of force. The U.S. Attorney's Office said all of the accusers were younger than 16, and all were at least four years younger than Noori. In a separate incident, Mohammad Haroon Imaad, 32, allegedly strangled and suffocated his spouse on Sept. 7. He's charged with assault. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KGTV-ABC (San Diego, CA): Lakeside man sentenced to 10 years in prison for holding 3 people hostage, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 4:37 PM

A Lakeside man who held three people hostage at his home was sentenced Friday to 10 years in federal prison. Joseph Anthony Martino, 47, pleaded guilty last year to charges of kidnapping and being a felon in possession of a firearm for confining the three victims at gunpoint at his home on April 1, 2019. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): Hamburg man gets 30 years in prison for producing child pornography, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 4:20 PM

A Hamburg man learned his fate Friday for his conviction to a charge of production of child pornography. U.S. District Court Judge Frank Geraci, Jr. sentenced Robert Chapline, 61, to 30 years in prison. The U.S. Attorney's office says between February of 2016 and October of 2017, Chapline coerced a minor took pictures of the victim getting out of a shower and then posing in a bedroom. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WIAT-CBS (Birmingham, AL): Anniston man to spend 3 years in prison for illegally possessing guns as a felon, Tanner Brooks, September 24, 2021, 4:09 PM (EDT)

On Friday, an Anniston man was sentenced to three years in prison for being a felon in possession of guns. Jack David “Jackie” Stovall II, 73, pleaded guilty to the charge back in July and was also fined \$40,000. In addition to his sentence, he will have three years of supervised release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBW-CBS (Topeka, KS): 15 charged for conspiracy to distribute cocaine, Sarah Motter, September 24, 2021, 4:06 PM (EDT)

Homeland Security and Drug Enforcement Agency Officers have stopped at least 11 pounds of cocaine from hitting Kansas City streets. Acting U.S. Attorney’s Duston Slinkard’s Office says a federal grand jury in Kansas City indicted 15 people with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five kilograms (over 11 pounds) or more of cocaine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTU-Fox (Salt Lake City, UT): Utahn accused in Capitol riot asks judge to suppress his interview with FBI, Nate Carlisle, September 24, 2021, 2:24 PM

A Utah man accused of crimes at the U.S. Capitol insurrection in January says an FBI agent didn’t read him his rights. A lawyer for John E. Sullivan filed a motion Thursday asking a judge to suppress his client’s Jan. 11 interview with the FBI agent in Salt Lake City. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Court indicates it may wait to rule on Georgia abortion law, Kate Brumback, September 25, 2021, 9:06 AM

A federal appeals court seemed to indicate Friday that it would wait until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case that seeks to overturn its landmark decision guaranteeing a woman’s right to an abortion before ruling on the appeal of a lower court’s ruling blocking a restrictive Georgia abortion law. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear arguments in December on an attempt by Mississippi to overturn the high court’s decision in Roe v. Wade, which affirmed the right to an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Second Tennessee judge blocks Gov. Lee’s mask opt-out, Kimberlee Kruesi, September 24, 2021, 2:13 PM

A federal judge on Friday handed down a second blow to Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee’s contentious order allowing parents to opt out of school mask requirements, ruling that Knox County Schools must implement a mask mandate to help protect children with health problems amid the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer’s decision also blocks Lee’s order from being implemented while the legal battle continues to move its way through court. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WDEF-CBS \(Chattanooga, TN\)](#)

NYT: Former Louisiana Trooper Faces Federal Civil Rights Charge, Derrick Bryson Taylor, September 24, 2021, 2:30 PM

A federal grand jury indicted a former Louisiana state trooper on Thursday on a federal civil rights violation, finding that he repeatedly clubbed a Black man with a flashlight during a traffic stop that was recorded by his body camera. The former trooper, Jacob Brown, 31, was charged with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, the U.S. attorney’s office for the Western District of Louisiana said in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KDKA-CBS (Pittsburgh, PA): Former Jail Guard Accused Of Violating Inmate's Civil Rights, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 8:45 AM

A former corrections officer who fought with an inmate who tossed a banana peel at him has been charged with violating the inmates civil rights, according to federal prosecutors. The charge filed Thursday stems from an October 2018 brawl at the Cuyahoga County Jail in Cleveland that lasted for seven minutes and was captured on surveillance footage. Prosecutors said the guard John McCloud, 28, of Parma told supervisors that he blacked out when he fought and wrestled with the inmate, whose name has not been released. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): U.S. Appeals Court judges say Mississippi's Supreme Court abortion case could influence Georgia abortion case, Hayley Mason, September 24, 2021, 7:37 PM

The U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit heard oral arguments Friday morning in the lawsuit over Georgia's six-week abortion ban. The law passed the Georgia legislature in 2019 and was signed into law, slated to take effect January 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

AP: Jury orders city of Roy to pay \$3.26M to men shot by police, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 12:06 PM (EDT)

A federal jury has awarded two men who live south of Tacoma a total of \$3.26 million for injuries suffered when they were shot by one of the town of Roy's two police officers during a drunken joy ride in a 2019 snowstorm. The verdict is one of the largest reached in the Western District of Washington involving a nonfatal police shooting, The Seattle Times reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: SEC Sues UK Father And Son, 2 Others In Microcap Scam, Katryna Perera, September 24, 2021 6:49 PM

The U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed two separate complaints in New York federal court on Thursday alleging that four individuals and five entities ran a fraudulent transatlantic microcap scheme that generated more than \$10 million in unlawful stock sales. The complaints were filed against three U.K. residents, one U.S. resident and five entities that are based around the world. In one of the complaints, the SEC alleges that a father son duo from the U. K. illegally disguised their control of publicly traded companies in the U. S. and through their control engineered a "pump-and-dump" scheme of their stocks. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Texas migrant camp empty, Haitians await word on their fate, Maria Verza and Juan Lozano, September 25, 2021, 12:59 AM

No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people most of them Haitians huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum. Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Mayorkas says Haitian migrants under Del Rio bridge were not tested for COVID-19, Adam Shaw, September 24, 2021, 7:01 PM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Friday told reporters that the nearly 15,000 migrants who were camped out under the Del Rio bridge in squalid conditions last week were not

tested for COVID-19, and he does not know if anyone got sick with the contagious virus while there. Mayorkas was asked about the Biden administration's use of Title 42 public health protections that are deployed to quickly expel migrants who have come to the border, using the COVID-19 pandemic as a rationale. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Bisexual Libyan Gets New Hearing to Argue He Should Stay in U.S.,

Bernie Pazanowski, September 24, 2021, 3:05 PM

A bisexual Libyan who converted to Christianity is entitled to a new hearing to determine whether he can stay in the U.S. under the Convention Against Torture, the Fifth Circuit said Friday. Muntaser Abushagif requested asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under CAT in 2011, saying he'd be tortured if he was returned to Libya. The Board of Immigration Appeals denied the request. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: Numbers game: 10,000 Del Rio migrants processed — leaked figures show how many were released,

Anna Giaritelli, September 24, 2021 8:45 PM

More than 10,000 migrants who were camped under a bridge have been processed by Border Patrol agents since last Saturday as the Biden administration moves to clear out the site, the Washington Examiner has learned. As of 5 p.m. local time Friday, 10,000 people who waded across the Rio Grande from Acuna, Mexico, to Del Rio have had their information entered into Border Patrol's tracking system over the past seven days, according to data reviewed by the Washington Examiner on Friday evening. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOLD-CBS (Tucson, AZ): Texas migrant camp empty, Haitians await word on their fate,

Maria Vera and Juan Lozano, September 25, 2021, 2:37 AM

No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people most of them Haitians huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum. Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Law360: 'Nontraditional Questions' Appearing In FTC Merger Probes,

Bryan Koenig, September 24, 2021, 9:44 PM

In at least some merger probes the Federal Trade Commission appears in recent months to have started asking questions that antitrust attorneys say they've never fielded before, including queries about unionization at the merging companies, environmental issues and corporate governance practices. Vinson & Elkins LLP antitrust practice chair Darren Tucker first cast light on the new lines of questioning during the FTC's Sept. 15 open meeting, telling the commissioners that "in an increasing number of FTC merger investigations," staffers have sought information about how the deals would impact unionization, franchising and environmental, social and governance, or ESG, issues. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: QVC Ducks Antitrust Claim In Suzanne Somers Diet Pill Row,

Matt Fair, September 24, 2021, 6:57 PM

A Pennsylvania federal judge has nixed a claim alleging antitrust violations on the part of QVC Inc. as part of a broader lawsuit from actress and entrepreneur Suzanne Somers accusing the home shopping giant of scheming to freeze her out of the market for nutritional supplements. U.S. District Judge Chad Kenney ruled Thursday that Somers and her company, SLC Sweet Inc., had failed to show that the so-called direct response television programming market allegedly

monopolized by QVC offered a singularly unique means to reach potential customers that other retailers, such as brick-and-mortar stores, did not provide. [\[Continue Reading\]](#). .

ENVIRONMENT

*Bloomberg Law: **Chevron, Dow Among Entities Sued by California Over Landfill***, David McAfee, September 24, 2021, 5:58 PM

Chevron USA Inc., Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and other major companies engaging in hazardous waste treatment were hit with a lawsuit in federal court in California Friday by the state's Department of Toxic Substances Control, which alleges it is owed fees for the cleanup of a landfill in Contra Costa County. The agency's civil action also names Dow Chemical Co., Shell Oil Co., and several others. It seeks recovery of response costs at the Vine Hill Complex landfill in Martinez, Calif. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

*Bloomberg Law: **EPA Sued Over Decision Allowing Farm Use of Herbicide Paraquat***, Stephen Lee, September 24, 2021, 3:38 PM

A coalition of environmentalists and farmworker groups sued the EPA in a California federal court on Friday over its July decision to let farmers keep using the pesticide paraquat. That decision wasn't supported by substantial evidence and contravenes the Environmental Protection Agency's obligations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, according to Jonathan Kalmuss-Katz, a senior attorney at the environmental law firm Earthjustice, which filed the petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

*MLive Media Group (Grand Rapids, MI): **West Branch man gets 30 months in federal prison on tax convictions***, Cole Waterman, September 25, 2021, 9:56 AM (EDT)

A West Branch man has been sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for filing false tax returns and aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns. Sentenced was Christopher Fratine, 53, who pleaded guilty in July 2019 to five counts of making a false tax return and four counts of aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns before U.S. District Judge Thomas L. Ludington in Bay City. Sentencing was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

*Law360: **Virginia Doctor Pleads Guilty In \$1.8M Rx Fraud Scheme***, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 9:10 PM

A Washington-area physician has admitted participating in a "fraud scheme" to prescribe pain and scar creams in order to receive a kickback from a pharmacist, defrauding health insurance programs out of \$1.8 million, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said Friday. Leonard Rosen, a 72-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Manassas, Virginia, entered a pre-indictment guilty plea for his role in the seven-figure scam, a spokesperson with the U. S. Department of Justice told Law360. A criminal complaint was unavailable on Friday, but the spokesperson said Rosen faces one count of health care fraud. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

*CNN: **More than 190 fugitives arrested in New Jersey operation dubbed 'Clean Sweep'***,

Alaa Elassar, September 25, 2021, 6:07 AM

A multi-agency law enforcement operation in New Jersey resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, according to the US Marshals Service. Operation "Clean Sweep" focused on capturing some of the state's "most violent offenders," including gang members, sex offenders, and violent criminals, US Marshals said in a news release on Wednesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: **FBI agents question Afghan rescue groups**, Lara Seligman, Betsy Woodruff Swan, Erin Banco, and Alexander Ward, September 24, 2021, 2:37 PM

The FBI has been reaching out to members of the veterans' groups working to evacuate American citizens and at-risk Afghans and inquiring about their activities, in at least one case visiting a group leader at his home. Agents have visited, emailed and called members of Task Force Pineapple and Task Force Dunkirk, two of the more prominent organizations, and other groups with a host of queries. The Bureau has asked groups about financial records, to provide manifests and make sure no federal laws are violated, according to eight group members and congressional aides familiar with the moves. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Sioux City Journal (Sioux City, IA): **Dakota County readies for jail expansion**, Nick Hytrek, September 25, 2021, 12:55 PM

Dakota County is nearing launch of a second phase of jail construction the county's sheriff says will be entirely funded with money received for housing an increased number of federal prisoners. The 112-bed addition will raise the jail's capacity to 248 beds and require the addition of 16 or 17 jailers whose salaries also will be offset by payments from the U.S. Marshals Service, which has contracted with Dakota County to pay an increased daily rate per inmate that will nearly double in the immediate months after the jail expansion opens. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Farmington Daily Times (Farmington, NM): **FBI arrests man identified in Sept. 23 Amber Alert for firearm charges**, Joshua Kellogg, September 25, 2021, 7:13 AM (EDT)

The man who was identified in a Sept. 23 Amber Alert for allegedly taking his four children during a domestic dispute was arrested by federal agents on firearm-related charges. Rumaldo Peshlakai, 41, of Rock Springs was arrested by FBI special agents on Sept. 24 in Gallup, according to an FBI news release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): **ATF helping with investigation into weapon used in Collierville Kroger shooting**, by: Jessica Gertler, September 24, 2021, 9:12 PM (EDT)

Many questions remain about the gunman in the Collierville Kroger shooting, including what gun he used and where he got it. WREG is looking into what happens with the evidence law enforcement collects and what information can they actually get. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KXAS-NBC (Fort Worth, TX): **Acting Director of the ATF and Fort Worth Native Shares His Journey With Hometown Students**, Vince Sims, September 24, 2021, 5:43 PM

Marvin Richardson is the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Friday, he spoke with students that are part of the My Brother's Keeper program at Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. His office may be in Washington, D.C. but Fort Worth is home. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WPDE-ABC/CW (Florence, SC): **FBI launches hate crime reporting campaign in SC**, Heath Ellison, September 24, 2021, 4:46 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently launched a hate crime reporting campaign in South

Carolina. The advertising blitz is attempting to encourage residents to report hate crimes to law enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS/MyNetworkTV (St. Louis, MO): Sex offender dresses up as doctor, escapes mental hospital, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 1:02 AM (EDT)

A dangerous sex offender is on the loose and U.S. Marshals across the Midwest are looking for him after he managed to slip out of a mental hospital. John Colt dressed as a doctor and walked out of a facility that's west of Wichita, Kansas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Government: Dylann Roof's death sentence should stand, Meg Kinnard, September 25, 2021, 10:33 AM

Attorneys for the federal government have opposed Dylann Roof's request for a new appellate hearing, arguing that the South Carolina man was properly convicted and sentenced for the 2015 racist slayings of nine members of a Black congregation. In court documents filed Thursday, federal prosecutors argued that a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals correctly ruled last month that the government had proven its case against Roof, despite his protestations on several points. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Lawyers to urge no restrictions for Reagan shooter Hinckley, Ben Finley, September 25, 2021, 9:07 AM

Lawyers for John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, are scheduled to argue in court Monday that the 66-year-old should be freed from restrictions placed on him after he moved out of a Washington hospital in 2016. Since Hinckley's move to Williamsburg, Virginia, a federal judge has made him live under various conditions that dictate much of his life. For instance, doctors and therapists must oversee his psychiatric medication and decide how often he attends individual and group therapy sessions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: A champion of COVID-19 vaccines, Newsom fights plan to mandate them for prison guards, Richard Winton, September 25, 2021, 3:36 PM (EDT)

Seeking a vaccine mandate for all state prison guards and staff, a federal court-appointed receiver overseeing the medical care of California's prisons argued Friday that there have been 11 coronavirus-related deaths since August among corrections employees who were not fully vaccinated and outbreaks at 21 prisons. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

BuzzFeed: Republican Lawmakers Are Pressing Ahead With Anti-Abortion Laws, With Or Without The Supreme Court's Help, Zoe Tillman and Kadia Goba, September 24, 2021, 4:31 PM (EDT)

A two-year fight over the constitutionality of Georgia's six-week abortion ban finally reached a federal appeals court on Friday. But a judge kicked off arguments by asking if the court should put the case on hold and wait to see what the US Supreme Court does in another abortion case that's before the justices now. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Oklahoma court lifts stays in 2 McGirt-related decisions, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 1:08 PM

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday lifted stays in two cases it overturned based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on tribal lands by non-American Indians against Native Americans. The court lifted stays of its previous reversals of the murder conviction of Shawn McDaniel and the child neglect conviction of Victor Castro-Huerta. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Daily Ardmoreite (Ardmore, OK): [Opinion] Guest column: Marijuana prohibition re-established in Chickasaw nation, Jason May, September 25, 2021, 12:43 PM (EDT)

As the fallout from the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* continues to be felt in our community, one unforeseen consequence is what amounts to the reversal of State Question 788 as it relates to Indians within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. Post-McGirt, the state of Oklahoma does not have jurisdiction to prosecute members of any federally-recognized Indian tribe for crimes that occur within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Great Falls Tribune (Helena, MT): Fort Belknap Indian Community selected to help improve National Crime Information databases, Nora Mabie, September 24, 2021, 3:23 PM (EDT)

The Fort Belknap Indian Community was among 12 tribes selected by the Department of Justice to participate in the expansion of the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information. The program supports tribal governments in accessing, entering and exchanging data with national crime information systems, including systems maintained by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Rolling Stone: How One Weed Company Is Skirting Marijuana Rules to Sell THC Products in All 50 States, Mary Jane Gibson, September 25, 2021, 9:41 AM

Last month, Wisconsin-based company LiftedMade launched a new kind of weed product: a THC-infused flavor-popping crystal candy, called Urb Rocks. Like most other THC products, it will get you high. Unlike other products, though, the THC in Urb Rocks is sourced from hemp, which means it's technically legal for sale in most states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Cannabis Bill Roundup: House OKs SAFE Act In Defense Bill, Sam Reisman, September 24, 2021, 8:40 PM

The U.S. House of Representatives once again passed cannabis banking legislation, this time as part of a must-pass defense package, while Mississippi lawmakers announced that they had a deal for legalizing medical marijuana. Here are the major developments in cannabis reform policy from the past week. On Capitol Hill, the House on Thursday approved a \$768.1 billion defense policy and budget bill for 2022, which includes an amendment put forth by Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D.-Colo., inserting the SAFE Banking Act, a bill to open up financial institutions to the cannabis industry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

The Hill: Harris says images of Border Patrol on horseback evoked 'times of slavery', Cameron Jenkins, September 25, 2021, 8:28 AM EDT

Vice President Harris on Friday further condemned the actions of Border Patrol agents on horseback who appeared to use reins to threaten Haitian migrants, comparing the incident to "times of slavery." Harris made her comments during an appearance on ABC's "The View," describing how the imagery, which circulated widely on social media, reminded her of tactics "used against the Indigenous people of our country" and "used against African Americans during times of slavery." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law 360: Biden Taps Migrant Advocate To Helm ICE's Prosecution Arm, Mike LaSusa, September 24, 2021, 5:02 PM

President Joe Biden has appointed a longtime immigrant rights lawyer at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's new top prosecutor, the agency confirmed to Law360 on Friday. Kerry Doyle, a Massachusetts-based attorney with decades of experience defending immigrants from enforcement actions, will head ICE's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, which represents the agency when it moves to deport people. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

AP: Congress, court pressure New York City to fix jails crisis, Michael R. Sisak, September 24, 2021, 5:58 PM

New York City faced mounting pressure Friday to solve its spiraling jail crisis, with members of Congress calling for a federal civil rights investigation and a court-appointed monitor blasting the city for a failure of leadership amid staggering violence, self-harm and the deaths this year of at least 12 inmates. U.S. District Judge Laura Swain, overseeing a jail consent decree, said on an emergency conference call Friday that the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex is "clearly in a state of danger and crisis." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

Washington Times: Rep. Ted Lieu leads effort to scrap Department of Justice's investigations into Chinese influence, Ryan Lovelace, September 24, 2021, 5:40 PM

Rep. Ted Lieu, California Democrat, is leading an effort to undermine the federal government's investigations of Chinese influence over scientists, researchers, and others engaged in alleged economic espionage. Mr. Lieu believes such investigations are racially biased against Chinese Americans and must be stopped. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The CDC has approved administering Pfizer booster shots to eligible Americans, including individuals 65 y/o and older, long-term care facility residents, individuals 18 and older with underlying medical conditions, and frontline workers whose jobs put them at higher risks.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky defended her decision to include frontline workers including teachers, and people who work in childcare, grocery stores, and healthcare.

[[ABC-1](#), [ABC-2](#) [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

- UK Thang has been identified as the gunman involved in the deadly Kroger supermarket shooting in Tennessee. Thang had previously done business with the grocery store as a third-party vendor. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The migrant camp on the border of Del Rio, Texas, has been cleared out. Some migrants were sent back to Haiti, while others will remain in the US for their asylum cases to be heard. President Biden stated the Border Agents who violently confronted migrants “will pay” while Homeland Security Secretary said he would wait for an investigation. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The search for Brian Laundrie continues, as a federal warrant was issued for separate credit card charges. The Petito case has brought up other missing person cases that have been overlooked because they are from minority communities. Ms. Petito’s funeral is scheduled for this Sunday. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Evacuation orders have been issued for wildfires in California, most recently with the Fawn Fire located north of Redding. Alexandra Souverneva has been charged with arson and a special allegation for starting multiple fires during a state of emergency. In addition, charges have been filed against Pacific Gas and Electric for its role in a fire that killed four people last year. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- President Biden is facing pressure over his infrastructure bill as his poll numbers fall. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is bringing the bipartisan Infrastructure bill to the floor for a vote on Monday, while the other costlier economic package will be brought to a vote later this week. Unfortunately, progressive and moderate lawmakers are still at odds on the cost of the Economic Package and may not find any resolutions. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- The results of a Republican-led election audit in Arizona have confirmed that President Biden won by an even more significant margin. Democrats have called the audit useless, ridiculous, and a waste of time. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- Eight people have been arrested and face criminal charges in the death of Virginia Commonwealth University student Adam Oakes. Oakes died of alcohol poisoning after a night of hazing at the Delta Chi Fraternity. [[CBS](#)]
- Several storm systems are developing in the Atlantic region. Hurricane Sam is expected to strengthen to Category 4. Subtropical storm Teresa formed north of Bermuda in the

Atlantic Ocean with 45 mph winds and is being watched for further developments. [\[NBC\]](#)

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- “Stablecoins in Spotlight as U.S. Begins to Lay Ground for Rules on Cryptocurrencies” [\[WSJ\]](#)
- “To Get Back Arrested Executive, China Uses a Hardball Tactic: Seizing Foreigners” [\[NYT\]](#)
- “Changes in booster shot guidance leads to confusion, chaos for doctors and the vaccinated” [\[WaPo\]](#)
- “California to offer COVID booster shots for teachers, healthcare workers, seniors” [\[LAT\]](#)

END

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To: Attorney General Garland (JMD)
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**Department of Justice
Weekend News Digest
September 25, 2021
2:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
US Attorneys
3.
National Security
4.
Criminal Law
5.
Civil Rights
6.
Civil Law
7.
Immigration & Border Security
8.
Antitrust

9. Environment
10. Tax
11. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
12. Criminal Justice/Corrections
13. US Supreme Court
14. Native American Affairs
15. Marijuana Legalization
16. Administration
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Afternoon Headlines

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: Canadians home after Huawei CFO resolves US charges, Rob Gillies, September 25, 2021, 8:38 AM

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hugged two Canadians who landed in Canada on Saturday following what amounted to a high-stakes prisoner swap involving China, the U.S. and Canada. Trudeau greeted Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor after their plane landed in Calgary, Alberta early Saturday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Canadians released after Huawei CFO resolves US charges, Eric Tucker, Jim Mustian, and Rob Gillies, September 25, 2021, 1:08 AM

Two Canadians detained in China on spying charges were released from prison and flown out of the country on Friday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, just after a top executive of Chinese communications giant Huawei Technologies reached a deal with the U.S. Justice Department

over fraud charges and flew to China. The frenetic chain of events involving the global powers brought an abrupt end to legal and geopolitical wrangling that for the past three years has roiled relations between Washington, Beijing and Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Reuters](#), [Politico](#), [Newsweek](#), [WSJ](#), [Washington Examiner](#),

WaPo: Meng Wanzhou can return to China, admits helping Huawei conceal dealings in Iran, Shayna Jacobs and Amanda Coletta, September 24, 2021, 9:43 PM

Meng Wanzhou, a top Huawei Technologies executive detained for nearly three years in Canada, can return home to China after striking a deal with U.S. Justice Department officials in which she acknowledged helping to conceal the company's direct dealings in Iran, which violated U.S. sanctions. While Meng admitted illegal conduct to satisfy the terms of the agreement, she did not have to plead guilty as part of the deferred prosecution agreement. Her criminal case and detention have had major geopolitical implications, further souring relations between Beijing and both Washington and Ottawa. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [BBC](#), [CNET](#), [FT](#)

Bloomberg Law: [PODCAST] What's Happening in the Boston Marathon Bomber Case?

Jordan S. Rubin, September 24, 2021, 3:36 PM

When Supreme Court justices return to the courtroom for the new term in October, they'll consider the government's quest to reinstate Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's death sentences. The court will hear arguments on Oct. 13 about pretrial publicity and mitigating evidence, as the justices decide whether to reverse an appeals court ruling that vacated Tsarnaev's sentences for the 2013 bombing that killed three people and injured hundreds more. Attorney General Merrick Garland imposed an execution moratorium this past summer, raising the question of how that will play into the case, if at all. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): Indiana to receive \$3.5M from DOJ for anti-crime initiatives, Jacey Crawford, September 24, 2021, 8:58 PM

Indiana is set to receive over \$3.5 million from the Department of Justice to support community safety efforts, the DOJ announced Friday. Indianapolis will receive just over \$1 million of the grant. Several other cities and counties across the state will receive portions of the funds, as well. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

WTOP-CBS (Washington, DC): US Senate panel advances Barron's nomination for US attorney in Md, Danielle E. Gaines, September 25, 2021, 9:46 AM

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee voted on Thursday to advance President Biden's first slate of U.S. attorney nominees, including Del. Erik Barron (D-Prince George's), who is nominated to the post in Maryland. A vote by the entire U.S. Senate is expected in the next few weeks. If confirmed, Barron, 47, would be the first Black U.S. attorney in Maryland's history. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

USA Today: Trump supporter who took House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's beer at Capitol riot pleads guilty, Nolan Clay, September 24, 2021, 5:20 PM

During the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, Trump supporter Andrew Craig Ericson plopped his feet up on a table inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's conference room and posed for a photo. He then

took a "selfie" and posted both on Snapchat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Illinois man ran business telling clients how to launch computer attacks: DOJ,

Brooke Crothers, September 25, 2021, 7: 51 AM

An Illinois man ran a successful computer takedown service until the feds stepped in. The man, Matthew Gatrel, 32, of St. Charles, was found guilty by a federal jury for running websites that "allowed paying users" to launch distributed denial of service, or DDoS, attacks, according to the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Justice Department unseals Capitol riot charges against FreedomWorks

organizer, Hannah Rabinowitz, September 24, 2021, 3:19 PM

The Justice Department unsealed charges on Thursday against an organizer from the conservative advocacy group FreedomWorks for his alleged role in the January 6 insurrection. Brandon Prenzlin was charged last week with four federal misdemeanors for what prosecutors say was just over three minutes inside the Capitol. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Portland Press Herald, (Portland, ME): Federal judge again denies release for Mainer charged in Capitol riot, Megan Gray, September 24, 2021, 6:01 PM

A judge has again denied release to a Lebanon man who is facing federal charges stemming from his participation in the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol. Kyle Fitzsimons, 37, is one of more than 600 people who have been charged in connection with the Jan. 6 insurrection. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Treasure Coast Newspapers (Port St. Lucie, FL): 'America was not great on that day': Fort Pierce man negotiates plea deal in Jan. 6 Capitol riot case, Corey Arwood, September 24, 2021, 4:55 PM

A U.S. District Court judge for the District of Columbia said a Fort Pierce man "disgraced this country in the eyes of the world" during a Friday hearing in which he pleaded guilty to one of five charges related to his involvement in the Jan. 6 riot on the Capitol. Anthony "Tony" Mariotto documented his time inside the U.S. Capitol in selfies and cell phone video. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Georgia probation officer pleads guilty to faking records, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 11:24 AM

A probation officer for the federal court system in Georgia has pleaded guilty to creating false records while on the job. Court records show Enoch Eller Jr. of Augusta pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to making false statements. Prosecutors say 47-year-old Eller, a probation officer for the federal court in the Southern District of Georgia, falsely documented drug testing and other personal contacts with criminal defendants awaiting trial that he never performed. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Federal judge dismisses execution lawsuit in Alabama, reprimands AG's office, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 12:21 AM (EDT)

A federal judge on Friday paved the way for Alabama to proceed with a lethal injection next month, but also reprimanded the state attorney general's office for giving false information to the court during the litigation centered on forms given to death row inmates for selecting an execution

method. Chief U.S. District Judge Emily C. Marks dismissed a lawsuit that argued the state failed to give Willie Smith, who has an IQ below 75, required help under the Americans with Disabilities Act in filling out forms that affected the timing of his execution.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WUAL-NPR \(Tuscaloosa, AL\)](#)

AP: Ex-California pastor gets 14 years after \$33M fraud scheme, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 10:30 PM

A former Southern California pastor was sentenced Friday to 14 years in federal prison for masterminding a church-based investment scheme that bilked hundreds of victims of more than \$33 million. The former pastor of the Westminster-based Church for the Healthy Self, Kent R.E. Whitney, was ordered to pay more than \$22 million in restitution. He pleaded guilty last year to mail fraud and filing a false federal income tax return. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Ex-New England mob boss loses appeal of conviction for 1993 murder, Nate Raymond, September 24, 2021, 8:35 PM

A federal appeals court on Friday upheld the conviction of an octogenarian former New England mob boss sentenced to life in prison for the 1993 murder of a nightclub owner whose remains were discovered in Rhode Island five years ago. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Former WA employee charged with stealing unemployment funds, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 7:14 PM

Authorities say a former employee with the state Employment Security Department was arrested Friday and charged with defrauding the government of at least \$360,000 in jobless benefits. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle said Friday that Reyes De La Cruz, III, 47, of Moses Lake is "alleged to have personally enriched himself by at least \$130,000 " and to have helped others fraudulently obtain tens of thousands of dollars in benefits. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NPR: The Elizabeth Holmes Trial Sparks A Silicon Valley Debate: Why Not Other Tech CEOs? Bobby Allyn, September 25, 2021, 7:07 AM

Selling an idea in Silicon Valley takes not only a grand vision but also swagger and bluster, says Margaret O'Mara, a historian of the tech industry. "Being able to tell a good story is part of being a successful founder, being able to persuade investors to put money into your company," she said. And Elizabeth Holmes, the former CEO of Theranos, did just that. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: Trump supporter who took House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's beer at Capitol riot pleads guilty, Nolan Clay, September 24, 2021, 5:20 PM

During the U.S. Capitol riot Jan. 6, Trump supporter Andrew Craig Ericson plopped his feet up on a table inside House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's conference room and posed for a photo. He then took a "selfie" and posted both on Snapchat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: Among Those Who Marched Into the Capitol on Jan. 6: An F.B.I. Informant, Alan Feuer and Adam Goldman, September 25, 2021, 5:00 AM

As scores of Proud Boys made their way, chanting and shouting, toward the Capitol on Jan. 6, one member of the far-right group was busy texting a real-time account of the march. The recipient was his F.B.I. handler. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Jurors in R. Kelly federal trial are done for the day after deliberating for about four hours, Sonia Moghe, September 24, 2021, 6:22 PM

Jurors on Friday began their deliberations in R. Kelly's federal trial in Brooklyn, where he faces racketeering and sex trafficking charges. The jury deliberated about four hours in the afternoon before the case was adjourned until Monday. Before leaving for the day, they sent a note saying, "We the jurors have not reached a verdict." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Chicago Tribune](#)

The Independent (New York City, NY): **Man jailed for suffocating ex-girlfriend to death in suitcase he abandoned by roadside**, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 9:45 AM (EDT)

A man who tied up his ex-girlfriend inside a suitcase and left her to suffocate to death by the side of a road in Connecticut has been sentenced to 30 years in prison. Javier Da Silva Rojas, 26, from Queens, New York, pled guilty last year to one count of kidnapping resulting in death for his savage attack on 24-year-old Valerie Reyes, a book shop worker and aspiring tattoo artist. At a sentencing hearing in White Plains on Thursday, Ms Reyes' mother Norma Sanchez called Da Silva a "selfish, greedy and soulless person" who "deserve[s] nothing but pain and rejection".

[[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Virginia Doctor Pleads Guilty In \$1.8M Rx Fraud Scheme**, Jonathan Capriel, September 24, 2021, 9:10 PM

A Washington-area physician has admitted participating in a "fraud scheme" to prescribe pain and scar creams in order to receive a kickback from a pharmacist, defrauding health insurance programs out of \$1.8 million, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said Friday. Leonard Rosen, a 72-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Manassas, Virginia, entered a pre-indictment guilty plea for his role in the seven-figure scam, a spokesperson with the U.S. Department of Justice told Law360. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Cousin Of Ticket Fraudster Avoids Prison For Role In Scam**, Pete Brush, September 24, 2021, 3:07 PM

A Manhattan federal judge on Friday sentenced a former compliance professional to a year of home confinement for using a sports and theater ticket resale business to funnel money away from its investors and toward his now-incarcerated cousin. U.S. District Judge Ronnie Abrams allowed defendant James "J" Siniscalchi, 48, to avoid prison but hit him with a \$10,000 fine and directed him to make \$1.9 million of restitution and complete 100 hours of community service.

[[Continue Reading](#)]

MLive Media Group (Grand Rapids, MI): **Woman sentenced to 5 years in prison for delivering heroin that killed advocate**, Mitchell Kukulka, September 25, 2021, 9:18 AM (EDT)

Tears came from both sides of the courtroom as a Jackson County woman was sentenced for delivering the drugs that killed a local advocate for addicts. Melissa Simons, 36, was sentenced 5 to 20 years in prison by Jackson Circuit Judge John McBain on Sept. 22. Simons pleaded guilty to the charge of delivery of controlled substance less than 50 grams on Oct. 15, 2019. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, AR): **Guilty on all counts: Federal jury convicts Danville man in racketeering case tied to Arkansas-based white supremacy gang**, Dale Ellis, September 25, 2021, 5:31 AM (EDT)

A Danville man accused of racketeering and drug-trafficking conspiracy in a federal investigation of a violent Pope County white-supremacist gang was convicted Friday on all counts. The verdict closes out the six-year investigation that resulted in convictions for 54 defendants. The jury of seven men and five women began deliberations about 9:15 a.m. Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Dayton Daily News (Dayton, OH): **New vaccine policy issued for Dayton federal courthouse employees, visitors**, Parker Perry, September 25, 2021, 3:26 AM

A new order will require employees of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio to submit verification that they are vaccinated or be required to get tested for the COVID-19 virus twice a week. Unvaccinated employees will also be required to wear a mask at all times in the courthouse and maintain social distance from others. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Idaho State Journal (Pocatello, ID): **Three local residents sentenced in federal court in methamphetamine distribution case**, September 25, 2021, 12:45 AM (EDT)

Jesse Kirby, 45, Trevor Van Horn, 31, and Debra Trujillo, 63, all of Idaho Falls, were sentenced to federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced Friday. Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill sentenced Kirby to 110 months imprisonment, Van Horn to 100 months imprisonment, and Trujillo to 96 months imprisonment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Anchorage Daily News, Media (Anchorage, AK): **State of Alaska employee arrested on charges of possessing child pornography**, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 10:51 PM (EDT)

The FBI arrested an Eagle River man and state of Alaska employee who they say possessed and accessed child pornography, the agency said Friday. John Daniel Brooks, 51, told investigators that he had more than 1,000 images and videos of child pornography on the hard drive attached to his work computer, according to charging documents filed in U.S. District Court in Anchorage on Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tampa Bay Times (Saint Petersburg, FL): **Tampa woman accused of trying to hire hitman to kill spouse of former flame**, Amy Gehrt, September 24, 2021, 11:10 PM (EDT)

A 50-year-old accountant from Tampa has been arrested after authorities say she tried to arrange a hit on the spouse of her former lover on the dark web, according to federal authorities. DeAnna Marie Stinson created an account June 24 on a website on the dark web that claimed to offer murder-for-hire services, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tampa. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Greater New Milford Spectrum (Danbury, CT): **Meriden man sentenced to 6 years in prison for trafficking heroin from Bridgeport stores**, Liz Hardaway, September 24, 2021, 9:30 PM (EDT)

A Meriden man was sentenced to more than six years in prison for trafficking heroin in Bridgeport storefronts, according to Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard Boyle. An investigation into Meriden resident Eddy Antonio Torres Morel, 51, revealed he was trafficking narcotics from two stores, Big Daddy's Deli and Jamal's Market, on East Main Street in Bridgeport, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Shelton Herald (Sheldon, CT): **Shelton doctor arrested for fraudulent prescriptions of Xanax, Adderall, feds say**, Liz Hardway, September 24, 2021, 9:30 AM

A Shelton doctor was arrested Friday after allegedly illegally distributing prescription medication, according to Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut Leonard Boyle. Law enforcement have been investigating Trumbull resident Dr. David Ciancimino, 62, since October 2020. Ciancimino practiced psychiatry and neurology from an office on Corporate Drive in Shelton. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Spokesman-Review (Spokane, WA): **Richland man who was extradited from Kazakhstan pleads guilty to child pornography charge**, Kip Hill, September 24, 2021, 9:00 PM

A Richland man who was working abroad in Kazakhstan when federal authorities found hundreds of sexually explicit images and videos of minors in his home pleaded guilty Thursday to a child pornography charge. Trent Drexel Howard, 50, is in custody of the Benton County Jail pending a sentencing hearing in January. [[Continue Reading](#)]

City News Service (Los Angeles, CA): **Lakeside Man Who Held 3 Hostage in His Home Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison**, Unattributed, September 7:00 PM (EDT)

A Lakeside man who held three people hostage at his home was sentenced Friday to 10 years in federal prison. Joseph Anthony Martino, 47, pleaded guilty last year to charges of kidnapping and being a felon in possession of a firearm for confining the three victims at gunpoint at his home on April 1, 2019. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Martino held the victims at gunpoint "in order to confront one of the victims about a personal relationship." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Trussville Tribune (Trussville, AL): **Convicted felon sentenced for illegal firearm possession**, Hannah Caveron, September 24, 2021, 6:53 PM

U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and FBI Special Agent in Charge Johnnie Sharp, Jr. announced a federal judge sentenced a convicted felon for illegally possessing a firearm on Friday, September 24. U.S. District Court Judge Corey L. Maze sentenced Jack David "Jackie" Stovall, II, 73, of Anniston, to 36 months in prison followed by 36 months supervised release for being a felon in possession of a firearm. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Jacksonville Journal-Courier (Jacksonville, IL): **Three Pike men face federal charges of sexual exploitation of a child**, David C.L. Bauer, September 24, 2021, 6:06 PM (EDT)

Three Pike County residents are facing federal charges after being accused of coercing a minor into sexually explicit conduct and recording the act. The indictment in U.S. District Court in Springfield was handed up Sept. 9 but not unsealed until Friday, when the last of the three was arraigned in federal court. The three-count indictment, which is a formal charge by a grand jury and is not proof of guilt, asserts that the three men Anthony M. Westemeyer, Bobby J. Warner and Michael Wallace, all of Nebo in May enticed a child to engage in explicit conduct and that it was recorded and stored on a computer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMCH- CBS (Manchester, IA): **Center Point Man Sentenced for Wire Fraud**, Janelle Tucker, September 25, 2021, 7:31 AM (EDT)

A Center Point man has been sentenced for wire fraud. 63-year old Larry Wells was sentenced to five months in federal prison. The U.S. Department of Justice says Wells received nearly \$17,000 in fraudulently obtained CARES Act unemployment funds from the states of Maine and New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJTV-Fox (Lubbock, TX): **Federal officials seek probe into dispute between New York, Seneca Nation over casino pact**, Steve Bittenbender, September 25, 2021, 9:44 AM

The U.S. Department of the Interior has called for an investigation into a long-standing legal battle regarding the gaming compact between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the state of New York, claiming that a \$470 million judgment placed against the tribal nation violates federal laws. In a filing Friday in a federal court in New York, lawyers for the Senecas submitted a copy of a Sept.

15 letter by Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland to E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, who chairs the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAS-NBC (Fort Worth, TX): 35 Indicted in Romance Scheme That Siphoned \$17 Million From Older Adults: DOJ, Unattributed, September 24, 2021 8:14 PM (EDT)

Federal investigators with the Department of Justice say 35 people in North Texas are accused of conducting romance schemes to defraud and steal money from older adult Americans. Officials with the U.S. Attorney's Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas and the FBI announced a multi-year investigation into a wide-ranging criminal enterprise operating out of North Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFMD-Fox (Frederick, MD): Hagerstown Man Charged With Bank Fraud, Kevin McManus September 24, 2021 - 7:17 pm

A Hagerstown man has been charged with making false statements and bank fraud to obtain money from the Payroll Protection Program. A criminal complaint has been filed against Jeffrey Breden, 47. The criminal complaint, which is similar to a grand jury indictment, was signed on September 23rd, 2020, and unsealed upon Breden's arrest on September 23rd, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KIMA-CBS/CW (Yakima, WA): Yakima gang member sentenced to 120 months in Federal prison, Adrian Delgado, September 24, 2021, 7:00 PM (EDT)

Joseph H. Harrington, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Orlando Raul Rodriguez, a/k/a "Toon," age 31, of Yakima, was sentenced Friday, September 24, after having pleaded guilty on June 22, 2021, of brandishing a firearm while committing a crime of violence and for illegal possession of a firearm. United States District Judge Salvador Mendoza, Jr. sentenced Rodriguez to a 120-month term of imprisonment, to be followed by a 3-year term of court supervision after he is released from federal prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMVT-CBS/CW (Twin Falls, ID): Three sentenced in Southeast Idaho Methamphetamine distribution case, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:59 PM (EDT)

Jesse Kirby, 45, Trevor Van Horn, 31, and Debra Trujillo, 63, all of Idaho Falls, were sentenced to federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced Friday. Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill sentenced Kirby to nine years imprisonment, Van Horn to eight years imprisonment, and Trujillo to eight years imprisonment. Kirby, Van Horn, and Trujillo were ordered to serve an additional five years of supervised release upon completion of their sentences. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KLKN-ABC (Lincoln, NE): California man sentenced to 12 years in prison by a Lincoln federal court, Nolan Dorn, September 24, 2021, 5:36 PM (EDT)

United States Attorney Jan Sharp announced the sentencing of 45-year old Gilbert Cruz Hernandez of Hemet, California Friday in a federal court in Lincoln. Hernandez will serve a 144 month sentence for possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine. On August 8, 2020, a NSP trooper initially pulled over Hernandez for a traffic violation on I-80 in Lincoln. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTOP-CBS (Washington, D.C.): Prince George's Co. man sentenced to 5 years for building 'ghost guns,' distributing drugs, Matthew Delaney, September 24, 2021, 5:24 PM

A man from Prince George's County, Maryland, will serve five years in prison for manufacturing "ghost guns" as well as distributing heroin and cocaine, according to authorities. The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia said that Keith Robert Marshall, 34, of District Heights, built the ghost guns in the basement of his home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KJTV-Fox (Lubbock, TX): One of 11 'romance' scammers arrested in Lubbock, charged with mail & wire fraud conspiracy, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:08 PM

A federal grand jury has indicted 11 defendants in the Northern District of Texas for defrauding elderly victims in romance schemes, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Prerak Shah. The 11 defendants, all arrested during a large-scale operation Wednesday morning, are charged with a variety of financial crimes, including conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KAMC-ABC (Lubbock, TX): Man arrested in Lubbock, part of federal crackdown on international fraud case, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 5:04 PM (EDT)

A man was arrested in Lubbock Wednesday and charged with scamming elderly people out of money, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Justice. Uwadiale Esezobor, 36, was one of 11 people arrested for the scheme. He was charged with mail & wire fraud conspiracy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRON-MyNetwork (San Francisco, CA): Afghan evacuee accused of sexually assaulting children at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, Fernie Ortiz, September 24, 2021, 4:40 PM (EDT)

Two Afghan evacuees face criminal charges stemming from separate incidents at Fort McCoy in western Wisconsin, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin announced Wednesday. Bahrullah Noori, 20, is accused of using force to engage in a sexual act with a minor. He also faces three counts of engaging in a sexual act with a minor, one of which also alleges the use of force. The U.S. Attorney's Office said all of the accusers were younger than 16, and all were at least four years younger than Noori. In a separate incident, Mohammad Haroon Imaad, 32, allegedly strangled and suffocated his spouse on Sept. 7. He's charged with assault. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KGTV-ABC (San Diego, CA): Lakeside man sentenced to 10 years in prison for holding 3 people hostage, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 4:37 PM

A Lakeside man who held three people hostage at his home was sentenced Friday to 10 years in federal prison. Joseph Anthony Martino, 47, pleaded guilty last year to charges of kidnapping and being a felon in possession of a firearm for confining the three victims at gunpoint at his home on April 1, 2019. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): Hamburg man gets 30 years in prison for producing child pornography, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 4:20 PM

A Hamburg man learned his fate Friday for his conviction to a charge of production of child pornography. U.S. District Court Judge Frank Geraci, Jr. sentenced Robert Chapline, 61, to 30 years in prison. The U.S. Attorney's office says between February of 2016 and October of 2017, Chapline coerced a minor took pictures of the victim getting out of a shower and then posing in a bedroom. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WIAT-CBS (Birmingham, AL): Anniston man to spend 3 years in prison for illegally possessing guns as a felon, Tanner Brooks, September 24, 2021, 4:09 PM (EDT)

On Friday, an Anniston man was sentenced to three years in prison for being a felon in possession of guns. Jack David “Jackie” Stovall II, 73, pleaded guilty to the charge back in July and was also fined \$40,000. In addition to his sentence, he will have three years of supervised release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBW-CBS (Topeka, KS): 15 charged for conspiracy to distribute cocaine, Sarah Motter, September 24, 2021, 4:06 PM (EDT)

Homeland Security and Drug Enforcement Agency Officers have stopped at least 11 pounds of cocaine from hitting Kansas City streets. Acting U.S. Attorney’s Duston Slinkard’s Office says a federal grand jury in Kansas City indicted 15 people with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five kilograms (over 11 pounds) or more of cocaine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSTU-Fox (Salt Lake City, UT): Utahn accused in Capitol riot asks judge to suppress his interview with FBI, Nate Carlisle, September 24, 2021, 2:24 PM

A Utah man accused of crimes at the U.S. Capitol insurrection in January says an FBI agent didn’t read him his rights. A lawyer for John E. Sullivan filed a motion Thursday asking a judge to suppress his client’s Jan. 11 interview with the FBI agent in Salt Lake City. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Court indicates it may wait to rule on Georgia abortion law, Kate Brumback, September 25, 2021, 9:06 AM

A federal appeals court seemed to indicate Friday that it would wait until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case that seeks to overturn its landmark decision guaranteeing a woman’s right to an abortion before ruling on the appeal of a lower court’s ruling blocking a restrictive Georgia abortion law. The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear arguments in December on an attempt by Mississippi to overturn the high court’s decision in Roe v. Wade, which affirmed the right to an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Second Tennessee judge blocks Gov. Lee’s mask opt-out, Kimberlee Kruesi, September 24, 2021, 2:13 PM

A federal judge on Friday handed down a second blow to Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee’s contentious order allowing parents to opt out of school mask requirements, ruling that Knox County Schools must implement a mask mandate to help protect children with health problems amid the coronavirus pandemic. U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer’s decision also blocks Lee’s order from being implemented while the legal battle continues to move its way through court. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WDEF-CBS \(Chattanooga, TN\)](#)

NYT: Former Louisiana Trooper Faces Federal Civil Rights Charge, Derrick Bryson Taylor, September 24, 2021, 2:30 PM

A federal grand jury indicted a former Louisiana state trooper on Thursday on a federal civil rights violation, finding that he repeatedly clubbed a Black man with a flashlight during a traffic stop that was recorded by his body camera. The former trooper, Jacob Brown, 31, was charged with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, the U.S. attorney’s office for the Western District of Louisiana said in a news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KDKA-CBS (Pittsburgh, PA): Former Jail Guard Accused Of Violating Inmate's Civil Rights, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 8:45 AM

A former corrections officer who fought with an inmate who tossed a banana peel at him has been charged with violating the inmates civil rights, according to federal prosecutors. The charge filed Thursday stems from an October 2018 brawl at the Cuyahoga County Jail in Cleveland that lasted for seven minutes and was captured on surveillance footage. Prosecutors said the guard John McCloud, 28, of Parma told supervisors that he blacked out when he fought and wrestled with the inmate, whose name has not been released. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WGCL-CBS (Atlanta, GA): U.S. Appeals Court judges say Mississippi's Supreme Court abortion case could influence Georgia abortion case, Hayley Mason, September 24, 2021, 7:37 PM

The U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit heard oral arguments Friday morning in the lawsuit over Georgia's six-week abortion ban. The law passed the Georgia legislature in 2019 and was signed into law, slated to take effect January 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

AP: Jury orders city of Roy to pay \$3.26M to men shot by police, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 12:06 PM (EDT)

A federal jury has awarded two men who live south of Tacoma a total of \$3.26 million for injuries suffered when they were shot by one of the town of Roy's two police officers during a drunken joy ride in a 2019 snowstorm. The verdict is one of the largest reached in the Western District of Washington involving a nonfatal police shooting, The Seattle Times reported. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: SEC Sues UK Father And Son, 2 Others In Microcap Scam, Katryna Perera, September 24, 2021 6:49 PM

The U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed two separate complaints in New York federal court on Thursday alleging that four individuals and five entities ran a fraudulent transatlantic microcap scheme that generated more than \$10 million in unlawful stock sales. The complaints were filed against three U.K. residents, one U.S. resident and five entities that are based around the world. In one of the complaints, the SEC alleges that a father son duo from the U. K. illegally disguised their control of publicly traded companies in the U. S. and through their control engineered a "pump-and-dump" scheme of their stocks. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Texas migrant camp empty, Haitians await word on their fate, Maria Verza and Juan Lozano, September 25, 2021, 12:59 AM

No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people most of them Haitians huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum. Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Fox: Mayorkas says Haitian migrants under Del Rio bridge were not tested for COVID-19, Adam Shaw, September 24, 2021, 7:01 PM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Friday told reporters that the nearly 15,000 migrants who were camped out under the Del Rio bridge in squalid conditions last week were not

tested for COVID-19, and he does not know if anyone got sick with the contagious virus while there. Mayorkas was asked about the Biden administration's use of Title 42 public health protections that are deployed to quickly expel migrants who have come to the border, using the COVID-19 pandemic as a rationale. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Bisexual Libyan Gets New Hearing to Argue He Should Stay in U.S.,

Bernie Pazanowski, September 24, 2021, 3:05 PM

A bisexual Libyan who converted to Christianity is entitled to a new hearing to determine whether he can stay in the U.S. under the Convention Against Torture, the Fifth Circuit said Friday. Muntaser Abushagif requested asylum, withholding of removal, and protection under CAT in 2011, saying he'd be tortured if he was returned to Libya. The Board of Immigration Appeals denied the request. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: Numbers game: 10,000 Del Rio migrants processed — leaked figures show how many were released,

Anna Giaritelli, September 24, 2021 8:45 PM

More than 10,000 migrants who were camped under a bridge have been processed by Border Patrol agents since last Saturday as the Biden administration moves to clear out the site, the Washington Examiner has learned. As of 5 p.m. local time Friday, 10,000 people who waded across the Rio Grande from Acuna, Mexico, to Del Rio have had their information entered into Border Patrol's tracking system over the past seven days, according to data reviewed by the Washington Examiner on Friday evening. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KOLD-CBS (Tucson, AZ): Texas migrant camp empty, Haitians await word on their fate,

Maria Vera and Juan Lozano, September 25, 2021, 2:37 AM

No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people most of them Haitians huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum. Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ANTITRUST

Law360: 'Nontraditional Questions' Appearing In FTC Merger Probes,

Bryan Koenig, September 24, 2021, 9:44 PM

In at least some merger probes the Federal Trade Commission appears in recent months to have started asking questions that antitrust attorneys say they've never fielded before, including queries about unionization at the merging companies, environmental issues and corporate governance practices. Vinson & Elkins LLP antitrust practice chair Darren Tucker first cast light on the new lines of questioning during the FTC's Sept. 15 open meeting, telling the commissioners that "in an increasing number of FTC merger investigations," staffers have sought information about how the deals would impact unionization, franchising and environmental, social and governance, or ESG, issues. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: QVC Ducks Antitrust Claim In Suzanne Somers Diet Pill Row,

Matt Fair, September 24, 2021, 6:57 PM

A Pennsylvania federal judge has nixed a claim alleging antitrust violations on the part of QVC Inc. as part of a broader lawsuit from actress and entrepreneur Suzanne Somers accusing the home shopping giant of scheming to freeze her out of the market for nutritional supplements. U.S. District Judge Chad Kenney ruled Thursday that Somers and her company, SLC Sweet Inc., had failed to show that the so-called direct response television programming market allegedly

monopolized by QVC offered a singularly unique means to reach potential customers that other retailers, such as brick-and-mortar stores, did not provide. [\[Continue Reading\]](#). .

ENVIRONMENT

*Bloomberg Law: **Chevron, Dow Among Entities Sued by California Over Landfill***, David McAfee, September 24, 2021, 5:58 PM

Chevron USA Inc., Pacific Gas and Electric Co., and other major companies engaging in hazardous waste treatment were hit with a lawsuit in federal court in California Friday by the state's Department of Toxic Substances Control, which alleges it is owed fees for the cleanup of a landfill in Contra Costa County. The agency's civil action also names Dow Chemical Co., Shell Oil Co., and several others. It seeks recovery of response costs at the Vine Hill Complex landfill in Martinez, Calif. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

*Bloomberg Law: **EPA Sued Over Decision Allowing Farm Use of Herbicide Paraquat***, Stephen Lee, September 24, 2021, 3:38 PM

A coalition of environmentalists and farmworker groups sued the EPA in a California federal court on Friday over its July decision to let farmers keep using the pesticide paraquat. That decision wasn't supported by substantial evidence and contravenes the Environmental Protection Agency's obligations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, according to Jonathan Kalmuss-Katz, a senior attorney at the environmental law firm Earthjustice, which filed the petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

TAX

*MLive Media Group (Grand Rapids, MI): **West Branch man gets 30 months in federal prison on tax convictions***, Cole Waterman, September 25, 2021, 9:56 AM (EDT)

A West Branch man has been sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for filing false tax returns and aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns. Sentenced was Christopher Fratine, 53, who pleaded guilty in July 2019 to five counts of making a false tax return and four counts of aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns before U.S. District Judge Thomas L. Ludington in Bay City. Sentencing was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

*Law360: **Virginia Doctor Pleads Guilty In \$1.8M Rx Fraud Scheme***, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 9:10 PM

A Washington-area physician has admitted participating in a "fraud scheme" to prescribe pain and scar creams in order to receive a kickback from a pharmacist, defrauding health insurance programs out of \$1.8 million, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said Friday. Leonard Rosen, a 72-year-old obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Manassas, Virginia, entered a pre-indictment guilty plea for his role in the seven-figure scam, a spokesperson with the U. S. Department of Justice told Law360. A criminal complaint was unavailable on Friday, but the spokesperson said Rosen faces one count of health care fraud. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

*CNN: **More than 190 fugitives arrested in New Jersey operation dubbed 'Clean Sweep'***,

Alaa Elassar, September 25, 2021, 6:07 AM

A multi-agency law enforcement operation in New Jersey resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, according to the US Marshals Service. Operation "Clean Sweep" focused on capturing some of the state's "most violent offenders," including gang members, sex offenders, and violent criminals, US Marshals said in a news release on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: **FBI agents question Afghan rescue groups**, Lara Seligman, Betsy Woodruff Swan, Erin Banco, and Alexander Ward, September 24, 2021, 2:37 PM

The FBI has been reaching out to members of the veterans' groups working to evacuate American citizens and at-risk Afghans and inquiring about their activities, in at least one case visiting a group leader at his home. Agents have visited, emailed and called members of Task Force Pineapple and Task Force Dunkirk, two of the more prominent organizations, and other groups with a host of queries. The Bureau has asked groups about financial records, to provide manifests and make sure no federal laws are violated, according to eight group members and congressional aides familiar with the moves. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Sioux City Journal (Sioux City, IA): **Dakota County readies for jail expansion**, Nick Hytrek, September 25, 2021, 12:55 PM

Dakota County is nearing launch of a second phase of jail construction the county's sheriff says will be entirely funded with money received for housing an increased number of federal prisoners. The 112-bed addition will raise the jail's capacity to 248 beds and require the addition of 16 or 17 jailers whose salaries also will be offset by payments from the U.S. Marshals Service, which has contracted with Dakota County to pay an increased daily rate per inmate that will nearly double in the immediate months after the jail expansion opens. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Farmington Daily Times (Farmington, NM): **FBI arrests man identified in Sept. 23 Amber Alert for firearm charges**, Joshua Kellogg, September 25, 2021, 7:13 AM (EDT)

The man who was identified in a Sept. 23 Amber Alert for allegedly taking his four children during a domestic dispute was arrested by federal agents on firearm-related charges. Rumaldo Peshlakai, 41, of Rock Springs was arrested by FBI special agents on Sept. 24 in Gallup, according to an FBI news release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WREG-CBS (Memphis, TN): **ATF helping with investigation into weapon used in Collierville Kroger shooting**, by: Jessica Gertler, September 24, 2021, 9:12 PM (EDT)

Many questions remain about the gunman in the Collierville Kroger shooting, including what gun he used and where he got it. WREG is looking into what happens with the evidence law enforcement collects and what information can they actually get. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAS-NBC (Fort Worth, TX): **Acting Director of the ATF and Fort Worth Native Shares His Journey With Hometown Students**, Vince Sims, September 24, 2021, 5:43 PM

Marvin Richardson is the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Friday, he spoke with students that are part of the My Brother's Keeper program at Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. His office may be in Washington, D.C. but Fort Worth is home. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPDE-ABC/CW (Florence, SC): **FBI launches hate crime reporting campaign in SC**, Heath Ellison, September 24, 2021, 4:46 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently launched a hate crime reporting campaign in South

Carolina. The advertising blitz is attempting to encourage residents to report hate crimes to law enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMOV-CBS/MyNetworkTV (St. Louis, MO): Sex offender dresses up as doctor, escapes mental hospital, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 1:02 AM (EDT)

A dangerous sex offender is on the loose and U.S. Marshals across the Midwest are looking for him after he managed to slip out of a mental hospital. John Colt dressed as a doctor and walked out of a facility that's west of Wichita, Kansas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: Government: Dylann Roof's death sentence should stand, Meg Kinnard, September 25, 2021, 10:33 AM

Attorneys for the federal government have opposed Dylann Roof's request for a new appellate hearing, arguing that the South Carolina man was properly convicted and sentenced for the 2015 racist slayings of nine members of a Black congregation. In court documents filed Thursday, federal prosecutors argued that a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals correctly ruled last month that the government had proven its case against Roof, despite his protestations on several points. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Lawyers to urge no restrictions for Reagan shooter Hinckley, Ben Finley, September 25, 2021, 9:07 AM

Lawyers for John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, are scheduled to argue in court Monday that the 66-year-old should be freed from restrictions placed on him after he moved out of a Washington hospital in 2016. Since Hinckley's move to Williamsburg, Virginia, a federal judge has made him live under various conditions that dictate much of his life. For instance, doctors and therapists must oversee his psychiatric medication and decide how often he attends individual and group therapy sessions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: A champion of COVID-19 vaccines, Newsom fights plan to mandate them for prison guards, Richard Winton, September 25, 2021, 3:36 PM (EDT)

Seeking a vaccine mandate for all state prison guards and staff, a federal court-appointed receiver overseeing the medical care of California's prisons argued Friday that there have been 11 coronavirus-related deaths since August among corrections employees who were not fully vaccinated and outbreaks at 21 prisons. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

BuzzFeed: Republican Lawmakers Are Pressing Ahead With Anti-Abortion Laws, With Or Without The Supreme Court's Help, Zoe Tillman and Kadia Goba, September 24, 2021, 4:31 PM (EDT)

A two-year fight over the constitutionality of Georgia's six-week abortion ban finally reached a federal appeals court on Friday. But a judge kicked off arguments by asking if the court should put the case on hold and wait to see what the US Supreme Court does in another abortion case that's before the justices now. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Oklahoma court lifts stays in 2 McGirt-related decisions, Unattributed, September 25, 2021, 1:08 PM

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday lifted stays in two cases it overturned based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on tribal lands by non-American Indians against Native Americans. The court lifted stays of its previous reversals of the murder conviction of Shawn McDaniel and the child neglect conviction of Victor Castro-Huerta. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Daily Ardmoreite (Ardmore, OK): **[Opinion] Guest column: Marijuana prohibition re-established in Chickasaw nation**, Jason May, September 25, 2021, 12:43 PM (EDT)

As the fallout from the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* continues to be felt in our community, one unforeseen consequence is what amounts to the reversal of State Question 788 as it relates to Indians within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. Post-McGirt, the state of Oklahoma does not have jurisdiction to prosecute members of any federally-recognized Indian tribe for crimes that occur within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Great Falls Tribune (Helena, MT): **Fort Belknap Indian Community selected to help improve National Crime Information databases**, Nora Mabie, September 24, 2021, 3:23 PM (EDT)

The Fort Belknap Indian Community was among 12 tribes selected by the Department of Justice to participate in the expansion of the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information. The program supports tribal governments in accessing, entering and exchanging data with national crime information systems, including systems maintained by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Rolling Stone: **How One Weed Company Is Skirting Marijuana Rules to Sell THC Products in All 50 States**, Mary Jane Gibson, September 25, 2021, 9:41 AM

Last month, Wisconsin-based company LiftedMade launched a new kind of weed product: a THC-infused flavor-popping crystal candy, called Urb Rocks. Like most other THC products, it will get you high. Unlike other products, though, the THC in Urb Rocks is sourced from hemp, which means it's technically legal for sale in most states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Cannabis Bill Roundup: House OKs SAFE Act In Defense Bill**, Sam Reisman, September 24, 2021, 8:40 PM

The U.S. House of Representatives once again passed cannabis banking legislation, this time as part of a must-pass defense package, while Mississippi lawmakers announced that they had a deal for legalizing medical marijuana. Here are the major developments in cannabis reform policy from the past week. On Capitol Hill, the House on Thursday approved a \$768.1 billion defense policy and budget bill for 2022, which includes an amendment put forth by Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D.-Colo., inserting the SAFE Banking Act, a bill to open up financial institutions to the cannabis industry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

The Hill: Harris says images of Border Patrol on horseback evoked 'times of slavery', Cameron Jenkins, September 25, 2021, 8:28 AM EDT

Vice President Harris on Friday further condemned the actions of Border Patrol agents on horseback who appeared to use reins to threaten Haitian migrants, comparing the incident to "times of slavery." Harris made her comments during an appearance on ABC's "The View," describing how the imagery, which circulated widely on social media, reminded her of tactics "used against the Indigenous people of our country" and "used against African Americans during times of slavery." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law 360: Biden Taps Migrant Advocate To Helm ICE's Prosecution Arm, Mike LaSusa, September 24, 2021, 5:02 PM

President Joe Biden has appointed a longtime immigrant rights lawyer at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's new top prosecutor, the agency confirmed to Law360 on Friday. Kerry Doyle, a Massachusetts-based attorney with decades of experience defending immigrants from enforcement actions, will head ICE's Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, which represents the agency when it moves to deport people. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

AP: Congress, court pressure New York City to fix jails crisis, Michael R. Sisak, September 24, 2021, 5:58 PM

New York City faced mounting pressure Friday to solve its spiraling jail crisis, with members of Congress calling for a federal civil rights investigation and a court-appointed monitor blasting the city for a failure of leadership amid staggering violence, self-harm and the deaths this year of at least 12 inmates. U.S. District Judge Laura Swain, overseeing a jail consent decree, said on an emergency conference call Friday that the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex is "clearly in a state of danger and crisis." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

Washington Times: Rep. Ted Lieu leads effort to scrap Department of Justice's investigations into Chinese influence, Ryan Lovelace, September 24, 2021, 5:40 PM

Rep. Ted Lieu, California Democrat, is leading an effort to undermine the federal government's investigations of Chinese influence over scientists, researchers, and others engaged in alleged economic espionage. Mr. Lieu believes such investigations are racially biased against Chinese Americans and must be stopped. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The CDC has approved administering Pfizer booster shots to eligible Americans, including individuals 65 y/o and older, long-term care facility residents, individuals 18 and older with underlying medical conditions, and frontline workers whose jobs put them at higher risks.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky defended her decision to include frontline workers including teachers, and people who work in childcare, grocery stores, and healthcare.

[[ABC-1](#), [ABC-2](#) [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

- UK Thang has been identified as the gunman involved in the deadly Kroger supermarket shooting in Tennessee. Thang had previously done business with the grocery store as a third-party vendor. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The migrant camp on the border of Del Rio, Texas, has been cleared out. Some migrants were sent back to Haiti, while others will remain in the US for their asylum cases to be heard. President Biden stated the Border Agents who violently confronted migrants “will pay” while Homeland Security Secretary said he would wait for an investigation. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The search for Brian Laundrie continues, as a federal warrant was issued for separate credit card charges. The Petito case has brought up other missing person cases that have been overlooked because they are from minority communities. Ms. Petito’s funeral is scheduled for this Sunday. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Evacuation orders have been issued for wildfires in California, most recently with the Fawn Fire located north of Redding. Alexandra Souverneva has been charged with arson and a special allegation for starting multiple fires during a state of emergency. In addition, charges have been filed against Pacific Gas and Electric for its role in a fire that killed four people last year. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- President Biden is facing pressure over his infrastructure bill as his poll numbers fall. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is bringing the bipartisan Infrastructure bill to the floor for a vote on Monday, while the other costlier economic package will be brought to a vote later this week. Unfortunately, progressive and moderate lawmakers are still at odds on the cost of the Economic Package and may not find any resolutions. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- The results of a Republican-led election audit in Arizona have confirmed that President Biden won by an even more significant margin. Democrats have called the audit useless, ridiculous, and a waste of time. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- Eight people have been arrested and face criminal charges in the death of Virginia Commonwealth University student Adam Oakes. Oakes died of alcohol poisoning after a night of hazing at the Delta Chi Fraternity. [[CBS](#)]
- Several storm systems are developing in the Atlantic region. Hurricane Sam is expected to strengthen to Category 4. Subtropical storm Teresa formed north of Bermuda in the

Atlantic Ocean with 45 mph winds and is being watched for further developments. [\[NBC\]](#)

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- “Stablecoins in Spotlight as U.S. Begins to Lay Ground for Rules on Cryptocurrencies” [\[WSJ\]](#)
- “To Get Back Arrested Executive, China Uses a Hardball Tactic: Seizing Foreigners” [\[NYT\]](#)
- “Changes in booster shot guidance leads to confusion, chaos for doctors and the vaccinated” [\[WaPo\]](#)
- “California to offer COVID booster shots for teachers, healthcare workers, seniors” [\[LAT\]](#)

END

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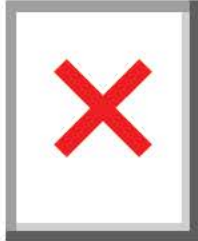
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From: POLITICO Paybook
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 'Audit' movement gains steam — even after Arizona
To: Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: September 25, 2021 10:42 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sep 25, 2021

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B R Y A N A L R I A Z R Z P A A A C L H M A A E E R U G B E A N D E E D A N



Presented by

DRIVING THE DAY

If you're inclined to believe that facts matter, then the results of Arizona's long-gestating review of the 2020 election results reaffirmed what was already known: **JOE BIDEN** won the election and **DONALD TRUMP** lost.

But in a political environment often divorced from factual reality, the so-called "audit" — we hesitate to use that word even in quotation marks — didn't need to prove anything to be a success. Its findings were ultimately beside the point: The mere existence of the investigation

validated the idea that the most outlandish claims about the election should be taken seriously.

Understood from that angle, it makes sense why “Friday’s flawed report from the Republicans investigating Arizona’s 2020 election isn’t changing minds or dampening enthusiasm among election conspiracy theorists,” as [Zach Montellaro and Meridith McGraw report in a sweeping look at the trend](#). “Instead, the movement keeps gaining traction in the Republican Party.”

— **Texas announced its own Arizona-style investigation** of the 2020 results in four counties some eight hours after Trump issued a statement requesting one. [More from the Texas Tribune](#)

— **Wisconsin’s review is well underway**. There, “taxpayers are paying former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice **MICHAEL GABLEMAN** \$680,000 to review the state’s 2020 election using an office created by Assembly Speaker **ROBIN VOS**,” [reports the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#).

— **Pennsylvania “now stands to become ground zero** in the movement to ‘audit’ the election,” [reports the Philly Inquirer](#). Earlier this month, Republicans in the state Senate voted to subpoena state records of “all 9 million registered voters’ nonpublic personal information, including the last four digits of their Social Security numbers and driver’s license numbers,” to verify who cast ballots and whether they were properly registered.

— **In Michigan, RNC election integrity director JOSH FINDLAY** told the Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference on Friday that the GOP will drastically expand its poll watching and election litigation efforts in 2022, invest in better training for its poll-watchers, and file suit earlier and more aggressively. [More from the Detroit Free Press](#)

“Republican candidates up and down the ballot in state after state are adopting former President Donald Trump’s phony claims about fraud and stolen elections,” Zach and Meridith write. “And in Arizona, Republicans said ... that the report made it necessary to consider more restrictive voting rules in future elections.”

All of which helps to explain why Trump hailed the Arizona audit results — which, to reiterate, showed him losing by a larger margin than the official tally — as a “big win for democracy and a big win for us.”

“Voters are demanding it,” Trump spokesperson **LIZ HARRINGTON** said. “It’s the number one issue of concern we hear.”

Good Saturday morning, and thanks for reading Playbook. Drop us a line: [Rachael Bade](#), [Eugene Daniels](#), [Ryan Lizza](#), [Tara Palmeri](#).

A message from Facebook:

Internet regulations are as outdated as dial-up

Facebook supports updated regulations, including four areas where lawmakers can make quick progress:

- Reforming Section 230
- Preventing foreign interference of our elections
- Passing federal privacy law
- Setting rules that allow people to safely transfer data between services

WHAT'S THE RUSH? — Right now, the reconciliation package is jerking forward with all the grace of a car with two steering wheels, two accelerators and two brake pedals.

Hill Democrats disagree over its size, its scope, its component parts, over legislative strategy, over what will play well with voters, over whether Congress has done its due diligence. And with two days left before the House's scheduled BIF vote, they even disagree over whether there's a sense of urgency.

— **Speaker NANCY PELOSI promised House moderates a vote** on the bipartisan infrastructure package on Sept. 27. For legislative leverage, she wants a reconciliation vote ready to go around the same time — and that means she needs to have a sense of what a viable package looks like to Senate Dems.

— **Cue Sen. JOE MANCHIN** (D-W.Va.): “What’s the need? There is no timeline. I want to understand it,” [he told our own Burgess Everett and Marianne LeVine](#).

“**The idea of a bicameral deal on reconciliation ahead of Monday’s House vote** on the bipartisan infrastructure bill seems unlikely at best,” write Burgess and Marianne. The good news for Dems? “Manchin seems relatively committed to getting something done instead of fighting to stop the reconciliation bill altogether.”

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Hill, Pelosi “has never been in a bind like this before,” [Heather Caygle, Sarah Ferris and Nicholas Wu write](#).

Even a self-described “master legislator” has her limits, and the gauntlet she’s facing at this moment — an unruly caucus that can’t even agree on procedure, let alone policy; a looming government shutdown; a debt ceiling on the verge of being hit; Manchin and Sen. **KYRSTEN SINEMA** (D-Ariz.) acting as pace cars that set the speed at which the House can move — is not only an unparalleled test of her abilities, but one with make-or-break consequences for the Biden presidency.

She's moving forward, eager to “project enough momentum on the social spending package so progressives won't revolt and potentially derail the entire effort.”

— **Today, the House Budget Committee** will cobble together the various components of the reconciliation package into one bill. Even so, “the markup is largely symbolic; it won't settle enormous issues such as the price tag or key policy disputes,” as Heather, Sarah and Nicholas report. “Any major changes Democrats want to make will come later.”

GIULIANI TO FOX: LAY OFF MY SON — RUDY GIULIANI, speaking on **STEVE BANNON's** [podcast](#) Friday, confirmed [Playbook's report](#) that he has been banned from Fox News, calling it “outrageous.” But Giuliani seemed more outraged over the fact that his son **ANDREW**, who is running for governor of New York, has been frozen out, too.

“There's no reason to include Andrew,” Giuliani said of Fox News' ban, before contrasting the network's treatment of his son to its treatment of the first family. “They do a pretty good separation between **HUNTER BIDEN** and Joe Biden.”



9 THINGS WE READ THAT STUCK WITH US:

- **Schools without mask requirements were 3.5 times more likely** to experience a Covid-19 outbreak than schools with them, [according to new CDC data reported on by WaPo](#).
- **Andrew Sullivan’s wide-angle look** on the new **BOB WOODWARD-ROBERT COSTA** book, **ROBERT KAGAN’s** much-discussed essay and the historical echoes of Trumpism.
- **Sex-positive feminism is falling out of fashion** with a new generation of young women, [writes NYT’s Michelle Goldberg](#).
- **Good news: The holidays could look a lot like pre-Covid times**, according to a consortium of researchers advising the CDC, [reports NPR](#). (When have pandemic experts ever been wrong?)
- **Even after ANGELA MERKEL’s 16-year run as chancellor**, it still isn’t easy to be a woman in German politics, [as Emily Schultheis writes for POLITICO Magazine on the eve of the country’s elections](#).
- **Democrats are feeling the pressure in Virginia’s close gubernatorial race**, [AP reports](#).
- **After a list of cellphone numbers for backers** of the secretive, conservative Council for National Policy leaked, [Insider’s Kimberly Leonard, Eliza Relman and Hannah Beckler called up members](#) to get a read on 2024. The takeaway: Not everybody is all in on Trump.
- **Wildfires in the West are intensifying later in the night than they used to**, [and climate change may be the culprit, per WaPo](#).
- **New York Gov. KATHY HOCHUL** has reportedly begun a purge of Cuomo-era officials from the state government, [per the N.Y. Post](#).

BIDEN’S SATURDAY — The president has nothing on his public schedule.

INTRODUCING CONGRESS MINUTES: Need to follow the action on Capitol Hill blow-by-blow? Check out Minutes, POLITICO’s new platform that delivers the latest exclusives, twists and much more in real time. Get it on your desktop or download the POLITICO mobile app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#). [GET A FIRST LOOK AT CONGRESS MINUTES HERE.](#)

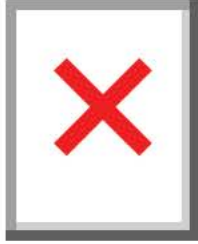


PHOTO OF THE DAY: The Dixie Fire is getting closer to being fully contained, but it's burned a most 1 million acres, including this swath of Greenville, Calif. Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

THE WHITE HOUSE

BOOSTER ACCESSIBILITY — The president on Friday “urged people who are not yet eligible for coronavirus booster shots to be patient, while suggesting eligibility could expand rapidly,” [NYT’s Dan Levin, Apoorva Mandavilli and Benjamin Mueller report.](#)

NOT INTERFERING — [WaPo's Amy Wang, Tom Hamburger and Jacqueline Alemany](#) report that “Biden does not plan to invoke executive privilege to block information Congress is seeking about former president Donald Trump or his aides regarding the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol ... a move that could provide answers to some of the remaining questions surrounding the insurrection.”

FAMILY TIES — Indian PM **NARENDRA MODI** confirmed to Biden on Friday that he had family ties to India, something that first came to light when Biden was VP, [AP's Aamer Madhani reports](#). Modi “told the president that he had ‘hunted’ for documents that would shed light on the president’s Mumbai connection, and brought his findings with him.”

CONGRESS

ISLANDS IN THE NORD STREAM — The Senate muscled past roadblocks from Sen. **TED CRUZ** (R-Texas) late Thursday night to push forward several State Department nominations, with final votes coming as soon as next week, [Roll Call's Rachel Oswald reports](#). The nominees weren't controversial, but Cruz had put holds on many of them in protest of the Biden administration's leniency on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

MOVING IN SOLIDARITY — Democratic Massachusetts Sens. **ED MARKEY** and **ELIZABETH WARREN** didn't participate in the Globe Summit 2021 hosted by The Boston Globe this week, despite being slated to — an effort to show support for the newspaper's union, which has been “in a yearslong dispute over a new labor contract,” [NYT's Marc Tracy reports](#).

TV SUNDAY — Rep. **LIZ CHENEY** (R-Wyo.) [will be on “60 Minutes” this weekend](#), interviewed by **LESLEY STAHL**.

BEYOND THE BELTWAY

THE NEXT ABORTION FRONT — [BuzzFeed's Zoe Tillman and Kadia Goba](#) dive into what's happening with state-level efforts to ban abortions, outside of the scope of SCOTUS: “A fight over Georgia's six-week ban shows what state-level anti-abortion efforts could look like depending on whatever the Supreme Court does next.”

AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER — The Biden administration said Friday “it has finished clearing out the chaotic border camp in Del Rio, Texas, where images of U.S. agents on horseback pursuing migrants subjected the president to withering criticism this week,” [WaPo's Felicia Sonmez and Nick Miroff report](#).

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

PULLOUT FALLOUT — “The task of accommodating 10,000 Afghan refugees, including approximately 2,000 pregnant women, is putting facilities at Ramstein airbase in Germany under tremendous strain as nighttime temperatures drop toward freezing and what was meant to be a 10-day temporary stay is stretching into weeks, with one US source familiar with the situation describing it as becoming ‘dire,’” [CNN’s Oren Liebermann and Ellie Kaufman report](#).

HARPING ON FRANCE’S INSECURITIES — [AP’s Matthew Lee and Angela Charltonhe report](#) that the “AUKUS agreement scuttled a multibillion-dollar submarine deal that France had with Australia, but, more alarmingly for the French, pointedly ignored them, reinforcing a sense of insecurity that has haunted Paris since the end of World War II. France has long bristled at what it sees as Anglo-Saxon arrogance on the global stage and has not been shy about rallying resistance to perceptions of British- and German-speaking dominance in matters ranging from commerce to conflict.”

A message from Facebook:

Facebook’s Industry-leading investments are stopping bad actors

We’ve invested **\$13 billion in teams and technology over the last 5 years to enhance safety.**

It’s working: In just the past few months, we took down 1.7 billion fake accounts to stop bad actors from doing harm.

But there’s more to do. [Learn more about how we’re working to help you connect safely.](#)

JAN. 6 AND ITS AFTERMATH

KNOWING THE INSURRECTIONISTS — Among the Proud Boys who stormed the Capitol was an FBI informant who texted his handler updates in real time, [NYT’s Alan Feuer and Adam Goldman report](#). Potentially complicating feds’ conspiracy charges against the Proud Boys, they write, “[i]n the informant’s version of events, the Proud Boys, famous for their street fights, were largely following a pro-Trump mob consumed by a herd mentality rather than carrying out any type of preplanned attack.” It also reveals greater law enforcement visibility into the insurrection than was previously known.

TRUMP CARDS

THE INVESTIGATIONS — “A New York judge has ordered the Trump Organization to submit a report next week to the New York Attorney General in an effort to resolve a long-running dispute over subpoenas for records, according to an unsealed order,” [CNN’s Kara Scannell reports](#).

CLICKER — “The nation’s cartoonists on the week in politics,” edited by Matt Wuerker — [17 funnies](#)

GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Ryan Lizza:

— [“American Gentry.”](#) by Patrick Wyman in The Atlantic: “The jet-setting cosmopolitans of popular imagination exist, but they are far outnumbered by a less exalted and less discussed elite group, one that sits at the pinnacle of America’s local hierarchies.”

— [“Can Democrats Win Back the White Working Class?”](#) by Alan Abramowitz for Sabato’s Crystal Ball: “Appealing to the economic interests of white non-college voters may not be enough for Democrats to win back their support.”

— [“The Cultural Left Puts a Ceiling on Democratic Support.”](#) by Ruy Teixeira on his Substack, The Liberal Patriot: “Democrats Don’t Like to Admit It, But It’s Still True.”

— [“To Be a Field of Poppies.”](#) by Lisa Wells in Harper’s: “The elegant science of turning cadavers into compost.”

— [“The Energy Future Needs Cleaner Batteries.”](#) by Drake Bennett for Bloomberg Green: “To deal with climate change and power the cars of tomorrow, we’ll have to solve the cobalt problem.”

— [“The Future of Nature Therapy Is Psychedelic.”](#) by Outside magazine’s David Kushner: “Oregon voters have opened the door to treating mental illness with substances like ketamine and psilocybin. In a peek at the future, our seeker attends a backwoods retreat where patients get help from a powerful combination of drugs and the outdoors.”

— [“What Prison, Death, and Relapse Taught Me About the Power of Dressing Well.”](#) GQ: “Nico Walker spent nine years in custody for robbing banks. When he got out, he started living with intention—and wearing beautiful suits.”

— **From the archives:** [“The Quiet German.”](#) by The New Yorker’s George Packer, Nov. 24, 2014: “The astonishing rise of Angela Merkel, the most powerful woman in the world.”

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Jeb Bush [locked his keys in his car](#) in Biddeford, Maine, and had to borrow the store phone at a CVS to call for help.

Debbie Dingell [isn't backing down](#) after her confrontation with **Marjorie Taylor Greene**.

The 1972 [Nixon campaign headquarters has been resurrected](#) at 1701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW for the filming of HBO's forthcoming "White House Plumbers."

SPOTTED: Rep. **Frank Pallone** (D-N.J.) at the Biden Welcome Center in Newark, Del.

MEDIA MOVE — **Leigh Munsil** will be the next editor-in-chief of the San Antonio Report. She currently is an editor at CNN Politics and is a POLITICO alum. [Announcement](#)

TRANSITIONS — The AFL-CIO is announcing several changes to its executive staff: **Chris Neff** has moved up to chief of staff, **Julie Greene Collier** is returning as deputy chief of staff, **Isaac Gobern** will be assistant to the president, and **John Paul Smith** will be executive assistant to the secretary-treasurer.

WEDDINGS — **Leslie Arffa** and **Samir Doshi**, [via NYT](#): "Ms. Arffa, 29, who recently completed a clerkship with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. on the Supreme Court, will start as a litigation associate in the fall at the Washington office of Sullivan & Cromwell. Mr. Doshi, 30 ... serves as a Bristow Fellow at the office of the solicitor general in the U.S. Justice Department in Washington. ... They were married Sept. 4 at the Beach Plum Inn in Chilmark, Mass."

— **Matthew Sipe** and **Ryan Watzel**, [via NYT](#): "Mr. Sipe, 31, is an assistant professor of law at the University of Baltimore School of Law. ... Mr. Watzel, 34, is an attorney adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel at the Justice Department ... The two were married Sept. 4 at the American Institute of Architects in Washington."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Reps. **Mario Díaz-Balart** (R-Fla.) (6-0), **Doris Matsui** (D-Calif.), **Gregory Meeks** (D-N.Y.) and **Marilyn Strickland** (D-Wash.) ... Chamber of Commerce's **Jack Howard** ... former Defense Secretary **Robert Gates** ... **Barbara Walters** (92) ... NPR's **Tamara Keith** ... HuffPost's **Ryan Reilly** ... **April Greener** of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office ... **Tim Hogan** ... **Gary Carpentier** ... POLITICO's **Bob King** and **Lesley Clark** ... Bloomberg's **John Lauinger** ... **George Hornedo** ... NRCC's **Sloane Carlough** ... **Shivonne Foster Jones** ... **Jeff Roe** of Axiom Strategies ... **Kiley Smith** ... **Chrissy Harbin** ... Washington Examiner's **Madeline Fry Schultz** ... **Missy Owens** of Coca-Cola ... **Kirsten West** of Rep. Lauren Underwood's (D-Ill.) office ... **Mallory Ward** ... **Carmiel Arbit** ... **Dave Peluso** ... The Messina Group's **Jack Davis** ... Arnold & Porter's

Mickayla Stogsdill ... Dori Rutherford ... Josh Tyrangiel ... Rita Norton of AmerisourceBergen ... **Lila Shapiro ... Emily Threadgill ... Brian Beutler ... Ed Newberry** of Squire Patton Boggs ... **John Elias ... Vivyan Tran ... Marco De León ...** former Rep. **Jerry Costello** (D-Ill.) ... **Dena Kozanas ...** New York Assembly Speaker **Carl Heastie ...** Salesforce's **Marc Benioff**

THE SHOWS ([Full Sunday show listings here](#)):

CBS “**Face the Nation**”: CDC Director Rochelle Walensky ... Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) ... Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) ... Australian PM Scott Morrison ... Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ... Scott Gottlieb.

ABC “**This Week**”: Speaker Nancy Pelosi ... Albert Bourla ... Brian Murphy. **Panel:** Donna Brazile, Jane Coaston, Patrick Gaspard and Justin Amash.

CNN “**State of the Union**”: DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas ... Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) ... Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) ... Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.) ... Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.).

NBC “**Meet the Press**”: DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas ... Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) ... Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. **Panel:** Leigh Ann Caldwell, Eddie Glaude Jr., Meghan McCain and Amy Walter.

FOX “**Fox News Sunday**”: Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ... DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. **Panel:** Guy Benson, Catherine Lucey and Juan Williams. **Power Player:** Lt. Damon Radcliffe.

MSNBC “**The Sunday Show**”: Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.) ... Valerie Jarrett ... Bryan Stevenson ... Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.) ... Connie Schultz.

Gray TV “**Full Court Press**”: Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) ... Suzanne Lynch.

CNN “**Inside Politics**”: **Panel:** Seung Min Kim, Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Jeremy Diamond, Burgess Everett, Priscilla Alvarez and Jonathan Reiner.

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P R E S E N T E D B Y M O R G A N S T A N L E Y



By Mike A en · Sep 24, 2021

Good afternoon: Today's PM — edited by Justin Green — is 459 words, a 1.5-minute read.

- **Tomorrow** is [National Hunting and Fishing Day](#). Wishing an enjoyable and safe outing for all who partake.

1 big thing: Spies, lies and goodbyes

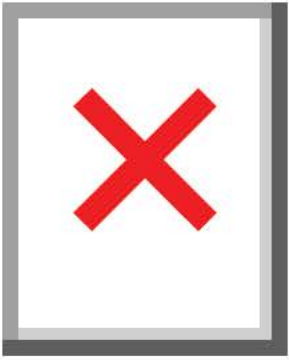


Illustration: Brendan Lynch/Axios

Hard workplace reality: The heightened pandemic-era surveillance that workers thought was temporary is showing signs of longevity.

Why it matters: The pandemic popularized surveillance and data collection as America's workforce rapidly pivoted to remote work, Axios' Erica Pandey reports.

- It ranged from temperature-reading infrared cameras to detect fevers among warehouse employees to keystroke-tracking programs to monitor remote workers' activity.

The big picture: 60% of large employers now track and monitor their workers and that's expected to grow, Gartner human resources research head Brian Kropp told WashPost.

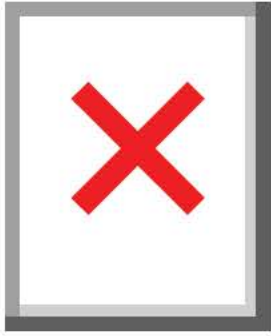
Attorney Kerrie Krutchik shared her experience with WashPost:

- **Krutchik's work laptop included facial recognition software** that required her to do a three-angle sign-in each time she looked away too long.
- **“It’s just this constant, unnecessary, nerve-racking stress:** You’re trying to concentrate and in the back of your mind you know you’re on camera the entire time,” she said. “While you’re reviewing a document, you don’t know who is reviewing you.”
- **She quit two weeks later.**

The bottom line: Employers have broad rights to keep an eye on workers, with the limits often governed by what employees will tolerate, Axios chief tech correspondent Ina Fried notes.



2. Pic du jour



Angela Merkel at Marow Brd Park n Meck enburg-Western Pomeran a, Germany. Photo: Georg Wendt/p cture a nce v a Getty Images

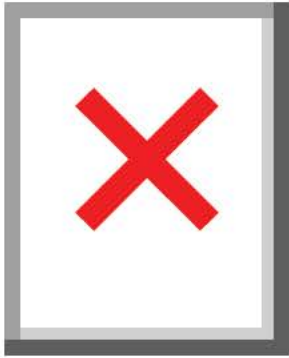
Outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel enjoying some time at the zoo with new friends.

- **One of the rainbow lorikeets took a peck** at the longtime German leader's hand, prompting a theatrical scream from Merkel, [AP notes](#).

✘ ✘ ✘ ✘

A M E S S A G E F R O M M O R G A N S T A N L E Y

At Scale Podcast: The humanitarian cost of plastic waste

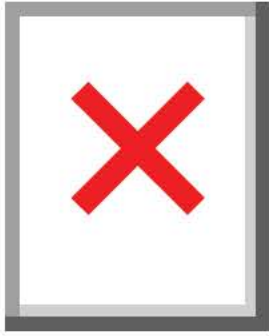


Human societies have produced more than nine billion tons of plastic since the 1950s.

Nearly all of it ends up as trash, polluting our environment and our communities.

Most of that plastic waste disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, and it's become a social justice issue.

3. Catch up quick



The migrant encampment in De Rook is cleared out today. Photo: Julio Cortez/AP.

1. **"It's horrible what you saw":** President Biden [said](#) Border Patrol officers "will pay" for how they used horses to deter Haitian immigrants.
2. **China's central bank declared all cryptocurrencies illegal**, banning crypto-related transactions and cryptocurrency mining. [Go deeper.](#)
3. **Shelley Ross**, a former top ABC News exec, wrote a [New York Times](#) op-ed [accusing](#) now-CNN anchor Chris Cuomo of sexual harassment at a party when they were co-workers in 2005. She released an email from the time in which he said he was "ashamed." Cuomo said in a statement yesterday that the encounter "was not sexual in nature." [Details.](#)
4. **Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) will run for re-election**, giving Republicans a better shot at keeping the Iowa Senate seat. Grassley, 88, is the longest-serving Senate Republican.

4. COVID derails Harris' first in-studio interview

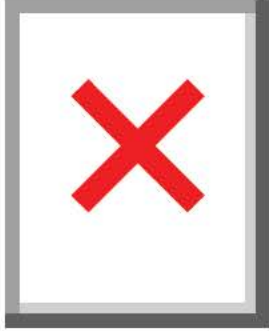


Photo: "The View"

Two of ABC's "The View" hosts tested positive for COVID-19 — in the middle of the show, mere minutes before Vice President Harris was set to appear in her first in-studio interview since taking office.

- **The interview was instead** held remotely.

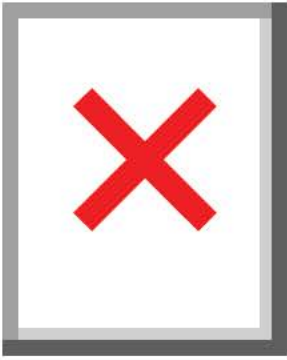
Co-host Sunny Hostin and guest host Ana Navarro tested positive for breakthrough cases, they announced on air.

- **Harris had no contact** with the hosts who tested positive, the White House [said](#).



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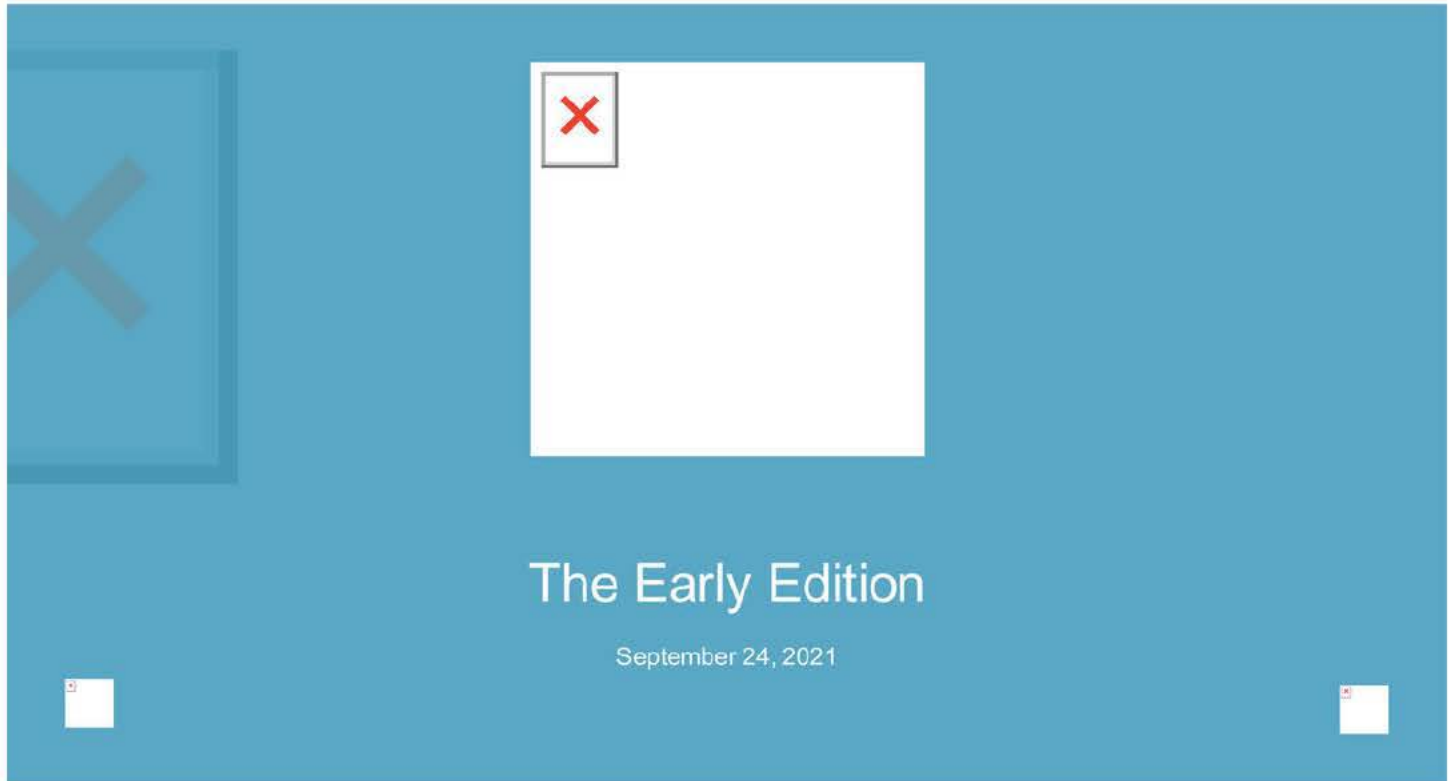
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U.S. RELATIONS

Biden is holding the first in-person meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad) today, bringing together the U.S., Japan, Australia and India in an effort to counter China. Biden will be joined in Washington by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison to discuss "promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific," according to a White House [statement](#). Ben Westcott reports for [CNN](#).

The House has approved \$1 billion in new funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. The vote was 420 to 9 to help Israel replace its sea interceptors used during heavy fighting between Gaza and Israel in May. However, the vote came "only after days of acrimony between progressives who have accused Israel of human rights abuses and other lawmakers, including party leaders, who said they were appalled and astonished by the colleagues' refusal to fund a defense system to protect Israeli civilians," Catherine Edmondson reports for the [New York Times](#).

The House has passed a \$768 billion defense policy bill that endorses a major budget boost for the Pentagon,

with an increase of \$25 billion from what Biden requested in the biggest blow yet to Biden's Pentagon spending plans. As we as author z ng spend ng eve s and sett ng Pentagon po cy, the B "wou d requ re women to reg ster for a m tary draft. It a so a ms to extract nformat on from the B den adm n strat on on the chaot c w thdrawa from Afghan stan and aunch a w de-rang ng rev ew of the two-decade war," Connor O Br en reports for [POLITICO](#).

The CIA has removed its top officer in Vienna amid criticism of his response to a growing number of mysterious Havana syndrome cases at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, according to current and former U.S. officials. Dozens of U.S. personne n Venna, nc ud ng d p omats and nte gence off c as, as we as some of the ch dren of U.S. emp oyees, have reported symptoms. The s de n ng of the stat on ch ef s expected to send a message that top CIA eaders must take serous y any reports of Havana syndrome. John Hudson and Shane Harr s report for the [Wash ngton Post](#).

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has defended U.S. leadership at the U.N yesterday, as he recognized, speaking to reporters, that it will take time for the U.S. to repair relations with France following the Aukus pact between the U.S., U.K. and Australia. B nken sa d he had met w th French Fore gn Mn ster Jean-Yves Le Dr an as the B den adm n strat on tr es to mend ruptured tes over the Aukus pact. "We recogn ze th s w take t me and hard work, and w be demonstrated not on y n words, but n deeds, and I m comm tted to work ng cose y w th Mn ster Le Dr an on th s cruc a effort," B nken sa d. N co e Gaouette, Ky e Atwood and Jenn fer Hans er report for [CNN](#).

Iran remains ready to return to nuclear talks "very soon", but the Biden administration has sent a "negative sign" by failing to lift economic sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has said. Speak ng to NBC News Am rabdo ah an sa d that "they say, we are ready to return to the fu f ment of our comm tments. However, there s no act on taken n order to show and prove the true w to the new Iran an adm n strat on, to the Iran an nat on. And worse than that, s mu taneous y, they have managed to put on new sanct ons." Dan De Luce reports for [NBC News](#).

Vice President Harris met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday and stressed the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. "The Un ted States, ke Ind a, fee s very strong y about the pr de of be ng a member of the Indo Pac f c, but a so the frag ty and mportance...of those re at onsh ps, nc ud ng ma nta n ng a free and open Indo Pac f c," Harr s to d Mod dur ng the meet ng. "Mod pra sed the v ce pres dent referr ng to her as an nsp rat on, a eader who s ke fam y and ca ed her a rea fr end who has had Ind a s back dur ng the Cov d-19 cr s s," Nand ta Bose reports for [Reuters](#).

Israeli and U.S. warships conducted a joint maritime patrol in the Gulf of Aqaba at the end of August, in a "milestone maritime patrol." The patro came as "the U.S. Department of Defense sh fted Israe from U.S. European Command to U.S. Centra Command s area of respons b ty," a [statement from U.S. Nava Forces Centra Command](#) sa d.

Denmark is siding with the U.S. in the dispute with France over the Aukus pact. Dan sh Pr me Mn ster Mette Freder ksen sa d n a newspaper nterv ew that she wants to warn aga nst turn ng "concrete cha enges, wh ch w a ways ex st between a es, nto someth ng they shou d not be," and that " n the ght of the d scuss ons that are tak ng p ace r ght now n Europe, I th nk t s mportant to say that I exper ence B den as very oya to the trans-At ant c a ance." [AP](#) reports.

The Kremlin has said that imposing further sanctions against Russia would undermine hopes of restoring dialogue between the U.S. and Russia, comment ng on propos s be ng cons dered by U.S. awmakers to expand measures target ng Russ an debt to secondary market trad ng. [Reuters](#) report ng.

JAN. 6 ATTACK

The select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol issued subpoenas yesterday to four current and former top aides to former President Trump.

In a turning point in its investigation, the committee issued its first subpoenas to Mark Meadows, Trump's most recent chief of staff; Kash Patel, former Pentagon official and longtime House Intelligence Committee aide; Steve Bannon, former top White House adviser; and Dan Scavino, longtime Trump social media chief. "The Select Committee has revealed credible evidence of your involvement in events within the scope of the Select Committee's inquiry," the committee's chair, Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) wrote in the letter to Meadows. "In a statement released shortly after the subpoenas were issued, Trump lashed out at the panel and reiterated his discredited claims about the results of the 2020 election," Kyle Cheney and Nicholas Wu report for [POLITICO](#).

The head of the House Intelligence Committee Rep. Alan Schiff (D-CA) has suggested that those who refuse to cooperate in Congress's investigation into the Jan. 6 Capitol attack could face charges of criminal contempt.

"Certainly, there will be some who will not be cooperating with us, and I'm not referring to the current administration, but members of the past administration. We have to anticipate that," Schiff, who's also a member of the select committee investigating the attack, said. He explained "that while investigators don't expect a blank check from the Biden administration's Justice Department, agency officials have shown signs that they'll be much more cooperative in pursuing congressional probes than they were under the Trump administration," Mike Liss reports for [The Hill](#).

The White House is moving to release information on Trump and his aides to a congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

"The President's deeply committed to ensuring that something like that can never happen again and he supports a thorough investigation into what occurred," White House spokesperson Mchaë Gwyn said in a statement to CNN. "That's why his Administration has been engaging with Congress on matters relating to January 6 for several months now and will continue to do so, in coordination with the Select Committee." The information is expected to address what Trump and his aides were doing as violence erupted that day, "a decision that's key to set up a legal fight with the former President and raise questions of executive privilege for anyone who serves in the Oval Office," Jeff Zeleny and Evan Perez report for [CNN](#).

The Justice Department has unsealed charges relating to the Capitol attack against an organizer from the conservative advocacy group FreedomWorks.

"Brandon Prenzin was charged last week with four federal misdemeanors for what prosecutors say was just over three minutes inside the Capitol," Hannah Rabnowtz reports for [CNN](#).

2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The findings of a forensic audit of the 2020 Maricopa County presidential election are to be released today, with draft copies of the audit showing that in both the hand count and the Maricopa County's official numbers Biden won.

The difference between the two counts was a so not substantiated different according to the report, which also found no evidence of some of the election fraud claims, like bamboo paper ballots coming from China. The report addresses other concerns about whether voters may have voted twice or if people were not using their current address to vote and "the auditors continued to take issue with Maricopa County not providing a copy of the election's computer server information they requested," Melissa Basus reports for [ABC 15](#).

Under pressure from Trump, the Texas secretary of state's office has announced a "comprehensive forensic audit" of the 2020 election results from four of Texas's largest counties: Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant. The

announcement came eight and a half hours after Trump made a public demand on Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas saying, “Governor Abbott, we need a Forensic Audit of the 2020 Election...Texans know voting fraud occurred in some of the counties.” Reid J. Epstein reports for the [New York Times](#).

White House officials prioritized Trump’s attempt to challenge the election over the response to the Covid-19 pandemic last winter, according to emails obtained by the House select subcommittee probing the government’s coronavirus response. Steven Hatfill, a veteran who said he was intimately involved in the pandemic response, repeatedly described emails to colleagues how “election stuff” took precedence over the Covid-19 response. Dan D’Amico reports for the [Washington Post](#).

OTHER DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

One of Biden’s leading allies in his decades long attempt to reduce nuclear weapons has lost a battle with officials with more traditional views on nuclear weapons. Earlier in his administration Biden installed national security official as a negotiator on negotiating new arms control treaties and curtailing nuclear weapons spending, including Leonor Tomero as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy. However, Tomero will be leaving her post at the end of the month as the Defense Department eliminates her job in a reorganization effort. The appointment of Tomero, a leading voice for nuclear restraint on Capitol Hill and in the think tank community, was not taken widely by officials who promote a status quo agenda and modernizing the land, sea and airborne elements of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Bryan Bender and Lara Seligman report for [POLITICO](#).

The Port of Houston, a major U.S. port, was targeted in an attempted cyber-attack last month, the Port shared in a statement on Thursday. “The Port of Houston Authority (Port Houston) successfully defended itself against a cybersecurity attack in August,” the statement reads. The attempted hack involved a password management program called ManageEngine ADSelfService Plus, and a joint statement last week from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency along with the FBI and the U.S. Coast Guard said the vulnerability in the program “poses a serious risk” to critical infrastructure companies, defense contractors, and others. Aaron Suderman reports for [AP](#).

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has filed an intent to appeal with the Minnesota state appellate court his murder conviction for the death of George Floyd. “In documents filed on Thursday, Chauvin raised 14 issues about his prosecution, including the court’s denial of a request for a change of venue, that he believed supported his request for an appeal,” [Al Jazeera](#) reports.

Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL) last week said in a letter to the Capitol Police Board that he was “deeply concerned” about what he called their apparent neglect of the Government Accountability Office (GAO)’s security recommendations from a February 2017 GAO report. In the [letter](#), obtained by POLITICO, Davis wrote that “unfortunately, this lack of action exemplifies my concerns that the Board does not see the value in accountability and transparency.” Monique Beas reports for [The Hill](#).

Stephen Bannon, the former White House chief strategist, admitted on his podcast that he told Trump to “kill this administration in the crib early on” ahead of the Biden presidency and the Jan. 6 attack. “It killed itself,” Bannon added. “Just let this go with what this legitimate regime is doing. It killed itself. We told you from the very beginning. Just expose it. Just expose it. Never back down. Never give up. This thing will implode.” Monique Beas reports for [The Hill](#).

IMMIGRATION

The U.S. envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote, has resigned after just two months into the role, citing President Biden's administration's "inhumane" mass deportation of Haitian migrants and asylum seekers to what he said was a highly dangerous "collapsed state." "Foote's angry resignation letter is a serious blow for an administration which came to office promising a more humane approach to immigration in the wake of [former President] Trump's policy of child separation. The State Department said he had given a misleading account of his resignation. A senior official said that Foote had advocated sending in U.S. troops to impose order, and that had been rejected," Julian Borger reports for the [Guardian](#).

White House Press secretary, Jen Psaki, has said that Foote "never once" raised migration concerns prior to his resignation, [POLITICO](#) reports.

Thousands of Haitians are being allowed to stay in the U.S. by officials, as they await immigration hearings. The makeshift migrant camp under the Del Rio International Bridge has slowly started to clear out, with about 3,100 migrants remaining in the crowded conditions yesterday, compared to the nearly 15,000 migrants earlier this week. "Immigration and Customs Enforcement has deported about 2,000 migrants in recent days on chartered flights to Haiti as the Biden administration tries to deter more people from rushing to the border. But the authorities have also permitted thousands more to travel to cities across America, where they may live for months or years as they await immigration hearings," Edgar Sandoval, Simon Romero and Miriam Jordan report for the [New York Times](#).

The Biden administration has continued defending its handling of Haitian migrants in the U.S. southern border, amid growing uproar among Democratic party members over the decision to expel Haitian nationals. "The White House insists that they are working to implement an orderly and humane process at the border and have pushed back against the notion that Haitian migrants are being treated differently than others at the border," Morgan Chafant and Rebecca Bettsch report for [The Hill](#).

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has temporarily suspended the use of horse patrol in the Del Rio, Texas, sector, a Homeland Security official said yesterday. The suspension comes after shocking images of border agents on horseback chasing Haitian migrants prompted bipartisan criticism of the Biden administration's handling of the crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border. [Priscilla Alvarez](#) reports for [CNN](#).

AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban's new defense minister has issued a rebuke over misconduct by some Taliban commanders and fighters following the group's takeover of Afghanistan last month, saying abuses would not be tolerated. Muahammad Muhammad Yaqoob said in an audio message that some "miscreants and notorious former soldiers" had been allowed to join Taliban units where they had committed a range of sometimes violent abuses. "We direct you keep them out of your ranks, otherwise strict action will be taken against you," he stated. "As you are aware, under the general amnesty announced in Afghanistan, no mujahid has the right to take revenge on anyone," he added. [Reuters](#) reports.

The Taliban will resume executions and the amputation of hands for criminals they convict, in a return to their harsh version of Islamic justice, a senior Taliban official, who oversaw justice during the Taliban's previous period in power, has said. In an interview with the Associated Press, Muahammad Nooruddin Turabi, who is now in charge of prisons and is on the U.N. sanctions list, said that executions would not necessarily take place in public as they did before

but that “cutting off of hands is very necessary for security.” “No one will tell us what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran,” Turab said. Peter Beaumont reports for the [Guardian](#).

A new Taliban directive for journalists has raised further fears about the future of press freedom in Afghanistan. The directive has 11 new rules for journalists, including rules against publishing top secrets in contact with Islam or insulting to national personalities, and also instructs journalists to produce news reports in coordination with the government media office. Carotta Gair reports for the [New York Times](#).

Talks between the U.S. and global leaders this week on Afghanistan underscored the intensifying concerns about the fallout of the Taliban takeover but no consensus was reached on financial assistance as the country moves towards an economic and humanitarian crisis. “Six weeks after the Taliban takeover, donor nations are taking a wait-and-see approach. Prices of food and basic goods are rising sharply at a time when many government officials have not been paid for months, and the Taliban victory has thrust hundreds of thousands of Afghan soldiers into joblessness,” Missy Ryan reports for the [Washington Post](#).

Members of the Uyghur ethnic group, seen by China as potential extremists, in Afghanistan are afraid they will face deportation to China as part of a deal between the Taliban and China for economic aid. “For years, Chinese officials have issued calls for leaders in Afghanistan to crack down on and deport Uyghur militants they claimed were sheltering in Afghanistan. The officials said the fighters belonged to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, a separatist organization that Beijing has held responsible for a series of terrorist attacks in China since the late 1990s... The Taliban, in their new role as diplomats, have been eager to establish warm relations with China, meeting most recently on Thursday with Chinese officials. Many Uyghurs in Afghanistan fear they will be branded terrorists and sent to China as pawns in the Taliban’s effort to win favor and economic aid from the country,” Su-Lee Wee and Muy Xao reports for the [New York Times](#).

CHINA

China has voiced opposition to Taiwan joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and has flown 24 planes – including two nuclear-capable bombers – into the self-ruled island’s air defense zone, the biggest incursion in weeks, Taiwanese officials have said. Last week Beijing submitted its own application to become a member of the CPTPP, and Taiwan announced yesterday that it had officially applied to join the CPTPP after having lobbied for years to join. [Agence France-Presse](#) reports.

China has listed more than 100 instances of what it said was U.S. interference in Hong Kong affairs, including President Biden’s show of support for a pro-democracy newspaper. “The United States must not create any force that is anti-China and stirs troubles in Hong Kong, or else it will only be fitting a stone to hit one’s foot,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a regular press briefing today. Yew Lun Tan reports for [Reuters](#).

Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi has said that the Senkaku Islands, known as the Diaoyu Islands in China, are unquestionably Japanese territory and would be defended as such. In an interview with CNN Kishi said that Tokyo would push back at Beijing’s increasing aggressive military posturing and would match any Chinese threat to the islands ship for ship, and beyond if necessary. Brad Lendon and Blake Essig report for [CNN](#).

OTHER GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

The phones of five French cabinet ministers bore traces of the Pegasus spyware, according to an analysis done by France's security agencies, France's Mediapart news outlet reported yesterday. "The confirmation that Pegasus was directed against the ministers underscores the degree to which spyware developed by the Israeli company NSO Group has been used to penetrate the top reaches of a powerful democracy," Michael Brumbaugh reports for the [Washington Post](#).

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Ri Thae Song has said that South Korea's call to declare a formal end to the Korean War is "premature" as there is no guarantee that it would lead to the withdrawal of "U.S. hostile policy" towards Pyongyang, North Korean KCNA state media reported. South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday repeated a call for a formal end to the Korean War, which ended in a ceasefire in 1953, in an address to the U.N. General Assembly, proposing "that the two Koreas with the U.S., or with the U.S. and China, make such a declaration," [Reuters](#) reports.

Kim Yo-jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, later said that North Korea are willing to resume talks with South Korea if it ends its "hostile policies." Kim Yo-jong was responding to a renewed call from the South to offer a declaration of an end to the Korean War, which was initially dismissed by the vice foreign minister. Yo-jong said that the idea was "admirable," however first "what needs to be dropped is the double-dealing attitudes, ego and prejudice, bad habits and hostile stand of justifying the own acts while faulting our just exercise of the right to self-defense." "Only when such a precondition is met, would it be possible to sit face to face and declare the significant termination of war," Yo-jong's statement read. [BBC News](#) reports.

Clashes between Yemen's Houthi rebels and pro-government forces this week have killed 35 individuals from both sides, tribal leaders and security officials have said. Fighting has flared up this week in the southern province of Shabwa, and the clashes are now on the third day in several districts of the largely government-controlled province. Ahmed A-Haj reports for [AP](#).

Catalan separatist leader, Carles Puigdemont, wanted by Spain over a failed attempt to win independence for Catalan has been arrested in Italy. The arrest of Puigdemont, on the island of Sardinia, came on a warrant issued by Spain's Supreme Court on charges of sedition. Puigdemont had fled to Belgium after a banned independence referendum was crushed by Spain four years ago. He traveled to Sardinia, where Italian police were waiting for him at the airport, for a Catalan folkore festival. [BBC News](#) reports.

CORONAVIRUS

The coronavirus has infected over 42.67 million and has now killed over 684,300 people in the United States, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Globally, there have been over 230.6 million confirmed coronavirus cases and over 4.72 million deaths. Sergio Hernandez, Sean O'Key, Amanda Watts, Byron Maney and Henrik Pettersson report for [CNN](#).

A map and analysis of the vaccine roll out across the U.S. is available at the [New York Times](#).

A map and analysis of all confirmed cases of the virus in the U.S. is available at the [New York Times](#).

U.S. and worldwide maps tracking the spread of the pandemic are available at the [Washington Post](#).

A state-by-state guide to lockdown measures and reopenings is provided by the [New York Times](#).

Latest updates on the pandemic at the [Guardian](#).



ICYMI: YESTERDAY ON *JUST SECURITY*

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[China, Climate Change, Credibility: Why It's \(Finally\) Time for the US to Join the Law of the Sea Convention](#)
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MORNING HEADLINES

- "Republican Review of Arizona Vote Fails to Show Stolen Election" [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "House Democrats, galvanized by Texas ban, to vote to legalize abortion nationwide" [[LAT](#)]
- Pfizer booster now available to older Americans and those at higher-risk" [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: 4 California militia members plead guilty to conspiracy, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 4:30 PM

Four members of an alleged California militia group have pleaded guilty to conspiring to obstruct justice in the case of a federal guard who was fatally shot in Oakland more than a year ago, federal prosecutors said. The men — followers of the "boogaloo" movement, a concept embraced by a loose network of gun enthusiasts and militia-style extremists — are accused of conspiring to destroy communications and other records about the May 29, 2020, killing of federal security officer David Patrick Underwood and attempted murder of his partner by one of their members. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg: White House Weighs Invoking Defense Law to Get Chip Data, Jenny Leonard, September 23, 2021, 3:52 PM

The Biden administration is considering invoking a Cold War-era national security law to force companies in the semiconductor supply chain to provide information on inventory and sales of chips, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said Thursday. The goal is to alleviate bottlenecks that have idled U.S. car production and caused shortages of consumer electronics and to identify possible hoarding, she said in an interview. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Justice Department unseals Capitol riot charges against FreedomWorks organizer, Hannah Rabinowitz, September 23, 2021, 7:321 PM

The Justice Department unsealed charges on Thursday against an organizer from the conservative advocacy group FreedomWorks for his alleged role in the January 6 insurrection. Brandon Prenzlín was charged last week with four federal misdemeanors for what prosecutors say was just over three minutes inside the Capitol. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Huffpost](#), [Politico](#), [The Week](#)

Reuters: U.S. judge allows accused Capitol rioter to act as own attorney, Mark Hosenball, September 23, 2021, 3:54 PM

A federal judge agreed on Thursday to a New York state man's request to defend himself against felony charges of participating in the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol, although he warned him it was unwise. U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden voiced skepticism about the wisdom of Brandon Fellows, 27, of Schenectady, New York, who is in federal custody, acting as his own lawyer. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Detroit News: Lansing man accused of supporting Islamic State group sentenced to prison, Mark Hicks, September 23, 2021, 9:47 PM

A Lansing man accused of pledging allegiance to and helping a relative join the Islamic State group has been sentenced to 130 months in federal prison, officials said. Mohamed Salat Haji, 28, pleaded guilty in June to conspiring to provide material support to IS, which has been designated a foreign terrorist organization. He and two family members were first charged more than two years ago in connection with supporting the group's militants. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Lansing State Journal](#), [WDIV-NBC \(Detroit, MI\)](#), [WILX-NBC \(Onondaga, MI\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#), [WOOD-NBC \(Grand Rapids, MI\)](#), [WJBK-Fox \(Detroit, MI\)](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Ex-OppenheimerFunds worker charged in \$8M insider trade case, Larry Neumeister, September 23, 2021, 8:00 PM

A former OppenheimerFunds analyst was freed Thursday on \$1.5 million bail after he was arrested on insider trading charges alleging he used secrets at the firm to collect over \$8 million in illegal profits. Sergei Polevnikov, 48, of Port Washington, New York, was arrested late Wednesday on securities, wire, and investment company fraud charges. His lawyer, Brooke Cucinella, said her client was "surprised by the charges, and intends to defend against them vigorously." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [Daily Voice \(Mount Vernon, NY\)](#), [Law360](#), [Newsday](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: Ancient tablet acquired by Hobby Lobby going back to Iraq, Colleen Long, September 23, 2021, 5:47 PM

A 3,500-year-old clay tablet discovered in the ruins of the library of an ancient Mesopotamian king, then looted from an Iraqi museum 30 years ago, is finally headed back to Iraq. The \$1.7 million cuneiform clay tablet was found in 1853 as part of a 12-tablet collection in the rubble of the library of Assyrian King Assur Banipal. Officials believe it was illegally imported into the United States in 2003, then sold to Hobby Lobby and eventually put on display in its Museum of the Bible in the nation's capital. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [Forbes](#), [NBC](#), [NY Daily News](#), [NYT](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#)

AP: Arkansas man pleads guilty to assaulting flight attendant, Unattributed, September

23, 2021, 3:00 PM

An Arkansas man has pleaded guilty to assaulting a flight attendant on a flight from Charlotte, North Carolina, to Little Rock last year. Leon Anderson, 40, of Maumelle, pleaded guilty Wednesday to interfering with a flight attendant, federal prosecutors said. They said he grabbed a flight attendant several times during the February 2020 flight and made inappropriate sexual comments to him. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Charlotte Observer \(Charlotte, NC\)](#), [KLRT-Fox \(Little Rock, AR\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Louisiana state trooper charged in pummeling of Black man, Jake Bleiberg and Jim Mustian, September 23, 2021, 4:00 PM

A former Louisiana State Police trooper has been charged with a civil rights violation for pummeling a Black motorist 18 times with a flashlight — the first criminal case to emerge from federal investigations into troopers' beatings of at least three Black men. A grand jury on Thursday indicted Jacob Brown for the 2019 beating following a traffic stop that left Aaron Larry Bowman with a broken jaw, broken ribs and a gash to his head. Brown was charged with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, federal prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [KNOE-CBS \(Monroe, LA\)](#), [NBC](#), [WBRZ-ABC \(Baton Rouge, LA\)](#)

NPR: [AUDIO] The Department Of Justice Monitors For Partisan State Election Audits, Carrie Johnson, September 24, 2021, 5:20 AM

As GOP lawmakers in Arizona reviewed the 2020 election results, the Justice Department cautioned them to follow federal law. It is part of a broader federal effort to protect the right to vote. [[Listen](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Georgia abortion law to be argued in federal appeals court, Kate Brumback, September 24, 2021, 1:00 AM

A federal appeals court plans to hear arguments Friday on whether it should overturn a lower court ruling that permanently blocked a restrictive abortion law passed in Georgia in 2019. The hearing comes amid a heightened focus on abortion with the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this month allowing a similarly restrictive Texas law to take effect. The justices also plan to hear arguments in December on Mississippi's attempt to overturn the high court's decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which affirmed the right to an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Guam appeals ruling striking down abortion restriction, Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, September 23, 2021, 8:36 PM

Guam's government is appealing a judge's ruling that removed a barrier to women in the U.S. territory accessing telemedicine abortions. American Civil Liberties Union attorneys fighting for abortion access on Guam said the appeal is alarming because it comes as the island is grappling with the deadliest wave of the pandemic. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Virginia companies settle false claims, kickback allegations, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 3:00 PM

Two Virginia companies have agreed to pay more than \$1 million to settle allegations that they received kickbacks linked to federal government contracts reserved for certain small businesses, the U.S. Department of Justice said Thursday. Acting U.S. Attorney Raj Parekh said in a news release that Index Systems of Fairfax and Capital Consulting Group of Arlington agreed that Index would use its specific certification to bid on a government

contract on which Capital Consulting was not eligible to bid. Index was certified by the Small Business Administration as an 8(a) small business, meaning that it was owned and operated by a socially or economically disadvantaged citizen. CCG lacked that certification, the news release said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: White House says it is not sending Haiti migrants at border to Guantanamo, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 3:01 PM

The Biden administration has no plans to send any of the thousands of Haitian migrants caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border to a special holding facility at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, U.S. officials said on Thursday. The officials threw cold water on the idea of using the longtime facility for some of the Haitians gathered at the Texas border. The statement is a response to media speculation stirred by a U.S. government advertisement of a new contract to run the migrant center. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Migrant camp along Texas border shrinks as removals ramp up, María Verza and Juan Lozano, September 23, 2021, 3:00 PM

A camp where almost 15,000 migrants had waited along the Texas border just days ago was dramatically smaller Thursday, while across the river in Mexico, Haitian migrants in a growing camp awoke surrounded by security forces as a helicopter thundered overhead. As of Thursday, about 4,000 migrants remained under the bridge between Del Rio and Mexico, Department of Homeland Security officials said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#), [WaPo](#)

USA Today: 'Disaster of epic proportions': Migrant deaths on the rise; Border Patrol increases rescues, Clara Migoya and Rick Jervis, September 24, 2021, 1:21 AM

U.S. Border Patrol agent Jesus Vasavilbaso bounced his white SUV over dirt trails through remote terrain near the U.S.-Mexican border. Gray clouds offered some respite from the searing summer heat. Brown shrubs and cacti stretched to the horizon. His radio was quiet. For the moment. Vasavilbaso pulled over by a rescue tower and scoured the landscape looking for an increasingly common occurrence in this stretch of land: small groups of border crossers lost, disoriented and dehydrated in the desert sun. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: [OPINION] Adoptees Have the Same Right to Citizenship as Biological Children, E. Tammy Kim, September 23, 2021, 4:00 PM

When Antonio LeBlanc, the luckless protagonist of the new film “Blue Bayou,” is arrested after fighting with two police officers, he discovers a terrible reality: A cop enters LeBlanc’s name in a computer and discovers that he is not a U.S. citizen, as he’d assumed all his 30-something years. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has ordered him to be deported. The character of LeBlanc, played by Justin Chon, who also wrote and directed the film, was born in South Korea, adopted by a Louisiana couple at the age of 3 and raised, and abused, in subsequent foster homes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Crisis of Haitian migrants exposes rifts for Biden on immigration, Kevin Liptak, Priscilla Alvarez, Jeremy Diamond and Jasmine Wright, September 24, 2021, 6:00 AM

When members of the Congressional Black Caucus arrived to Vice President Kamala Harris’ residence this week for an event marking the group’s 50th anniversary, talk quickly turned to the devolving humanitarian crisis on the US-Mexico border. Gathered on a mild evening on the lawn outside the Naval Observatory, people familiar with the event said, Harris engaged members one-on-one in their urgent concerns about the situation in Texas, where thousands of Haitian migrants have been massing underneath a bridge in squalid conditions. [[Continue](#)

[Reading\]](#)

DOJ AWARDS

*WVLA-NBC (Baton Rouge, LA): **Over \$200,000 awarded to help sexual assault victims in Louisiana***, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 6:07 PM

According to U.S. Attorney Ellison C. Travis, \$270,782 has been awarded by the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) to go to sexual assault victims in Louisiana. Funds will specifically go to the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, Inc. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

*Law360: **[ANALYSIS] DOJ's American-JetBlue Suit An Aggressive Antitrust Flex***, Linda Chiem, September 23, 2021, 9:29 PM

President Joe Biden's pro-competition agenda is boldly targeting American Airlines, the world's largest carrier, and JetBlue over a Trump administration-approved alliance that regulators now liken to a 19th-century trust, but experts say questions remain as to whether the airlines' promises of increased consumer choice are actually being realized. [[Continue Reading](#)]

*Law360: **FTC's New Chair Wants To Be More Proactive, Preemptive***, Bryan Koenig, September 23, 2021, 8:14 PM

Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan sketched out her vision for more aggressive antitrust enforcement Wednesday, pledging to undo power imbalances, blunt the power of "dominant intermediaries," tackle the "root causes" of consumer and competitive harm, and actively deter "unlawful transactions." [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

*KIRO-CBS (Seattle, WA): **Tax preparer convicted of filing false tax returns***, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 9:22 PM

A Pacific man was convicted in the U.S. District Court in Seattle of tax fraud for filing false tax returns, according to a release from the U.S. Department of Justice. Jean Mpouli, 58, was convicted of 14 counts of aiding and abetting. Mpouli, who worked for 25 years with the Federal Aviation Administration, was a tax preparer on the side and had hundreds of clients who were primarily African immigrants, according to the release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

*AP: **Boyfriend of slain Gabby Petito charged with bank card fraud***, Matthew Brown and Curt Anderson, September 23, 2021, 7:00 PM

The boyfriend of Gabby Petito, whose body was found at a national park in Wyoming after a cross-country trip with him, was charged with unauthorized use of a debit card as searchers continued looking for him Thursday in Florida swampland. A federal grand jury indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Wyoming alleges Brian Laundrie used a Capital One Bank card and someone's personal identification number to make unauthorized withdrawals or charges worth more than \$1,000 during the period in which Petito went missing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [ABC](#), [BBC](#), [Business Insider](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [CNN-2](#), [Daily Beast](#), [The Denver Post \(Denver, CO\)](#), [Fox](#), [KSL-NBC \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [KRON \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [The Hill](#),

[NBC](#), [Newsday](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Times](#), [WAOW-ABC \(Wausau, WI\)](#), [WALB-NBC/ABC \(Albany, GA\)](#), [WBBH-NBC \(Fort Myers, FL\)](#), [WCBS-CBS \(New York, NY\)](#), [WDAF-Fox \(Kansas City, MO\)](#), [WFTV-ABC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WISH-CW \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WTVG-ABC \(Toledo, OH\)](#), [WLS-ABC \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [WNBC-NBC \(New York, NY\)](#), [WTTG-Fox \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WXMI-Fox \(Grand Rapids, MI\)](#)

ABC: Man attempts to storm cockpit, strangles and kicks flight attendant on JetBlue flight, Mina Kaji and Sam Sweeney, September 23, 2021, 8:24 PM

A man attempted to storm the cockpit of a JetBlue flight on Wednesday evening and then proceeded to kick and choke members of the flight crew, according to an FBI affidavit. With a little more than an hour left in the flight from Boston to San Juan, Puerto Rico, the man attempted to make a phone call and "became angry about the call's unsuccess," a flight attendant told the FBI. Thirty minutes later he allegedly rushed toward the cockpit, shouting in Spanish and Arabic to be shot. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WCVB-ABC \(Boston, MA\)](#)

Fox: FBI agent: How to survive an active shooter situation, Angelica Stabile, September 23, 2021, 6:00 PM

The fatal shooting at a Kroger in Memphis, Tennessee on Thursday left at least a dozen people injured, one dead and a nation worried as the threat of active shootings in America lingers. Former FBI deputy assistant director Daniel Coulson joined "Your World" following the tragedy to share advice on how best to protect oneself if found in an active shooter situation. Step one: recognize when you're in danger. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Washington Times: U.S. facing biggest homicide rate increase in 60 years, Emily Zantow, September 23, 2021, 5:20 PM

The U.S. homicide rate in 2020 is poised to take its biggest annual jump in the 60 years the FBI has compiled nationwide data. An FBI report due out Monday is expected to show an increase in the national homicide rate for 2020 of nearly 29% — more than double the previous highest single-year increase, the 12.7% rise in 1968. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTTG-Fox (Washington, DC): [VIDEO] 2 deputy U.S. Marshals injured while attempting to arrest suspect in Southeast DC, Unattributed, September 24, 2021, 12:30 AM

A dangerous scene unfolded in Southeast DC Thursday, where an attempted arrest spurred gunfire and left two deputy U.S. Marshals injured. [[Watch](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Montgomery Advertiser: Special session will include prison construction, some criminal justice reform, Brian Lyman, September 23, 2021, 7:59 PM

Next week's special session of the Legislature will include plans to build new prisons and some criminal justice reform. Gov. Kay Ivey on Thursday formally issued a proclamation calling the Legislature into session on Monday to consider a prison construction project and legislation to make 2013 sentencing standards and a 2015 law on mandatory supervision of inmates retroactive. [...] The announcement comes as Alabama faces a U.S. Department of Justice lawsuit and multiple federal court orders over violence and inadequate care in the state's prison system, raising the possibility of a federal takeover. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Reuters: **Abortion providers ask U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in challenge to Texas law**, Andrew Chung, September 23, 2021, 4:27 PM

Abortion providers in Texas on Thursday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene on an urgent basis in their challenge to a state law imposing a near-total ban on abortion. The providers asked the justices to hear their case before lower courts have finished ruling on the dispute because of the "great harm the ban is causing." The Supreme Court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, this month refused to block the law, which bans abortion after six weeks of pregnancy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [CNN](#), [NYT](#), [WaPo](#)

JUDICIAL NOMINEES & APPOINTMENTS

Reuters: **Biden pick Pan confirmed as first Asian American woman on D.C. federal court**, Nate Raymond, September 23, 2021, 1:09 PM

The U.S. Senate on Thursday confirmed Florence Pan as the first Asian American woman to serve as a federal district court judge in Washington, D.C., filling a seat vacated by now-U.S. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who was promoted to the D.C. Circuit. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC): **[EDITORIAL] The damage is huge. Opioid settlement shouldn't shield Sacklers from lawsuit**, Editorial Board, September 23, 2021, 4:00 PM

The U.S. Justice Department has rightly objected to a recent bankruptcy settlement that shelters the Sackler family from lawsuits for its role in promoting widespread use of their opioid OxyContin, widely considered the main cause of the first of three destructive waves of drug abuse in the past 20 years. The decision by the department's bankruptcy monitor probably means another delay for South Carolina in recovering a small fraction of the state's costs from the opioid crisis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

Reuters: **Prepare for government shutdown, White House to tell U.S. agencies**, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 2:57 PM

The White House is expected to ask federal agencies to prepare for a possible U.S. government shutdown as health authorities struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic and Democrats and Republicans fight over a funding agreement, government officials said on Thursday. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WaPo](#)

CONGRESS

AP: **House Jan. 6 panel subpoenas Trump advisers, associates**, Mary Clare Jalonick and Eric Tucker, September 23, 2021, 10:00 PM

A House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol has issued its first subpoenas, demanding records and testimony from four of former President Donald Trump's close advisers and associates who were in contact with him before and during the attack. In a significant escalation for the panel, Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., announced the subpoenas of former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, former

White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications Dan Scavino, former Defense Department official Kashyap Patel and former Trump adviser Steve Bannon. The four men are among Trump's most loyal aides. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)

CNN: White House moving to release information on Trump to congressional investigators, Jeff Zeleny and Evan Perez, September 23, 2021, 10:14 PM

The White House is taking steps to release information to a congressional committee investigating the January 6 attack on the Capitol about what former President Donald Trump and his aides were doing as violence erupted that day, a decision that is likely to set up a legal fight with the former President and raise questions of executive privilege for anyone who serves in the Oval Office. "As President Biden has said, the events of January 6th were a dark stain on our country's history, and they represented an attack on the foundations of our constitution and democracy in a way that few other events have," White House spokesman Michael Gwin said in a statement to CNN. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: Sean Spicer, Russ Vought sue Biden administration over threatened Naval Board removal, Katelyn Polantz and Tierney Sneed, September 23, 2021, 4:43 PM

Sean Spicer and Russ Vought have sued the Biden administration over their threatened removal from the Naval Academy Board of Visitors. The lawsuit, filed Thursday in the US District Court in DC, alleges that the pair is being unlawfully threatened with removal from the board to which President Donald Trump had appointed them in the latter half of his presidency. Both were appointed to three-year terms. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

- At least one person is dead and a dozen others are wounded after a gunman opened fire at a Kroger grocery store in suburban Memphis. There have been over 500 mass shootings in the US this year. A gunman opened fire at a grocery store in suburban Memphis on Thursday. Police say at least 12 people were wounded and one person was killed. The suspect was found dead with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- A federal arrest warrant has been issued for Gabby Petito's fiancé, Brian Laundrie, after a preliminary autopsy determined she was the victim of a homicide. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The U.S. Border Patrol has temporarily stopped using agents on horseback against Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, Homeland Security officials said. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- The Capitol Hill showdown continues over Pres. Biden's agenda with a government shutdown looming. Lawmakers announce an agreement on the "framework" for the \$ 3.5T infrastructure bill. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- Daniel Foote, the US special envoy to Haiti, resigned in a scathing letter after just two months on the job. I have called the Biden administration's deportation of Haitians "inhumane" and "counterproductive." [[CBS](#)]
- The Flight Attendants Association says unruly passengers must be criminally prosecuted, not just fined, after more than 4,000 incidents of violent behavior were reported in 2021 alone. [[CBS](#)]
- Congress is running out of time to reach a deal on spending to avoid a government shutdown. Democrats and Republicans are also in disagreement over whether to raise the debt ceiling. Nikole Killian has the details. [[CBS](#)]

From: Kapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: Abbreviated AM Clips
To: Attorney General Garland (JMD)
Sent: September 23, 2021 8:10 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Date: September 23, 2021 at 8:05:19 AM EDT
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>, "Seidman, Ricki (OASG)" (b) (6), "Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)" (b) (6), "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b) (6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b) (6)
Subject: Abbreviated AM Clips

NATIONAL SECURITY

Fox: FBI director fears Afghanistan could be 'safe haven' for terror groups, Thomas Barrabi, September 22, 2021, 10:30 PM

FBI Director Christopher Wray said Wednesday that law enforcement officials are concerned Afghanistan could once again serve as a staging ground for terrorist groups following a chaotic U.S. withdrawal from the country. Wray acknowledged the possibility while testifying during a House Homeland Security Committee briefing. Lawmakers sought clarity from the FBI director and other top national security officials about potential threats to the mainland U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [Daily Mail](#), [National Review](#)

HuffPost: 'Outrageous': Judge Lays Into Trump-Loving Deputy Who Wore 'Sheriff' Patch On Jan. 6, Ryan J. Reilly, September 22, 2021, 5:05 PM

A federal judge criticized a Capitol attack defendant and sworn officer who was working for a Tennessee sheriff's office when he faced off against law enforcement on Jan. 6 while wearing a "Sheriff" patch on his vest. Ronald Colton McAbee, known to online sleuths investigating the Jan. 6 attack as #ThreePercentSheriff because of the insignia he wore representing the far-right cause, was arrested in mid-August. A federal magistrate judge in Tennessee ordered McAbee released with conditions, including to "refrain from using any social media or other websites related to insurrection activity." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTTG-Fox (Washington, DC): Capitol Hill bomb threat suspect found competent to stand trial, Nate Carlisle, September 22, 2021, 2:30 PM

A North Carolina man who allegedly shut down Capitol Hill when he parked his truck next to the Library of Congress and told police he had a bomb was found competent to stand trial on Wednesday. Floyd Ray Roseberry was charged with use of a weapon of mass destruction and threats to use explosive materials after the incident in August. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

WSAW-CBS (Wausau, WI): 2 Afghan evacuees at Fort McCoy face federal charges, Wyatt Heller, September 22, 2021, 6:15 PM

Two evacuees from Afghanistan will face federal charges for crimes allegedly committed at Fort McCoy. Bahrullah Noori, 20, is charged with attempting to engage in a sexual act with a minor through the use of force. The victim was not yet 16 years old, according to an indictment. Mohammad Haroon Imaad, 32, is charged with assaulting his spouse by strangling and suffocating her. The indictment alleges that the assault occurred on September 7, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), [WQOW-ABC/CW \(Eau Claire, WI\)](#)

Reuters: R. Kelly hid crimes in 'plain sight,' prosecutor says near end of sex trafficking trial, Tyler Clifford, September 23, 2021, 12:14 AM

R. Kelly dominated not only women and girls but also his employees over a quarter century of sexual abuse, a prosecutor said on Wednesday as the R&B star's sex trafficking trial neared its conclusion. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Geddes told jurors during her closing argument in Brooklyn federal court that Kelly's entourage of business managers, accountants, runners and other employees was "at his disposal." [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Former US defense secretary testifies in Holmes fraud trial, Michael Liedtke, September 22, 2021, 9:00 PM

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis testified Wednesday in the trial of fallen tech star Elizabeth Holmes, saying the entrepreneur misled him into believing she was on the verge of rolling out a blood-testing breakthrough that he hoped would help save lives of troops in battle. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [Politico](#)

AP: Janitor gets 60 years for hiding camera in girls' restroom, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:00 PM

A former janitor at a Florida high school has been sentenced to 60 years in prison for hiding a camera in a girls' restroom. Derremy Jerrell Walker, 31, was sentenced Tuesday in Orlando federal court, according to court records. He was convicted in June of two counts of using, or attempting to use, children to produce sexually explicit videos. "Mr. Walker did more than just produce horror; he stole the innocence and trust of these young victims," FBI Tampa Division Special Agent in Charge Michael McPherson said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WESH-NBC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WTSP-CBS \(St. Petersburg, FL\)](#)

Reuters: DOJ announces indictments over \$30 mln TV copyright theft scheme, Blake Brittain, September 22, 2021, 4:44 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice said on Wednesday that three men who allegedly operated a \$30 million scheme to steal content from cable-TV providers and retransmit it illegally had been indicted in federal court in Philadelphia. DOJ said in a statement that Bill Omar Carrasquillo, 35, of Swedesboro, New Jersey; Jesse Gonzales, 42, of Pico Rivera, California; and Michael Barone, 36, of Richmond Hill, New York used subscriptions to Verizon, Comcast, and other cable services to illegally stream copyrighted content to thousands of their own paying subscribers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Beast](#), [The Epoch Times](#), [The Hill](#), [KYW-CBS \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [New Jersey Advance Media](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

CNN: Michigan man charged for allegedly leaving pipe bombs at cell phone stores to stop the spread of cursing and pornography, Justice Department says, Amir Vera and

Christina Carrega, September 22, 2021, 5:54 PM

A 75-year-old Michigan man was arrested Wednesday after investigators say he left pipe bombs at two cell phone stores and threatening letters at cell towers in order to stop all telecommunications "containing immoral content," like pornography and cursing, according to an affidavit for probable cause. John Douglas Allen was charged with extortion and attempted damage or destruction of buildings used in interstate commerce, a US Justice Department news release said [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Beast](#)

***Politico:* The tangled tale of the Israel consulate, the Dilbert cartoonist and the Matt Gaetz case**, Marc Caputo, September 23, 2021, 4:30 AM

Of the many only-in-Florida aspects of the Rep. Matt Gaetz sex-crimes investigation, one stands out for its utter weirdness: the story of the Israeli consulate staffer, the cartoonist who created Dilbert and a complicated shakedown scheme tied to a former CIA operative captured in Iran. The most-salacious aspects of the federal probe into Gaetz have received saturation media coverage over the months. But scant attention has been paid to the mysterious cameo of Jake Novak, the broadcast media director of the Consulate General of Israel in New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***Forbes:* Bodybuilding Doctor Who Traded Opioids For Spinal Injections Convicted In \$100 Million Fraud**, Graison Dangor, September 22, 2021, 8:05 PM

A Detroit-area doctor on Wednesday became the latest physician held accountable for prescribing opioids for profit, with a jury finding him guilty on multiple counts of fraud and money laundering in a more than \$100 million plot that gave patients opioids if they let him bill their insurance for needless and pricey spinal injections. Francisco "Frank" Patino faces a potential life sentence, according to the Justice Department. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Examiner](#)

***Law360:* Actor Faked Emails In \$50M Viacom Sex Abuse Suit, Feds Say**, Pete Brush, September 22, 2021, 4:57 PM

A California actor was arrested Tuesday for allegedly faking salacious emails that the Manhattan U. S. Attorney's Office says were used to target two Hollywood executives and Viacom Inc. in a now-dismissed \$50 million suit alleging sexual misconduct. Defendant Rovier Carrington, 32, a reality television actor and writer who says in court filings he is the great-grandson of Three Stooges comedian Moe Howard, was presented in Los Angeles federal court on a count of perjury and set free on a \$15,000 bail package. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

***WaPo:* Ten current, former Black female D.C. police officers sue the city, claiming discrimination**, Emily Davies, September 22, 2021, 7:32 PM

Ten current and former Black female D.C. police officers filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the District, alleging its police department has engaged in "repeated, coordinated and relentless retaliation" against Black female officers who have complained about discrimination or other police misconduct. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in the District, accuses D.C. police of cultivating a culture that degrades women and turning on those who have tried to raise alarm about race and gender discrimination and sexual harassment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

***AP:* Feds: 3 charged in Mexican migrant worker conspiracy**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 7:23 PM

Three people have been indicted in a multi-state conspiracy involving the forced labor of

Mexican agricultural immigrants, federal authorities announced Wednesday. A federal grand jury in Tampa formally charged Bladimir Moreno, Christina Gamez and Guadalupe Mendes Mendoza under a six-count indictment last week. Moreno, a Mexican citizen and permanent U.S. resident who owned and managed Los Villatoros Harvesting, and Gamez, a U.S. citizen who worked for the company as a bookkeeper, manager and supervisor, face charges of conspiracy under the RICO Act, conspiracy to commit forced labor, forced labor and conspiracy to obstruct proceedings before departments, agencies and committees. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAGA-Fox (Atlanta, GA): **Man says he was fired from Clayton County jail for blowing whistles on 'major violations'**, Christopher King, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

More accusations have surfaced against the embattled Clayton County sheriff. Lawyers for a number of current and former detainees at the jail want the county district attorney to launch her own investigation into Victor Hill. This was after a federal grand jury indicted Hill on civil rights charges. A whistleblower claims he was fired after calling out problems at the jail. He said he pointed out what were major violations and then got fired. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: **Judge considers request to block Arizona abortion law**, Jonathan J. Cooper, September 22, 2021, 10:00 PM

A lawyer for several Arizona abortion providers urged a federal judge Wednesday to block a new state law that would allow prosecutors to charge doctors who knowingly terminate a pregnancy solely because the fetus has a genetic abnormality such as Down syndrome. The law, set to take effect on Wednesday, is so vague that it would dissuade doctors from performing an abortion anytime there's an indication that the fetus might have a genetic problem for fear of criminal prosecution, argued Emily Nestler, senior counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: **Florida to consider near-ban on abortion similar to Texas' new law**, Sharon Bernstein, September 22, 2021, 8:42 PM

A Florida Republican lawmaker has filed a bill that would ban abortions after six to eight weeks and allow members of the community to sue doctors for terminating pregnancies in what may be the first effort to mirror a similar new law in Texas. The bill by state Representative Webster Barnaby would ban abortions after regular cardiac contractions are detected in an embryo, known as a fetal heartbeat even though the heart has not yet developed, about six to eight weeks into pregnancy. That is before many women know they are pregnant. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

Reuters: **U.S. appeals court erases ruling allowing gun sales to people under 21**, Jonathan Stempel, September 22, 2021, 2:57 PM

A U.S. appeals court on Wednesday threw out its recent decision that a federal prohibition on firearms dealers selling guns to young adults under 21 was unconstitutional, deciding the case was now moot because both plaintiffs have reached that age. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **DOJ Defends Handling Of Health Care Staffing No-Poach Case**, Matthew Perlman, September 22, 2021, 6:33 PM

The U. S. Department of Justice pushed back against accusations from an indicted former health care staffing company manager that enforcers mishandled his interview during the criminal investigation of an alleged agreement to suppress wages for Las Vegas school nurses. The DOJ filed its opposition on Tuesday in Nevada federal court to a dismissal bid

from Ryan Hee, the former regional manager for a company now known as VDA OC LLC. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

Reuters: **For asylum advocates, border expulsions strain faith in Biden**, Mica Rosenberg and Kristina Cooke, September 22, 2021, 4:53 PM
Confused and tired-looking toddlers clung to their parents at Port-au-Prince airport in Haiti on Tuesday, among the 360 family members rapidly expelled from the U.S. over the past three days. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: **'Disaster of epic proportions:' Border deaths on the rise, Border Patrol increases rescues**, Clara Migoya and Rick Jervis, September 23, 2021, 6:00 AM
U.S. Border Patrol agent Jesus Vasavilbaso bounced his white SUV over dirt trails through this remote terrain near the U.S.-Mexico border. Grey clouds offered some respite from the searing summer heat. Brown shrubs and cacti stretched to the horizon. His radio was quiet. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: **House Democrats demand answers by Friday about the Border Patrol's treatment of Haitian migrants**, Luke Broadwater and Eileen Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM
House Democrats on Wednesday demanded that Biden administration officials meet with members of the oversight committee by Friday to face questions about the treatment of Haitian immigrants at the Texas-Mexico border after videos showed mounted Border Patrol agents corralling and menacing migrants, sparking widespread outrage. The letter asks for Customs and Border Protection officials to brief the committee by the end of the week about the conduct of the agents, what directions they received from supervisors and whether any disciplinary steps have been taken. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [The Hill](#)

USA Today: **DHS vows to have findings within 'days' in investigation of Border Patrol's treatment of Haitian migrants**, Kevin Johnson, September 22, 2021, 5:01 PM
Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas vowed a swift investigation into the treatment of Haitian migrants on the Texas border by agents on horseback, telling a House panel that the inquiry would be completed within days. Mayorkas told the House Homeland Security Committee that an undisclosed number of agents had been placed on administrative duty as investigators examine confrontations in which some mounted agents appeared to use their reins as whips against migrants who have been surging into Del Rio, Texas. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: **Even as the Biden administration deports some Haitian migrants, it is letting in others**, Eileen Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM
Even as more than 1,000 Haitian migrants were deported between Sunday and Tuesday, thousands of others are being allowed into the United States, sometimes to request asylum — and are being released with instructions to report to immigration officials at a future date. Faced with an unusually high number of Haitians who began crossing the border into Del Rio, Texas, late last week, the Biden administration responded with high-profile repatriation flights, which officials hope will deter others from making the trip here. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)
See also: [Fox](#)

CNN: **Border Patrol sought extra resources in Del Rio as far back as June, union emails show**, Geneva Sands, September 22, 2021, 5:50 PM

As far back as June, Border Patrol agents in Del Rio, Texas, began asking management for additional resources to more rapidly process migrants, but their calls for increased resources appear to have gone unmet until recent days when thousands and thousands of migrants were forced to wait under a bridge near the US-Mexico border. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

*Reuters: **U.S. farm group seeks stronger antitrust action with new campaign***, Leah Douglas, September 22, 2021, 5:04 PM

The National Farmers Union, the nation's second-largest farm group, said on Wednesday it is launching a campaign to expose the negative effects of consolidation in the agriculture industry on family farms and rural towns. The campaign, which it said will include a public relations blitz and lobbying, is part of an effort to push Washington to crack down on monopolistic behavior in the industry as lawmakers propose legislation to bring more price and market transparency to highly consolidated farm markets. [[Continue Reading](#)]

*Politico: **12 former security officials who warned against antitrust crackdown have tech ties***, Emily Birnbaum, September 22, 2021, 6:28 PM

The warning last week from a dozen former national security leaders was stark: An antitrust crackdown on Silicon Valley could threaten the nation's economy and "cede U.S. tech leadership to China." But the group was united by more than their histories of holding senior defense and intelligence roles in the Trump, Obama and George W. Bush administrations: All 12 have ties to major tech companies, either from working with them directly or serving with organizations that get money from them, according to a POLITICO analysis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

*Reuters: **U.S. EPA weighs regulation of chemical recycling***, Valerie Volcovici, September 22, 2021, 5:16 PM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering regulating chemical recycling, a controversial technology that aims to convert mixed plastic waste into fuel or energy. In its notice in the Federal Register earlier this month, the EPA said it wants more information about so-called pyrolysis and gasification, also known as advanced or chemical recycling, and is considering how they could be regulated under the federal Clean Air Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

*The Republican (Springfield, MA): **Prosecutors say Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia should pay back nearly \$900K in corruption case***, Benjamin Kail, September 22, 2021, 5:46 PM

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday repeated calls for a judge to order former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia to pay back nearly \$900,000 combined in the forfeiture ill-gotten gains and restitution to investors and the Internal Revenue Service. Prosecutors say Correia, sentenced Tuesday to 6 years in prison on extortion and other charges, stole money from investors in a smartphone app startup, SnoOwl, to pay for personal expenses including a Mercedes, jewelry, designer shoes and casino trips. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, NC): **Charlotte tax preparer cheated public out of millions. Then she burned the evidence**, Michael Gordon, September 22, 2021, 3:50 PM
In late June 2019, Tina Wells made an urgent phone call from the Mecklenburg County jail to plot her response to the federal investigation that had led to her arrest and was now enveloping her tax-filing company. Wells, according to court documents, had been indicted and jailed a few days before. Now she wanted to make sure incriminating records disappeared from her offices at Rush Tax Services before government agents got them first, according to court documents filed by her prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: **No signs of Gabby Petito's boyfriend after days of searching**, Curt Anderson, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

Search teams found nothing of note Wednesday at a Florida wilderness park where they have spent days looking for the boyfriend of Gabby Petito, the young woman who authorities say was killed while on a cross-country trip with him. The search resumed Wednesday morning at the 24,000-acre (9,700-hectare) Carlton Reserve park and ended just before dark, North Port police spokesperson Joshua Taylor said. Investigators say Brian Landrie's parents told them he had gone there after returning home without Petito on Sept. 1. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFTV-ABC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [KMVT-CBS/CW \(Twin Falls, ID\)](#)

Axios: **FBI report likely to show record increase in murders in 2020**, Russell Contreras, September 23, 2021, 5:00 AM

If the FBI data released next week shows what's expected — that 2020 saw the highest single-year spike in U.S. murders in at least six decades — experts say the sudden job losses, fears and other jolts to society at the start of COVID-19 will likely have been the overwhelming drivers. Why it matters: Many Democrats already feared that rising crime could hurt their party in the 2022 midterms. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: **Murder Rose by Almost 30% in 2020. It's Rising at a Slower Rate in 2021.**, Jeff Asher, September 22, 2021, 12:29 PM

The United States in 2020 experienced the biggest rise in murder since the start of national record-keeping in 1960, according to data gathered by the F.B.I. for its annual report on crime. The Uniform Crime Report will stand as the official word on an unusually grim year, detailing a rise in murder of around 29 percent. The previous largest one-year change was a 12.7 percent increase in 1968. The national rate — murders per 100,000 — still remains about one third below the rate in the early 1990s. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: **[EDITORIAL] It's hard to hold police accountable. For federal agents, it's all but impossible.**, Editorial Board, September 22, 2021, 1:04 PM

The killing of Bijan Ghaisar, the young accountant unjustifiably shot to death by U.S. Park Police near Washington, in 2017, is now the subject of a slow-moving criminal case brought by Virginia prosecutors, as well as a lawsuit against the federal government by the Ghaisar family. However, the two hotheaded officers who killed Ghaisar face no lawsuits themselves. Federal agents around the country are beyond the reach of consequences, and accountability, in civil court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: **FBI rolls out ad campaign to encourage hate crime reporting**, Robert Patrick, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

Amid a steep rise in hate crimes in Missouri and around the country, the FBI is rolling out a campaign to help the public learn what qualifies as a hate crime and how to report one. The FBI plans to place ads on the outside of 16 buses and the inside of 100, as well as in MetroLink trains and on 10 gas station pumps and nine billboards from Kirksville to Rolla to Cape Girardeau. They are also placing ads on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and on the radio. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KFVS-CBS \(Cape Girardeau, MO\)](#), [KMOV-CBS \(St. Louis, MO\)](#), [KSDK-NBC \(St. Louis, MO\)](#), [The Rolla Daily News \(Rolla, MO\)](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: U.S. Marshals Service Operation Nets More Than 190 Fugitives in NJ, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:16 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service has conducted a high-impact fugitive apprehension initiative focusing on some of the most violent offenders throughout New Jersey. This enforcement initiative, called Operation “Clean Sweep,” resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, gang members, sex offenders and violent criminals in the District of New Jersey. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: Justice Department launches program to help police respond to mass violence, Jon Brown, September 22, 2021, 8:30 PM

The Department of Justice announced Wednesday that it will start offering help to law enforcement leaders whose communities experience incidents of mass violence. The assistance, called the Mass Violence Advisory Initiative, will involve peer-to-peer consultations and be funded by the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), according to a press release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRC-NBC (Washington, DC): [VIDEO] FBI Working Closely With Police After Armed Security Guard Killed During Surge in DC Violence, September 22, 2021, 11:30 PM

The FBI says it's working closely with D.C. police on the recent surge in gun violence. News4's Shomari Stone reports. [[Watch](#)]

KNBC-NBC (Los Angeles, CA): [VIDEO] FBI Campaign Raises Awareness on Hate Crimes, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

Hate crimes are top priority for the FBI because the targeted victims aren't the only ones affected. FBI officials say they're meant to threaten and intimidate entire communities. Kim Baldonado reports for the NBC4 News at 4 p.m. on Wednesday Sept. 22, 2021. [[Watch](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

USA Today: [EDITORIAL] 'Blow his head off': Supreme Court must strip federal agents of absolute immunity, Editorial Board, September 23, 2021, 6:01 AM

Kevin Byrd's ordeal began in the parking lot of a bar near Houston, where he says a federal Homeland Security agent pointed a gun at him and threatened to “put a bullet through his f---ing skull.” Byrd had gone to the bar early in the morning on Feb. 2, 2019, to find more information about a car crash that left his former girlfriend – and the mother of his child – in the hospital. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: NYC urges U.S. Supreme Court to uphold local gun control laws, Leonard Greene, September 22, 2021, 5:45 PM

As it reels from surging gun violence, the city on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to shoot down a lawsuit seeking to undermine local gun regulations. In an amicus brief to the nation's top court. Mayor de Blasio and the city's top lawyer outlined the need to maintain laws regulating concealed handguns in the five boroughs, detailing the consequences of

violence in the nation's densest and most populous city. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WWLP-NBC \(Springfield, MA\)](#)

US ATTORNEYS

Dallas Morning News: **Acting U.S. Attorney Prerak Shah announces resignation effective Oct. 1**, Hojun Choi, September 22, 2021, 8:33 PM

Prerak Shah, the acting U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas, announced Wednesday that he is resigning effective Oct. 1, the office said. Shah became U.S. attorney for the district, which covers 100 counties and about 8 million residents, after the departure of former U.S. Attorney Erin Nealy Cox in January. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KCBD-NBC \(Lubbock, TX\)](#), [KTVT-CBS \(Fort Worth, TX\)](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Reuters: **As Petito case captivates U.S., missing Native women ignored**, Andrew Haw, September 22, 2021, 7:50 PM

Activists lament that the crisis of missing and murdered Native American women doesn't get the attention paid to Gabby Petito. FBI agents found Petito's body in Wyoming on Sunday after she went missing during a road trip with her fiancé. The search for the 22-year-old white woman, who chronicled her trip on social media, became an internet sensation and a lead story for major news outlets. "There's a rate of violence against Native women that's happening and it doesn't seem to be highlighted," Jolene Holgate, a director for the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, told New Mexico television station KRQE on Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: **"It's like she just vanished": Family of missing Indigenous woman seeking new information in months-old case**, Li Cohen, September 22, 2021, 5:23 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of anyone who might be responsible for the disappearance of an Indigenous woman in Washington state. Meanwhile, Mary Johnson's family is working hard to get answers nearly a year after she was last seen traveling to a friend's house. The FBI said in its missing person flyer that Johnson, 40, was last seen walking along Firetrail Road on the Tulalip Reservation on November 25, 2020. She never made it to her destination, and she was not reported missing until December 9. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Law360: **US Trustee Challenges Constitutionality Of Purdue Releases**, Vince Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 6:56 PM

The nondebtor, third-party releases included in Purdue Pharma's Chapter 11 plan are unconstitutional, the U. S. Trustee's Office has argued, asking a New York bankruptcy judge to wait until a higher court rules on the federal watchdog's challenge to the releases. In filings made late Tuesday, U. S. Trustee William K. Harrington said he has serious concerns about the nondebtor, third-party releases granted in the case that absolve the members of the Sackler family that own Purdue of liability related to the opioid crisis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

WSJ: Bipartisan Police-Overhaul Talks End With No Deal, Eliza Collins and Sadie Gurman, September 22, 2021, 6:52 PM

A top Democratic negotiator on Wednesday called off talks aimed at overhauling police tactics and accountability, saying lawmakers were unable to reach a compromise in the wake of nationwide protests sparked by the killings of Black Americans by law-enforcement officers. Sen. Cory Booker (D., N.J.) said he called Sen. Tim Scott (R., S.C.) to tell him the Democrats were done negotiating after Mr. Scott didn't accept their final offer. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

- The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization Wednesday for a third dose of Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine to be given to three groups — those 65 and older, those at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 and those at risk of developing "serious complications" due to "frequent institutional or occupational exposure," likely including frontline healthcare workers and prisoners. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Some of President Biden's most ambitious plans are facing opposition not only from Republicans but members of his own party. President Biden on Wednesday launched a full-court press, hosting a series of White House meetings with lawmakers in a bid to unite warring factions of his own party behind his sweeping, multi trillion-dollar economic agenda. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- More than 1,000 mostly Haitian migrants have been allowed to enter the U.S. as part of the legal asylum process, contradicting the Biden administration's announcement that migrants arriving at the border will be immediately deported. The Biden administration exempts unaccompanied children from expulsion flights on humanitarian grounds. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The search for Gabby Petito's fiancé Brian Laundrie remains focused on a Florida nature preserve. Petito's disappearance and death have raised questions about other missing person cases. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Students at University of Massachusetts Amherst gathered in front of a fraternity house to protest an alleged sexual assault. Students say there is a culture of rape, harassment and secrecy on campus. [[CBS](#)]

From: Watson, Theresa (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest
To: Ramamurti, Arjun R. (OAG)
Sent: September 23, 2021 7:52 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: DOJ Digests <doj-digests@rendon.com>
Date: September 23, 2021 at 6:54:33 AM EDT
To: DoJ-Digests3 Rendon <DOJdesk@rendon.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Morning Digest
Reply-To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk <dojdesk@rendon.com>

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 23, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Department of Justice News
2. US Attorneys
3. National Security
4. Criminal Law
5. Civil Rights
6. Civil Law
7. Immigration & Border Security
8. Antitrust
9. Environment
10. Tax
11. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
12. US Supreme Court
13. Native American Affairs
14. Marijuana Legalization
15. Opioid Crisis
16. Administration
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- - 9:00 AM: Senate Committee on the Judiciary Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. 1787, State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021', 'S. 2502, Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act', and the nominations of Toby Heytens to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Patricia Tolliver Giles and Michael Nachmanoff to be U.S. District Judges for the Eastern District of Virginia, Sarala Vidya Nagala and Omar Antonio Williams to be U.S. District Judges for the District of Connecticut, and Hampton Dellinger to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy. Held in Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
 - 9:30 AM: Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing on 'Frauds, Scams and COVID-19: How Con Artists Have Targeted Older Americans During the Pandemic'. Held in Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
 - 10:00 AM: House Committee on the Judiciary Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Reviving Competition, Part 4: 21st Century Antitrust Reforms and the American Worker'. Held in Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
 - 10:15 AM: Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Hybrid hearing on 'National Cybersecurity Strategy: Protection of Federal and Critical Infrastructure Systems'. Held via videoconference and in-person in Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Fox: Justice Department launches program to help police respond to mass violence, Jon Brown, September 22, 2021, 8:30 PM

The Department of Justice announced Wednesday that it will start offering help to law enforcement leaders whose communities experience incidents of mass violence. The assistance, called the Mass Violence Advisory Initiative, will involve peer-to-peer consultations and be funded by the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), according to a press release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

Dallas Morning News: Acting U.S. Attorney Prerak Shah announces resignation effective

Oct. 1, Hojun Choi, September 22, 2021, 8:33 PM

Prerak Shah, the acting U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas, announced Wednesday that he is resigning effective Oct. 1, the office said. Shah became U.S. attorney for the district, which covers 100 counties and about 8 million residents, after the departure of former U.S. Attorney Erin Nealy Cox in January. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KCBD-NBC \(Lubbock, TX\)](#), [KTVT-CBS \(Fort Worth, TX\)](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Fox: FBI director fears Afghanistan could be 'safe haven' for terror groups, Thomas

Barrabi, September 22, 2021, 10:30 PM

FBI Director Christopher Wray said Wednesday that law enforcement officials are concerned Afghanistan could once again serve as a staging ground for terrorist groups following a chaotic U.S. withdrawal from the country. Wray acknowledged the possibility while testifying during a House Homeland Security Committee briefing. Lawmakers sought clarity from the FBI director and other top national security officials about potential threats to the mainland U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [Daily Mail](#), [National Review](#)

The Hill: Prosecutors face legal challenges over obstruction charge in Capitol riot cases,

Harper Neidig, September 23, 2021, 6:00 AM

Federal judges are weighing legal challenges to one of the leading felony charges that government lawyers have brought in Capitol riot cases, potentially setting the stage for protracted legal battles over the Justice Department's prosecutorial strategy in the wake of Jan. 6. In several cases, defendants have moved to throw out the obstruction of an official proceeding charge, which carries a maximum possible sentence of 20 years in prison, arguing that the statute is unconstitutionally vague and the Jan. 6 certification of the Electoral College results does not qualify under the law as an "official proceeding." [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Federal judge to hear case of Proud Boy alleged Jan. 6 rioter seeking release

from jail, Joseph Choi, September 22, 2021, 5:26 PM

A federal judge on Wednesday set a hearing to hear a request for release from lawyers of a Proud Boys member who allegedly took part in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly set the hearing for Friday after lawyers for Dominic "Spaz" Pezzola, 43, argued that his imprisonment is making it difficult for them to consult with him and to review potentially relevant evidence, Reuters reported. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WHEC-NBC \(Rochester, NY\)](#), [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, DC\)](#)

The Hill: Federal agencies warn companies to be on guard against prolific ransomware strain, Maggie Miller, September 22, 2021, 4:11 PM

The FBI, the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on Wednesday issued a warning to U.S. organizations to be aware of a specific

type of ransomware that has already wreaked havoc on hundreds of groups. The agencies issued a joint alert specifically warning groups to be on guard against the Conti ransomware variant, with the agencies noting that 400 U.S. and international groups had already fallen victim to Conti. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

HuffPost: 'Outrageous': Judge Lays Into Trump-Loving Deputy Who Wore 'Sheriff' Patch On Jan. 6, Ryan J. Reilly, September 22, 2021, 5:05 PM

A federal judge criticized a Capitol attack defendant and sworn officer who was working for a Tennessee sheriff's office when he faced off against law enforcement on Jan. 6 while wearing a "Sheriff" patch on his vest. Ronald Colton McAbee, known to online sleuths investigating the Jan. 6 attack as #ThreePercentSheriff because of the insignia he wore representing the far-right cause, was arrested in mid-August. A federal magistrate judge in Tennessee ordered McAbee released with conditions, including to "refrain from using any social media or other websites related to insurrection activity." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTOP-FM (Washington, DC): [AUDIO] The Hunt: What are the key threats facing the US?, J.J. Green, September 22, 2021, 8:36 PM

On this week's edition of "The Hunt, with WTOP National Security Correspondent J.J. Green," FBI Director Christopher Wray details, during a hearing before the House Homeland Security Committee, his most pressing concerns. [\[Listen\]](#)

WSMV-NBC (Nashville, TN): In video, Gallatin man cheers as he enters broken door of capitol during riots, Jeremy Finley, September 22, 2021, 8:30 PM

Newly released videos of the insurrection in Washington, DC, in January reveal a Gallatin man cheering as he enters a broken door of the U.S. Capitol. Eric Torrens is set to be sentenced on Oct. 29 after pleading guilty to the misdemeanor charge of parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTVT-Fox (Tampa, FL): First of Utah's Capitol riot suspects expected to plead guilty, Nate Carlisle, September 22, 2021, 6:26 PM

A 23-year-old man from Sandy is expected to plead guilty to a misdemeanor stemming from the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. An Oct. 14 plea agreement hearing has been scheduled for Jacob K. Wiedrich. Prosecutors this week dismissed three counts against him. A lone misdemeanor of parading or picketing in the Capitol remains. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (Naperville, IL): 2 Illinoisans Charged In Capitol Riots After Social Media Posts, Lisa Marie Farver, September 22, 2021, 3:02 PM

Two Illinois residents were arrested Tuesday on charges linked to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Dawn Frankowski, 53, of Naperville, and David W. Wiersma, 66, of Posen, were charged with disorderly and disruptive conduct and entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds. A person who worked with Wiersma reported him to the FBI after seeing Wiersma post on Facebook Jan. 6 about getting into the capitol building, according to a complaint filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTTG-Fox (Washington, DC): Capitol Hill bomb threat suspect found competent to stand trial, Nate Carlisle, September 22, 2021, 2:30 PM

A North Carolina man who allegedly shut down Capitol Hill when he parked his truck next to the Library of Congress and told police he had a bomb was found competent to stand trial on Wednesday. Floyd Ray Roseberry was charged with use of a weapon of mass destruction and threats to use explosive materials after the incident in August. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

Reuters: R. Kelly hid crimes in 'plain sight,' prosecutor says near end of sex trafficking trial, Tyler Clifford, September 23, 2021, 12:14 AM

R. Kelly dominated not only women and girls but also his employees over a quarter century of sexual abuse, a prosecutor said on Wednesday as the R&B star's sex trafficking trial neared its conclusion. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Geddes told jurors during her closing argument in Brooklyn federal court that Kelly's entourage of business managers, accountants, runners and other employees was "at his disposal." [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Former US defense secretary testifies in Holmes fraud trial, Michael Liedtke, September 22, 2021, 9:00 PM

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis testified Wednesday in the trial of fallen tech star Elizabeth Holmes, saying the entrepreneur misled him into believing she was on the verge of rolling out a blood-testing breakthrough that he hoped would help save lives of troops in battle. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [Politico](#)

AP: Alleged Mexican drug cartel boss charged in California, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 8:00 PM

An alleged top lieutenant of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel has been accused of helping smuggle tons of methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and other drugs into the United States, federal authorities said Wednesday. A 2018 indictment by a federal grand jury in San Diego was unsealed Wednesday. It accuses Sergio Valenzuela Valenzuela, 52, of drug-related conspiracy, according to the U.S. attorney's office. A warrant for his arrest was issued. He remains a fugitive. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

AP: Janitor gets 60 years for hiding camera in girls' restroom, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:00 PM

A former janitor at a Florida high school has been sentenced to 60 years in prison for hiding a camera in a girls' restroom. Derremy Jerrell Walker, 31, was sentenced Tuesday in Orlando federal court, according to court records. He was convicted in June of two counts of using, or attempting to use, children to produce sexually explicit videos. "Mr. Walker did more than just produce horror; he stole the innocence and trust of these young victims," FBI Tampa Division

Special Agent in Charge Michael McPherson said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WESH-NBC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WTSP-CBS \(St. Petersburg, FL\)](#)

AP: Maryland man sentenced to life for role in woman's death, Kate Brumback, September 22, 2021, 5:38 PM

A Maryland man was sentenced on Wednesday to four life terms for his part in the death of a woman thought to be a witness in a federal case, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a news release. A judge sentenced Clifton Mosely, 43, of Baltimore for two counts of conspiracy to murder a witness, and for witness retaliation murder and witness tampering murder in the death of Latrina Ashburne, 41, on May 27, 2016, the news release said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: DOJ announces indictments over \$30 mln TV copyright theft scheme, Blake Brittain, September 22, 2021, 4:44 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice said on Wednesday that three men who allegedly operated a \$30 million scheme to steal content from cable-TV providers and retransmit it illegally had been indicted in federal court in Philadelphia. DOJ said in a statement that Bill Omar Carrasquillo, 35, of Swedesboro, New Jersey; Jesse Gonzales, 42, of Pico Rivera, California; and Michael Barone, 36, of Richmond Hill, New York used subscriptions to Verizon, Comcast, and other cable services to illegally stream copyrighted content to thousands of their own paying subscribers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Beast](#), [The Epoch Times](#), [The Hill](#), [KYW-CBS \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [New Jersey Advance Media](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

CNN: Michigan man charged for allegedly leaving pipe bombs at cell phone stores to stop the spread of cursing and pornography, Justice Department says, Amir Vera and Christina Carrega, September 22, 2021, 5:54 PM

A 75-year-old Michigan man was arrested Wednesday after investigators say he left pipe bombs at two cell phone stores and threatening letters at cell towers in order to stop all telecommunications "containing immoral content," like pornography and cursing, according to an affidavit for probable cause. John Douglas Allen was charged with extortion and attempted damage or destruction of buildings used in interstate commerce, a US Justice Department news release said [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Beast](#)

Politico: The tangled tale of the Israel consulate, the Dilbert cartoonist and the Matt Gaetz case, Marc Caputo, September 23, 2021, 4:30 AM

Of the many only-in-Florida aspects of the Rep. Matt Gaetz sex-crimes investigation, one stands out for its utter weirdness: the story of the Israeli consulate staffer, the cartoonist who created Dilbert and a complicated shakedown scheme tied to a former CIA operative captured in Iran. The most-salacious aspects of the federal probe into Gaetz have received saturation media coverage over the months. But scant attention has been paid to the mysterious cameo of Jake Novak, the broadcast media director of the Consulate General of Israel in New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Forbes: Bodybuilding Doctor Who Traded Opioids For Spinal Injections Convicted In

\$100 Million Fraud, Graison Dangor, September 22, 2021, 8:05 PM

A Detroit-area doctor on Wednesday became the latest physician held accountable for prescribing opioids for profit, with a jury finding him guilty on multiple counts of fraud and money laundering in a more than \$100 million plot that gave patients opioids if they let him bill their insurance for needless and pricey spinal injections. Francisco "Frank" Patino faces a potential life sentence, according to the Justice Department. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Examiner](#)

Washington Examiner: **Michigan doctor convicted in \$100 million-plus healthcare fraud case**, Asher Notheis, September 22, 2021, 5:25 PM

A federal jury in Michigan convicted a doctor on Wednesday for orchestrating a fraud scheme to scam patients into high doses of opioids, according to the Justice Department. Court documents and evidence presented at trial show Francisco Patino, 66, "excessively" prescribed highly addictive opioids to his patients in exchange for them receiving lucrative spinal injections, federal prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Actor Faked Emails In \$50M Viacom Sex Abuse Suit, Feds Say**, Pete Brush, September 22, 2021, 4:57 PM

A California actor was arrested Tuesday for allegedly faking salacious emails that the Manhattan U. S. Attorney's Office says were used to target two Hollywood executives and Viacom Inc. in a now-dismissed \$50 million suit alleging sexual misconduct. Defendant Rovier Carrington, 32, a reality television actor and writer who says in court filings he is the great-grandson of Three Stooges comedian Moe Howard, was presented in Los Angeles federal court on a count of perjury and set free on a \$15,000 bail package. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

The Times and Democrat (Orangeburg, SC): **Shooting suspect lied for gun; attempted murder charges pending in RMC incident**, Martha Rose Brown, September 22, 2021, 9:30 PM

The Orangeburg man accused of trying to kill a Regional Medical Center employee has pleaded guilty to a federal firearms charge. Abrian Dayquan Sabb, 26, of Casa Court, pleaded guilty Tuesday to aiding and abetting the making of a false statement to a federal firearms dealer during the purchase of a firearm, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Mitchell Republic (Mitchell SD): **Rosebud, Lower Brule men sentenced for separate involuntary manslaughter convictions**, Hunter Dunteman, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

A Rosebud man and a Lower Brule man were each sentenced for separate involuntary manslaughter convictions in different incidents, the Department of Justice announced Monday. Eugene Skunk, 43, of Lower Brule, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on June 28, while Robert Stands and Looks Back, 45, of Rosebud, pleaded guilty to the same charge a day later. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: **Man and woman plead guilty to federal arson charges for lighting empty NYPD van on fire during 2020 protest**, Molly Crane-Newman, September 22, 2021, 6:47 PM

Two Brooklyn residents pleaded guilty to arson charges Wednesday for torching an empty NYPD van in Greenwich Village during a criminal justice reform demonstration last year. Elaine Carberry, 37, and Corey Smith, 24, were hit with conspiring to commit arson for their role in the July 15, 2020, van fire near the corner of 12th St. and University Place. The torching came amid a wave of protests around the city and across the country sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KFOR-NBC \(Oklahoma City, OK\)](#)

The Oregonian (Portland, OR): **Federal employee who downloaded pornography while working aboard NOAA research vessel sentenced to two years in prison**, Maxine Bernstein, September 22, 2021, 6:37 PM

A 44-year-old crew member of a NOAA scientific research vessel who downloaded child pornography found on the ship's server was sentenced Wednesday to two years in federal prison. Johnny Dale Hale was working aboard the Bell M. Shimada, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, in 2016 when he transferred to the ship's server two folders of child pornography that included about 35 images from a cell phone, according to federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KDRV-ABC \(Medford, OR\)](#), [KPTV-Fox \(Portland, OR\)](#)

Florida Today: **Melbourne woman sentenced to 15 years in prison in child sex abuse case**, J.D. Gallop, September 22, 2021, 4:33 PM

A 23-year-old Melbourne woman who pleaded guilty to filming illicit sex acts with a child and then distributing them over the internet was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison, prosecutors said. A U.S. District judge also ordered Lisa Vaughn to serve a 10-year term of supervised release after the prison term. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Orlando Sentinel](#)

Tulsa World (Tulsa, OK): **19-year-old described as 'out of control' admits to attempted sexual assault, burglary charges**, Curtis Killman, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

19-year-old described as 'out of control' admits to attempted sexual assault, burglary charges. A Tulsa 19-year-old who a prosecutor said was "out of control" pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to an eight-count superseding indictment that included allegations he broke into three occupied homes, including one where he attempted to rape a woman at a midtown residence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Register Citizen (Torrington, CT): **Feds: New London man pleads guilty to cocaine trafficking**, Tara O'Neill, September 22, 2021, 2:00 PM

A city man pleaded guilty Tuesday to a narcotics trafficking offense stemming from his role in a conspiracy in which authorities say cocaine was mailed from Puerto Rico to southeastern Connecticut. Raul Robles, 38, pleaded guilty before Judge Jeffrey A. Meyer in New Haven to conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBKO-ABC/Fox/CW (Bowling Green, KY): **Bowling Green man sentenced to 15 years in federal prison**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 10:42 PM

A Bowling Green man was sentenced on September 14, 2021, to 15 years in federal prison. According to court documents, Charleslenzo Sanchez Williams was found in the possession of over 50 grams of meth. Williams was also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): Indiana man pleads guilty to abusive sexual contact on commercial aircraft, Gregg Montgomery, September 22, 2021, 10:35 PM

A northeastern Indiana man pleaded guilty Wednesday to abusive sexual contact with a sleeping woman on a flight from Indianapolis to Denver in 2017, federal authorities said. Ian Wagner, 39, of New Haven, was seated next to an 18-year-old woman on the Oct. 6, 2017, flight. The woman awoke to find Wagner rubbing her inner thigh with his hand. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WCCO-CBS (Minneapolis, MN): Minneapolis Man Charged In Conspiracy To Distribute Fentanyl, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 9:54 PM

A Minneapolis man was charged along with three others for conspiring to distribute fentanyl, United States Attorney W. Anders Folk announced Wednesday. Taureen Curtis Jackson, 36, of Minneapolis, Victor Carbello, 50, of Glendale, Arizona, Carmelo Jerry D'Alessandro, 28, of Phoenix, Arizona, and Giovanni Luon D'Alessandro, 23, of Phoenix were all charged with one count each of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): Denton County Man Guy Zachary Klossner Sentenced For Threatening U.S. Congressman, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 8:42 PM

Guy Zachary Klossner, 33, Of Denton was sentenced to prison for threatening a federal official. He pleaded guilty on April 29, to threatening a federal official and was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison. "Today's sentence sends a strong message that EDTX takes seriously any death threats to public officials," said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. "In our democracy, there is room for disagreement and even dissent. However, we will not tolerate threats of violence, particularly those made against our elected representatives." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): For-Profit Trade School Owner Jonathan Dean Davis Gets Nearly 20 Years For Defrauding VA, Student Veterans, Hojun Choi, September 22, 2021, 8:31 PM

The owner of a for-profit trade school was sentenced to more than 19 years in federal prison for bilking the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of \$72 million and of misleading student veterans. In April, a federal jury convicted Jonathan Dean Davis, the 43 year-old owner of Retail Ready Career Center, of seven counts of wire fraud and four counts of money laundering. He was sentenced Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Brantley Starr, who also ordered him to pay \$65.2 million in restitution. In addition to paying restitution, Mr. Davis will be required to forfeit \$72.5 million to the federal government. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WVEC-ABC (Hampton, VA): Chesapeake man gets 15 years after traveling to Arizona and buying 2 pounds of meth, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

A Chesapeake man was sentenced to 15 years in prison Wednesday after he traveled to Arizona

to purchase methamphetamine for resale. In a press release, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said an Arizona State Trooper pulled over Jeremy Wayne Johnson, 45, and his passenger on Interstate 17 in Yavapai County on May 20, 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBOY-NBC/ABC (Clarksburg, WV): Morgantown woman gets year and a half prison sentence for her role in Texas-to-Morgantown drug ring, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 6:37 PM

U.S. District Judge Thomas Kleeh sentenced a Morgantown woman Wednesday to 18 months in federal prison for her role in methamphetamine, crack cocaine, fentanyl, and heroin drug distribution operation that spanned from Houston to Morgantown, Acting United States Attorney Randolph Bernard announced. Ashley Johnson, 34, pleaded guilty in April 2021 to one count of “Unlawful Use of Communication Facility.” Johnson admitted to using a phone to distribute methamphetamine, cocaine base, also known as “crack,” cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” fentanyl, and heroin in April 2020 in Monongalia County. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBNF-AM (Binghamton, NY): Prison for Endicott Sex Offender for Failing to Register Email, Bob Joseph, September 22, 2021, 6:30 PM

A 73-year-old Broome County resident has been sentenced to a prison term for not registering his email accounts. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, Thomas Redeker of Endicott failed to update his sex offender registration by maintaining unregistered email accounts. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSAW-CBS (Wausau, WI): 2 Afghan evacuees at Fort McCoy face federal charges, Wyatt Heller, September 22, 2021, 6:15 PM

Two evacuees from Afghanistan will face federal charges for crimes allegedly committed at Fort McCoy. Bahrullah Noori, 20, is charged with attempting to engage in a sexual act with a minor through the use of force. The victim was not yet 16 years old, according to an indictment. Mohammad Haroon Imaad, 32, is charged with assaulting his spouse by strangling and suffocating her. The indictment alleges that the assault occurred on September 7, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WQOW-ABC/CW \(Eau Claire, WI\)](#)

WPTZ-NBC (Plattsburgh, NY): Federal charges filed in connection with Killington death, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 6:08 PM

A Vermont man appeared in federal court Wednesday, answering to firearms charges filed in connection with the death his fiancée last week. Police responded to multiple 911 calls reporting a gunshot injury in Killington last Wednesday. Crews said 28-year-old Brittany Bouthiette, of Mount Holly, was pronounced dead at the scene from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WCAX-CBS \(Burlington, VT\)](#), [WTEN-ABC \(Albany, NY\)](#)

WTAP-NBC (Parkersburg, WV): Fifteen arrested in Wood County drug bust, Zach Shivers, September 22, 2021, 5:57 PM

Fifteen people are facing drug-related charges after a series of six search warrants were served Wednesday. That's according to a news release from Acting United State Attorney Lisa

Johnston. Parkersburg residents Carlo Ramsey, 56, Robert Sanders Jr., 29, and Ambera Roberts, 34, are each facing a federal charge of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WFAA-ABC (Dallas, TX): Man who detonated an explosive under Bedford bridge gets 46 months in federal prison, Jake Harris, September 22, 2021, 5:41 PM

A U.S. district court judge sentenced a man who detonated an explosive device under a bridge in Bedford in April to 46 months in prison, according to a news release from the Department of Justice. Nicholas Lloyd Nelson, 38, pleaded guilty in June to possession of a destructive device. He was sentenced earlier this month by U.S. District Judge Reed C. O'Connor. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): Duplin County man sentenced to 24 years on drug charges, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 4:55 PM

A convicted drug trafficker was sentenced to 24 years in federal prison, federal prosecutors said on Wednesday. The U.S. Attorney's Office says 36-year-old Jeremy Cline was sentenced for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KAIT-ABC (Jonesboro, AR): Snowbird Bob owner sentenced to prison, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 4:34 PM

A Northeast Arkansas man who bilked the federal government out of thousands of COVID-19 relief funds is headed to prison. Judge P.K. Holmes sentenced James Read of Mountain Home to 63 months in federal prison on each of three counts of money laundering, wire fraud, and making a false statement. The sentences will run concurrently. In addition, the judge ordered Read to pay \$277,827 in restitution immediately. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WDAF-Fox (Kansas City, MO): 21-year-old woman pleads guilty to carjacking in Country Club Plaza parking garage, Brian Dulle, September 22, 2021, 4:03 PM

A 21-year-old Kansas City, Kansas woman pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to stealing a vehicle at gunpoint from a parking garage at the Country Club Plaza last year. Maricela Delores Lozano pleaded guilty to one count of carjacking and one count of brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence. By pleading guilty, Lozano admitted that she used a Century Arms Draco AK 47-style 9mm pistol during the theft of a Nissan Altima on July 19, 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WHAM-ABC (Rochester, NY): Fmr. broker sentenced to more than 5 years in prison for identity theft, wire fraud, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 4:00 PM

A former insurance broker who pleaded guilty to federal charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft will spend more than five years in prison. Brian Bartz, 39, must also pay full restitution to victims in the case. Between January 2015 and January 2020, Bartz was employed at various life insurance companies. Prosecutors say he submitted 105 fraudulent policy applications for people without their knowledge. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Voice (Fairlawn, NJ): Feds: Ex-Lodi HS Teacher Admits Scamming Insurance Out Of \$550,000 For Compound Meds, Jerry DeMarco, September 22, 2021, 3:32 PM

A now-former Lodi High School teacher admitted that he collected \$550,000 worth of compound medications through bogus claims to an employee benefit program. Jason Nardachone, 51, of Nutley bribed three other teachers \$500 a month each to obtain compounded medications that they, like him, didn't need, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBAL-NBC (Baltimore, MD): Former Safe Streets worker headed to prison on drug conviction, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

A former Safe Streets worker in Baltimore City was sentenced to prison for dealing drugs, federal prosecutors announced Wednesday. A judge sentenced Ronald Alexander to 11 years and three months in prison followed by eight years of probation for conspiracy to distribute fentanyl, heroin and cocaine while he was employed by Safe Streets, an organization whose purpose is to reduce violence and crime in Baltimore through intervention. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KAIT-ABC/NBC/CW (Jonesboro, AR): Calif. man sentenced to 20 years in prison for mailing meth to southeast Mo, Amber Ruch, September 22, 2021, 2:11 PM

A California man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for mailing methamphetamine to southeast Missouri. Dexter Elcan, 36, of South Gate, Calif., was sentenced on Wednesday, September 22 after pleading guilty in June to possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of meth. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTUL-ABC (Tulsa, OK): Man convicted in 'callous' murder of Tulsa bicyclist, Megan Butler, September 22, 2021, 2:00 PM

A federal jury convicted a man earlier this week in the shooting death of a Tulsa bicyclist. Just after 8 p.m. on April 12, Tulsa police found Maurice Burgess on the ground near his bicycle in the parking lot of the Waterstone Apartments at 61st and Peoria. He died shortly after arriving at the hospital from a gunshot wound to his neck. Devon Blevins, 28, was arrested a week later and admitted he was responsible for the crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Florida Man Guilty Of Conspiracy To Commit Wire Fraud, Ashley Cox, September 22, 2021, 1:56 PM

Jeffrey Jedlicki (51, Panama City, Panama) has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud for his role in the operation of international boiler rooms which defrauded victims via the sale of worthless investments. Jedlicki faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not been set. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Two Tampa Residents Guilty Of Conspiracy To Commit Access Device Fraud And Aggravated Identity Theft, Ashley Cox, September 22, 2021, 1:40 PM

Kary Stevenson (47) and Corey Quinn (35), both of Tampa, have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to

commit access device fraud and aggravated identity theft. Each faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison for the conspiracy count and a consecutive two years' imprisonment for the aggravated identity count. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDEL (Wilmington, DE): Wilmington probationer gets 7 years in federal prison for stolen handgun possession, DJ McAneny, September 22, 2021, 1:05 PM

A 27-year-old Wilmington man was sentenced to seven years in federal prison for illegally possessing a stolen handgun, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday. According to officials, Isaiah Council was on probation for a 2017 Wilmington armed robbery conviction and a 2012 New York City shooting conviction when he was pulled over as a passenger in Wilmington on July 28, 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVQ-CBS (Billings, MT): Billings woman sentenced for statewide fake check scheme, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:35 PM

The leader of a fraudulent check scheme in which recruits would steal items with personal information from homes, vehicles and mailboxes to help pass bogus checks across Montana was sentenced Tuesday to 44 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Cassie Ann Rathie, 32 of Billings, pleaded guilty in April to wire fraud and to aggravated identity theft, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WOLF-Fox (Hazleton, PA): Two federal inmates charged with pandemic unemployment assistance fraud, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:30 PM

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that Christina Covey, age 34, formerly of Drums, Pennsylvania, and Fredy Mendoza, age 33, formerly of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, were charged yesterday by a federal grand jury with fraudulently obtaining pandemic unemployment benefits between July and October 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Big Country News (Clarkston, WA): Kamiah man Sentenced to Three Years for Suffocating Wife With Pillow, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 11:0 AM

52-year-old Stephen Jason Dahlin, of Kamiah, was sentenced to three years in federal prison for suffocation, according to a release from the U.S. Attorney's office Wednesday morning. Chief U.S. District Judge David C. Nye also ordered that Dahlin serve three years of supervised release following his prison sentence. Dahlin was indicted by a grand jury on November 10, 2020 and pleaded guilty to the charge on June 9, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Feds: 3 charged in Mexican migrant worker conspiracy, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 7:23 PM

Three people have been indicted in a multi-state conspiracy involving the forced labor of Mexican agricultural immigrants, federal authorities announced Wednesday. A federal grand jury in Tampa formally charged Bladimir Moreno, Christina Gamez and Guadalupe Mendes Mendoza under a

six-count indictment last week. Moreno, a Mexican citizen and permanent U.S. resident who owned and managed Los Villatoros Harvesting, and Gamez, a U.S. citizen who worked for the company as a bookkeeper, manager and supervisor, face charges of conspiracy under the RICO Act, conspiracy to commit forced labor, forced labor and conspiracy to obstruct proceedings before departments, agencies and committees. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Ten current, former Black female D.C. police officers sue the city, claiming discrimination, Emily Davies, September 22, 2021, 7:32 PM

Ten current and former Black female D.C. police officers filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the District, alleging its police department has engaged in “repeated, coordinated and relentless retaliation” against Black female officers who have complained about discrimination or other police misconduct. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in the District, accuses D.C. police of cultivating a culture that degrades women and turning on those who have tried to raise alarm about race and gender discrimination and sexual harassment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: San Jose State University agrees to pay \$1.6M to students who alleged sexual assault by trainer, Justice Department says, Jason Hanna and Stella Chan, September 22, 2021, 7:42 PM

San Jose State University will pay a total of about \$1.6 million to some of the female students and student-athletes who alleged they were sexually assaulted or harassed by a campus athletic trainer over more than a decade, the US Department of Justice said Tuesday. The payments are part of a settlement between the university and the Justice Department, reached after the department determined the school violated Title IX gender equity law by mishandling students' allegations and allowing the trainer continued access to them. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAGA-Fox (Atlanta, GA): Man says he was fired from Clayton County jail for blowing whistles on 'major violations', Christopher King, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

More accusations have surfaced against the embattled Clayton County sheriff. Lawyers for a number of current and former detainees at the jail want the county district attorney to launch her own investigation into Victor Hill. This was after a federal grand jury indicted Hill on civil rights charges. A whistleblower claims he was fired after calling out problems at the jail. He said he pointed out what were major violations and then got fired. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Judge considers request to block Arizona abortion law, Jonathan J. Cooper, September 22, 2021, 10:00 PM

A lawyer for several Arizona abortion providers urged a federal judge Wednesday to block a new state law that would allow prosecutors to charge doctors who knowingly terminate a pregnancy solely because the fetus has a genetic abnormality such as Down syndrome. The law, set to take effect on Wednesday, is so vague that it would dissuade doctors from performing an abortion anytime there's an indication that the fetus might have a genetic problem for fear of criminal

prosecution, argued Emily Nestler, senior counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Florida to consider near-ban on abortion similar to Texas' new law, Sharon Bernstein, September 22, 2021, 8:42 PM

A Florida Republican lawmaker has filed a bill that would ban abortions after six to eight weeks and allow members of the community to sue doctors for terminating pregnancies in what may be the first effort to mirror a similar new law in Texas. The bill by state Representative Webster Barnaby would ban abortions after regular cardiac contractions are detected in an embryo, known as a fetal heartbeat even though the heart has not yet developed, about six to eight weeks into pregnancy. That is before many women know they are pregnant. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#)

Reuters: U.S. appeals court erases ruling allowing gun sales to people under 21, Jonathan Stempel, September 22, 2021, 2:57 PM

A U.S. appeals court on Wednesday threw out its recent decision that a federal prohibition on firearms dealers selling guns to young adults under 21 was unconstitutional, deciding the case was now moot because both plaintiffs have reached that age. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: Facebook Ordered to Release Records on Closed Myanmar Accounts, Aruna Viswanatha, September 22, 2021, 9:32 PM

A federal judge ordered Facebook Inc. on Wednesday to hand over records related to accounts it shut down in 2018 that were linked to government-backed violence against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar, as the social-media giant grapples with the effects content on its platform has in the real world. The ruling, by a magistrate judge in Washington, criticized Facebook for refusing to provide the records to countries pursuing a case against Myanmar in international court, saying allowing it to withhold them “would compound the tragedy that has befallen the Rohingya.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ Defends Handling Of Health Care Staffing No-Poach Case, Matthew Perlman, September 22, 2021, 6:33 PM

The U. S. Department of Justice pushed back against accusations from an indicted former health care staffing company manager that enforcers mishandled his interview during the criminal investigation of an alleged agreement to suppress wages for Las Vegas school nurses. The DOJ filed its opposition on Tuesday in Nevada federal court to a dismissal bid from Ryan Hee, the former regional manager for a company now known as VDA OC LLC. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Many migrants staying in US even as expulsion flights rise, Elliot Spagat, Maria Verza, Juan A. Lozano and Sarah Blake Morgan, September 22, 2021, 9:00 PM

Three hours after being freed from a giant migrant camp under an international bridge,

Mackenson Veillard stood outside a gas station and took stock of his sudden good fortune as he and his pregnant wife waited for a Greyhound bus to take them to a cousin in San Antonio. The couple camped with thousands for a week under the bridge in Del Rio, Texas, sleeping on concrete and getting by on bread and bottled water. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: For asylum advocates, border expulsions strain faith in Biden, Mica Rosenberg and Kristina Cooke, September 22, 2021, 4:53 PM

Confused and tired-looking toddlers clung to their parents at Port-au-Prince airport in Haiti on Tuesday, among the 360 family members rapidly expelled from the U.S. over the past three days. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: 'Disaster of epic proportions:' Border deaths on the rise, Border Patrol increases rescues, Clara Migoya and Rick Jervis, September 23, 2021, 6:00 AM

U.S. Border Patrol agent Jesus Vasavilbaso bounced his white SUV over dirt trails through this remote terrain near the U.S.-Mexico border. Grey clouds offered some respite from the searing summer heat. Brown shrubs and cacti stretched to the horizon. His radio was quiet. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: House Democrats demand answers by Friday about the Border Patrol's treatment of Haitian migrants, Luke Broadwater and Eileen Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

House Democrats on Wednesday demanded that Biden administration officials meet with members of the oversight committee by Friday to face questions about the treatment of Haitian immigrants at the Texas-Mexico border after videos showed mounted Border Patrol agents corralling and menacing migrants, sparking widespread outrage. The letter asks for Customs and Border Protection officials to brief the committee by the end of the week about the conduct of the agents, what directions they received from supervisors and whether any disciplinary steps have been taken. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

USA Today: DHS vows to have findings within 'days' in investigation of Border Patrol's treatment of Haitian migrants, Kevin Johnson, September 22, 2021, 5:01 PM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas vowed a swift investigation into the treatment of Haitian migrants on the Texas border by agents on horseback, telling a House panel that the inquiry would be completed within days. Mayorkas told the House Homeland Security Committee that an undisclosed number of agents had been placed on administrative duty as investigators examine confrontations in which some mounted agents appeared to use their reins as whips against migrants who have been surging into Del Rio, Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Even as the Biden administration deports some Haitian migrants, it is letting in others, Eileen Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

Even as more than 1,000 Haitian migrants were deported between Sunday and Tuesday, thousands of others are being allowed into the United States, sometimes to request asylum and are being released with instructions to report to immigration officials at a future date. Faced with an unusually high number of Haitians who began crossing the border into Del Rio, Texas, late

last week, the Biden administration responded with high-profile repatriation flights, which officials hope will deter others from making the trip here. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#)

CNN: Border Patrol sought extra resources in Del Rio as far back as June, union emails show, Geneva Sands, September 22, 2021, 5:50 PM

As far back as June, Border Patrol agents in Del Rio, Texas, began asking management for additional resources to more rapidly process migrants, but their calls for increased resources appear to have gone unmet until recent days when thousands and thousands of migrants were forced to wait under a bridge near the US-Mexico border. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] Pfizer Booster Shots, Processing Haitian Migrants, Ethiopia's Hunger Crisis, September 23, 2021, 5:58 AM

Who is eligible to get Pfizer's COVID-19 booster shots? (1:25). And why are certain Haitian migrants detained along the US-Mexico border being released while others are deported? (5:28). Plus, new documents reveal the extent of Ethiopia's hunger crisis (9:20). [[Listen](#)]

Law360: 3rd Circ. Says BIA Ignored Evidence Of Yemeni's Persecution, Creig Clough, September 22, 2021, 10:18 PM

The Third Circuit Wednesday vacated a Board of Immigration Appeals' decision that denied a Yemeni man's request for protection from deportation, saying the board ignored "overwhelming evidence" that the man had been persecuted and could be tortured for his political beliefs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: ICE Wants Contractor To Help Run Gitmo Migrant Facility, Daniel Wilson, September 22, 2021, 8:15 PM

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking a contractor to help operate a migrant housing facility at Guantanamo Bay amid a recent surge in Haitian migration, saying it is looking to house up to 400 people. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Foreign Workers Say GAO Report Supports Green Card Suit, Jeniffer Doherty, September 22, 2021, 8:14 PM

A group of almost 200 foreign-born U.S. workers calling on a Maryland federal court to compel U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to adjudicate their green card applications flagged a new government watchdog report on Wednesday, saying it bolstered their case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Immigrant Teenagers Win Injunction Against ICE Over Placement, Holly Barker, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement must correct its failure to comply with the law governing placement of 18-year-olds who came to the United States as "unaccompanied alien children," the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: **Customs & Border Protection ordered to disclose social media surveillance rules**, Nicholas Iovino, September 22, 2021, 6:00 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection cannot withhold information on its rules for authorizing agents to use fake identities and non-government accounts to spy on social media users, a federal judge ruled Wednesday. Government lawyers had argued that disclosing the information would reveal sensitive law enforcement techniques that could help criminals elude justice. Exemption 7(E) of the Freedom of Information Act allows the government to keep those types of records hidden from public view. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Chinese Asylum-Seeker Loses In 9th Circ. Over Arrest Lie**, Alyssa Aquino, September 22, 2021, 4:03 PM

The Ninth Circuit denied a Chinese national's bid for asylum over religious persecution, finding that she failed to disclose her 2013 arrest by U.S. authorities and could not offer a plausible explanation for her omission. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KPNX-NBC (Phoenix, AZ): **Arizona shelters trying to keep up with humanitarian crisis at the border**, Adriana Loya, September 22, 2021, 9:50 PM

Since the start of the year, shelters that provide aid to migrants in Phoenix have seen an increase in people seeking asylum being released by Customs and Border Protection. Before February, the International Rescue Committee (IRC)— an organization that serves people with food, shelter, and aid to families seeking refuge in the United States — was serving an average of 80 people a month, said the organizations' Asylum Seekers and Family senior coordinator Beth Strano. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOLD-CBS (Tucson, AZ): **Haitian refugees to be housed in Tucson**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 6:16 PM

KOLD has confirmed, a portion of the Haitian migrants camped at the Texas border are being housed at hotels in the Tucson area. The migrants in Tucson will be housed at hotels across the city as well as the Casa Alitas Welcome Center. Officials say the migrants will stay in town for a few days after processing until more permanent housing can be found. Haitians have been released on a "very large scale" in recent days, according to one U.S. official with direct knowledge of operations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Reuters: **U.S. farm group seeks stronger antitrust action with new campaign**, Leah Douglas, September 22, 2021, 5:04 PM

The National Farmers Union, the nation's second-largest farm group, said on Wednesday it is launching a campaign to expose the negative effects of consolidation in the agriculture industry on family farms and rural towns. The campaign, which it said will include a public relations blitz and lobbying, is part of an effort to push Washington to crack down on monopolistic behavior in the

industry as lawmakers propose legislation to bring more price and market transparency to highly consolidated farm markets. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: [OPINION] You Deserve a Bigger Paycheck. Here's How You Might Get It, Eric Posner, September 23, 2021, 5:00 AM

The spectacle of the antitrust challenge to Big Tech has been riveting. But a far more consequential transformation in antitrust law has largely escaped notice — the movement to use antitrust law to address wage suppression and inequality caused by the power of employers in labor markets. Economic theory says that when a pool of workers has only one potential employer, or a small number of potential employers, those workers will be paid below-market wages. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: StarKist Tells 9th Circ. Uninjured Overwhelm Tuna Classes, Lauren Berg, September 22, 2021, 10:20 PM

StarKist Co. urged the en banc Ninth Circuit during oral arguments on Wednesday to decertify three classes of canned tuna buyers in a massive price-fixing lawsuit, saying there are too many class members who haven't suffered any injuries from the alleged scheme. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Raft Of Claims Deleted In Hard Disk Parts Price-Fixing Case, Christopher Cole, September 22, 2021, 8:17 PM

A California federal judge threw out a range of price-fixing claims against hard disk parts manufacturers Wednesday, but kept part of the litigation afloat and gave two groups of plaintiffs a month to rework the jettisoned claims. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Citi Wants Grand Jury Docs In Ex-Trader's Forex Probe Suit, Rachel Scharf, September 22, 2021, 7:14 PM

Citigroup Inc. asked a New York federal judge Tuesday for access to records from the grand jury that indicted a former London-based trader on foreign exchange-rigging charges, saying the documents undermine the acquitted trader's \$112 million malicious prosecution suit. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Politico: 12 former security officials who warned against antitrust crackdown have tech ties, Emily Birnbaum, September 22, 2021, 6:28 PM

The warning last week from a dozen former national security leaders was stark: An antitrust crackdown on Silicon Valley could threaten the nation's economy and "cede U.S. tech leadership to China." But the group was united by more than their histories of holding senior defense and intelligence roles in the Trump, Obama and George W. Bush administrations: All 12 have ties to major tech companies, either from working with them directly or serving with organizations that get money from them, according to a POLITICO analysis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Ky. AG Wants End To Price-Gouging Probe Challenge, J. Edward Moreno, September 22, 2021, 5:55 PM

Kentucky's attorney general, Daniel Cameron, told a federal judge Tuesday to end a challenge of price-gouging investigations into Amazon sellers after a Sixth Circuit panel nixed a preliminary injunction order. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Pharma Giants' \$454M Glumetza Antitrust Deal Gets Initial OK, Hannah Albarazi, September 22, 2021, 5:04 PM

U.S. District Judge William Alsup preliminarily approved \$454 million in settlements Wednesday resolving direct buyers' allegations that Bausch Health Cos. Inc., Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Assertio Therapeutics Inc. plotted to delay the blockbuster diabetes drug Glumetza's generic version, but warned the parties not to make it difficult for class members to opt out. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: NHK, TDK Lose Bid to Ax Antitrust Suit Over Disk Drive Component, Mike Leonard, September 22, 2021, 4:10 PM

NHK Spring Co. and TDK Corp. must face antitrust litigation over their alleged scheme to inflate the price of hard disk drive suspension assemblies, a critical computer component, a federal judge in San Francisco ruled Wednesday while also trimming the lawsuit. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: FTC's Retail Gas Station Scrutiny Spotlights Unfair Trade Law, Siri Bulusu, September 22, 2021, 3:10 PM

The Federal Trade Commission is showing signs of looking beyond traditional antitrust law to tighten oversight on gas station consolidation and its effect on gas prices. The agency could turn to Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act to investigate antitrust violations stemming from possible collusion and price-signaling in the retail gas station industry, as well as in agreements between oil and gas companies and their retail gas station franchisees, antitrust analysts say. The provision generally has been limited to the FTC's enforcement of unfair and deceptive trade practices. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Reuters: Summit Midstream Partners pleads guilty in largest U.S. inland spill from oil drilling, Sarah N. Lynch, September 22, 2021, 6:14 PM

Pipeline operator Summit Midstream Partners (SMLP.N) pleaded guilty in federal court in Bismarck, North Dakota, on Wednesday to criminal water pollution charges stemming from what prosecutors call the largest-ever land-based spill from oil drilling. The company agreed to pay \$36.3 million to settle the criminal charges, as well as parallel civil charges filed by the U.S. government and the state of North Dakota. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: U.S. EPA weighs regulation of chemical recycling, Valerie Volcovici, September 22, 2021, 5:16 PM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering regulating chemical recycling, a

controversial technology that aims to convert mixed plastic waste into fuel or energy. In its notice in the Federal Register earlier this month, the EPA said it wants more information about so-called pyrolysis and gasification, also known as advanced or chemical recycling, and is considering how they could be regulated under the federal Clean Air Act. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: EPA finalizes rule cutting use of potent greenhouse gas used in refrigeration, Rachel Frazin, September 23, 2021, 5:00 AM

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Thursday is finalizing a rule aimed at significantly cutting the use of a type of greenhouse gases called hydrofluorocarbons that are used in refrigeration. Hydrofluorocarbons, also known as HFCs, can have up to 14,800 times the climate impact of carbon dioxide. The new EPA rule, first proposed in May, aims to reduce their use by 85 percent compared to a baseline number over the next 15 years. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Ojibwe Tribes Say Wisc. Wolf Hunt Steps On Treaty Rights, Andrew Westey, September 22, 2021, 7:02 PM

Six Ojibwe, or Chippewa, tribes have asked a Wisconsin federal judge to halt an upcoming gray wolf hunt in the state, saying the hunt would violate their treaty rights by allowing non-Indians to kill too many wolves. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Mill Operators Stuck With Suit Alleging Water Contamination, David McAfee, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

The owners of a decommissioned sawmill must face a Clean Water Act lawsuit by an advocacy group that says historical mill waste and current industrial activity on the site are contributing to the contamination of nearby bodies of water, a federal judge in Washington has ruled. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Donziger Argues For Time Served, Citing Lengthy Prosecution, Cara Salvatore, September 22, 2021, 5:52 PM

Chevron foe Steven Donziger has asked a New York federal judge to sentence him to time served on his contempt-of-court conviction, with counsel saying he has been wearing an ankle monitoring device while under house arrest "longer than many people wear wedding rings." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Forest Service Must Review Wyoming Winter Elk Feeding Permit, Maya Earls, September 22, 2021, 3:41 PM

The U.S. Forest Service must complete further review of its permit allowing Wyoming to feed elk during the winter in Bridger-Teton National Forest, a federal court in the state ruled in a win for conservation groups. A project can be excluded from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act if it involves special uses of land that require less than five contiguous acres of land. The Forest Service's five-year special use permit for the Alkali Creek feedground doesn't meet that requirement, according to the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Atlanta-Area County Gets More Time For Sewage Repairs, Rosie Manins, September 22, 2021, 3:01 PM

A Georgia federal judge on Wednesday extended the deadline for a metropolitan Atlanta county to fix its problematic sewage system, but ordered it to pay about \$1 million in civil penalties for failing to meet the original timeline in a consent decree with state and federal regulators.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

New Jersey Advance Media: Man sold carvings made from ivory of endangered whale, feds say, Chris Sheldon, September 22, 2021, 7:05 PM

A Woodbridge man admitted Wednesday that he sold carvings made of sperm whale ivory across state lines, federal prosecutors said. Richard Gontarek, 55, pleaded guilty in Newark Federal court to two counts of violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits falsely labeling an international shipment of fish, wildlife, including their parts or products, or plants, according to a statement from the US Attorney's Office District of New Jersey.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Patch \(Woodbridge, NJ\)](#)

TAX

The Republican (Springfield, MA): Prosecutors say Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia should pay back nearly \$900K in corruption case, Benjamin Kail, September 22, 2021, 5:46 PM

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday repeated calls for a judge to order former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia to pay back nearly \$900,000 combined in the forfeiture ill-gotten gains and restitution to investors and the Internal Revenue Service. Prosecutors say Correia, sentenced Tuesday to 6 years in prison on extortion and other charges, stole money from investors in a smartphone app startup, SnoOwl, to pay for personal expenses including a Mercedes, jewelry, designer shoes and casino trips. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, NC): Charlotte tax preparer cheated public out of millions. Then she burned the evidence, Michael Gordon, September 22, 2021, 3:50 PM

In late June 2019, Tina Wells made an urgent phone call from the Mecklenburg County jail to plot her response to the federal investigation that had led to her arrest and was now enveloping her tax-filing company. Wells, according to court documents, had been indicted and jailed a few days before. Now she wanted to make sure incriminating records disappeared from her offices at Rush Tax Services before government agents got them first, according to court documents filed by her prosecutors. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: No signs of Gabby Petito's boyfriend after days of searching, Curt Anderson, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

Search teams found nothing of note Wednesday at a Florida wilderness park where they have spent days looking for the boyfriend of Gabby Petito, the young woman who authorities say was killed while on a cross-country trip with him. The search resumed Wednesday morning at the 24,000-acre (9,700-hectare) Carlton Reserve park and ended just before dark, North Port police spokesperson Joshua Taylor said. Investigators say Brian Laundrie's parents told them he had gone there after returning home without Petito on Sept. 1. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFTV-ABC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [KMVT-CBS/CW \(Twin Falls, ID\)](#)

Axios: FBI report likely to show record increase in murders in 2020, Russell Contreras, September 23, 2021, 5:00 AM

If the FBI data released next week shows what's expected that 2020 saw the highest single-year spike in U.S. murders in at least six decades experts say the sudden job losses, fears and other jolts to society at the start of COVID-19 will likely have been the overwhelming drivers. Why it matters: Many Democrats already feared that rising crime could hurt their party in the 2022 midterms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: FBI rolls out ad campaign to encourage hate crime reporting, Robert Patrick, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

Amid a steep rise in hate crimes in Missouri and around the country, the FBI is rolling out a campaign to help the public learn what qualifies as a hate crime and how to report one. The FBI plans to place ads on the outside of 16 buses and the inside of 100, as well as in MetroLink trains and on 10 gas station pumps and nine billboards from Kirksville to Rolla to Cape Girardeau. They are also placing ads on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and on the radio. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KFVS-CBS \(Cape Girardeau, MO\)](#), [KMOV-CBS \(St. Louis, MO\)](#), [KSDK-NBC \(St. Louis, MO\)](#), [The Rolla Daily News \(Rolla, MO\)](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: U.S. Marshals Service Operation Nets More Than 190 Fugitives in NJ, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:16 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service has conducted a high-impact fugitive apprehension initiative focusing on some of the most violent offenders throughout New Jersey. This enforcement initiative, called Operation "Clean Sweep," resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, gang members, sex offenders and violent criminals in the District of New Jersey. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WRC-NBC (Washington, DC): [VIDEO] FBI Working Closely With Police After Armed Security Guard Killed During Surge in DC Violence, September 22, 2021, 11:30 PM

The FBI says it's working closely with D.C. police on the recent surge in gun violence. News4's Shomari Stone reports. [\[Watch\]](#)

WRSP-Fox (Springfield, IL): FBI helping in case of missing ISU graduate student, Devin Trubey, September 22, 2021, 11:00 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's, FBI, field office in Springfield, Illinois, has stepped in to help local law enforcers who are investigating the disappearance of an Illinois State University

graduate student. Jelani Day, 25, was last heard from on August 23 and last seen Aug. 24. His family, who are from Danville, and a faculty member reported him missing after Day did not show up for class. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WGN \(Chicago, IL\)](#)

KOTV-CBS (Tulsa, OK): Cleveland County Deputies & US Marshals Looking For Oklahoma Man, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 8:46 PM

Cleveland County sheriffs and the U.S. Marshals are looking for Andrew Bladeon Earls in connection to multiple burglaries in the area. Earls allegedly breaks into unoccupied homes, eats their food, drinks their beer and then steals what he can before leaving. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KNBC-NBC (Los Angeles, CA): [VIDEO] FBI Campaign Raises Awareness on Hate Crimes, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

Hate crimes are top priority for the FBI because the targeted victims aren't the only ones affected. FBI officials say they're meant to threaten and intimidate entire communities. Kim Baldonado reports for the NBC4 News at 4 p.m. on Wednesday Sept. 22, 2021. [[Watch](#)]

KTVN-CBS (Reno, NV): Federal Agents Bust Illegal Marijuana Operation In Gardnerville, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 7:20 PM

An illegal marijuana operation was shut down in Gardnerville on Monday. Officials say multiple agencies served two search warrants in the Bodie Flats area of Gardnerville on September 20. Both warrants were a result of a lengthy investigation of the illegal marijuana grow, involving numerous Chinese nationals believed to be associated with organized crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Arlington Heights, IL): Image Of Suspected Bank Robber Released, FBI Seeks To Identify, Eileen O'Gorman, September 22, 2021, 6:51 PM

The FBI is assisting Elk Grove Village police in investigating a bank robbery that occurred Wednesday afternoon. Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect who they say robbed the TCF Bank at 20 Biesterfield Road. In the image, the person is wearing a black hoodie, black or navy blue sweatpants and a white hat. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOSA-CBS (Odessa, TX): FBI seeing an increase in hoax school threats, Hannah Burbank, September 22, 2021, 6:26 PM

School is in session, and students are back in the classroom. Unfortunately, this year the FBI says they're seeing more students making hoax threats on social media. "During COVID when the children were at home we didn't see as many of these threats but now that we see a lot of these young adults back at school, we are starting to see an increase," said Jeanette Harper, a Public Affairs Officer for the FBI. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WALA-Fox (Mobile, AL): [VIDEO] FBI agents arrest man suspected in Fairfield County threats, September 22, 2021, 6:09 PM

A man suspected in making threats to Fairfield County schools and businesses last week was arrested by FBI agents in Oregon. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Berks, PA): **U.S Marshals Capture Man Accused Of Assaulting Berks Family Over 'Stolen' Parking Space**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:38 PM

A Pennsylvania man wanted on assault charges for berating a Berks County family over a "stolen" parking space was captured by members of the U.S. Marshals Service in Schuylkill County, authorities said. Thomas Hablett, 53, was apprehended at his home in Schuylkill Haven (Schuylkill County) on Wednesday, Tilden Township police said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSYX-ABC (Columbus, OH): **Feds arrest man accused of making bomb threats to Fairfield County schools, businesses**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

Agents with the FBI say a former Canal Winchester resident now residing on the west coast is responsible for the flurry of bomb threats to schools and businesses in Fairfield County. The FBI charged Yousif Mubarak, 25, for making the threats. On Sept. 12, a business received a threat from Mubarak that he was going to rob the store, the FBI said. The next day, authorities say he made bomb threats to Canal Winchester Schools and Pickerington Local Schools. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

USA Today: **[EDITORIAL] 'Blow his head off': Supreme Court must strip federal agents of absolute immunity**, Editorial Board, September 23, 2021, 6:01 AM

Kevin Byrd's ordeal began in the parking lot of a bar near Houston, where he says a federal Homeland Security agent pointed a gun at him and threatened to "put a bullet through his f---ing skull." Byrd had gone to the bar early in the morning on Feb. 2, 2019, to find more information about a car crash that left his former girlfriend and the mother of his child in the hospital. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: **[OPINION] Supreme Court low on political standing**, Albert Hunt, September 22, 2021, 11:00 AM

The Supreme Court has legal authority; what it decides is the law of the land. The current court, however, lacks political authority. This eludes Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who in a recent speech at Louisville's McConnell Center insisted that contrary to media coverage the court is apolitical, "not a bunch of partisan hacks." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: **NYC urges U.S. Supreme Court to uphold local gun control laws**, Leonard Greene, September 22, 2021, 5:45 PM

As it reels from surging gun violence, the city on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to shoot down a lawsuit seeking to undermine local gun regulations. In an amicus brief to the nation's top court. Mayor de Blasio and the city's top lawyer outlined the need to maintain laws regulating concealed handguns in the five boroughs, detailing the consequences of violence in the nation's densest and most populous city. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WWLP-NBC \(Springfield, MA\)](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Reuters: As Petito case captivates U.S., missing Native women ignored, Andrew Haw, September 22, 2021, 7:50 PM

Activists lament that the crisis of missing and murdered Native American women doesn't get the attention paid to Gabby Petito. FBI agents found Petito's body in Wyoming on Sunday after she went missing during a road trip with her fiancé. The search for the 22-year-old white woman, who chronicled her trip on social media, became an internet sensation and a lead story for major news outlets. "There's a rate of violence against Native women that's happening and it doesn't seem to be highlighted," Jolene Holgate, a director for the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, told New Mexico television station KRQE on Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: "It's like she just vanished": Family of missing Indigenous woman seeking new information in months-old case, Li Cohen, September 22, 2021, 5:23 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of anyone who might be responsible for the disappearance of an Indigenous woman in Washington state. Meanwhile, Mary Johnson's family is working hard to get answers nearly a year after she was last seen traveling to a friend's house. The FBI said in its missing person flyer that Johnson, 40, was last seen walking along Firetrail Road on the Tulalip Reservation on November 25, 2020. She never made it to her destination, and she was not reported missing until December 9. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Law360: Pot Researcher Urges 9th Circ. Redo Of Classification Appeal, Sam Reisman, September 22, 2021, 9:04 PM

Researchers and veterans pushing for marijuana to be federally reclassified have asked the Ninth Circuit for a rehearing, saying an appellate panel's dismissal of their petition flies in the face of established administrative law. "This case isn't just about pot," the petitioners wrote in a brief filed Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Marijuana Moment: Marijuana Banking Sponsor Discusses Path Through Senate After House Approves Reform For Fifth Time, Kyle Jaeger, September 22, 2021, 4:00 PM

Tuesday marked the fifth time that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to protect banks that work with state-legal marijuana businesses. And the lead sponsor of that reform, Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), tells Marijuana Moment that he does think "the fifth time is the charm" to finally get the measure through the Senate and onto the president's desk. The Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act has previously passed as standalone bills and as provisions tucked into broader bills. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Law360: US Trustee Challenges Constitutionality Of Purdue Releases, Vince Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 6:56 PM

The nondebtor, third-party releases included in Purdue Pharma's Chapter 11 plan are unconstitutional, the U. S. Trustee's Office has argued, asking a New York bankruptcy judge to wait until a higher court rules on the federal watchdog's challenge to the releases. In filings made late Tuesday, U. S. Trustee William K. Harrington said he has serious concerns about the nondebtor, third-party releases granted in the case that absolve the members of the Sackler family that own Purdue of liability related to the opioid crisis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

Bloomberg Law: Wall Street Pay Clawback Rule to Get New Push at SEC, Akayla Gardner, September 22, 2021, 5:07 PM

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Gary Gensler said he is keen to finish a long-stalled requirement to clamp down on Wall Street bonuses when companies report incorrect financial information. Gensler said he's asked SEC staff to provide recommendations on a rule for clawing back executive pay and other parts of never-finished regulations that were mandatory under the Dodd-Frank Act. Specifically, Gensler said he wants to make sure that executives return any funds they are overpaid when a company publishes incorrect information in its financial statements. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: Lawmakers send nomination of Biden's pick for EPA GC to full Senate, Sebastien Malo, September 22, 2021, 5:47 PM

The U.S. Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee on Wednesday approved the nomination of Jeffrey Prieto to become the Environmental Protection Agency's top lawyer, setting the stage for the career public servant to return to public service in Washington, D.C. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: Bipartisan Police-Overhaul Talks End With No Deal, Eliza Collins and Sadie Gurman, September 22, 2021, 6:52 PM

A top Democratic negotiator on Wednesday called off talks aimed at overhauling police tactics and accountability, saying lawmakers were unable to reach a compromise in the wake of nationwide protests sparked by the killings of Black Americans by law-enforcement officers. Sen. Cory Booker (D., N.J.) said he called Sen. Tim Scott (R., S.C.) to tell him the Democrats were done negotiating after Mr. Scott didn't accept their final offer. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization Wednesday for a third dose of Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine to be given to three groups: those 65 and older, those at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 and those at risk of developing "serious complications" due to "frequent institutional or occupational exposure," likely including frontline healthcare workers and prisoners. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Some of President Biden's most ambitious plans are facing opposition not only from Republicans but members of his own party. President Biden on Wednesday launched a full-court press, hosting a series of White House meetings with lawmakers in a bid to unite warring factions of his own party behind his sweeping, multi trillion-dollar economic agenda. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- More than 1,000 mostly Haitian migrants have been allowed to enter the U.S. as part of the legal asylum process, contradicting the Biden administration's announcement that migrants arriving at the border will be immediately deported. The Biden administration exempts unaccompanied children from expulsion flights on humanitarian grounds. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The search for Gabby Petito's fiancé Brian Laundrie remains focused on a Florida nature preserve. Petito's disappearance and death have raised questions about other missing person cases. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- A teenage boy was killed and another wounded in a drive-by shooting Wednesday morning at a bus stop in Louisville, according to police. The two were sent to the hospital, while a girl was injured by "unknown means" and declined medical treatment. One of the teens was later pronounced dead, Louisville Metro Police Major Shannon Lauder confirmed. The other teen is being treated for non-life-threatening injuries. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- Students at University of Massachusetts Amherst gathered in front of a fraternity house to protest an alleged sexual assault. Students say there is a culture of rape, harassment and secrecy on campus. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "The F.D.A. has made its move. Next question: Exactly who should get boosters?" [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "EPA to cut greenhouse gases thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide" [[WaPo](#)]
- "China Makes Preparations for Evergrande's Demise" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 23, 2021
7:00 AM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. US Department of Justice News
2. US Attorneys
3. National Security
4. Criminal Law
5. Civil Rights
6. Civil Law
7. Immigration & Border Security
8. Antitrust
9. Environment
10. Tax
11. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
12. US Supreme Court
13. Native American Affairs
14. Marijuana Legalization
15. Opioid Crisis
16. Administration
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- - 9:00 AM: Senate Committee on the Judiciary Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. 1787, State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021', 'S. 2502, Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act', and the nominations of Toby Heytens to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Patricia Tolliver Giles and Michael Nachmanoff to be U.S. District Judges for the Eastern District of Virginia, Sarala Vidya Nagala and Omar Antonio Williams to be U.S. District Judges for the District of Connecticut, and Hampton Dellinger to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy. Held in Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
 - 9:30 AM: Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing on 'Frauds, Scams and COVID-19: How Con Artists Have Targeted Older Americans During the Pandemic'. Held in Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
 - 10:00 AM: House Committee on the Judiciary Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Reviving Competition, Part 4: 21st Century Antitrust Reforms and the American Worker'. Held in Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.
 - 10:15 AM: Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Hybrid hearing on 'National Cybersecurity Strategy: Protection of Federal and Critical Infrastructure Systems'. Held via videoconference and in-person in Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Fox: Justice Department launches program to help police respond to mass violence, Jon Brown, September 22, 2021, 8:30 PM

The Department of Justice announced Wednesday that it will start offering help to law enforcement leaders whose communities experience incidents of mass violence. The assistance, called the Mass Violence Advisory Initiative, will involve peer-to-peer consultations and be funded by the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), according to a press release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US ATTORNEYS

Dallas Morning News: Acting U.S. Attorney Prerak Shah announces resignation effective

Oct. 1, Hojun Choi, September 22, 2021, 8:33 PM

Prerak Shah, the acting U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas, announced Wednesday that he is resigning effective Oct. 1, the office said. Shah became U.S. attorney for the district, which covers 100 counties and about 8 million residents, after the departure of former U.S. Attorney Erin Nealy Cox in January. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KCBD-NBC \(Lubbock, TX\)](#), [KTVT-CBS \(Fort Worth, TX\)](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Fox: FBI director fears Afghanistan could be 'safe haven' for terror groups, Thomas

Barrabi, September 22, 2021, 10:30 PM

FBI Director Christopher Wray said Wednesday that law enforcement officials are concerned Afghanistan could once again serve as a staging ground for terrorist groups following a chaotic U.S. withdrawal from the country. Wray acknowledged the possibility while testifying during a House Homeland Security Committee briefing. Lawmakers sought clarity from the FBI director and other top national security officials about potential threats to the mainland U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [Daily Mail](#), [National Review](#)

The Hill: Prosecutors face legal challenges over obstruction charge in Capitol riot cases,

Harper Neidig, September 23, 2021, 6:00 AM

Federal judges are weighing legal challenges to one of the leading felony charges that government lawyers have brought in Capitol riot cases, potentially setting the stage for protracted legal battles over the Justice Department's prosecutorial strategy in the wake of Jan. 6. In several cases, defendants have moved to throw out the obstruction of an official proceeding charge, which carries a maximum possible sentence of 20 years in prison, arguing that the statute is unconstitutionally vague and the Jan. 6 certification of the Electoral College results does not qualify under the law as an "official proceeding." [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Federal judge to hear case of Proud Boy alleged Jan. 6 rioter seeking release

from jail, Joseph Choi, September 22, 2021, 5:26 PM

A federal judge on Wednesday set a hearing to hear a request for release from lawyers of a Proud Boys member who allegedly took part in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly set the hearing for Friday after lawyers for Dominic "Spaz" Pezzola, 43, argued that his imprisonment is making it difficult for them to consult with him and to review potentially relevant evidence, Reuters reported. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WHEC-NBC \(Rochester, NY\)](#), [WUSA-CBS \(Washington, DC\)](#)

The Hill: Federal agencies warn companies to be on guard against prolific ransomware strain, Maggie Miller, September 22, 2021, 4:11 PM

The FBI, the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on Wednesday issued a warning to U.S. organizations to be aware of a specific

type of ransomware that has already wreaked havoc on hundreds of groups. The agencies issued a joint alert specifically warning groups to be on guard against the Conti ransomware variant, with the agencies noting that 400 U.S. and international groups had already fallen victim to Conti. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

HuffPost: 'Outrageous': Judge Lays Into Trump-Loving Deputy Who Wore 'Sheriff' Patch On Jan. 6, Ryan J. Reilly, September 22, 2021, 5:05 PM

A federal judge criticized a Capitol attack defendant and sworn officer who was working for a Tennessee sheriff's office when he faced off against law enforcement on Jan. 6 while wearing a "Sheriff" patch on his vest. Ronald Colton McAbee, known to online sleuths investigating the Jan. 6 attack as #ThreePercentSheriff because of the insignia he wore representing the far-right cause, was arrested in mid-August. A federal magistrate judge in Tennessee ordered McAbee released with conditions, including to "refrain from using any social media or other websites related to insurrection activity." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTOP-FM (Washington, DC): [AUDIO] The Hunt: What are the key threats facing the US?, J.J. Green, September 22, 2021, 8:36 PM

On this week's edition of "The Hunt, with WTOP National Security Correspondent J.J. Green," FBI Director Christopher Wray details, during a hearing before the House Homeland Security Committee, his most pressing concerns. [\[Listen\]](#)

WSMV-NBC (Nashville, TN): In video, Gallatin man cheers as he enters broken door of capitol during riots, Jeremy Finley, September 22, 2021, 8:30 PM

Newly released videos of the insurrection in Washington, DC, in January reveal a Gallatin man cheering as he enters a broken door of the U.S. Capitol. Eric Torrens is set to be sentenced on Oct. 29 after pleading guilty to the misdemeanor charge of parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTVT-Fox (Tampa, FL): First of Utah's Capitol riot suspects expected to plead guilty, Nate Carlisle, September 22, 2021, 6:26 PM

A 23-year-old man from Sandy is expected to plead guilty to a misdemeanor stemming from the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. An Oct. 14 plea agreement hearing has been scheduled for Jacob K. Wiedrich. Prosecutors this week dismissed three counts against him. A lone misdemeanor of parading or picketing in the Capitol remains. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (Naperville, IL): 2 Illinoisans Charged In Capitol Riots After Social Media Posts, Lisa Marie Farver, September 22, 2021, 3:02 PM

Two Illinois residents were arrested Tuesday on charges linked to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Dawn Frankowski, 53, of Naperville, and David W. Wiersma, 66, of Posen, were charged with disorderly and disruptive conduct and entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds. A person who worked with Wiersma reported him to the FBI after seeing Wiersma post on Facebook Jan. 6 about getting into the capitol building, according to a complaint filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTTG-Fox (Washington, DC): Capitol Hill bomb threat suspect found competent to stand trial, Nate Carlisle, September 22, 2021, 2:30 PM

A North Carolina man who allegedly shut down Capitol Hill when he parked his truck next to the Library of Congress and told police he had a bomb was found competent to stand trial on Wednesday. Floyd Ray Roseberry was charged with use of a weapon of mass destruction and threats to use explosive materials after the incident in August. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

Reuters: R. Kelly hid crimes in 'plain sight,' prosecutor says near end of sex trafficking trial, Tyler Clifford, September 23, 2021, 12:14 AM

R. Kelly dominated not only women and girls but also his employees over a quarter century of sexual abuse, a prosecutor said on Wednesday as the R&B star's sex trafficking trial neared its conclusion. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Geddes told jurors during her closing argument in Brooklyn federal court that Kelly's entourage of business managers, accountants, runners and other employees was "at his disposal." [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Former US defense secretary testifies in Holmes fraud trial, Michael Liedtke, September 22, 2021, 9:00 PM

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis testified Wednesday in the trial of fallen tech star Elizabeth Holmes, saying the entrepreneur misled him into believing she was on the verge of rolling out a blood-testing breakthrough that he hoped would help save lives of troops in battle. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#), [Politico](#)

AP: Alleged Mexican drug cartel boss charged in California, Unattributed, September 23, 2021, 8:00 PM

An alleged top lieutenant of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel has been accused of helping smuggle tons of methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and other drugs into the United States, federal authorities said Wednesday. A 2018 indictment by a federal grand jury in San Diego was unsealed Wednesday. It accuses Sergio Valenzuela Valenzuela, 52, of drug-related conspiracy, according to the U.S. attorney's office. A warrant for his arrest was issued. He remains a fugitive. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

AP: Janitor gets 60 years for hiding camera in girls' restroom, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:00 PM

A former janitor at a Florida high school has been sentenced to 60 years in prison for hiding a camera in a girls' restroom. Derremy Jerrell Walker, 31, was sentenced Tuesday in Orlando federal court, according to court records. He was convicted in June of two counts of using, or attempting to use, children to produce sexually explicit videos. "Mr. Walker did more than just produce horror; he stole the innocence and trust of these young victims," FBI Tampa Division

Special Agent in Charge Michael McPherson said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WESH-NBC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [WTSP-CBS \(St. Petersburg, FL\)](#)

AP: Maryland man sentenced to life for role in woman's death, Kate Brumback, September 22, 2021, 5:38 PM

A Maryland man was sentenced on Wednesday to four life terms for his part in the death of a woman thought to be a witness in a federal case, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a news release. A judge sentenced Clifton Mosely, 43, of Baltimore for two counts of conspiracy to murder a witness, and for witness retaliation murder and witness tampering murder in the death of Latrina Ashburne, 41, on May 27, 2016, the news release said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: DOJ announces indictments over \$30 mln TV copyright theft scheme, Blake Brittain, September 22, 2021, 4:44 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice said on Wednesday that three men who allegedly operated a \$30 million scheme to steal content from cable-TV providers and retransmit it illegally had been indicted in federal court in Philadelphia. DOJ said in a statement that Bill Omar Carrasquillo, 35, of Swedesboro, New Jersey; Jesse Gonzales, 42, of Pico Rivera, California; and Michael Barone, 36, of Richmond Hill, New York used subscriptions to Verizon, Comcast, and other cable services to illegally stream copyrighted content to thousands of their own paying subscribers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Beast](#), [The Epoch Times](#), [The Hill](#), [KYW-CBS \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [New Jersey Advance Media](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#)

CNN: Michigan man charged for allegedly leaving pipe bombs at cell phone stores to stop the spread of cursing and pornography, Justice Department says, Amir Vera and Christina Carrega, September 22, 2021, 5:54 PM

A 75-year-old Michigan man was arrested Wednesday after investigators say he left pipe bombs at two cell phone stores and threatening letters at cell towers in order to stop all telecommunications "containing immoral content," like pornography and cursing, according to an affidavit for probable cause. John Douglas Allen was charged with extortion and attempted damage or destruction of buildings used in interstate commerce, a US Justice Department news release said [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Daily Beast](#)

Politico: The tangled tale of the Israel consulate, the Dilbert cartoonist and the Matt Gaetz case, Marc Caputo, September 23, 2021, 4:30 AM

Of the many only-in-Florida aspects of the Rep. Matt Gaetz sex-crimes investigation, one stands out for its utter weirdness: the story of the Israeli consulate staffer, the cartoonist who created Dilbert and a complicated shakedown scheme tied to a former CIA operative captured in Iran. The most-salacious aspects of the federal probe into Gaetz have received saturation media coverage over the months. But scant attention has been paid to the mysterious cameo of Jake Novak, the broadcast media director of the Consulate General of Israel in New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Forbes: Bodybuilding Doctor Who Traded Opioids For Spinal Injections Convicted In

\$100 Million Fraud, Graison Dangor, September 22, 2021, 8:05 PM

A Detroit-area doctor on Wednesday became the latest physician held accountable for prescribing opioids for profit, with a jury finding him guilty on multiple counts of fraud and money laundering in a more than \$100 million plot that gave patients opioids if they let him bill their insurance for needless and pricey spinal injections. Francisco "Frank" Patino faces a potential life sentence, according to the Justice Department. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Washington Examiner](#)

Washington Examiner: **Michigan doctor convicted in \$100 million-plus healthcare fraud case**, Asher Notheis, September 22, 2021, 5:25 PM

A federal jury in Michigan convicted a doctor on Wednesday for orchestrating a fraud scheme to scam patients into high doses of opioids, according to the Justice Department. Court documents and evidence presented at trial show Francisco Patino, 66, "excessively" prescribed highly addictive opioids to his patients in exchange for them receiving lucrative spinal injections, federal prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Actor Faked Emails In \$50M Viacom Sex Abuse Suit, Feds Say**, Pete Brush, September 22, 2021, 4:57 PM

A California actor was arrested Tuesday for allegedly faking salacious emails that the Manhattan U. S. Attorney's Office says were used to target two Hollywood executives and Viacom Inc. in a now-dismissed \$50 million suit alleging sexual misconduct. Defendant Rovier Carrington, 32, a reality television actor and writer who says in court filings he is the great-grandson of Three Stooges comedian Moe Howard, was presented in Los Angeles federal court on a count of perjury and set free on a \$15,000 bail package. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NY Daily News](#)

The Times and Democrat (Orangeburg, SC): **Shooting suspect lied for gun; attempted murder charges pending in RMC incident**, Martha Rose Brown, September 22, 2021, 9:30 PM

The Orangeburg man accused of trying to kill a Regional Medical Center employee has pleaded guilty to a federal firearms charge. Abrian Dayquan Sabb, 26, of Casa Court, pleaded guilty Tuesday to aiding and abetting the making of a false statement to a federal firearms dealer during the purchase of a firearm, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Mitchell Republic (Mitchell SD): **Rosebud, Lower Brule men sentenced for separate involuntary manslaughter convictions**, Hunter Dunteman, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

A Rosebud man and a Lower Brule man were each sentenced for separate involuntary manslaughter convictions in different incidents, the Department of Justice announced Monday. Eugene Skunk, 43, of Lower Brule, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on June 28, while Robert Stands and Looks Back, 45, of Rosebud, pleaded guilty to the same charge a day later. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: **Man and woman plead guilty to federal arson charges for lighting empty NYPD van on fire during 2020 protest**, Molly Crane-Newman, September 22, 2021, 6:47 PM

Two Brooklyn residents pleaded guilty to arson charges Wednesday for torching an empty NYPD van in Greenwich Village during a criminal justice reform demonstration last year. Elaine Carberry, 37, and Corey Smith, 24, were hit with conspiring to commit arson for their role in the July 15, 2020, van fire near the corner of 12th St. and University Place. The torching came amid a wave of protests around the city and across the country sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KFOR-NBC \(Oklahoma City, OK\)](#)

The Oregonian (Portland, OR): **Federal employee who downloaded pornography while working aboard NOAA research vessel sentenced to two years in prison**, Maxine Bernstein, September 22, 2021, 6:37 PM

A 44-year-old crew member of a NOAA scientific research vessel who downloaded child pornography found on the ship's server was sentenced Wednesday to two years in federal prison. Johnny Dale Hale was working aboard the Bell M. Shimada, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, in 2016 when he transferred to the ship's server two folders of child pornography that included about 35 images from a cell phone, according to federal prosecutors. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KDRV-ABC \(Medford, OR\)](#), [KPTV-Fox \(Portland, OR\)](#)

Florida Today: **Melbourne woman sentenced to 15 years in prison in child sex abuse case**, J.D. Gallop, September 22, 2021, 4:33 PM

A 23-year-old Melbourne woman who pleaded guilty to filming illicit sex acts with a child and then distributing them over the internet was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison, prosecutors said. A U.S. District judge also ordered Lisa Vaughn to serve a 10-year term of supervised release after the prison term. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Orlando Sentinel](#)

Tulsa World (Tulsa, OK): **19-year-old described as 'out of control' admits to attempted sexual assault, burglary charges**, Curtis Killman, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

19-year-old described as 'out of control' admits to attempted sexual assault, burglary charges. A Tulsa 19-year-old who a prosecutor said was "out of control" pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to an eight-count superseding indictment that included allegations he broke into three occupied homes, including one where he attempted to rape a woman at a midtown residence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Register Citizen (Torrington, CT): **Feds: New London man pleads guilty to cocaine trafficking**, Tara O'Neill, September 22, 2021, 2:00 PM

A city man pleaded guilty Tuesday to a narcotics trafficking offense stemming from his role in a conspiracy in which authorities say cocaine was mailed from Puerto Rico to southeastern Connecticut. Raul Robles, 38, pleaded guilty before Judge Jeffrey A. Meyer in New Haven to conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBKO-ABC/Fox/CW (Bowling Green, KY): **Bowling Green man sentenced to 15 years in federal prison**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 10:42 PM

A Bowling Green man was sentenced on September 14, 2021, to 15 years in federal prison. According to court documents, Charleslenzo Sanchez Williams was found in the possession of over 50 grams of meth. Williams was also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): Indiana man pleads guilty to abusive sexual contact on commercial aircraft, Gregg Montgomery, September 22, 2021, 10:35 PM

A northeastern Indiana man pleaded guilty Wednesday to abusive sexual contact with a sleeping woman on a flight from Indianapolis to Denver in 2017, federal authorities said. Ian Wagner, 39, of New Haven, was seated next to an 18-year-old woman on the Oct. 6, 2017, flight. The woman awoke to find Wagner rubbing her inner thigh with his hand. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WCCO-CBS (Minneapolis, MN): Minneapolis Man Charged In Conspiracy To Distribute Fentanyl, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 9:54 PM

A Minneapolis man was charged along with three others for conspiring to distribute fentanyl, United States Attorney W. Anders Folk announced Wednesday. Taureen Curtis Jackson, 36, of Minneapolis, Victor Carbello, 50, of Glendale, Arizona, Carmelo Jerry D'Alessandro, 28, of Phoenix, Arizona, and Giovanni Luon D'Alessandro, 23, of Phoenix were all charged with one count each of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): Denton County Man Guy Zachary Klossner Sentenced For Threatening U.S. Congressman, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 8:42 PM

Guy Zachary Klossner, 33, Of Denton was sentenced to prison for threatening a federal official. He pleaded guilty on April 29, to threatening a federal official and was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison. "Today's sentence sends a strong message that EDTX takes seriously any death threats to public officials," said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. "In our democracy, there is room for disagreement and even dissent. However, we will not tolerate threats of violence, particularly those made against our elected representatives." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): For-Profit Trade School Owner Jonathan Dean Davis Gets Nearly 20 Years For Defrauding VA, Student Veterans, Hojun Choi, September 22, 2021, 8:31 PM

The owner of a for-profit trade school was sentenced to more than 19 years in federal prison for bilking the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of \$72 million and of misleading student veterans. In April, a federal jury convicted Jonathan Dean Davis, the 43 year-old owner of Retail Ready Career Center, of seven counts of wire fraud and four counts of money laundering. He was sentenced Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Brantley Starr, who also ordered him to pay \$65.2 million in restitution. In addition to paying restitution, Mr. Davis will be required to forfeit \$72.5 million to the federal government. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WVEC-ABC (Hampton, VA): Chesapeake man gets 15 years after traveling to Arizona and buying 2 pounds of meth, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

A Chesapeake man was sentenced to 15 years in prison Wednesday after he traveled to Arizona

to purchase methamphetamine for resale. In a press release, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said an Arizona State Trooper pulled over Jeremy Wayne Johnson, 45, and his passenger on Interstate 17 in Yavapai County on May 20, 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBOY-NBC/ABC (Clarksburg, WV): Morgantown woman gets year and a half prison sentence for her role in Texas-to-Morgantown drug ring, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 6:37 PM

U.S. District Judge Thomas Kleeh sentenced a Morgantown woman Wednesday to 18 months in federal prison for her role in methamphetamine, crack cocaine, fentanyl, and heroin drug distribution operation that spanned from Houston to Morgantown, Acting United States Attorney Randolph Bernard announced. Ashley Johnson, 34, pleaded guilty in April 2021 to one count of “Unlawful Use of Communication Facility.” Johnson admitted to using a phone to distribute methamphetamine, cocaine base, also known as “crack,” cocaine hydrochloride, also known as “coke,” fentanyl, and heroin in April 2020 in Monongalia County. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBNF-AM (Binghamton, NY): Prison for Endicott Sex Offender for Failing to Register Email, Bob Joseph, September 22, 2021, 6:30 PM

A 73-year-old Broome County resident has been sentenced to a prison term for not registering his email accounts. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, Thomas Redeker of Endicott failed to update his sex offender registration by maintaining unregistered email accounts. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSAW-CBS (Wausau, WI): 2 Afghan evacuees at Fort McCoy face federal charges, Wyatt Heller, September 22, 2021, 6:15 PM

Two evacuees from Afghanistan will face federal charges for crimes allegedly committed at Fort McCoy. Bahrullah Noori, 20, is charged with attempting to engage in a sexual act with a minor through the use of force. The victim was not yet 16 years old, according to an indictment. Mohammad Haroon Imaad, 32, is charged with assaulting his spouse by strangling and suffocating her. The indictment alleges that the assault occurred on September 7, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WQOW-ABC/CW \(Eau Claire, WI\)](#)

WPTZ-NBC (Plattsburgh, NY): Federal charges filed in connection with Killington death, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 6:08 PM

A Vermont man appeared in federal court Wednesday, answering to firearms charges filed in connection with the death his fiancée last week. Police responded to multiple 911 calls reporting a gunshot injury in Killington last Wednesday. Crews said 28-year-old Brittany Bouthiette, of Mount Holly, was pronounced dead at the scene from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WCAX-CBS \(Burlington, VT\)](#), [WTEN-ABC \(Albany, NY\)](#)

WTAP-NBC (Parkersburg, WV): Fifteen arrested in Wood County drug bust, Zach Shivers, September 22, 2021, 5:57 PM

Fifteen people are facing drug-related charges after a series of six search warrants were served Wednesday. That's according to a news release from Acting United State Attorney Lisa

Johnston. Parkersburg residents Carlo Ramsey, 56, Robert Sanders Jr., 29, and Ambera Roberts, 34, are each facing a federal charge of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WFAA-ABC (Dallas, TX): Man who detonated an explosive under Bedford bridge gets 46 months in federal prison, Jake Harris, September 22, 2021, 5:41 PM

A U.S. district court judge sentenced a man who detonated an explosive device under a bridge in Bedford in April to 46 months in prison, according to a news release from the Department of Justice. Nicholas Lloyd Nelson, 38, pleaded guilty in June to possession of a destructive device. He was sentenced earlier this month by U.S. District Judge Reed C. O'Connor. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): Duplin County man sentenced to 24 years on drug charges, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 4:55 PM

A convicted drug trafficker was sentenced to 24 years in federal prison, federal prosecutors said on Wednesday. The U.S. Attorney's Office says 36-year-old Jeremy Cline was sentenced for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KAIT-ABC (Jonesboro, AR): Snowbird Bob owner sentenced to prison, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 4:34 PM

A Northeast Arkansas man who bilked the federal government out of thousands of COVID-19 relief funds is headed to prison. Judge P.K. Holmes sentenced James Read of Mountain Home to 63 months in federal prison on each of three counts of money laundering, wire fraud, and making a false statement. The sentences will run concurrently. In addition, the judge ordered Read to pay \$277,827 in restitution immediately. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WDAF-Fox (Kansas City, MO): 21-year-old woman pleads guilty to carjacking in Country Club Plaza parking garage, Brian Dulle, September 22, 2021, 4:03 PM

A 21-year-old Kansas City, Kansas woman pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to stealing a vehicle at gunpoint from a parking garage at the Country Club Plaza last year. Maricela Delores Lozano pleaded guilty to one count of carjacking and one count of brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence. By pleading guilty, Lozano admitted that she used a Century Arms Draco AK 47-style 9mm pistol during the theft of a Nissan Altima on July 19, 2020. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WHAM-ABC (Rochester, NY): Fmr. broker sentenced to more than 5 years in prison for identity theft, wire fraud, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 4:00 PM

A former insurance broker who pleaded guilty to federal charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft will spend more than five years in prison. Brian Bartz, 39, must also pay full restitution to victims in the case. Between January 2015 and January 2020, Bartz was employed at various life insurance companies. Prosecutors say he submitted 105 fraudulent policy applications for people without their knowledge. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Voice (Fairlawn, NJ): Feds: Ex-Lodi HS Teacher Admits Scamming Insurance Out Of \$550,000 For Compound Meds, Jerry DeMarco, September 22, 2021, 3:32 PM

A now-former Lodi High School teacher admitted that he collected \$550,000 worth of compound medications through bogus claims to an employee benefit program. Jason Nardachone, 51, of Nutley bribed three other teachers \$500 a month each to obtain compounded medications that they, like him, didn't need, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBAL-NBC (Baltimore, MD): Former Safe Streets worker headed to prison on drug conviction, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

A former Safe Streets worker in Baltimore City was sentenced to prison for dealing drugs, federal prosecutors announced Wednesday. A judge sentenced Ronald Alexander to 11 years and three months in prison followed by eight years of probation for conspiracy to distribute fentanyl, heroin and cocaine while he was employed by Safe Streets, an organization whose purpose is to reduce violence and crime in Baltimore through intervention. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KAIT-ABC/NBC/CW (Jonesboro, AR): Calif. man sentenced to 20 years in prison for mailing meth to southeast Mo, Amber Ruch, September 22, 2021, 2:11 PM

A California man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for mailing methamphetamine to southeast Missouri. Dexter Elcan, 36, of South Gate, Calif., was sentenced on Wednesday, September 22 after pleading guilty in June to possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of meth. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTUL-ABC (Tulsa, OK): Man convicted in 'callous' murder of Tulsa bicyclist, Megan Butler, September 22, 2021, 2:00 PM

A federal jury convicted a man earlier this week in the shooting death of a Tulsa bicyclist. Just after 8 p.m. on April 12, Tulsa police found Maurice Burgess on the ground near his bicycle in the parking lot of the Waterstone Apartments at 61st and Peoria. He died shortly after arriving at the hospital from a gunshot wound to his neck. Devon Blevins, 28, was arrested a week later and admitted he was responsible for the crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Florida Man Guilty Of Conspiracy To Commit Wire Fraud, Ashley Cox, September 22, 2021, 1:56 PM

Jeffrey Jedlicki (51, Panama City, Panama) has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud for his role in the operation of international boiler rooms which defrauded victims via the sale of worthless investments. Jedlicki faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not been set. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTSP-CBS (St. Petersburg, FL): Two Tampa Residents Guilty Of Conspiracy To Commit Access Device Fraud And Aggravated Identity Theft, Ashley Cox, September 22, 2021, 1:40 PM

Kary Stevenson (47) and Corey Quinn (35), both of Tampa, have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to

commit access device fraud and aggravated identity theft. Each faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison for the conspiracy count and a consecutive two years' imprisonment for the aggravated identity count. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDEL (Wilmington, DE): Wilmington probationer gets 7 years in federal prison for stolen handgun possession, DJ McAneny, September 22, 2021, 1:05 PM

A 27-year-old Wilmington man was sentenced to seven years in federal prison for illegally possessing a stolen handgun, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday. According to officials, Isaiah Council was on probation for a 2017 Wilmington armed robbery conviction and a 2012 New York City shooting conviction when he was pulled over as a passenger in Wilmington on July 28, 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTVQ-CBS (Billings, MT): Billings woman sentenced for statewide fake check scheme, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:35 PM

The leader of a fraudulent check scheme in which recruits would steal items with personal information from homes, vehicles and mailboxes to help pass bogus checks across Montana was sentenced Tuesday to 44 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Cassie Ann Rathie, 32 of Billings, pleaded guilty in April to wire fraud and to aggravated identity theft, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WOLF-Fox (Hazleton, PA): Two federal inmates charged with pandemic unemployment assistance fraud, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:30 PM

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that Christina Covey, age 34, formerly of Drums, Pennsylvania, and Fredy Mendoza, age 33, formerly of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, were charged yesterday by a federal grand jury with fraudulently obtaining pandemic unemployment benefits between July and October 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Big Country News (Clarkston, WA): Kamiah man Sentenced to Three Years for Suffocating Wife With Pillow, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 11:0 AM

52-year-old Stephen Jason Dahlin, of Kamiah, was sentenced to three years in federal prison for suffocation, according to a release from the U.S. Attorney's office Wednesday morning. Chief U.S. District Judge David C. Nye also ordered that Dahlin serve three years of supervised release following his prison sentence. Dahlin was indicted by a grand jury on November 10, 2020 and pleaded guilty to the charge on June 9, 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Feds: 3 charged in Mexican migrant worker conspiracy, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 7:23 PM

Three people have been indicted in a multi-state conspiracy involving the forced labor of Mexican agricultural immigrants, federal authorities announced Wednesday. A federal grand jury in Tampa formally charged Bladimir Moreno, Christina Gamez and Guadalupe Mendes Mendoza under a

six-count indictment last week. Moreno, a Mexican citizen and permanent U.S. resident who owned and managed Los Villatoros Harvesting, and Gamez, a U.S. citizen who worked for the company as a bookkeeper, manager and supervisor, face charges of conspiracy under the RICO Act, conspiracy to commit forced labor, forced labor and conspiracy to obstruct proceedings before departments, agencies and committees. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Ten current, former Black female D.C. police officers sue the city, claiming discrimination, Emily Davies, September 22, 2021, 7:32 PM

Ten current and former Black female D.C. police officers filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the District, alleging its police department has engaged in “repeated, coordinated and relentless retaliation” against Black female officers who have complained about discrimination or other police misconduct. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in the District, accuses D.C. police of cultivating a culture that degrades women and turning on those who have tried to raise alarm about race and gender discrimination and sexual harassment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: San Jose State University agrees to pay \$1.6M to students who alleged sexual assault by trainer, Justice Department says, Jason Hanna and Stella Chan, September 22, 2021, 7:42 PM

San Jose State University will pay a total of about \$1.6 million to some of the female students and student-athletes who alleged they were sexually assaulted or harassed by a campus athletic trainer over more than a decade, the US Department of Justice said Tuesday. The payments are part of a settlement between the university and the Justice Department, reached after the department determined the school violated Title IX gender equity law by mishandling students' allegations and allowing the trainer continued access to them. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAGA-Fox (Atlanta, GA): Man says he was fired from Clayton County jail for blowing whistles on 'major violations', Christopher King, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

More accusations have surfaced against the embattled Clayton County sheriff. Lawyers for a number of current and former detainees at the jail want the county district attorney to launch her own investigation into Victor Hill. This was after a federal grand jury indicted Hill on civil rights charges. A whistleblower claims he was fired after calling out problems at the jail. He said he pointed out what were major violations and then got fired. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Judge considers request to block Arizona abortion law, Jonathan J. Cooper, September 22, 2021, 10:00 PM

A lawyer for several Arizona abortion providers urged a federal judge Wednesday to block a new state law that would allow prosecutors to charge doctors who knowingly terminate a pregnancy solely because the fetus has a genetic abnormality such as Down syndrome. The law, set to take effect on Wednesday, is so vague that it would dissuade doctors from performing an abortion anytime there's an indication that the fetus might have a genetic problem for fear of criminal

prosecution, argued Emily Nestler, senior counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: Florida to consider near-ban on abortion similar to Texas' new law, Sharon Bernstein, September 22, 2021, 8:42 PM

A Florida Republican lawmaker has filed a bill that would ban abortions after six to eight weeks and allow members of the community to sue doctors for terminating pregnancies in what may be the first effort to mirror a similar new law in Texas. The bill by state Representative Webster Barnaby would ban abortions after regular cardiac contractions are detected in an embryo, known as a fetal heartbeat even though the heart has not yet developed, about six to eight weeks into pregnancy. That is before many women know they are pregnant. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#)

Reuters: U.S. appeals court erases ruling allowing gun sales to people under 21, Jonathan Stempel, September 22, 2021, 2:57 PM

A U.S. appeals court on Wednesday threw out its recent decision that a federal prohibition on firearms dealers selling guns to young adults under 21 was unconstitutional, deciding the case was now moot because both plaintiffs have reached that age. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: Facebook Ordered to Release Records on Closed Myanmar Accounts, Aruna Viswanatha, September 22, 2021, 9:32 PM

A federal judge ordered Facebook Inc. on Wednesday to hand over records related to accounts it shut down in 2018 that were linked to government-backed violence against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar, as the social-media giant grapples with the effects content on its platform has in the real world. The ruling, by a magistrate judge in Washington, criticized Facebook for refusing to provide the records to countries pursuing a case against Myanmar in international court, saying allowing it to withhold them “would compound the tragedy that has befallen the Rohingya.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: DOJ Defends Handling Of Health Care Staffing No-Poach Case, Matthew Perlman, September 22, 2021, 6:33 PM

The U. S. Department of Justice pushed back against accusations from an indicted former health care staffing company manager that enforcers mishandled his interview during the criminal investigation of an alleged agreement to suppress wages for Las Vegas school nurses. The DOJ filed its opposition on Tuesday in Nevada federal court to a dismissal bid from Ryan Hee, the former regional manager for a company now known as VDA OC LLC. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Many migrants staying in US even as expulsion flights rise, Elliot Spagat, Maria Verza, Juan A. Lozano and Sarah Blake Morgan, September 22, 2021, 9:00 PM

Three hours after being freed from a giant migrant camp under an international bridge,

Mackenson Veillard stood outside a gas station and took stock of his sudden good fortune as he and his pregnant wife waited for a Greyhound bus to take them to a cousin in San Antonio. The couple camped with thousands for a week under the bridge in Del Rio, Texas, sleeping on concrete and getting by on bread and bottled water. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: For asylum advocates, border expulsions strain faith in Biden, Mica Rosenberg and Kristina Cooke, September 22, 2021, 4:53 PM

Confused and tired-looking toddlers clung to their parents at Port-au-Prince airport in Haiti on Tuesday, among the 360 family members rapidly expelled from the U.S. over the past three days. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: 'Disaster of epic proportions:' Border deaths on the rise, Border Patrol increases rescues, Clara Migoya and Rick Jarvis, September 23, 2021, 6:00 AM

U.S. Border Patrol agent Jesus Vasavilbaso bounced his white SUV over dirt trails through this remote terrain near the U.S.-Mexico border. Grey clouds offered some respite from the searing summer heat. Brown shrubs and cacti stretched to the horizon. His radio was quiet. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: House Democrats demand answers by Friday about the Border Patrol's treatment of Haitian migrants, Luke Broadwater and Eileen Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

House Democrats on Wednesday demanded that Biden administration officials meet with members of the oversight committee by Friday to face questions about the treatment of Haitian immigrants at the Texas-Mexico border after videos showed mounted Border Patrol agents corralling and menacing migrants, sparking widespread outrage. The letter asks for Customs and Border Protection officials to brief the committee by the end of the week about the conduct of the agents, what directions they received from supervisors and whether any disciplinary steps have been taken. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#)

USA Today: DHS vows to have findings within 'days' in investigation of Border Patrol's treatment of Haitian migrants, Kevin Johnson, September 22, 2021, 5:01 PM

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas vowed a swift investigation into the treatment of Haitian migrants on the Texas border by agents on horseback, telling a House panel that the inquiry would be completed within days. Mayorkas told the House Homeland Security Committee that an undisclosed number of agents had been placed on administrative duty as investigators examine confrontations in which some mounted agents appeared to use their reins as whips against migrants who have been surging into Del Rio, Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Even as the Biden administration deports some Haitian migrants, it is letting in others, Eileen Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

Even as more than 1,000 Haitian migrants were deported between Sunday and Tuesday, thousands of others are being allowed into the United States, sometimes to request asylum and are being released with instructions to report to immigration officials at a future date. Faced with an unusually high number of Haitians who began crossing the border into Del Rio, Texas, late

last week, the Biden administration responded with high-profile repatriation flights, which officials hope will deter others from making the trip here. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#)

CNN: Border Patrol sought extra resources in Del Rio as far back as June, union emails show, Geneva Sands, September 22, 2021, 5:50 PM

As far back as June, Border Patrol agents in Del Rio, Texas, began asking management for additional resources to more rapidly process migrants, but their calls for increased resources appear to have gone unmet until recent days when thousands and thousands of migrants were forced to wait under a bridge near the US-Mexico border. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] Pfizer Booster Shots, Processing Haitian Migrants, Ethiopia's Hunger Crisis, September 23, 2021, 5:58 AM

Who is eligible to get Pfizer's COVID-19 booster shots? (1:25). And why are certain Haitian migrants detained along the US-Mexico border being released while others are deported? (5:28). Plus, new documents reveal the extent of Ethiopia's hunger crisis (9:20). [[Listen](#)]

Law360: 3rd Circ. Says BIA Ignored Evidence Of Yemeni's Persecution, Creig Clough, September 22, 2021, 10:18 PM

The Third Circuit Wednesday vacated a Board of Immigration Appeals' decision that denied a Yemeni man's request for protection from deportation, saying the board ignored "overwhelming evidence" that the man had been persecuted and could be tortured for his political beliefs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: ICE Wants Contractor To Help Run Gitmo Migrant Facility, Daniel Wilson, September 22, 2021, 8:15 PM

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is seeking a contractor to help operate a migrant housing facility at Guantanamo Bay amid a recent surge in Haitian migration, saying it is looking to house up to 400 people. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Foreign Workers Say GAO Report Supports Green Card Suit, Jeniffer Doherty, September 22, 2021, 8:14 PM

A group of almost 200 foreign-born U.S. workers calling on a Maryland federal court to compel U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to adjudicate their green card applications flagged a new government watchdog report on Wednesday, saying it bolstered their case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Immigrant Teenagers Win Injunction Against ICE Over Placement, Holly Barker, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement must correct its failure to comply with the law governing placement of 18-year-olds who came to the United States as "unaccompanied alien children," the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Courthouse News: **Customs & Border Protection ordered to disclose social media surveillance rules**, Nicholas Iovino, September 22, 2021, 6:00 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection cannot withhold information on its rules for authorizing agents to use fake identities and non-government accounts to spy on social media users, a federal judge ruled Wednesday. Government lawyers had argued that disclosing the information would reveal sensitive law enforcement techniques that could help criminals elude justice. Exemption 7(E) of the Freedom of Information Act allows the government to keep those types of records hidden from public view. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Chinese Asylum-Seeker Loses In 9th Circ. Over Arrest Lie**, Alyssa Aquino, September 22, 2021, 4:03 PM

The Ninth Circuit denied a Chinese national's bid for asylum over religious persecution, finding that she failed to disclose her 2013 arrest by U.S. authorities and could not offer a plausible explanation for her omission. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KPNX-NBC (Phoenix, AZ): **Arizona shelters trying to keep up with humanitarian crisis at the border**, Adriana Loya, September 22, 2021, 9:50 PM

Since the start of the year, shelters that provide aid to migrants in Phoenix have seen an increase in people seeking asylum being released by Customs and Border Protection. Before February, the International Rescue Committee (IRC)— an organization that serves people with food, shelter, and aid to families seeking refuge in the United States — was serving an average of 80 people a month, said the organizations' Asylum Seekers and Family senior coordinator Beth Strano. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOLD-CBS (Tucson, AZ): **Haitian refugees to be housed in Tucson**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 6:16 PM

KOLD has confirmed, a portion of the Haitian migrants camped at the Texas border are being housed at hotels in the Tucson area. The migrants in Tucson will be housed at hotels across the city as well as the Casa Alitas Welcome Center. Officials say the migrants will stay in town for a few days after processing until more permanent housing can be found. Haitians have been released on a "very large scale" in recent days, according to one U.S. official with direct knowledge of operations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Reuters: **U.S. farm group seeks stronger antitrust action with new campaign**, Leah Douglas, September 22, 2021, 5:04 PM

The National Farmers Union, the nation's second-largest farm group, said on Wednesday it is launching a campaign to expose the negative effects of consolidation in the agriculture industry on family farms and rural towns. The campaign, which it said will include a public relations blitz and lobbying, is part of an effort to push Washington to crack down on monopolistic behavior in the

industry as lawmakers propose legislation to bring more price and market transparency to highly consolidated farm markets. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: [OPINION] You Deserve a Bigger Paycheck. Here's How You Might Get It, Eric Posner, September 23, 2021, 5:00 AM

The spectacle of the antitrust challenge to Big Tech has been riveting. But a far more consequential transformation in antitrust law has largely escaped notice — the movement to use antitrust law to address wage suppression and inequality caused by the power of employers in labor markets. Economic theory says that when a pool of workers has only one potential employer, or a small number of potential employers, those workers will be paid below-market wages. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: StarKist Tells 9th Circ. Uninjured Overwhelm Tuna Classes, Lauren Berg, September 22, 2021, 10:20 PM

StarKist Co. urged the en banc Ninth Circuit during oral arguments on Wednesday to decertify three classes of canned tuna buyers in a massive price-fixing lawsuit, saying there are too many class members who haven't suffered any injuries from the alleged scheme. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Raft Of Claims Deleted In Hard Disk Parts Price-Fixing Case, Christopher Cole, September 22, 2021, 8:17 PM

A California federal judge threw out a range of price-fixing claims against hard disk parts manufacturers Wednesday, but kept part of the litigation afloat and gave two groups of plaintiffs a month to rework the jettisoned claims. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Citi Wants Grand Jury Docs In Ex-Trader's Forex Probe Suit, Rachel Scharf, September 22, 2021, 7:14 PM

Citigroup Inc. asked a New York federal judge Tuesday for access to records from the grand jury that indicted a former London-based trader on foreign exchange-rigging charges, saying the documents undermine the acquitted trader's \$112 million malicious prosecution suit. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: 12 former security officials who warned against antitrust crackdown have tech ties, Emily Birnbaum, September 22, 2021, 6:28 PM

The warning last week from a dozen former national security leaders was stark: An antitrust crackdown on Silicon Valley could threaten the nation's economy and "cede U.S. tech leadership to China." But the group was united by more than their histories of holding senior defense and intelligence roles in the Trump, Obama and George W. Bush administrations: All 12 have ties to major tech companies, either from working with them directly or serving with organizations that get money from them, according to a POLITICO analysis. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Ky. AG Wants End To Price-Gouging Probe Challenge, J. Edward Moreno, September 22, 2021, 5:55 PM

Kentucky's attorney general, Daniel Cameron, told a federal judge Tuesday to end a challenge of price-gouging investigations into Amazon sellers after a Sixth Circuit panel nixed a preliminary injunction order. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Pharma Giants' \$454M Glumetza Antitrust Deal Gets Initial OK, Hannah Albarazi, September 22, 2021, 5:04 PM

U.S. District Judge William Alsup preliminarily approved \$454 million in settlements Wednesday resolving direct buyers' allegations that Bausch Health Cos. Inc., Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Assertio Therapeutics Inc. plotted to delay the blockbuster diabetes drug Glumetza's generic version, but warned the parties not to make it difficult for class members to opt out. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: NHK, TDK Lose Bid to Ax Antitrust Suit Over Disk Drive Component, Mike Leonard, September 22, 2021, 4:10 PM

NHK Spring Co. and TDK Corp. must face antitrust litigation over their alleged scheme to inflate the price of hard disk drive suspension assemblies, a critical computer component, a federal judge in San Francisco ruled Wednesday while also trimming the lawsuit. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: FTC's Retail Gas Station Scrutiny Spotlights Unfair Trade Law, Siri Bulusu, September 22, 2021, 3:10 PM

The Federal Trade Commission is showing signs of looking beyond traditional antitrust law to tighten oversight on gas station consolidation and its effect on gas prices. The agency could turn to Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act to investigate antitrust violations stemming from possible collusion and price-signaling in the retail gas station industry, as well as in agreements between oil and gas companies and their retail gas station franchisees, antitrust analysts say. The provision generally has been limited to the FTC's enforcement of unfair and deceptive trade practices. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Reuters: Summit Midstream Partners pleads guilty in largest U.S. inland spill from oil drilling, Sarah N. Lynch, September 22, 2021, 6:14 PM

Pipeline operator Summit Midstream Partners (SMLP.N) pleaded guilty in federal court in Bismarck, North Dakota, on Wednesday to criminal water pollution charges stemming from what prosecutors call the largest-ever land-based spill from oil drilling. The company agreed to pay \$36.3 million to settle the criminal charges, as well as parallel civil charges filed by the U.S. government and the state of North Dakota. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: U.S. EPA weighs regulation of chemical recycling, Valerie Volcovici, September 22, 2021, 5:16 PM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering regulating chemical recycling, a

controversial technology that aims to convert mixed plastic waste into fuel or energy. In its notice in the Federal Register earlier this month, the EPA said it wants more information about so-called pyrolysis and gasification, also known as advanced or chemical recycling, and is considering how they could be regulated under the federal Clean Air Act. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: EPA finalizes rule cutting use of potent greenhouse gas used in refrigeration, Rachel Frazin, September 23, 2021, 5:00 AM

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Thursday is finalizing a rule aimed at significantly cutting the use of a type of greenhouse gases called hydrofluorocarbons that are used in refrigeration. Hydrofluorocarbons, also known as HFCs, can have up to 14,800 times the climate impact of carbon dioxide. The new EPA rule, first proposed in May, aims to reduce their use by 85 percent compared to a baseline number over the next 15 years. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Ojibwe Tribes Say Wisc. Wolf Hunt Steps On Treaty Rights, Andrew Westey, September 22, 2021, 7:02 PM

Six Ojibwe, or Chippewa, tribes have asked a Wisconsin federal judge to halt an upcoming gray wolf hunt in the state, saying the hunt would violate their treaty rights by allowing non-Indians to kill too many wolves. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Mill Operators Stuck With Suit Alleging Water Contamination, David McAfee, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

The owners of a decommissioned sawmill must face a Clean Water Act lawsuit by an advocacy group that says historical mill waste and current industrial activity on the site are contributing to the contamination of nearby bodies of water, a federal judge in Washington has ruled. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Donziger Argues For Time Served, Citing Lengthy Prosecution, Cara Salvatore, September 22, 2021, 5:52 PM

Chevron foe Steven Donziger has asked a New York federal judge to sentence him to time served on his contempt-of-court conviction, with counsel saying he has been wearing an ankle monitoring device while under house arrest "longer than many people wear wedding rings." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Forest Service Must Review Wyoming Winter Elk Feeding Permit, Maya Earls, September 22, 2021, 3:41 PM

The U.S. Forest Service must complete further review of its permit allowing Wyoming to feed elk during the winter in Bridger-Teton National Forest, a federal court in the state ruled in a win for conservation groups. A project can be excluded from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act if it involves special uses of land that require less than five contiguous acres of land. The Forest Service's five-year special use permit for the Alkali Creek feedground doesn't meet that requirement, according to the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Atlanta-Area County Gets More Time For Sewage Repairs, Rosie Manins, September 22, 2021, 3:01 PM

A Georgia federal judge on Wednesday extended the deadline for a metropolitan Atlanta county to fix its problematic sewage system, but ordered it to pay about \$1 million in civil penalties for failing to meet the original timeline in a consent decree with state and federal regulators.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

New Jersey Advance Media: Man sold carvings made from ivory of endangered whale, feds say, Chris Sheldon, September 22, 2021, 7:05 PM

A Woodbridge man admitted Wednesday that he sold carvings made of sperm whale ivory across state lines, federal prosecutors said. Richard Gontarek, 55, pleaded guilty in Newark Federal court to two counts of violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits falsely labeling an international shipment of fish, wildlife, including their parts or products, or plants, according to a statement from the US Attorney's Office District of New Jersey.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Patch \(Woodbridge, NJ\)](#)

TAX

The Republican (Springfield, MA): Prosecutors say Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia should pay back nearly \$900K in corruption case, Benjamin Kail, September 22, 2021, 5:46 PM

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday repeated calls for a judge to order former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia to pay back nearly \$900,000 combined in the forfeiture ill-gotten gains and restitution to investors and the Internal Revenue Service. Prosecutors say Correia, sentenced Tuesday to 6 years in prison on extortion and other charges, stole money from investors in a smartphone app startup, SnoOwl, to pay for personal expenses including a Mercedes, jewelry, designer shoes and casino trips. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, NC): Charlotte tax preparer cheated public out of millions. Then she burned the evidence, Michael Gordon, September 22, 2021, 3:50 PM

In late June 2019, Tina Wells made an urgent phone call from the Mecklenburg County jail to plot her response to the federal investigation that had led to her arrest and was now enveloping her tax-filing company. Wells, according to court documents, had been indicted and jailed a few days before. Now she wanted to make sure incriminating records disappeared from her offices at Rush Tax Services before government agents got them first, according to court documents filed by her prosecutors. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: No signs of Gabby Petito's boyfriend after days of searching, Curt Anderson, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

Search teams found nothing of note Wednesday at a Florida wilderness park where they have spent days looking for the boyfriend of Gabby Petito, the young woman who authorities say was killed while on a cross-country trip with him. The search resumed Wednesday morning at the 24,000-acre (9,700-hectare) Carlton Reserve park and ended just before dark, North Port police spokesperson Joshua Taylor said. Investigators say Brian Laundrie's parents told them he had gone there after returning home without Petito on Sept. 1. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFTV-ABC \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [KMVT-CBS/CW \(Twin Falls, ID\)](#)

Axios: FBI report likely to show record increase in murders in 2020, Russell Contreras, September 23, 2021, 5:00 AM

If the FBI data released next week shows what's expected that 2020 saw the highest single-year spike in U.S. murders in at least six decades experts say the sudden job losses, fears and other jolts to society at the start of COVID-19 will likely have been the overwhelming drivers. Why it matters: Many Democrats already feared that rising crime could hurt their party in the 2022 midterms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: FBI rolls out ad campaign to encourage hate crime reporting, Robert Patrick, September 22, 2021, 7:00 PM

Amid a steep rise in hate crimes in Missouri and around the country, the FBI is rolling out a campaign to help the public learn what qualifies as a hate crime and how to report one. The FBI plans to place ads on the outside of 16 buses and the inside of 100, as well as in MetroLink trains and on 10 gas station pumps and nine billboards from Kirksville to Rolla to Cape Girardeau. They are also placing ads on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and on the radio. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KFVS-CBS \(Cape Girardeau, MO\)](#), [KMOV-CBS \(St. Louis, MO\)](#), [KSDK-NBC \(St. Louis, MO\)](#), [The Rolla Daily News \(Rolla, MO\)](#)

NJ Metro Breaking News: U.S. Marshals Service Operation Nets More Than 190 Fugitives in NJ, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:16 PM

The U.S. Marshals Service has conducted a high-impact fugitive apprehension initiative focusing on some of the most violent offenders throughout New Jersey. This enforcement initiative, called Operation "Clean Sweep," resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, gang members, sex offenders and violent criminals in the District of New Jersey. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WRC-NBC (Washington, DC): [VIDEO] FBI Working Closely With Police After Armed Security Guard Killed During Surge in DC Violence, September 22, 2021, 11:30 PM

The FBI says it's working closely with D.C. police on the recent surge in gun violence. News4's Shomari Stone reports. [\[Watch\]](#)

WRSP-Fox (Springfield, IL): FBI helping in case of missing ISU graduate student, Devin Trubey, September 22, 2021, 11:00 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's, FBI, field office in Springfield, Illinois, has stepped in to help local law enforcers who are investigating the disappearance of an Illinois State University

graduate student. Jelani Day, 25, was last heard from on August 23 and last seen Aug. 24. His family, who are from Danville, and a faculty member reported him missing after Day did not show up for class. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WGN \(Chicago, IL\)](#)

KOTV-CBS (Tulsa, OK): Cleveland County Deputies & US Marshals Looking For Oklahoma Man, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 8:46 PM

Cleveland County sheriffs and the U.S. Marshals are looking for Andrew Bladeon Earls in connection to multiple burglaries in the area. Earls allegedly breaks into unoccupied homes, eats their food, drinks their beer and then steals what he can before leaving. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KNBC-NBC (Los Angeles, CA): [VIDEO] FBI Campaign Raises Awareness on Hate Crimes, September 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

Hate crimes are top priority for the FBI because the targeted victims aren't the only ones affected. FBI officials say they're meant to threaten and intimidate entire communities. Kim Baldonado reports for the NBC4 News at 4 p.m. on Wednesday Sept. 22, 2021. [[Watch](#)]

KTVN-CBS (Reno, NV): Federal Agents Bust Illegal Marijuana Operation In Gardnerville, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 7:20 PM

An illegal marijuana operation was shut down in Gardnerville on Monday. Officials say multiple agencies served two search warrants in the Bodie Flats area of Gardnerville on September 20. Both warrants were a result of a lengthy investigation of the illegal marijuana grow, involving numerous Chinese nationals believed to be associated with organized crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Arlington Heights, IL): Image Of Suspected Bank Robber Released, FBI Seeks To Identify, Eileen O'Gorman, September 22, 2021, 6:51 PM

The FBI is assisting Elk Grove Village police in investigating a bank robbery that occurred Wednesday afternoon. Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect who they say robbed the TCF Bank at 20 Biesterfield Road. In the image, the person is wearing a black hoodie, black or navy blue sweatpants and a white hat. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOSA-CBS (Odessa, TX): FBI seeing an increase in hoax school threats, Hannah Burbank, September 22, 2021, 6:26 PM

School is in session, and students are back in the classroom. Unfortunately, this year the FBI says they're seeing more students making hoax threats on social media. "During COVID when the children were at home we didn't see as many of these threats but now that we see a lot of these young adults back at school, we are starting to see an increase," said Jeanette Harper, a Public Affairs Officer for the FBI. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WALA-Fox (Mobile, AL): [VIDEO] FBI agents arrest man suspected in Fairfield County threats, September 22, 2021, 6:09 PM

A man suspected in making threats to Fairfield County schools and businesses last week was arrested by FBI agents in Oregon. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Berks, PA): **U.S Marshals Capture Man Accused Of Assaulting Berks Family Over 'Stolen' Parking Space**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 5:38 PM

A Pennsylvania man wanted on assault charges for berating a Berks County family over a "stolen" parking space was captured by members of the U.S. Marshals Service in Schuylkill County, authorities said. Thomas Hablett, 53, was apprehended at his home in Schuylkill Haven (Schuylkill County) on Wednesday, Tilden Township police said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSYX-ABC (Columbus, OH): **Feds arrest man accused of making bomb threats to Fairfield County schools, businesses**, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 3:00 PM

Agents with the FBI say a former Canal Winchester resident now residing on the west coast is responsible for the flurry of bomb threats to schools and businesses in Fairfield County. The FBI charged Yousif Mubarak, 25, for making the threats. On Sept. 12, a business received a threat from Mubarak that he was going to rob the store, the FBI said. The next day, authorities say he made bomb threats to Canal Winchester Schools and Pickerington Local Schools. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

USA Today: **[EDITORIAL] 'Blow his head off': Supreme Court must strip federal agents of absolute immunity**, Editorial Board, September 23, 2021, 6:01 AM

Kevin Byrd's ordeal began in the parking lot of a bar near Houston, where he says a federal Homeland Security agent pointed a gun at him and threatened to "put a bullet through his f---ing skull." Byrd had gone to the bar early in the morning on Feb. 2, 2019, to find more information about a car crash that left his former girlfriend and the mother of his child in the hospital. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: **[OPINION] Supreme Court low on political standing**, Albert Hunt, September 22, 2021, 11:00 AM

The Supreme Court has legal authority; what it decides is the law of the land. The current court, however, lacks political authority. This eludes Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who in a recent speech at Louisville's McConnell Center insisted that contrary to media coverage the court is apolitical, "not a bunch of partisan hacks." [[Continue Reading](#)]

NY Daily News: **NYC urges U.S. Supreme Court to uphold local gun control laws**, Leonard Greene, September 22, 2021, 5:45 PM

As it reels from surging gun violence, the city on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to shoot down a lawsuit seeking to undermine local gun regulations. In an amicus brief to the nation's top court. Mayor de Blasio and the city's top lawyer outlined the need to maintain laws regulating concealed handguns in the five boroughs, detailing the consequences of violence in the nation's densest and most populous city. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WWLP-NBC \(Springfield, MA\)](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Reuters: As Petito case captivates U.S., missing Native women ignored, Andrew Haw, September 22, 2021, 7:50 PM

Activists lament that the crisis of missing and murdered Native American women doesn't get the attention paid to Gabby Petito. FBI agents found Petito's body in Wyoming on Sunday after she went missing during a road trip with her fiancé. The search for the 22-year-old white woman, who chronicled her trip on social media, became an internet sensation and a lead story for major news outlets. "There's a rate of violence against Native women that's happening and it doesn't seem to be highlighted," Jolene Holgate, a director for the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, told New Mexico television station KRQE on Tuesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: "It's like she just vanished": Family of missing Indigenous woman seeking new information in months-old case, Li Cohen, September 22, 2021, 5:23 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of anyone who might be responsible for the disappearance of an Indigenous woman in Washington state. Meanwhile, Mary Johnson's family is working hard to get answers nearly a year after she was last seen traveling to a friend's house. The FBI said in its missing person flyer that Johnson, 40, was last seen walking along Firetrail Road on the Tulalip Reservation on November 25, 2020. She never made it to her destination, and she was not reported missing until December 9. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Law360: Pot Researcher Urges 9th Circ. Redo Of Classification Appeal, Sam Reisman, September 22, 2021, 9:04 PM

Researchers and veterans pushing for marijuana to be federally reclassified have asked the Ninth Circuit for a rehearing, saying an appellate panel's dismissal of their petition flies in the face of established administrative law. "This case isn't just about pot," the petitioners wrote in a brief filed Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Marijuana Moment: Marijuana Banking Sponsor Discusses Path Through Senate After House Approves Reform For Fifth Time, Kyle Jaeger, September 22, 2021, 4:00 PM

Tuesday marked the fifth time that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to protect banks that work with state-legal marijuana businesses. And the lead sponsor of that reform, Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), tells Marijuana Moment that he does think "the fifth time is the charm" to finally get the measure through the Senate and onto the president's desk. The Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act has previously passed as standalone bills and as provisions tucked into broader bills. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

Law360: US Trustee Challenges Constitutionality Of Purdue Releases, Vince Sullivan, September 22, 2021, 6:56 PM

The nondebtor, third-party releases included in Purdue Pharma's Chapter 11 plan are unconstitutional, the U. S. Trustee's Office has argued, asking a New York bankruptcy judge to wait until a higher court rules on the federal watchdog's challenge to the releases. In filings made late Tuesday, U. S. Trustee William K. Harrington said he has serious concerns about the nondebtor, third-party releases granted in the case that absolve the members of the Sackler family that own Purdue of liability related to the opioid crisis. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

Bloomberg Law: Wall Street Pay Clawback Rule to Get New Push at SEC, Akayla Gardner, September 22, 2021, 5:07 PM

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Gary Gensler said he is keen to finish a long-stalled requirement to clamp down on Wall Street bonuses when companies report incorrect financial information. Gensler said he's asked SEC staff to provide recommendations on a rule for clawing back executive pay and other parts of never-finished regulations that were mandatory under the Dodd-Frank Act. Specifically, Gensler said he wants to make sure that executives return any funds they are overpaid when a company publishes incorrect information in its financial statements. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: Lawmakers send nomination of Biden's pick for EPA GC to full Senate, Sebastien Malo, September 22, 2021, 5:47 PM

The U.S. Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee on Wednesday approved the nomination of Jeffrey Prieto to become the Environmental Protection Agency's top lawyer, setting the stage for the career public servant to return to public service in Washington, D.C. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: Bipartisan Police-Overhaul Talks End With No Deal, Eliza Collins and Sadie Gurman, September 22, 2021, 6:52 PM

A top Democratic negotiator on Wednesday called off talks aimed at overhauling police tactics and accountability, saying lawmakers were unable to reach a compromise in the wake of nationwide protests sparked by the killings of Black Americans by law-enforcement officers. Sen. Cory Booker (D., N.J.) said he called Sen. Tim Scott (R., S.C.) to tell him the Democrats were done negotiating after Mr. Scott didn't accept their final offer. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Fox](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization Wednesday for a third dose of Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine to be given to three groups: those 65 and older, those at high risk of developing severe COVID-19 and those at risk of developing "serious complications" due to "frequent institutional or occupational exposure," likely including frontline healthcare workers and prisoners. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Some of President Biden's most ambitious plans are facing opposition not only from Republicans but members of his own party. President Biden on Wednesday launched a full-court press, hosting a series of White House meetings with lawmakers in a bid to unite warring factions of his own party behind his sweeping, multi trillion-dollar economic agenda. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- More than 1,000 mostly Haitian migrants have been allowed to enter the U.S. as part of the legal asylum process, contradicting the Biden administration's announcement that migrants arriving at the border will be immediately deported. The Biden administration exempts unaccompanied children from expulsion flights on humanitarian grounds. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- The search for Gabby Petito's fiancé Brian Laundrie remains focused on a Florida nature preserve. Petito's disappearance and death have raised questions about other missing person cases. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- A teenage boy was killed and another wounded in a drive-by shooting Wednesday morning at a bus stop in Louisville, according to police. The two were sent to the hospital, while a girl was injured by "unknown means" and declined medical treatment. One of the teens was later pronounced dead, Louisville Metro Police Major Shannon Lauder confirmed. The other teen is being treated for non-life-threatening injuries. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- Students at University of Massachusetts Amherst gathered in front of a fraternity house to protest an alleged sexual assault. Students say there is a culture of rape, harassment and secrecy on campus. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "The F.D.A. has made its move. Next question: Exactly who should get boosters?" [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- "EPA to cut greenhouse gases thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide" [[WaPo](#)]
- "China Makes Preparations for Evergrande's Demise" [[WSJ](#)]

END

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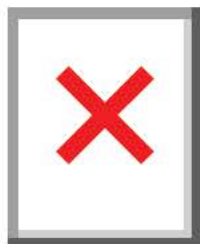
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] That time Doug Emhoff almost did the Dougie
To: Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: September 22, 2021 6:44 PM (UTC-04:00)

Sep 22, 2021

[View in browser](#)



B R U B Y A C L E A M A E N T R I O N M A P S S O F N O N D E L
Presented by The American Petroleum Institute (API)

Welcome to POLITICO's West Wing Playbook, *your guide to the people and power centers in the Biden administration. With Allie Bice.*

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About six months into **KAMALA HARRIS'** 2020 presidential campaign, her husband **DOUG EMHOFF** was getting ready for his big debut.

The Florida Democratic Party had asked Emhoff to speak at its annual Leadership Blue Gala in June 2019. The otherwise unremarkable party dinner, held at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club in Orlando, would be his first time headlining an event on the presidential campaign trail.

And so began the greatest of deliberations: what should be his walk-on song?

Back at Harris HQ in Baltimore, Emhoff and a group of campaign staffers, including several at the senior level, convened a meeting to bat around ideas, continuing the conversation in a lengthy email thread, according to two people familiar with the discussions.

Emhoff, a white entertainment lawyer from Los Angeles, wanted the vibe to be just right for his debut as the potential future first husband of the first female, Black and Asian president.

They tossed some ideas back and forth. "Whatta Man" by Salt-N-Pepa? "Teach Me How to Dougie" by Cali Swag District? Eventually, they landed on a less risky choice: When Emhoff stepped on stage in Orlando, it was to a short snippet of the guitar-heavy intro to Beck's 2005 song, "E-Pro."

The high-level meeting — "playful," one source said, but methodical — reflected both Emhoff's earnest excitement over his role on the campaign as well as how deliberate he is in crafting his public persona.

Campaign staffers who worked with Emhoff say his defining characteristic as a surrogate was a wide-eyed enthusiasm for the trappings of life on the trail. All of it — the state fairs, the party dinners, the pageantry, the mechanics and logistics — was new to Doug and "endlessly fascinating," as [he put it](#) in March 2019. Rather than jaded or cynical, one former aide said, Emhoff was like a kid entering an amusement park for the first time.

In the White House, Emhoff — or SGOTUS, as his acronym goes — has tried to maintain a public-facing role, although he is still trying to find a niche. The interests he discussed during his frequent appearances on the Biden fundraising circuit last fall — reopening small music venues after the pandemic, for instance, or expanding "access to justice" through his experiences in entertainment law — have given way to a more generalized portfolio dictated by the times.

Since taking office, he's held carefully scripted events to promote vaccination efforts, the administration's Build Back Better agenda, and the Covid-19 relief package Congress passed in the spring, traveling to more than two dozen states and 19 vaccination clinics, according to his communications director, **KATIE PETERS**. He [has represented the U.S. at the Paralympics](#) in Tokyo, sat down with NBC's **PETER ALEXANDER** to [talk about being "out front to the effort to combat Covid,"](#) as the segment introduced him, and, last week, [threw out the first pitch](#) at a Washington Nationals game (a pretty solid toss).

And while some of his moves have been more official — [rebranding as "Douglas" instead of "Doug"](#) and taking a teaching gig at Georgetown Law School — he has still shown his gleeful side, such as when he tried to quietly purchase a copy of **SETH ROGEN**'s book or offered up some PDA toward Harris.

Besides the many kisses blown to her at Biden's joint address to Congress, he tweets heart emojis at her, and even paid a visit to a [crochet mural of his wife](#) on display at D.C.'s wharf earlier this year.

"Couldn't miss seeing this crochet mural of @VP Kamala Harris in honor of International Women's Day," Doug, er, Douglas tweeted.

Do you work in the Biden administration? Are you in touch with the White House? Are you ALEXANDER WANG, associate director for immigration?

We want to hear from you — and we'll keep you anonymous: westwingtips@politico.com.

Or if you want to stay *really* anonymous send us a tip through SecureDrop, Signal, Telegram, or Whatsapp [here](#).

A message from The American Petroleum Institute (API):

The Environmental Partnership released its [third annual report](#) highlighting the industry's progress in reducing flaring. Participants in the partnership's [new flare management program](#) reported a 50 percent reduction in flare volumes from 2019 to 2020, even as oil and natural gas production remained consistent among participating companies. The partnership and its growing coalition continue to demonstrate the industry's commitment to further reduce emissions and routine flaring and deliver improved environmental performance.

P R E S I D E N T I A L T R I V I A

From reader **NICK FIELD** — Who was the first U.S. president born after the ratification of the U.S. Constitution?

(Answer at the bottom.)

T H E O V A L

BLAME BORIS — At today’s briefing, press secretary **JEN PSAKI** said White House staffers were surprised that British Prime Minister **BORIS JOHNSON** took questions from British reporters during an Oval Office meeting on Tuesday. After Johnson opened the floor to questions from British reporters, the press pool was led out of the Oval Office as American reporters shouted questions in vain at Biden.

Asked why Biden didn’t take questions like his counterpart, Psaki responded that the PM, “called on individuals from his press corps without alerting us to that intention in advance.”

Later, CBS News Radio White House correspondent **STEVEN PORTNOY**, also the president of the White House Correspondents’ Association, pushed Psaki to schedule a “formal” press conference with the president — describing many encounters with POTUS and the press as “fleeting.” The WHCA on Tuesday also lodged a complaint with the White House about the lack of questions granted to American reporters.

Psaki said Biden has answered questions from the press 135 times, leading up to September. She also said she didn’t believe the “format, whether it is multiple shorter Q and A’s or a longer formal press conference, is at the top of the list of the American public’s concern.”

EMILIO CASALICCHIO and **NAHAL TOOSI** have [more on the Biden-Johnson relationship here](#).

JOIN THURSDAY FOR A WOMEN RULE CONVERSATION ON ENDING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY: Sexual assault in the military has been an issue for years, and political leaders are taking steps to address it. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) proposed bipartisan legislation to overhaul military sexual assault policies, but still face opposition. Join Women Rule for a virtual interview featuring Sens. Ernst and Gillibrand, who will discuss their legislative push and what it will take to end sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military. [REGISTER HERE](#).

T H E B U R E A U C R A T S

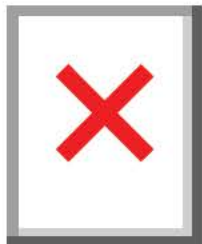
WEIRD OR NOT WEIRD? It's a little unusual to get a readout of conversations between members of the same administration, but the vice president's office insists there's nothing out of the ordinary going on with a statement released today from Kamala Harris' chief spokesperson **SYMONE SANDERS**, detailing a Tuesday call between the VP and Homeland Security Secretary **ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS**.

"During that call, the Vice President raised her grave concerns about the mistreatment of Haitian migrants by border patrol agents on horses, and the need of all CBP agents to treat people with dignity, humanely and consistent with our laws and our values," the release says.

Harris' office told **CHRIS CADELAGO** that members of the press had requested a readout of the call after Harris told reporters yesterday that she planned to speak to Mayorkas about the widely circulated images of border patrol agents appearing to use their horses' reins as whips against migrants in Texas.

Pushing back on the idea there was something weird about the readout, [deputy press secretary SABRINA SINGH](#) [tweeted](#): "It's actually not weird. It's an important issue that Secretary Mayorkas is addressing. The VP and the Secretary spoke about it and we wanted to provide a readout of that convo."

RAHM WATCH: **RAHM EMANUEL**'s required paperwork to serve as the U.S. ambassador to Japan, including his financial disclosure, has been received by the Senate Foreign Relations committee, according to a Senate aide. That means the former Chicago mayor and chief of staff to former President **BARACK OBAMA** may see a confirmation hearing sooner than later. Committee Chairman **BOB MENENDEZ** (D-N-J.) today also said he wants to see the Japan nomination move quickly.



F I L L I N G T H E R A N K S

AFGHAN MESSAGING HELP — OLIVIA DALTON, most recently a chief spokesperson and director of communications for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, has been temporarily detailed to the National Security Council to serve as a senior adviser to former Delaware Gov. **JACK MARKELL**, the White House coordinator for Operation Allies Welcome — the Department of Homeland Security-led effort to resettle Afghan refugees in the U.S.

Dalton, a former Biden Senate aide and campaign consultant, also led communications on the Biden-Harris transition’s confirmations team. She’ll return to her role at USUN before the end of the year.

OBAMA ALUMNI REUNION: PENNY PRITZKER and **ASH CARTER**, two former Obama Cabinet members, were [named to the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology](#), the White House announced today. **CLAIRE RAFFORD** reports that the two are among 30 experts who will advise the president on matters related to science and technology.

BIDEN ALLIES GET AMBASSADOR NOD: The White House is [tapping three longtime Biden allies for ambassador posts](#), **MYAH WARD** writes. For the Belgium job, Biden will nominate **MICHAEL ADLER**, a Miami real estate developer, confirming expectations that the president’s friend would snag the nomination. Biden will nominate **ERIK RAMANATHAN**, chair of national health nonprofit Heluna Health, as ambassador to Sweden. And he has picked **CALVIN SMYRE**, the former chair of the Democratic Caucus within the Georgia Assembly, to serve as ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

A D V I S E A N D C O N S E N T

BATCHELDER CONFIRMED — The Senate confirmed **LILY BATCHELDER** as assistant Treasury secretary this afternoon, 64 to 34. The NYU professor and former Obama economic adviser has been a vocal supporter of efforts to raise taxes on inheritances, a flashpoint as Democrats look to overhaul the tax code in their reconciliation bill.

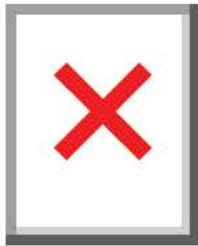
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A G E N D A S E T T I N G

PARDONNEZ-MOI — Biden [acknowledged during a phone call this morning](#) with French President **EMMANUEL MACRON** that his administration should have consulted with the French government before announcing a new trilateral security pact with Australia and the United Kingdom, **QUINT FORGEY** writes.

A statement released about the call said Biden and Macron plan to meet in Europe at the end of October — and the French ambassador to the U.S. **PHILLIPE ÉTIENNE** would return to his post in Washington next week after being recalled last Friday.

The White House released a photo of a smiley Biden on the call.



Biden talks on the phone with President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic on the Oval Office of the White House. Adam Schutlz/ Courtesy of the White House

W H A T W E ' R E R E A D I N G

[Even as the Biden administration deports some Haitian migrants, it is letting in others](#) (NYT's Eileen Sullivan)

[Former GOP Treasury secretaries tried defusing debt ceiling bomb in private talks with McConnell, Yellen](#) (Washington Post's Jeff Stein)

[Biden allies launch nonprofit aiming to protect Latino, Asian voting rights](#) (POLITICO's Sabrina Rodriguez)

W H E R E ' S J O E

He participated in a virtual Covid-19 summit as part of the U.N. General Assembly, then called President Macron to discuss the U.S. submarine deal with the U.K. and Australia that has enraged the French.

In the afternoon, he held a series of meetings in the Oval Office with House and Senate Democrats, including Senate Majority Leader **CHUCK SCHUMER** and Speaker **NANCY PELOSI**, to discuss the latest infrastructure and funding bills.

W H E R E ' S K A M A L A

She led a session of the virtual Covid-19 summit, and later, met with Zambian President **HAKAINDE HICHILEMA** in the vice president's Ceremonial Office.

T H E O P P O B O O K

Principal deputy press secretary **KARINE JEAN-PIERRE** [told Elle magazine in August](#) that one piece of career advice she's never followed was to be the loudest in the room in meetings.

"I'm inherently shy and introverted," she told the magazine. "I think people kind of roll their eyes when I say that, but it's true. People used to be like, 'You need to speak up in a meeting. You need to put your foot down.' And sometimes, that's not for everybody."

She explained that "sometimes being the person who's listening, the quieter voice, is a lot more impactful."

First off, who gives career advice to be loud? Secondly.... Introverts rise up!

T R I V I A A N S W E R

JOHN TYLER was born on March 29, 1790.

AND A CALL OUT — A big thanks to Nick for suggesting this question. Do you have a really hard trivia question about the presidency? Send us your best one and we may use it:

westwingtips@politico.com.

We want your trivia, but we also want your feedback. What should we be covering in this newsletter that we're not? What are we getting wrong? Please let us know.

Edited by Emily Cadei

A message from The American Petroleum Institute (API):

In 2020, [The Environmental Partnership](#) launched its latest environmental performance program, which is focused on reducing flaring of associated gas in oilfield operations. As part of the flare management program, companies are advancing best practices to avoid flaring and minimize emissions. To gauge progress, participants in the program have committed to report data to calculate flare intensity, a measurement of flare volumes relative to production. Participants reported a 50 percent reduction in flare volumes from 2019 to 2020, even as oil and natural gas production remained consistent among participating companies. This progress underscores the industry's commitment to advancing best practices to reduce flare volumes, promoting the beneficial use of associated gas and improving flare reliability and efficiency. Read more about the partnership's commitment to environmental progress in its [third annual report](#).

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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 22, 2021
7:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
National Security
3.
Criminal Law
4.
Civil Rights
5.
Civil Law
6.
Immigration & Border Security
7.
Antitrust
8.
Environment

9. Tax
10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
12. US Supreme Court
13. Judicial Nominees & Appointments
14. Native American Affairs
15. Marijuana Legalization
16. Opioid Crisis
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- 9:00 AM: House Committee on Homeland Security Virtual hearing on 'Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: 20 Years After 9/11', with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas; FBI Director Christopher Wray; and National Counterterrorism Center Director Christine Abizaid.

- 10:00 AM: Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on The Constitution hearing on 'Restoring the Voting Rights Act: Combating Discriminatory Abuses'. Held in Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: US sues to stop deal between American Airlines and JetBlue, David Koenig, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Justice Department and officials in six states have filed a lawsuit to block a partnership formed by American Airlines and JetBlue, claiming that it will reduce competition and lead to higher fares. The Justice Department said Tuesday that the agreement will eliminate important competition in New York and Boston and reduce JetBlue's incentive to compete against American in other parts of the country. Attorney General Merrick Garland said the lawsuit was about ensuring fair competition that lets Americans fly at affordable prices. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

See also: [Axios](#), [CNBC](#), [CNN](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [Washington Times](#), [WSJ](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: Pharma companies defend dismissal of terror case at D.C. Circuit hearing, Jonathan Edwards, September 21, 2021, 6:18 PM

Major pharmaceutical companies urged a Washington, D.C., federal appeals court on Tuesday to uphold the dismissal of claims that their medical-goods contracts with Iraq's health ministry helped finance terror activity in the country that injured or killed American service members between 2005 and 2011. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard oral arguments for nearly two hours over whether the drug companies, represented at the hearing by Kannon Shanmugam of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, can be held liable under the federal Anti-Terrorism Act for certain deliveries of drugs and medical equipment. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: Wray: Afghanistan Unrest Could Inspire Extremism Inside US, Eric Tucker, September 21, 2021, 5:10 PM

The possibility of a 9/11-type attack has diminished over the last 20 years, but the Taliban victory in Afghanistan could embolden U.S.-based extremists at the same time that the FBI is confronting increasing threats from individuals motivated by racial and political grievances, top national security officials warned Tuesday. Christine Abizaid, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, testified before the Senate Homeland Security Committee that the terrorism threat to the country is less "acute" than it was two decades ago, and that the danger posed in Afghanistan by groups like al-Qaida and the Islamic State is at the moment primarily a regional threat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [CBS](#), [CBS-1](#), [The Hill](#), [LAT](#), [Newsweek](#), [Reuters](#), [VOA](#)

Reuters: Judge sets May for possible trial of 'Proud Boys' facing Jan 6 riot charges, Mark Hosenball, September 21, 2021, 1:43 PM

A federal judge on Tuesday set May 18 as a tentative date for the start of a trial of four men allegedly affiliated with the "Proud Boys" movement on charges stemming from their participation in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot. U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly said that a May trial slot was the first available for a large courtroom at the Washington D.C. federal courthouse often used on ceremonial occasions. In conversations with defense lawyers, the judge discussed the possibility of a trial running four to six weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#)

WaPo: FBI held back ransomware decryption key from businesses to run operation targeting hackers, Ellen Nakashima and Rachel Lerman, September 21, 2021, 2:58 PM

The FBI refrained for almost three weeks from helping to unlock the computers of hundreds of businesses and institutions hobbled by a major ransomware attack this summer, even though the bureau had secretly obtained the digital key needed to do so, according to several current and former U.S. officials. The key was obtained through access to the servers of the Russia-based criminal gang behind the July attack. Deploying it immediately could have helped the victims, including schools and hospitals, avoid what analysts estimate was millions of dollars in recovery costs. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [The Hill-2](#)

WSJ: Zoom's Nearly \$15 Billion Deal for Five9 Under U.S. Government Review Over China Ties, Kate O'Keefe, Aaron Tilley and Dawn Lim, September 21, 2021, 2:02 PM

The department said the interagency committee known as Team Telecom needed to review a license application that arose from the San Jose, Calif.-based company's nearly \$15 billion deal to buy Five9 Inc. to see if it "poses a risk to the national security or law enforcement interests" of the U.S., according to a letter posted on the Federal Communications Commission website. The department said there could be a risk from "the foreign relationships and ownership" associated with the application. In the letter, dated last month, the Justice Department requested the FCC defer action on the application until Team Telecom finishes its review, putting Zoom's deal for Five9 on hold. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [Law360](#)

WaPo: Huge hack reveals embarrassing details of who's behind Proud Boys and other far-right websites, Drew Harwell, Craig Timberg and Hannah Allam, September 21, 2021, 1:58 PM

Epik long has been the favorite Internet company of the far-right, providing domain services to QAnon theorists, Proud Boys and other instigators of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol allowing them to broadcast hateful messages from behind a veil of anonymity. But that veil abruptly vanished last week when a huge breach by the hacker group Anonymous dumped into public view more than 150 gigabytes of previously private data including user names, passwords and other identifying information of Epik's customers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: \$5.9M ransomware attack on major agriculture group poses risk to US grain, pork, chicken supply, Lucas Manfredi, September 21, 2021, 3:00 PM

The U.S. grain, pork and chicken supply could be at risk after a ransomware attack on New Cooperative Inc. has forced the Iowa-based agriculture services provider's systems to go offline. "Out of an abundance of caution, we have proactively taken our systems offline to contain the threat, and we can confirm it has been successfully contained," a New Cooperative spokesperson told the Wall Street Journal. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NBC: The battle between the U.S. and ransomware hackers is escalating, Kevin Collier, September 21, 2021, 2:53 PM

The White House is taking additional steps to encourage ransomware victims to alert the federal government, just as the hackers behind those attacks are threatening victims from doing so. The moves mark an escalation between the Biden administration, which has vowed to crack down on criminal hackers who try to extort Americans, and ransomware gangs, which have proven resilient to efforts to stop them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: **[OPINION] The Mercenary Threat of U.S. Hackers-for-Hire**, Bobby Ghosh, September 22, 2021, 12:30 AM

In the summer of 2012, an Iranian computer virus named Shamoon wiped data from tens of thousands of computers at two of the Middle East's most important energy companies, Saudi Aramco and Qatar's Ras Gas. Shamoon was no Stuxnet: Unlike the Israeli digital weapon that destroyed nuclear centrifuges in the Islamic Republic, the virus that attacked the energy companies did little damage to their operations. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

BuzzFeed: **Prosecutors Lost A Fight To Keep A Set Of Jan. 6 Capitol Surveillance Videos Under Seal**, Zoe Tillman, September 21, 2021, 9:37 PM

Federal prosecutors on Tuesday released a new collection of Capitol surveillance videos from Jan. 6 after a judge ordered them to do so, rejecting the government's argument that making the clips public could threaten the security of the complex. The disclosure marks a setback for the US Capitol Police and the US attorney's office in their efforts to control how much footage from the Capitol's closed circuit video (CCV) system gets out. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: **Former Air Force contractor sentenced for taking thousands of pages of classified information**, Lexi Lonas, September 21, 2021, 1:05 PM

A former Air Force contractor was sentenced to prison for taking thousands of pages of classified information from an Air Force Base, the Justice Department announced Tuesday. Izaak Vincent Kemp was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for taking more than 2,500 classified documents to his home in Fairborn, Ohio. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Newsweek: **Alleged Capitol Rioter Caught on Snapchat Maps After Tipster Sent Screenshots to FBI**, Alexandra Hutzler, September 21, 2021, 12:42 PM

A Maryland man is facing several charges related to his alleged participation in the U.S. Capitol riot after being caught in part due to the maps feature on Snapchat. Matthew Buckler has been charged with knowingly entering or remaining on restricted grounds as well as disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building, according to new court documents. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Wichita Eagle (Wichita, KS): **Wichita man charged with assaulting Capitol Police officer in Jan. 6 DC riot**, Dion Lefler, September 21, 2021, 3:38 PM

A Wichita man has been arrested by federal authorities on charges that he assaulted Capitol Police officers and committed other crimes during the Jan. 6 riot in Washington. Michael Eckerman, 37, is charged with multiple counts that include assaulting, resisting or impeding officers, obstruction of an official proceeding and disorderly conduct in the Capitol building. The most serious count alleges he helped break a police line by pushing an officer down stairs. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Hays Post \(Hays, KS\)](#), [KAKE-ABC \(Wichita, KS\)](#), [KWCH-CBS \(Wichita, KS\)](#), [Newsweek](#)

KRIV-Fox (Houston, TX): **Former Houston officer pleads guilty to involvement in U.S. Capitol riot**, Eli Higgins, September 21, 2021, 3:10 PM

A former Houston police officer has pleaded guilty to his involvement in the U.S. Capitol riot on January 6. Tam Pham pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. According to documents from the U.S. Department of Justice, Pham was offered a plea agreement. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTRK-ABC \(Houston, TX\)](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Ex-Kankakee official sent to prison for \$2 million theft, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

A man who stole \$2 million from Kankakee and a regional wastewater agency was sentenced to nine months in federal prison and two years of home confinement. Richard Simms, 74, acknowledged diverting money through a fraudulent software invoicing scheme. “He stands before the court deeply remorseful for his actions and for the great pain he caused,” defense lawyer Alan Brunell said. Simms served as director of the Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency and superintendent of Kankakee’s Environmental Services Utility. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: The Elizabeth Holmes Trial: Jurors Hear First Patient Testimony About Theranos Blood Tests, Sara Randazzo, September 21, 2021, 7:22 PM

An Arizona medical assistant testified Tuesday at the criminal trial of Elizabeth Holmes that she received two Theranos Inc. blood tests indicating she was miscarrying when she was in fact pregnant results that her medical provider testified were unlike any she has ever seen in eight years of practice in women’s health. After the erratic results that patient Brittany Gould received on the key pregnancy marker in October 2014, nurse practitioner Audra Zachman testified, “I felt very uncertain of the validity of the results and felt uncomfortable as a provider” sending more patients to Theranos. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsday: MS-13 gang member pleads guilty to 2016 murder of rival gang associate, prosecutors say, Robert Brodsky, September 21, 2021, 6:33 PM

A member of the violent street gang MS-13 pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges related to his role in the 2016 murder of a teenager who was beaten, bound, stabbed and slashed to death with a machete, federal prosecutors announced. Nelson Argueta-Quintanilla, 24, of Brentwood, also pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Central Islip to the attempted murder of suspected rival gang members and conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Augusta Press: Augusta Probation Officer Admits Not Performing Drug Tests or Home Visits, Greg Rickabaugh, September 21, 2021, 9:00 PM

A former U.S. Probation Officer for the Southern District of Georgia admitted he lied about performing his supervisory duties, authorities said. Enoch Eller Jr., 47, of Augusta, has pleaded guilty to one count of false statements and faces up to five years in prison when he is sentenced, according to David H. Estes, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. In addition to prison time, Eller faces substantial financial penalties and a period of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WRDW-CBS \(Augusta, GA\)](#)

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY): Oswego man admits to trading images and video of children being sexually abused, feds say, James McClendon, September 21, 2021, 8:59 PM

An Oswego man pleaded guilty Tuesday to possessing and distributing child pornography, federal prosecutors said. Richard Alvarado, 27, admitted to actively trading child pornography images and videos using a social media messaging application on his phone, according to a news release issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WV News (Charleston, WV): Fayette County (West Virginia) man pleads guilty to sex offense against minor, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

A Fayette County man pleaded guilty Tuesday to attempted enticement of a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. Christopher Lee Foster, 36, of Oak Hill, was charged via indictment in June 2021, according to a press release from acting West Virginia Southern District U.S. Attorney Lisa G. Johnston. [[Continue Reading](#)]

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: St. Louis postal union official gets 18 months for embezzlement, Robert Patrick, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

The former treasurer of a Postal Service union in St. Louis was sentenced Tuesday to 18 months in federal prison for embezzling over \$184,000 from the union, prosecutors said. Yvette Luster pleaded guilty in June to a felony charge of embezzlement and admitted stealing the money from Postal Mail Handlers Local 314 from January 2016 to April 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Baltimore Sun: Former Baltimore Safe Streets worker sentenced for role in federal drug case, Justin Fenton, September 21, 2021, 5:27 PM

A former Baltimore Safe Streets anti-violence worker who returned to dealing drugs and tried to use his job as cover is headed back to federal prison for another 11 years. Ronald L. Alexander, 51, was hired by Safe Streets after having served 17 years in federal prison, from 2000 to 2017. The program involves hiring credible messengers from the community to mediate conflict and prevent violence, and it has been targeted for expansion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): Ex-Birmingham Chick-fil-A workers stole thousands from customers to fund lavish lifestyles, Carol Robinson, September 21, 2021, 4:40 PM

The former director for hospitality at the Chick-fil-A on Birmingham's Southside has pleaded to federal charges after he pocketed thousands of dollars from customers. Larry James Black Jr., 37, of Center Point, issued his guilty plea Tuesday before U.S. District Judge Madeline H. Haikala, according to a joint announcement by Northern District of Alabama U.S. Attorney Prim Escalona and U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Patrick M. Davis. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [WBRC-Fox \(Birmingham, AL\)](#)

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY): NY state employee stole \$314K intended for workers left unemployed by pandemic, Mark Weiner, September 21, 2021, 4:33 PM

A former employee of the New York Department of Labor admitted in court Tuesday to stealing more than \$314,000 by using her access to state computers to approve false unemployment claims. Tramaine Pope, 33, of the Bronx, pled guilty in U.S. District Court in Albany to submitting and approving 20 false unemployment applications from August to November 2020. The stolen money was intended to help unemployed New Yorkers during the Covid-19 pandemic. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [Times Union \(Albany, NY\)](#), [WETM-NBC \(Elmira, NY\)](#), [WRGB-CBS \(Schenectady, NY\)](#)

Las Cruces Sun-News (Las Cruces, NM): Columbian man pleads guilty to scamming 15k from Las Cruces man, Justin Garcia, September 21, 2021, 4:18 PM

A man from Columbia pleaded guilty on Monday to scamming a Las Cruces man out of \$15,000. Julian David Ceballos-Jimenez, 29, of Columbia pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit fraud, a third-degree felony. The charge carried a maximum penalty of three years in prison, two years of parole and a \$5,000 fine. However, Third Judicial District Court Judge Richard Jacquez accepted a plea agreement that eliminated Ceballos-Jimenez's prison sentence. Instead, Ceballos-Jimenez was required to repay the victim \$15,000 and will be removed from the country. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Telegram & Gazette (Worcester, MA): Fitchburg man pleads guilty to part in drug ring, Anoushka Dalmia, September 21, 2021, 1:29 PM

Six out of 18 people charged last year in connection to a Fitchburg drug trafficking ring have now pleaded guilty to distribution charges. Pablo Vidarte Hernandez, 48, charged in July 2020, admitted his involvement in Worcester federal court Monday. The Fitchburg man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute. The investigation into a drug trafficking organization began after a fatal fentanyl overdose in September 2018, according to court documents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHAV-FM (Haverhill, MA): Federal Judge Sentences Former Methuen Man to 15 Years in Prison for Fentanyl Dealing, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:30 AM

A former Methuen man was sentenced Tuesday to more than 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to fentanyl trafficking. Thirty-three-year-old Joel Cortorreal, also known as Angel Javier Morell-Oneill, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin to 15.5 years in prison and five years of supervised release for fentanyl trafficking. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KBMT-ABC/NBC (Beaumont, TX): Beaumont man faces up to life in prison for string of robberies across Southeast Texas, Kierra Sam, September 21, 2021, 10:26 PM

A Beaumont man faces up to life in prison for his role in a string of armed robberies across Southeast Texas, according to a Tuesday announcement from Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. Prosecutors said during a two week span, from January 11, 2021, through January 21, 2021, Moses Ray Rhine, Jr., 21, of Beaumont, and others conspired to commit armed robberies of at least five local convenience stores. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KFDM-CBS \(Beaumont, TX\)](#)

KTVB-NBC (Boise, ID): Pocatello man sentenced to 25 years for making child porn, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 10:12 PM

A 21-year-old Pocatello man was sentenced to serve 25 years in federal prison, acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced on Tuesday. Gonzalez said in a news release that Andrew John Jemmett was also sentenced by Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill to supervised release for the rest of his life after his prison sentence is over. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMIZ-ABC (Columbia, MO): Federal jury convicts Columbia man of illegally possessing gun, Karl Wehmhoener, September 21, 2021, 8:07 PM

A federal jury convicted a Columbia felon of illegally possessing a firearm after 30 minutes of deliberation. Columbia police arrested Jeremiah Ezekiel Brown, 36, in Nov. 2020 after a traffic stop. An officer found a loaded Glock 9 mm semi-automatic handgun in Brown's waistband during the traffic stop. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): **9 indicted in Indianapolis drug trafficking investigation**, Kyle Bloyd, September 21, 2021, 7:55 PM

Nine people have been indicted by a grand jury in a drug trafficking ring, according to the United States Department of Justice. Federal investigators say people in California and Mexico were sending drugs, including methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl, to a person in Indianapolis. After the person received the drugs, that person, as well as others, would then sell them in the Indianapolis area and send the money back to California. In all, more than \$780,000 was exchanged. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTHR-NBC \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#), [WXIN-Fox \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#)

KTBS-ABC (Shreveport, LA): **2 get federal prison sentences for gun, drugs crimes**, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

Two local men involved in separate drug and firearms crimes have been sentenced to federal prison. U.S. District Judge Donald E. Walter sentenced Dale Wayne Green Jr., 39, to 3 years and 3 months for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. He'll be on supervised release for three years when he gets out of prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAGM-CBS (Presque Isle, ME): **Presque Isle man sentenced on federal drug charges**, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 6:31 PM

A Presque Isle man was sentenced today in federal court in two separate cases for conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Donald E. Clark announced. U.S. District Judge Lance E. Walker sentenced Tyler Neece, 29, to 165 months in prison and a total of five years of supervised release. Neece pleaded guilty in February 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WYOU-CBS (Scranton, PA): **Police: Man charged with illegal firearms possession in Dallas**, Kelsey Rogers, September 21, 2021, 5:46 PM

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania has charged a man who was in the United States illegally with possession of firearms and ammunition. According to the Acting United States Attorney Bruce D. Brandler, 33-year-old David DaSilva of Dallas was indicted on September 14 for possessing two .22 caliber rifles and several rounds of ammunition. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSAV-NBC/CW (Savannah, GA): **Savannah man faces 7½ years for dealing marijuana, cocaine**, Joseph Leonard, September 21, 2021, 5:09 PM

A Savannah man faces 7½ years in federal prison for selling drugs, according to a federal court in the Southern District of Georgia. Okemi Lawton, 45, was sentenced to 90 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana, says Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, David H. Estes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJZ-CBS (Baltimore, MD): **25-Year-Old Pennsylvania Man Sentenced To Six Years In Federal Prison For Selling Methamphetamine In Cecil County**, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 5:02 PM

A Pennsylvania man was sentenced to six years in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release for possession with intent to distribute approximately 211 grams of methamphetamine in Cecil County. According to his plea, during the fall of 2019 officials learned

Nakir Ali Kiett, who was known as “Omar,” was selling methamphetamine in Cecil County. In Aug. of 2019, an informant introduced an officer to Kiett. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTAJ-CBS (Altoona, PA): Curwensville man pleads guilty to federal ammunition charges, Kelsey Rogers, September 21, 2021, 5:01 PM

A Curwensville man pleaded guilty on Tuesday to violating federal ammunition laws, according to Acting United States Attorney Stephen R. Kaufman. Chancellor M. Shaw, 27, was convicted in the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield County in 2018 for fleeing/attempting to elude a police officer and flight to avoid apprehension. This prohibited Shaw from possessing ammunition, but he was found with it in September of 2019, according to the Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KZRG (Joplin, MO): Joplin man sentenced for meth, illegal firearms, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 5:00 PM

A man from Joplin was sentenced in federal court today for possessing methamphetamine to distribute and for illegally possessing firearms. Read the full press release below: Nathan Scott Thomas, 42, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge M. Douglas Harpool to 11 years in federal prison without parole. On May 3, 2021, Thomas pleaded guilty to one count of possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute and one count of possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Poundridge, NY): Westchester Man Sentenced For Fatal Shooting Of Teenage Basketball Star, Zak Failla, September 21, 2021, 4:45 PM

A purported street gang member in Westchester will spend decades behind bars for his role in the fatal shooting of a promising teen basketball player who was struck by an errant bullet meant for a rival. David Hardy, age 26, of Mount Vernon, was sentenced to 31 years in prison on Tuesday, Sept. 21 for the shooting death of 13-year-old Shamoya McKenzie on New Year's Eve in 2016 in Westchester. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(Mount Vernon, NY\)](#), [WCBS-CBS \(New York, NY\)](#)

KPAX-CBS/CW (Missoula, MT): Missoula man sentenced to 15 years for meth trafficking, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:41 PM

A Missoula man who admitted dealing large quantities of methamphetamine in the community has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release, Acting U.S. Attorney Leif M. Johnson said. Terry David Starrett, 54, pleaded guilty on May 11 to possession with intent to distribute as charged in a superseding information. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (New Haven, CT): New Haven Man, 27, Pleads Guilty In Robbery 'Cold Case:' Feds, Ellyn Santiago, September 21, 2021, 2:05 PM

After a cold case investigation by police and the ATF, a 27-year-old man to pleaded guilty to a federal charge related to his role in the 2015 robbery of a New Haven chicken wing spot where an employee was shot, prosecutors announced. Tythron Ford of New Haven faces a maximum of 20 years in prison on a charge of attempted interference with commerce by robbery, according to the office of the Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBBM-CBS (Chicago, IL): Jamar Jarvis Convicted In 2018 Carjacking Of Off-Duty CPD Officer In Edgewater, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 1:32 PM

A 21-year-old man from Chicago faces up to life in prison, after a federal jury last week convicted

him of carjacking an off-duty police officer in the Edgewater neighborhood. Jamar Jarvis was found guilty of carjacking and brandishing a firearm in connection with a carjacking on Friday. The carjacking charge carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison, and the weapon charge carries a sentence of 7 years to life in prison. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WFLD-Fox \(Chicago, IL\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: University to pay \$1.6M to students assaulted by employee, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 8:28 PM

San Jose State University has agreed to pay \$1.6 million to 13 female student-athletes whose complaints about being sexually assaulted by an athletic trainer were mishandled by the university, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. The payment is part of a settlement between the university, the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, which conducted a Title IX investigation that found the university failed to adequately respond to reports of sexual harassment and assault that started in 2009, exposing additional student-athletes to harm for over a decade. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KGO-ABC \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [KRON \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [KPIX-CBS \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [LAT](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#), [The Mercury News \(San José, CA\)](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [SF Gate](#), [San Jose Inside](#), [USA Today](#)

The Hill: Biden launches investigation into Texas school mask mandate ban, Celine Castronuovo, September 21, 2021, 8:39 PM

The Biden administration has launched a civil rights investigation into Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's (R) executive order prohibiting school mask mandates, the latest in a series of probes by the Department of Education into whether the statewide bans violate the rights of students with disabilities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [Texas Tribune](#)

Courthouse News: Arkansas asks full Eighth Circuit to reinstate pro-Israel law, Joe Harris, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

A lawyer for Arkansas urged the en banc Eighth Circuit on Tuesday to revive a state law requiring businesses that contract with the state to pledge not to boycott Israel. A three-judge panel of the St. Louis-based appeals court found the law unconstitutional last February in a 2-1 decision. The Arkansas Times challenged the 2017 law, which it claims forces businesses to take a political stance in violation of the First and 14th Amendments. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Pasadena Star News: Settlement assures Monrovia will ensure equal access to transportation services, Carol Robinson, September 21, 2021, 8:28 PM

The city of Monrovia has entered into a settlement agreement with the federal government to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to its transportation services program, the U.S. Department of Justice announced on Tuesday, Sept. 21. In February 2018, Monrovia launched the GoMonrovia program to restructure its dial-a-ride service, which previously provided rides only to seniors and to individuals with disabilities. GoMonrovia provides reduced-fare Lyft rides available to people traveling within the program's service area. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTVA-ABC/ABC (Tupelo, MS): Former Booneville police officer expected to plead guilty to civil rights violations, Zac Carlisle, September 21, 2021, 2:43 PM

A former Booneville police officer is expected to plead guilty in federal court to civil rights violations, according to the court docket. The former officer Dustin Rambo is scheduled to

appear in federal court in Greenville on Wednesday, Sept. 22. According to an FBI affidavit, Rambo allegedly forced a woman to perform sexual acts in 2020 while he was on duty. He's not pleading guilty to this alleged crime on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Down syndrome issue at center of Missouri abortion law case, Jim Salter, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

A federal appeals court is deciding the fate of a Missouri law that puts sweeping restrictions on abortions, and a focal point of oral arguments on Tuesday was a provision prohibiting abortions based solely on a Down syndrome diagnosis. The law adopted in 2019 would ban abortions at the eighth week of pregnancy. The full 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis isn't expected to rule for several weeks. In June, a three-judge 8th Circuit panel upheld an injunction from U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs prohibiting Missouri from enforcing the law's provisions, but the full court decided to hear the case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Trump Campaign Knew Lawyers' Voting Machine Claims Were Baseless, Memo Shows, Alan Feuer, September 21, 2021, 8:00 PM

Two weeks after the 2020 election, a team of lawyers closely allied with Donald J. Trump held a widely watched news conference at the Republican Party's headquarters in Washington. At the event, they laid out a bizarre conspiracy theory claiming that a voting machine company had worked with an election software firm, the financier George Soros and Venezuela to steal the presidential contest from Mr. Trump. [...] The release of the documents was only the latest legal trouble for Mr. Giuliani and Ms. Powell, both of whom have been sued directly by Dominion for defamation. Dominion has also brought a defamation suit against Mike Lindell, the chief executive of MyPillow, for amplifying false election claims. Last month, a federal judge in Washington ruled that the cases could continue moving toward trial. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

NYT: Lawsuits Filed Against Texas Doctor Could Be Best Tests of Abortion Law, Ruth Graham, Adam Liptak and J. David Goodman, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

When the United States' most restrictive abortion law went into effect in Texas on Sept. 1, it worked exactly as intended: It effectively stopped all abortions in the second-most populous state. But its very ingenuity that ordinary citizens, and not state officials, enforce it has begun to unleash lawsuits that are out of the control of the anti-abortion movement that fought for the law. On Monday, a man in Arkansas and another in Illinois, both disbarred lawyers with no apparent association with anti-abortion activists, filed separate suits against a San Antonio doctor who publicly wrote about performing an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [ABC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#)

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): U.S. Justice Department announces settlement with ECU, UNC-CH surrounding grant money allegations, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:18 PM
The U.S. Justice Department has announced a settlement with East Carolina University and UNC-Chapel Hill surrounding false claims involving grant money. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina said that ECU, UNC-Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service have agreed to pay a total of \$842,500 to the U.S. for alleged false claims surrounding AmeriCorps grant funds. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WFMY-CBS \(Greensboro, NC\)](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Officials: Many Haitian migrants are being released in US, Juan A. Lozano, Elliot Spagat and Maria Verza, September 22, 2021, 5:30 AM

Many Haitian migrants camped in a small Texas border town are being released in the United States, two U.S. officials said, undercutting the Biden administration's public statements that the thousands in the camp faced immediate expulsion. Haitians have been freed on a "very, very large scale" in recent days, according to one U.S. official who put the figure in the thousands. The official, with direct knowledge of operations who was not authorized to discuss the matter Tuesday and thus spoke on condition of anonymity. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Immigrant rights activist targeted for deportation can stay, Gene Johnson, September 21, 2021, 5:00 PM

A Northwest immigrant rights activist who had been facing deportation said Tuesday she can now remain in the U.S., after the Department of Homeland Security agreed to drop her case. Maru Mora Villalpando, a Mexico City native, has been in the U.S. since overstaying a visa in 1996. An immigration judge last week approved the decision to drop deportation proceedings against her and granted her legal permanent resident status, amid the Biden administration's re-evaluation of immigration enforcement priorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Migrants on school buses? Texas town feels caught in the middle, Alexandra Ulmer, September 21, 2021, 4:23 PM

Many residents of the Texan border town of Del Rio have been saying for months that they feel abandoned by the federal government as border arrests hit 20-year highs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Options shrink for Haitian migrants straddling Texas border, Juan A. Lozano, Eric Gay, Elliot Spagat and Maria Verza, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

Options narrowed Tuesday for thousands of Haitian migrants straddling the Mexico-Texas border as the United States government ramped up expulsion flights to Haiti, and Mexico began flying and busing some away from the border. Dozens of migrants upset about being deported to Haiti tried to rush back into a plane that landed Tuesday afternoon in Port-au-Prince as they yelled at authorities. A security guard closed the plane door in time as some deportees began throwing rocks and shoes at the plane. Several of them lost their belongings in the scuffle as police arrived. The group was disembarking from one of three flights scheduled for the day. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Amid furor over border images, Biden faces Democratic backlash on immigration, Sean Sullivan and Nick Miroff, September 21, 2021, 10:55 PM

White House officials on Tuesday struggled to explain searing images of border agents treating Haitian migrants harshly, facing a growing backlash from angry Democrats who sought to pressure President Biden to ease his immigration policies. Even as Biden confronts attacks from Republicans portraying his policies as weak and ineffective, many immigrant-rights activists have increasingly concluded that Biden has failed to live up to his campaign vows to defend vulnerable foreigners seeking a better life in the United States. Their fury marks a new inflection point in Biden's ongoing struggles with immigration. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [CNN-1](#), [Detroit News](#), [Forbes](#), [The Hill](#), [NBC](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [VOA](#), [USA Today](#), [USA Today-1](#),

[WXYZ-ABC \(Detroit, MI\)](#)

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] Pandemic Future, Migrants at the Border, Investigating Hurricane Ida Power Outages, September 22, 2021, 6:29 AM

Will the winter season prompt another COVID surge? (1:59). And how are U.S. border agents managing the thousands of migrants camping under a border bridge? (6:12). Plus, an investigation into Hurricane Ida's power collapse (9:28). [\[Listen\]](#)

NBC: Haitian deportees assaulted U.S. pilots, injured three ICE officers, Julia Ainsley, September 21, 2021, 7:27 PM

Haitians deported from the U.S. on Tuesday assaulted the pilots on board one of the flights when it arrived in Port-au-Prince and injured three U.S. immigration officers, according to a source familiar with internal reports of the incident. Unrest broke out shortly after a flight carrying single adult men arrived and released the men to Haitian authorities on the tarmac. Then, the source said, several of the men stormed another recently arrived flight carrying families. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Judge Finds Parts Of Fla. Anti-Sanctuary Law Unconstitutional, Nathan Hale, September 21, 2021, 10:59 PM

A Florida federal judge on Tuesday struck down key portions of a 2019 state law banning "sanctuary" immigration policies as unconstitutional, finding a South Florida city and immigration advocates proved discriminatory intent and violations of equal protection rights at a bench trial in January. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) See also: [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Law360: Gay Man Narrowly Wins Review Of Asylum Credibility, Lauren Berg, September 21, 2021, 9:05 PM

A split Fifth Circuit panel has revived a gay Cameroonian man's bid for protection in the U.S., agreeing that there are inconsistencies in his persecution account, but said the Board of Immigration Appeals needs to take another look at whether there are enough inconsistencies to again deny him asylum. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: ACLU Asks DC Circ. To Not Vacate Transit Ban Ruling, Jennifer Doherty, September 21, 2021, 8:20 PM

The American Civil Liberties Union urged the D.C. Circuit to maintain a lower court ruling that blocked a Trump-era asylum bar, saying that though the regulation is now moot, vacating the injunction would create "perverse incentives" for the government. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NJ Spotlight: Release detainees now, senators tell ICE, Monsy Alvarado, September 22, 2021, 1:00 AM

U.S. Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker (both D-NJ) on Tuesday called for the release of federal immigration detainees housed in New Jersey who do not pose a threat to public safety and are not a priority for enforcement and removal. The senators sent a letter to Tae D. Johnson, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, nearly a month before Hudson County is due to stop housing ICE detainees at its jail. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Spectrum News: Detainee files complaint against ICE and Rensselaer County Jail, Spencer Conlin, September 21, 2021, 5:43 PM

Egregious living conditions and medical negligence are among the allegations made by a female

held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Rensselaer County Jail in Troy. “She sustained pretty significant ankle injuries,” said the inmate’s attorney, Sophia Genovese. “A month later, she is still not able to walk on her own.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WOAI- NBC (San Antonio, TX): Fake DEA badges seized before headed to Texas, Yami Virgin, September 21, 2021, 11:00 PM

We warned you about phone scams, crooks using the DEA’s name to con money out of people. Now, a new warning - thieves may be putting down the phone and knocking on your front door instead. Last month, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized eight fake DEA badges and one FBI badge at the Chicago International Mail Branch. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): Fugitive Sought For Sexual Assault Of A Child Arrested At Juarez Lincoln International Bridge, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:29 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Laredo Port of Entry, detained a man who was wanted on an outstanding felony warrant for sexual assault of a child out of Dallas County Sheriff’s Office. “CBP Field Operations is always ready to assist our law enforcement partners in locating those wanted persons with outstanding warrants, especially those allegedly involved in heinous crimes of a sexual nature with children,” said Port Director Alberto Flores, Laredo Port of Entry. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KGNS-NBC/ABC \(Laredo, TX\)](#)

ANTITRUST

Reuters: Lupin agrees to pay \$150 mln to settle Glumetza antitrust claims, Blake Brittain, September 21, 2021, 3:12 PM

Indian generic drugmaker Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc has agreed to pay \$150 million to settle claims brought by a group of grocery stores, drug stores and other direct buyers of the diabetes drug Glumetza for its role in an alleged "pay-for-delay" scheme that supposedly raised the drug's price by nearly 800%, according to a filing in San Francisco federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Pharmacies Win Remand Of FDA's Compounded Drug Memo, Dave Simpson, September 21, 2021, 11:16 PM

A D.C. federal judge on Tuesday ordered the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to either perform an analysis of its memorandum that created new regulations to fully implement a decades-old rule governing pharmacy compounding, or certify that the memo won't greatly impact small businesses, like the pharmacies challenging the memo. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: [OPINION] Biden's crackdown on monopolies should include live event ticketing, Mark Perry, September 21, 2021, 9:00 PM

Throughout the pandemic, many of us missed the opportunity to see our favorite musicians, sports teams, theater productions, and stand-up comedians. Now that live events are finally coming back, Americans are being reminded of the difficulties and annoyances associated with getting tickets. The reality is that there are many things broken when it comes to live event ticketing, and it’s only going to get worse unless Washington lawmakers and regulators step in with a fix. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Live Nation Monopoly Class Action Set For Arbitration, J. Edward Moreno, September 21, 2021, 6:02 PM

A California federal judge granted Live Nation Entertainment and Ticketmaster’s request to

arbitrate a class action accusing the ticket selling giants of monopolizing ticket sales, saying that the concertgoers' claims that they are rushed to complete web purchases aren't enough to get out of the agreement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Google Defeats Antitrust Lawsuit Over Switch From Flash to HTML5, Mike Leonard, September 21, 2021, 5:44 PM

Google parent Alphabet Inc. dodged antitrust claims Tuesday over its alleged scheme to manipulate the internet-wide transition from Flash video to HTML5, when a federal judge in Atlanta threw out the case, rebuking a defunct digital advertising platform for its vague, sprawling complaint. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Reuters: Tribes invoke treaties in lawsuit to halt Wisconsin wolf hunt, Sebastien Melo, September 21, 2021, 5:13 PM

Six tribes in northern Wisconsin sued the state in Madison federal court on Tuesday to stop a state-sanctioned November gray wolf hunt. The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and the other tribes claim the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' planned hunting season for the predator, whose endangered species protections were lifted in January, violates treaties signed with the U.S. government in the 19th century by nullifying their guaranteed share of natural resources. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [AP](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

Reuters: Judge tosses Greenpeace suit over Walmart recyclable labeling, Sebastien Malo, September 21, 2021, 1:58 PM

Retail giant Walmart Inc has been handed a win by a federal judge in San Francisco who tossed claims that the company labels some of its house-brand plastic products "recyclable" when that option is not available for most consumers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

Law360: Ga. Judge Allows Most Pollution Claims In Carpet Case, Brett Barrouquere, September 21, 2021, 8:43 PM

A Georgia federal judge will allow to move forward most nuisance and Clean Water Act claims against 3M and a series of other carpet and chemical manufacturers accused of improperly releasing chemicals known as PFAS. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Wash. Judge Rules Against Lummi Nation In Fishing Dispute, Andrew Westney, September 21, 2021, 7:34 PM

A Washington federal judge has ruled that certain waters in Puget Sound aren't part of the Lummi Nation's traditional fishing grounds, handing a win to three other tribes that opposed the Lummi tribe's bid to open a crab fishery in the disputed area. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Biodiversity Group Sues Forest Service Alleging Threats to Bears, David McAfee, September 21, 2021, 7:02 PM

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies hit the U.S. Forest Service with a lawsuit in federal court in Montana Tuesday, challenging the decision to approve a 29,180-acre project that features 13 miles of permanent roads and allegedly threatens an imperiled population of bears. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: EPA Asked To Sanction N.M. Over Oil & Gas Permitting, Morgan Conley, September 21, 2021, 6:33 PM

WildEarth Guardians is asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to sanction New Mexico environmental regulators for allegedly allowing nearly two dozen oil and gas facilities to operate without federal air pollution permits designed to enforce the Clean Air Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Feds Didn't Tell Oil Cos. To Deceive Hawaiians, 9th Circ. Hears, Morgan Conley, September 21, 2021, 5:20 PM

Maui and Honolulu urged the Ninth Circuit to keep their suits seeking climate change-related infrastructure damages in state court, arguing virtually no federal courts have found credible a claim by fossil fuel companies that they produced oil at the behest of the federal government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Asbury Park Press (Ocean County, NJ): Farmingdale man admits to labeling 10 live, Hong Kong-bound iguanas as 'toys' for \$500, Ken Serrano, September 21, 2021, 3:12 PM

A Farmingdale man admitted in federal court Tuesday that he falsely labeled a package containing 10 live rhinoceros iguanas bound for Hong Kong as "toys," authorities said. Jason Ksepka, 44, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Zahid Quraishi in Trenton to one count of violating the Lacey Act by falsely labeling an international shipment of wildlife. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [Daily Voice \(Monmouth, NJ\)](#), [New Jersey Advance Media](#)

TAX

Reuters: Former wunderkind Massachusetts mayor gets six years in prison, Nate Raymond, September 21, 2021, 2:29 PM

A former Massachusetts mayor first elected at age 23 was sentenced on Tuesday to six years in prison after being convicted in May of defrauding investors in a smartphone app company and extorting money from local marijuana businesses. Former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia, now 29, said nothing as U.S. District Judge Douglas Woodlock in Boston ordered him to be incarcerated for engaging in "reprehensible corruption of a type that is incomprehensibly crude." [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [The Herald News \(Fall River, MA\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: Coroner IDs remains, says Gabby Petito was homicide victim, Curt Anderson, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

Gabby Petito was killed by another person, a coroner concluded while also confirming that the human remains found recently at a Wyoming national park were those of the 22-year-old woman who disappeared months after she set out on a cross-country road trip with her boyfriend, the FBI said Tuesday. Teton County Coroner Brent Blue determined Petito was a homicide victim, but did not disclose a cause of death pending final autopsy results, officials said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [Fox-2](#), [Guardian](#), [The Hill](#), [KDFW-Fox \(Dallas, TX\)](#), [KMGH-ABC \(Denver, CO\)](#), [KMTV-CBS \(Omaha, NE\)](#), [KSL-NBC \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [KWTU-CBS \(Oklahoma City, OK\)](#), [NBC](#), [Newsday](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Times](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WKOW-ABC \(Madison, WI\)](#), [WPTV-NBC \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WSJ](#), [WQOW-ABC/CW \(Eau Claire, WI\)](#), [WTTG-Fox \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [WTVL-ABC \(Tallahassee, FL\)](#),

[WXIA-NBC \(Atlanta, GA\)](#)

WSJ: [OPINION] Abolish the FBI, Holman W. Jenkins, Jr., September 21, 2021, 6:28 PM

In ignoring the latest John Durham indictment, most of the media and official Washington are ignoring the elephant between its written lines: the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Durham, the special counsel appointed to investigate the government's handling of the Russia collusion mess, levels a single criminal charge against Michael Sussmann, then a lawyer for the Democrat-linked firm Perkins Coie. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: FBI asks for the public's help in finding Gabby Petito's fiance as new tip emerges about his previous movements, Madeline Holcombe, September 22, 2021, 5:09 AM

The FBI is asking for the public's help in finding Gabby Petito's fiancé Brian Laundrie after a coroner made an initial determination that Petito died by homicide. Petito's remains were found Sunday in an undeveloped camping area in Bridger-Teton National Forest on the eastern edge of Grand Teton National Park, officials said. She was first reported missing by her family on September 11, after Laundrie returned home from the road trip without her on September 1. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Beast: The NRA Is Bankrupt but It Still Owns America's Gun Agency, Eleanor Clift, September 22, 2021, 5:05 AM

The gun group didn't act alone, but as part of an array of gun groups determined to fend off any real leadership at the ATF from "Waco Dave" or anyone else. The NRA declared bankruptcy; its longtime chief executive, Wayne LaPierre, has been disgraced, setting the gun-rights group back on its heels. Yet the NRA is still a powerful enough force in Washington politics to derail President Biden's effort to install a Senate-confirmed leader of the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives), once again reminding gun control advocates of how steep the climb is to achieve reasonable regulation of firearms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NY Post: FBI arrests man for planting bombs outside Michigan cellphone stores, Patrick Reilly, September 21, 2021, 6:28 PM

The FBI has arrested a man for allegedly planting bombs outside cellphone stores in Northern Michigan, the agency announced Tuesday. FBI Detroit Division Special Agent Timothy Waters announced that the arrest was made in connection to two incidents in which the man allegedly placed explosive devices outside of a Verizon store in Cheboygan and an AT&T store in Sault Ste. Marie on Sept. 16. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WJRT-ABC \(Flint, MI\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#)

KRQE-CBS/Fox (Albuquerque, NM): FBI investigates Albuquerque couple for bank robbery, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:12 AM

Federal agents are investigating an Albuquerque couple for a bank robbery earlier this month. The FBI says last Tuesday, Christopher Moya and Sabrina Morgan held up the Bank of the West on Juan Tabo and Candelaria. The next day, employees at a Los Lunas Walmart recognized the duo from new reports and called Los Lunas Police, who arrested them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WJBK-Fox (Detroit, MI): 'I need help,' Illinois mother of missing college student asks for FBI's help, Zara Barker, September 21, 2021, 11:43 PM

Twenty-five-year-old Jelani Day is a graduate student studying to get his master's in speech pathology at Illinois State University. He was last seen Aug. 24 and hasn't been heard from since.

Police found his car, a 2010 White Crysler 300 with a blacktop, in a wooded area in Peru, Illinois, a few days later. “Nothing is more important to me than getting Jelani back,” Carmen Bolden Day, Jelani’s mother said. “I need help to find my son, it’s been 28 days.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFIE-NBC (Evansville, IN): ATF Agents conduct search warrant at Newburgh business, Monica Watkins, September 21, 2021, 11:11 PM

ATF agents say they executed a search warrant at the Mooney Building in Newburgh. Agents on scene wouldn’t release any more information about the warrant. They say no one has been arrested. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WEHT-ABC \(Evansville, IN\)](#)

KTVN-CBS (Reno, NV): Federal Agents Bust Illegal Marijuana Operation In Gardnerville, Justin Garcia, September 21, 2021, 8:31 PM

An illegal marijuana operation was shut down in Gardnerville on Monday. Officials say multiple agencies served two search warrants in the Bodie Flats area of Gardnerville on September 20. Both warrants were a result of a lengthy investigation of the illegal marijuana grow, involving numerous Chinese nationals believed to be associated with organized crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFMJ-NBC/CW (Youngstown, OH): U.S. Marshals offer \$5,000 reward for capture of Youngstown fugitive, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 8:30 PM

U.S. Marshals are offering a \$5,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the arrest of Andre McCoy Jr. (21). McCoy is currently wanted by the Mahoning County Sheriff’s Office for aggravated murder, felonious assault, aggravated burglary, robbery and tampering with evidence. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WOIO-CBS \(Cleveland, OH\)](#)

WWTV (Cadillac, MI): DEA Teaching Doctors How They Can Help Decrease Opioid Addiction, Kevin Hodge, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

In an effort to decrease opioid addiction, the DEA is teaching medical professionals what they can do to help. They stopped by Brimley for a presentation Tuesday morning to help doctors understand the role they can play in fighting addiction. It’s part of their Operation Engage Program, which looks to teach those in Michigan about how they can combat the opioid epidemic. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWCH-CBS (Wichita, KS): \$10K reward offered in search for sexually violent offender who escaped from Larned State Hospital, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 6:29 PM

The U.S. Marshals are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the capture of a convicted sex offender who, on June 30, escaped from a state mental hospital in Larned. Investigators believe John Freeman Colt, 42, planned his escape for several months, obtaining a replica of a staff ID badge and dress clothes. The U.S. Marshals Service said Colt was able to convince a worker that he was a new doctor and needed help finding his way out of the hospital. Several hours passed before staff noticed Colt was missing. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KSHB-NBC \(Kansas City, MO\)](#)

WDAF-Fox (Kansas City, MO): ATF submits evidence to crime lab, asks for tips about church arson, Heidi Schmidt, September 21, 2021, 1:41 PM

Investigators looking into a weekend arson at a Kansas City, Missouri church need help finding the person responsible for setting it. Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said they are following up on some very strong leads as they investigate the arson at Harlem Baptist Church. Investigators say they are waiting on the results of several pieces of

evidence that were submitted to the Kansas City, Missouri, crime lab and the ATF Fire Lab.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

The Hill: **[OPINION] Biden needs to act on growing anti-death penalty sentiments**, Russ Feingold and Brett Tolman, September 21, 2021, 3:00 PM

The flattening of public discourse — political, social, moral and ethical — into a simplistic left-right binary is a disturbing trend that too few of us push back against. People are encouraged to live in their echo chambers through news outlets tailored to confirm their worldviews and social media feeds custom-designed to reinforce their biases. This polarized discourse has created a false narrative around the death penalty that relies on simplistic and overgeneralized notions of our country's partisan divide. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

CNN: **SCOTUS revises oral argument format ahead of blockbuster term**, Ariane de Vogue,, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

In advance of the new term set to begin in October, the Supreme Court announced Tuesday that it is revising its oral argument format, importing a system it employed when it held arguments over the phone after the courthouse doors were shut because of Covid. While the Court will maintain the traditional practice of allowing justices to engage in questioning in no particular order — the traditional free for all — there will now be an opportunity, once an attorney's time has expired, for the justices to ask specific questions in order of seniority. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [SCOTUSblog](#)

Law360: **Muslims Tell Justices State Secrets Can't Nix FBI Spying Suit**, Daniel Wilson, September 21, 2021, 8:51 PM

A group of Muslims alleging they were unlawfully surveilled based on their religious identity urged the U. S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to rule that the FBI is wrongly trying to use the state secrets privilege to avoid facing their case. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: **Biden administration urges Supreme Court to uphold New York's handgun restriction**, John Kruzal, September 21, 2021, 5:15 PM

The Biden administration on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to uphold a New York handgun restriction in an upcoming and potentially landmark Second Amendment court clash. The Department of Justice, in a brief filed on behalf of the administration, argued that the justices should defer to the longstanding legislative practice of placing limits on firearms to protect public safety. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: **Biden Administration Urges Supreme Court to Uphold Roe v. Wade**, Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, September 21, 2021, 5:20 PM

The federal government urged the Supreme Court to reaffirm the right to an abortion and strike down Mississippi's ban on abortions after 15 weeks. If "States are permitted to ban pre-viability abortion, the effects are likely to be felt most acutely by young women, women of color, and those of lesser means, further diminishing their opportunities to participate fully and equally in the Nation's social and economic life," the government said in its brief filed Monday. [\[Continue](#)

[Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: Dakota Access Wants Supreme Court to Settle Pipeline Dispute, Maya Earls, September 21, 2021, 4:23 PM

Dakota Access pipeline attorneys asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review a lower court's decision that the project needs additional environmental review, saying that the pipeline faces a significant risk of being shut down. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

JUDICIAL NOMINEES & APPOINTMENTS

AP: Biden nominee confirmed as federal judge for New Mexico, Morgan Lee, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

Las Cruces-based defense and civil rights attorney Margaret Strickland was confirmed Tuesday by the U.S. Senate to serve as a federal judge in New Mexico, where two prior nominees from former President Donald Trump were sidelined in the runup to the 2020 election. Strickland was among President Joe Biden's first slate of nominees to the federal bench announced in March. She was confirmed Tuesday by a 52-45 vote of the Senate, including supportive votes by U.S. Sens. Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Law360](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Oklahoma court lifts stays in 2 McGirt-related decisions, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 3:17 PM

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday lifted stays in two cases it overturned based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on tribal lands by non-American Indians against Native Americans. The court lifted stays of its previous reversals of the murder conviction of Shawn McDaniel and the child neglect conviction of Victor Castro-Huerta. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CBS: An Indigenous woman went missing in November. The FBI is now offering \$10,000 for information about her disappearance, Li Cohen, September 21, 2021, 5:09 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of anyone who might be responsible for the disappearance of an Indigenous woman in Washington state. Mary Johnson, who also goes by the last name Davis, was last seen traveling to a friend's house last year. The FBI said in its missing person flyer that Johnson, 40, was last seen walking along Firetrail Road on the Tulalip Reservation on November 25, 2020. She never made it to her destination, and she was not reported missing until December 9. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Wash. Judge Rules Against Lummi Nation In Fishing Dispute, Andrew Westney, September 21, 2021, 7:34 PM

A Washington federal judge has ruled that certain waters in Puget Sound aren't part of the Lummi Nation's traditional fishing grounds, handing a win to three other tribes that opposed the Lummi tribe's bid to open a crab fishery in the disputed area. U. S. District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez on Monday granted summary judgment to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, the Tulalip Tribes and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, which had sought to define the Lummi Nation's usual and accustomed fishing grounds, or U&A, as not including waters east of Whidbey Island in the

sound. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Calif. Tribe Drops Suit Over County's Casino Tax Plan, Asha Glover, September 21, 2021, 6:40 PM

The Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians and a California county have agreed to end their dispute in federal court over a contract the tribe said was unlawful because it created an unfair tax arrangement for its recently built casino. The California federal court dismissed the case Monday, shortly after the tribe and Amador County reported they had agreed to settle the tribe's lawsuit. No details on the settlement were included in the filing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Federal judge tosses out most of tribal water rights lawsuit against US, Utah, Carter Williams, September 21, 2021, 8:12 PM

A federal judge last week tossed out most of a water rights lawsuit filed by the Ute Indian Tribe against the U.S. Department of Interior, the state of Utah and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. The lawsuit, first filed over three years ago, claimed that federal and state agencies discriminated against tribal land water rights among other violations; however, Washington, D.C. District Court Judge Carl J. Nichols on Sept. 15 tossed out 12 of the 16 lawsuit claims in the federal court and sent the four remaining claims to the U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Marijuana Moment: U.S. House Approves Marijuana Banking Reform As Part Of Defense Spending Bill, Kyle Jaeger, September 21, 2021, 8:00 PM

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved an amendment to protect banks that service state-legal marijuana businesses from being penalized by federal regulators. It passed on a voice vote, and no member requested a roll call. The measure is now attached to large-scale defense spending legislation. This action comes hours after the House Rules Committee made in order the amendment from Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) for floor consideration. It was one of numerous drug policy proposals that lawmakers had hoped to attach to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

WTAE-ABC (Pittsburgh, PA): Attorney General, district attorneys at odds over \$1 billion opioid settlement, Paul Van Osdol, September 21, 2021, 6:38 PM

Pennsylvania is slated to receive about \$1 billion from a settlement with drug distributors over the opioid crisis. But there is a major dispute among the state's top prosecutors over whether to accept that money or go to court to seek more. District attorneys in Philadelphia and Allegheny County have filed suit to block the settlement reached by Attorney General Josh Shapiro and attorneys general from other states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. House Democrats advance abortion rights bill, Senate passage unlikely, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:14 PM

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives advanced a bill on Tuesday that would protect the right to abortion and annul some new restrictions passed by Republican-controlled state governments. If the "Women's Health Protection Act" passes the Democratic-controlled House, it is unlikely to succeed in the 100-member Senate, where Republicans also are a minority but hold enough votes to prevent it from reaching the 60-vote threshold to pass most legislation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Protesters press Congress for path to citizenship as Democrats' plan hits obstacle, Julia Ainsley, September 21, 2021, 7:21 PM

This was finally a moment of hope for Pavel Mena, an undocumented immigrant who has been living in the United States for six years. He saw Democratic leaders pushing to insert sweeping immigration provisions in their \$3.5 trillion budget package and believed the long-awaited promise of a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States would finally happen. [[Continue Reading](#)]

VOA: Lawmakers Urge Justice Department to Act Against Rising Hate Crimes in US, Rob Garver, September 22, 2021, 2:15 AM

Two members of the U.S. Congress instrumental in the passage of anti-hate crime legislation this year are pressing the Department of Justice to step up enforcement of the measure, warning that reinstatement of pandemic-related restrictions is likely to provoke more attacks particularly on Asian Americans. The new law seeks to accelerate the Justice Department's reviews of alleged hate crimes reported to federal authorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- A body discovered in Wyoming has been identified as Gabby Petito after the 22-year-old vanished while on a cross-country trip with her fiancé. The coroner has initially ruled the death a homicide. On the ground, and through the air, the FBI resumed its search for Brian Laundrie, the fiancé of Gabby Petito, in a Florida reserve where his family said he was going. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Homeland Security is now investigating incidents of Border Patrol agents on horseback seen intimidating Haitian migrants along the US-Mexico border as mass deportations continue. Roughly 8,000 men, women and children are in encampments under a bridge in Del Rio. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Johnson & Johnson say a second dose of their COVID vaccine is 94% effective against symptomatic COVID cases and are pushing for a booster. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden was on the defensive at the UN General Assembly. Following an Afghan

withdrawal that rattled many allies, he argued that it was time to move on fighting COVID and climate change amid a new transatlantic rift. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

- Terrorism investigations have “exploded,” over the last year nearly tripling to around 2,700 cases, the FBI director said Tuesday. [[CBS](#)]
- The nation’s most restrictive abortion law is forcing women to flee Texas in search of clinics to provide the procedure. In a rare access to a facility in Denver, nearly half the patients are Texans. [[CBS](#)]
- In an exclusive interview at the UN General Assembly, Moon stressed the importance of reactivating North-Korea-US talks as well as the inter-Korean talks. [[ABC](#)]
- Daniel Robinson was last seen leaving a Buckeye job site nearly three months ago. His car and some of his belongings were found a month after he disappeared. Then, a human skull was found near the site at the end of July. After detectives ran tests and found the skull was not Robinson’s, hope remained that he might still be found. [[ABC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- “Pressure Grows on U.S. Companies to Share Covid Vaccine Technology” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [LAT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Amid furor over border images, Biden faces backlash from Democrats” [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#)]
- “Fed Meeting Will Focus on Taper Timetable” [[WSJ](#)]

END

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**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
September 22, 2021
7:00 PM EDT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.
US Department of Justice News
2.
National Security
3.
Criminal Law
4.
Civil Rights
5.
Civil Law
6.
Immigration & Border Security
7.
Antitrust
8.
Environment

9. Tax
10. Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
11. Criminal Justice/Corrections
12. US Supreme Court
13. Judicial Nominees & Appointments
14. Native American Affairs
15. Marijuana Legalization
16. Opioid Crisis
17. Congress
18. Network Evening News Lineup
19. Morning Headlines

WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

DOJ

- No scheduled events.

CONGRESS

- 9:00 AM: House Committee on Homeland Security Virtual hearing on 'Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: 20 Years After 9/11', with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas; FBI Director Christopher Wray; and National Counterterrorism Center Director Christine Abizaid.

- 10:00 AM: Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on The Constitution hearing on 'Restoring the Voting Rights Act: Combating Discriminatory Abuses'. Held in Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, United States.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: US sues to stop deal between American Airlines and JetBlue, David Koenig, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Justice Department and officials in six states have filed a lawsuit to block a partnership formed by American Airlines and JetBlue, claiming that it will reduce competition and lead to higher fares. The Justice Department said Tuesday that the agreement will eliminate important competition in New York and Boston and reduce JetBlue's incentive to compete against American in other parts of the country. Attorney General Merrick Garland said the lawsuit was about ensuring fair competition that lets Americans fly at affordable prices. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [Axios](#), [CNBC](#), [CNN](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [Washington Times](#), [WSJ](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

Reuters: Pharma companies defend dismissal of terror case at D.C. Circuit hearing, Jonathan Edwards, September 21, 2021, 6:18 PM

Major pharmaceutical companies urged a Washington, D.C., federal appeals court on Tuesday to uphold the dismissal of claims that their medical-goods contracts with Iraq's health ministry helped finance terror activity in the country that injured or killed American service members between 2005 and 2011. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard oral arguments for nearly two hours over whether the drug companies, represented at the hearing by Kannon Shanmugam of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, can be held liable under the federal Anti-Terrorism Act for certain deliveries of drugs and medical equipment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Wray: Afghanistan Unrest Could Inspire Extremism Inside US, Eric Tucker, September 21, 2021, 5:10 PM

The possibility of a 9/11-type attack has diminished over the last 20 years, but the Taliban victory in Afghanistan could embolden U.S.-based extremists at the same time that the FBI is confronting increasing threats from individuals motivated by racial and political grievances, top national security officials warned Tuesday. Christine Abizaid, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, testified before the Senate Homeland Security Committee that the terrorism threat to the country is less "acute" than it was two decades ago, and that the danger posed in Afghanistan by groups like al-Qaida and the Islamic State is at the moment primarily a regional threat. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [CBS](#), [CBS-1](#), [The Hill](#), [LAT](#), [Newsweek](#), [Reuters](#), [VOA](#)

Reuters: Judge sets May for possible trial of 'Proud Boys' facing Jan 6 riot charges, Mark Hosenball, September 21, 2021, 1:43 PM

A federal judge on Tuesday set May 18 as a tentative date for the start of a trial of four men allegedly affiliated with the "Proud Boys" movement on charges stemming from their participation in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot. U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly said that a May trial slot was the first available for a large courtroom at the Washington D.C. federal courthouse often used on ceremonial occasions. In conversations with defense lawyers, the judge discussed the possibility of a trial running four to six weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#)

WaPo: FBI held back ransomware decryption key from businesses to run operation targeting hackers, Ellen Nakashima and Rachel Lerman, September 21, 2021, 2:58 PM

The FBI refrained for almost three weeks from helping to unlock the computers of hundreds of businesses and institutions hobbled by a major ransomware attack this summer, even though the bureau had secretly obtained the digital key needed to do so, according to several current and former U.S. officials. The key was obtained through access to the servers of the Russia-based criminal gang behind the July attack. Deploying it immediately could have helped the victims, including schools and hospitals, avoid what analysts estimate was millions of dollars in recovery costs. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [The Hill-2](#)

WSJ: Zoom's Nearly \$15 Billion Deal for Five9 Under U.S. Government Review Over China Ties, Kate O'Keefe, Aaron Tilley and Dawn Lim, September 21, 2021, 2:02 PM

The department said the interagency committee known as Team Telecom needed to review a license application that arose from the San Jose, Calif.-based company's nearly \$15 billion deal to buy Five9 Inc. to see if it "poses a risk to the national security or law enforcement interests" of the U.S., according to a letter posted on the Federal Communications Commission website. The department said there could be a risk from "the foreign relationships and ownership" associated with the application. In the letter, dated last month, the Justice Department requested the FCC defer action on the application until Team Telecom finishes its review, putting Zoom's deal for Five9 on hold. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [Law360](#)

WaPo: Huge hack reveals embarrassing details of who's behind Proud Boys and other far-right websites, Drew Harwell, Craig Timberg and Hannah Allam, September 21, 2021, 1:58 PM

Epik long has been the favorite Internet company of the far-right, providing domain services to QAnon theorists, Proud Boys and other instigators of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol allowing them to broadcast hateful messages from behind a veil of anonymity. But that veil abruptly vanished last week when a huge breach by the hacker group Anonymous dumped into public view more than 150 gigabytes of previously private data including user names, passwords and other identifying information of Epik's customers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: \$5.9M ransomware attack on major agriculture group poses risk to US grain, pork, chicken supply, Lucas Manfredi, September 21, 2021, 3:00 PM

The U.S. grain, pork and chicken supply could be at risk after a ransomware attack on New Cooperative Inc. has forced the Iowa-based agriculture services provider's systems to go offline. "Out of an abundance of caution, we have proactively taken our systems offline to contain the threat, and we can confirm it has been successfully contained," a New Cooperative spokesperson told the Wall Street Journal. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NBC: The battle between the U.S. and ransomware hackers is escalating, Kevin Collier, September 21, 2021, 2:53 PM

The White House is taking additional steps to encourage ransomware victims to alert the federal government, just as the hackers behind those attacks are threatening victims from doing so. The moves mark an escalation between the Biden administration, which has vowed to crack down on criminal hackers who try to extort Americans, and ransomware gangs, which have proven resilient to efforts to stop them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg: **[OPINION] The Mercenary Threat of U.S. Hackers-for-Hire**, Bobby Ghosh, September 22, 2021, 12:30 AM

In the summer of 2012, an Iranian computer virus named Shamoon wiped data from tens of thousands of computers at two of the Middle East's most important energy companies, Saudi Aramco and Qatar's Ras Gas. Shamoon was no Stuxnet: Unlike the Israeli digital weapon that destroyed nuclear centrifuges in the Islamic Republic, the virus that attacked the energy companies did little damage to their operations. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

BuzzFeed: **Prosecutors Lost A Fight To Keep A Set Of Jan. 6 Capitol Surveillance Videos Under Seal**, Zoe Tillman, September 21, 2021, 9:37 PM

Federal prosecutors on Tuesday released a new collection of Capitol surveillance videos from Jan. 6 after a judge ordered them to do so, rejecting the government's argument that making the clips public could threaten the security of the complex. The disclosure marks a setback for the US Capitol Police and the US attorney's office in their efforts to control how much footage from the Capitol's closed circuit video (CCV) system gets out. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: **Former Air Force contractor sentenced for taking thousands of pages of classified information**, Lexi Lonas, September 21, 2021, 1:05 PM

A former Air Force contractor was sentenced to prison for taking thousands of pages of classified information from an Air Force Base, the Justice Department announced Tuesday. Izaak Vincent Kemp was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for taking more than 2,500 classified documents to his home in Fairborn, Ohio. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Newsweek: **Alleged Capitol Rioter Caught on Snapchat Maps After Tipster Sent Screenshots to FBI**, Alexandra Hutzler, September 21, 2021, 12:42 PM

A Maryland man is facing several charges related to his alleged participation in the U.S. Capitol riot after being caught in part due to the maps feature on Snapchat. Matthew Buckler has been charged with knowingly entering or remaining on restricted grounds as well as disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building, according to new court documents. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Wichita Eagle (Wichita, KS): **Wichita man charged with assaulting Capitol Police officer in Jan. 6 DC riot**, Dion Lefler, September 21, 2021, 3:38 PM

A Wichita man has been arrested by federal authorities on charges that he assaulted Capitol Police officers and committed other crimes during the Jan. 6 riot in Washington. Michael Eckerman, 37, is charged with multiple counts that include assaulting, resisting or impeding officers, obstruction of an official proceeding and disorderly conduct in the Capitol building. The most serious count alleges he helped break a police line by pushing an officer down stairs. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Hays Post \(Hays, KS\)](#), [KAKE-ABC \(Wichita, KS\)](#), [KWCH-CBS \(Wichita, KS\)](#), [Newsweek](#)

KRIV-Fox (Houston, TX): **Former Houston officer pleads guilty to involvement in U.S. Capitol riot**, Eli Higgins, September 21, 2021, 3:10 PM

A former Houston police officer has pleaded guilty to his involvement in the U.S. Capitol riot on January 6. Tam Pham pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. According to documents from the U.S. Department of Justice, Pham was offered a plea agreement. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTRK-ABC \(Houston, TX\)](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: Ex-Kankakee official sent to prison for \$2 million theft, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

A man who stole \$2 million from Kankakee and a regional wastewater agency was sentenced to nine months in federal prison and two years of home confinement. Richard Simms, 74, acknowledged diverting money through a fraudulent software invoicing scheme. “He stands before the court deeply remorseful for his actions and for the great pain he caused,” defense lawyer Alan Brunell said. Simms served as director of the Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency and superintendent of Kankakee’s Environmental Services Utility. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: The Elizabeth Holmes Trial: Jurors Hear First Patient Testimony About Theranos Blood Tests, Sara Randazzo, September 21, 2021, 7:22 PM

An Arizona medical assistant testified Tuesday at the criminal trial of Elizabeth Holmes that she received two Theranos Inc. blood tests indicating she was miscarrying when she was in fact pregnant results that her medical provider testified were unlike any she has ever seen in eight years of practice in women’s health. After the erratic results that patient Brittany Gould received on the key pregnancy marker in October 2014, nurse practitioner Audra Zachman testified, “I felt very uncertain of the validity of the results and felt uncomfortable as a provider” sending more patients to Theranos. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsday: MS-13 gang member pleads guilty to 2016 murder of rival gang associate, prosecutors say, Robert Brodsky, September 21, 2021, 6:33 PM

A member of the violent street gang MS-13 pleaded guilty Tuesday to racketeering charges related to his role in the 2016 murder of a teenager who was beaten, bound, stabbed and slashed to death with a machete, federal prosecutors announced. Nelson Argueta-Quintanilla, 24, of Brentwood, also pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Central Islip to the attempted murder of suspected rival gang members and conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Augusta Press: Augusta Probation Officer Admits Not Performing Drug Tests or Home Visits, Greg Rickabaugh, September 21, 2021, 9:00 PM

A former U.S. Probation Officer for the Southern District of Georgia admitted he lied about performing his supervisory duties, authorities said. Enoch Eller Jr., 47, of Augusta, has pleaded guilty to one count of false statements and faces up to five years in prison when he is sentenced, according to David H. Estes, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. In addition to prison time, Eller faces substantial financial penalties and a period of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WRDW-CBS \(Augusta, GA\)](#)

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY): Oswego man admits to trading images and video of children being sexually abused, feds say, James McClendon, September 21, 2021, 8:59 PM

An Oswego man pleaded guilty Tuesday to possessing and distributing child pornography, federal prosecutors said. Richard Alvarado, 27, admitted to actively trading child pornography images and videos using a social media messaging application on his phone, according to a news release issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WV News (Charleston, WV): Fayette County (West Virginia) man pleads guilty to sex offense against minor, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

A Fayette County man pleaded guilty Tuesday to attempted enticement of a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. Christopher Lee Foster, 36, of Oak Hill, was charged via indictment in June 2021, according to a press release from acting West Virginia Southern District U.S. Attorney Lisa G. Johnston. [[Continue Reading](#)]

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: St. Louis postal union official gets 18 months for embezzlement, Robert Patrick, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

The former treasurer of a Postal Service union in St. Louis was sentenced Tuesday to 18 months in federal prison for embezzling over \$184,000 from the union, prosecutors said. Yvette Luster pleaded guilty in June to a felony charge of embezzlement and admitted stealing the money from Postal Mail Handlers Local 314 from January 2016 to April 2020. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Baltimore Sun: Former Baltimore Safe Streets worker sentenced for role in federal drug case, Justin Fenton, September 21, 2021, 5:27 PM

A former Baltimore Safe Streets anti-violence worker who returned to dealing drugs and tried to use his job as cover is headed back to federal prison for another 11 years. Ronald L. Alexander, 51, was hired by Safe Streets after having served 17 years in federal prison, from 2000 to 2017. The program involves hiring credible messengers from the community to mediate conflict and prevent violence, and it has been targeted for expansion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL): Ex-Birmingham Chick-fil-A workers stole thousands from customers to fund lavish lifestyles, Carol Robinson, September 21, 2021, 4:40 PM

The former director for hospitality at the Chick-fil-A on Birmingham's Southside has pleaded to federal charges after he pocketed thousands of dollars from customers. Larry James Black Jr., 37, of Center Point, issued his guilty plea Tuesday before U.S. District Judge Madeline H. Haikala, according to a joint announcement by Northern District of Alabama U.S. Attorney Prim Escalona and U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Patrick M. Davis. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [WBRC-Fox \(Birmingham, AL\)](#)

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY): NY state employee stole \$314K intended for workers left unemployed by pandemic, Mark Weiner, September 21, 2021, 4:33 PM

A former employee of the New York Department of Labor admitted in court Tuesday to stealing more than \$314,000 by using her access to state computers to approve false unemployment claims. Tramaine Pope, 33, of the Bronx, pled guilty in U.S. District Court in Albany to submitting and approving 20 false unemployment applications from August to November 2020. The stolen money was intended to help unemployed New Yorkers during the Covid-19 pandemic. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [Times Union \(Albany, NY\)](#), [WETM-NBC \(Elmira, NY\)](#), [WRGB-CBS \(Schenectady, NY\)](#)

Las Cruces Sun-News (Las Cruces, NM): Columbian man pleads guilty to scamming 15k from Las Cruces man, Justin Garcia, September 21, 2021, 4:18 PM

A man from Columbia pleaded guilty on Monday to scamming a Las Cruces man out of \$15,000. Julian David Ceballos-Jimenez, 29, of Columbia pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit fraud, a third-degree felony. The charge carried a maximum penalty of three years in prison, two years of parole and a \$5,000 fine. However, Third Judicial District Court Judge Richard Jacquez accepted a plea agreement that eliminated Ceballos-Jimenez's prison sentence. Instead, Ceballos-Jimenez was required to repay the victim \$15,000 and will be removed from the country. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Telegram & Gazette (Worcester, MA): Fitchburg man pleads guilty to part in drug ring, Anoushka Dalmia, September 21, 2021, 1:29 PM

Six out of 18 people charged last year in connection to a Fitchburg drug trafficking ring have now pleaded guilty to distribution charges. Pablo Vidarte Hernandez, 48, charged in July 2020, admitted his involvement in Worcester federal court Monday. The Fitchburg man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute. The investigation into a drug trafficking organization began after a fatal fentanyl overdose in September 2018, according to court documents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHAV-FM (Haverhill, MA): Federal Judge Sentences Former Methuen Man to 15 Years in Prison for Fentanyl Dealing, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:30 AM

A former Methuen man was sentenced Tuesday to more than 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to fentanyl trafficking. Thirty-three-year-old Joel Cortorreal, also known as Angel Javier Morell-Oneill, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin to 15.5 years in prison and five years of supervised release for fentanyl trafficking. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KBMT-ABC/NBC (Beaumont, TX): Beaumont man faces up to life in prison for string of robberies across Southeast Texas, Kierra Sam, September 21, 2021, 10:26 PM

A Beaumont man faces up to life in prison for his role in a string of armed robberies across Southeast Texas, according to a Tuesday announcement from Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. Prosecutors said during a two week span, from January 11, 2021, through January 21, 2021, Moses Ray Rhine, Jr., 21, of Beaumont, and others conspired to commit armed robberies of at least five local convenience stores. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KFDM-CBS \(Beaumont, TX\)](#)

KTVB-NBC (Boise, ID): Pocatello man sentenced to 25 years for making child porn, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 10:12 PM

A 21-year-old Pocatello man was sentenced to serve 25 years in federal prison, acting U.S. Attorney Rafael M. Gonzalez, Jr. announced on Tuesday. Gonzalez said in a news release that Andrew John Jemmett was also sentenced by Senior U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill to supervised release for the rest of his life after his prison sentence is over. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KMIZ-ABC (Columbia, MO): Federal jury convicts Columbia man of illegally possessing gun, Karl Wehmhoener, September 21, 2021, 8:07 PM

A federal jury convicted a Columbia felon of illegally possessing a firearm after 30 minutes of deliberation. Columbia police arrested Jeremiah Ezekiel Brown, 36, in Nov. 2020 after a traffic stop. An officer found a loaded Glock 9 mm semi-automatic handgun in Brown's waistband during the traffic stop. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WISH-CW (Indianapolis, IN): **9 indicted in Indianapolis drug trafficking investigation**, Kyle Bloyd, September 21, 2021, 7:55 PM

Nine people have been indicted by a grand jury in a drug trafficking ring, according to the United States Department of Justice. Federal investigators say people in California and Mexico were sending drugs, including methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl, to a person in Indianapolis. After the person received the drugs, that person, as well as others, would then sell them in the Indianapolis area and send the money back to California. In all, more than \$780,000 was exchanged. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTHR-NBC \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#), [WXIN-Fox \(Indianapolis, IN\)](#)

KTBS-ABC (Shreveport, LA): **2 get federal prison sentences for gun, drugs crimes**, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

Two local men involved in separate drug and firearms crimes have been sentenced to federal prison. U.S. District Judge Donald E. Walter sentenced Dale Wayne Green Jr., 39, to 3 years and 3 months for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. He'll be on supervised release for three years when he gets out of prison. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WAGM-CBS (Presque Isle, ME): **Presque Isle man sentenced on federal drug charges**, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 6:31 PM

A Presque Isle man was sentenced today in federal court in two separate cases for conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Donald E. Clark announced. U.S. District Judge Lance E. Walker sentenced Tyler Neece, 29, to 165 months in prison and a total of five years of supervised release. Neece pleaded guilty in February 2021. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WYOU-CBS (Scranton, PA): **Police: Man charged with illegal firearms possession in Dallas**, Kelsey Rogers, September 21, 2021, 5:46 PM

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania has charged a man who was in the United States illegally with possession of firearms and ammunition. According to the Acting United States Attorney Bruce D. Brandler, 33-year-old David DaSilva of Dallas was indicted on September 14 for possessing two .22 caliber rifles and several rounds of ammunition. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSAV-NBC/CW (Savannah, GA): **Savannah man faces 7½ years for dealing marijuana, cocaine**, Joseph Leonard, September 21, 2021, 5:09 PM

A Savannah man faces 7½ years in federal prison for selling drugs, according to a federal court in the Southern District of Georgia. Okemi Lawton, 45, was sentenced to 90 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana, says Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, David H. Estes. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJZ-CBS (Baltimore, MD): **25-Year-Old Pennsylvania Man Sentenced To Six Years In Federal Prison For Selling Methamphetamine In Cecil County**, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 5:02 PM

A Pennsylvania man was sentenced to six years in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release for possession with intent to distribute approximately 211 grams of methamphetamine in Cecil County. According to his plea, during the fall of 2019 officials learned

Nakir Ali Kiett, who was known as “Omar,” was selling methamphetamine in Cecil County. In Aug. of 2019, an informant introduced an officer to Kiett. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTAJ-CBS (Altoona, PA): Curwensville man pleads guilty to federal ammunition charges, Kelsey Rogers, September 21, 2021, 5:01 PM

A Curwensville man pleaded guilty on Tuesday to violating federal ammunition laws, according to Acting United States Attorney Stephen R. Kaufman. Chancellor M. Shaw, 27, was convicted in the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield County in 2018 for fleeing/attempting to elude a police officer and flight to avoid apprehension. This prohibited Shaw from possessing ammunition, but he was found with it in September of 2019, according to the Department of Justice. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KZRG (Joplin, MO): Joplin man sentenced for meth, illegal firearms, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 5:00 PM

A man from Joplin was sentenced in federal court today for possessing methamphetamine to distribute and for illegally possessing firearms. Read the full press release below: Nathan Scott Thomas, 42, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge M. Douglas Harpool to 11 years in federal prison without parole. On May 3, 2021, Thomas pleaded guilty to one count of possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute and one count of possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Daily Voice (Poundridge, NY): Westchester Man Sentenced For Fatal Shooting Of Teenage Basketball Star, Zak Failla, September 21, 2021, 4:45 PM

A purported street gang member in Westchester will spend decades behind bars for his role in the fatal shooting of a promising teen basketball player who was struck by an errant bullet meant for a rival. David Hardy, age 26, of Mount Vernon, was sentenced to 31 years in prison on Tuesday, Sept. 21 for the shooting death of 13-year-old Shamoya McKenzie on New Year's Eve in 2016 in Westchester. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Patch \(Mount Vernon, NY\)](#), [WCBS-CBS \(New York, NY\)](#)

KPAX-CBS/CW (Missoula, MT): Missoula man sentenced to 15 years for meth trafficking, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:41 PM

A Missoula man who admitted dealing large quantities of methamphetamine in the community has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release, Acting U.S. Attorney Leif M. Johnson said. Terry David Starrett, 54, pleaded guilty on May 11 to possession with intent to distribute as charged in a superseding information. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (New Haven, CT): New Haven Man, 27, Pleads Guilty In Robbery 'Cold Case:' Feds, Ellyn Santiago, September 21, 2021, 2:05 PM

After a cold case investigation by police and the ATF, a 27-year-old man to pleaded guilty to a federal charge related to his role in the 2015 robbery of a New Haven chicken wing spot where an employee was shot, prosecutors announced. Tythron Ford of New Haven faces a maximum of 20 years in prison on a charge of attempted interference with commerce by robbery, according to the office of the Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WBBM-CBS (Chicago, IL): Jamar Jarvis Convicted In 2018 Carjacking Of Off-Duty CPD Officer In Edgewater, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 1:32 PM

A 21-year-old man from Chicago faces up to life in prison, after a federal jury last week convicted

him of carjacking an off-duty police officer in the Edgewater neighborhood. Jamar Jarvis was found guilty of carjacking and brandishing a firearm in connection with a carjacking on Friday. The carjacking charge carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison, and the weapon charge carries a sentence of 7 years to life in prison. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WFLD-Fox \(Chicago, IL\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: University to pay \$1.6M to students assaulted by employee, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 8:28 PM

San Jose State University has agreed to pay \$1.6 million to 13 female student-athletes whose complaints about being sexually assaulted by an athletic trainer were mishandled by the university, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. The payment is part of a settlement between the university, the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, which conducted a Title IX investigation that found the university failed to adequately respond to reports of sexual harassment and assault that started in 2009, exposing additional student-athletes to harm for over a decade. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KGO-ABC \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [KRON \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [KPIX-CBS \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [LAT](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#), [The Mercury News \(San José, CA\)](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [SF Gate](#), [San Jose Inside](#), [USA Today](#)

The Hill: Biden launches investigation into Texas school mask mandate ban, Celine Castronuovo, September 21, 2021, 8:39 PM

The Biden administration has launched a civil rights investigation into Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's (R) executive order prohibiting school mask mandates, the latest in a series of probes by the Department of Education into whether the statewide bans violate the rights of students with disabilities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CNN](#), [Texas Tribune](#)

Courthouse News: Arkansas asks full Eighth Circuit to reinstate pro-Israel law, Joe Harris, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

A lawyer for Arkansas urged the en banc Eighth Circuit on Tuesday to revive a state law requiring businesses that contract with the state to pledge not to boycott Israel. A three-judge panel of the St. Louis-based appeals court found the law unconstitutional last February in a 2-1 decision. The Arkansas Times challenged the 2017 law, which it claims forces businesses to take a political stance in violation of the First and 14th Amendments. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Pasadena Star News: Settlement assures Monrovia will ensure equal access to transportation services, Carol Robinson, September 21, 2021, 8:28 PM

The city of Monrovia has entered into a settlement agreement with the federal government to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to its transportation services program, the U.S. Department of Justice announced on Tuesday, Sept. 21. In February 2018, Monrovia launched the GoMonrovia program to restructure its dial-a-ride service, which previously provided rides only to seniors and to individuals with disabilities. GoMonrovia provides reduced-fare Lyft rides available to people traveling within the program's service area. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WTVA-ABC/ABC (Tupelo, MS): Former Booneville police officer expected to plead guilty to civil rights violations, Zac Carlisle, September 21, 2021, 2:43 PM

A former Booneville police officer is expected to plead guilty in federal court to civil rights violations, according to the court docket. The former officer Dustin Rambo is scheduled to

appear in federal court in Greenville on Wednesday, Sept. 22. According to an FBI affidavit, Rambo allegedly forced a woman to perform sexual acts in 2020 while he was on duty. He's not pleading guilty to this alleged crime on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Down syndrome issue at center of Missouri abortion law case, Jim Salter, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

A federal appeals court is deciding the fate of a Missouri law that puts sweeping restrictions on abortions, and a focal point of oral arguments on Tuesday was a provision prohibiting abortions based solely on a Down syndrome diagnosis. The law adopted in 2019 would ban abortions at the eighth week of pregnancy. The full 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis isn't expected to rule for several weeks. In June, a three-judge 8th Circuit panel upheld an injunction from U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs prohibiting Missouri from enforcing the law's provisions, but the full court decided to hear the case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: Trump Campaign Knew Lawyers' Voting Machine Claims Were Baseless, Memo Shows, Alan Feuer, September 21, 2021, 8:00 PM

Two weeks after the 2020 election, a team of lawyers closely allied with Donald J. Trump held a widely watched news conference at the Republican Party's headquarters in Washington. At the event, they laid out a bizarre conspiracy theory claiming that a voting machine company had worked with an election software firm, the financier George Soros and Venezuela to steal the presidential contest from Mr. Trump. [...] The release of the documents was only the latest legal trouble for Mr. Giuliani and Ms. Powell, both of whom have been sued directly by Dominion for defamation. Dominion has also brought a defamation suit against Mike Lindell, the chief executive of MyPillow, for amplifying false election claims. Last month, a federal judge in Washington ruled that the cases could continue moving toward trial. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

NYT: Lawsuits Filed Against Texas Doctor Could Be Best Tests of Abortion Law, Ruth Graham, Adam Liptak and J. David Goodman, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

When the United States' most restrictive abortion law went into effect in Texas on Sept. 1, it worked exactly as intended: It effectively stopped all abortions in the second-most populous state. But its very ingenuity that ordinary citizens, and not state officials, enforce it has begun to unleash lawsuits that are out of the control of the anti-abortion movement that fought for the law. On Monday, a man in Arkansas and another in Illinois, both disbarred lawyers with no apparent association with anti-abortion activists, filed separate suits against a San Antonio doctor who publicly wrote about performing an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [ABC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#)

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): U.S. Justice Department announces settlement with ECU, UNC-CH surrounding grant money allegations, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:18 PM
The U.S. Justice Department has announced a settlement with East Carolina University and UNC-Chapel Hill surrounding false claims involving grant money. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina said that ECU, UNC-Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service have agreed to pay a total of \$842,500 to the U.S. for alleged false claims surrounding AmeriCorps grant funds. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WFMY-CBS \(Greensboro, NC\)](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Officials: Many Haitian migrants are being released in US, Juan A. Lozano, Elliot Spagat and Maria Verza, September 22, 2021, 5:30 AM

Many Haitian migrants camped in a small Texas border town are being released in the United States, two U.S. officials said, undercutting the Biden administration's public statements that the thousands in the camp faced immediate expulsion. Haitians have been freed on a "very, very large scale" in recent days, according to one U.S. official who put the figure in the thousands. The official, with direct knowledge of operations who was not authorized to discuss the matter Tuesday and thus spoke on condition of anonymity. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Immigrant rights activist targeted for deportation can stay, Gene Johnson, September 21, 2021, 5:00 PM

A Northwest immigrant rights activist who had been facing deportation said Tuesday she can now remain in the U.S., after the Department of Homeland Security agreed to drop her case. Maru Mora Villalpando, a Mexico City native, has been in the U.S. since overstaying a visa in 1996. An immigration judge last week approved the decision to drop deportation proceedings against her and granted her legal permanent resident status, amid the Biden administration's re-evaluation of immigration enforcement priorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Migrants on school buses? Texas town feels caught in the middle, Alexandra Ulmer, September 21, 2021, 4:23 PM

Many residents of the Texan border town of Del Rio have been saying for months that they feel abandoned by the federal government as border arrests hit 20-year highs. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Options shrink for Haitian migrants straddling Texas border, Juan A. Lozano, Eric Gay, Elliot Spagat and Maria Verza, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

Options narrowed Tuesday for thousands of Haitian migrants straddling the Mexico-Texas border as the United States government ramped up expulsion flights to Haiti, and Mexico began flying and busing some away from the border. Dozens of migrants upset about being deported to Haiti tried to rush back into a plane that landed Tuesday afternoon in Port-au-Prince as they yelled at authorities. A security guard closed the plane door in time as some deportees began throwing rocks and shoes at the plane. Several of them lost their belongings in the scuffle as police arrived. The group was disembarking from one of three flights scheduled for the day. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Amid furor over border images, Biden faces Democratic backlash on immigration, Sean Sullivan and Nick Miroff, September 21, 2021, 10:55 PM

White House officials on Tuesday struggled to explain searing images of border agents treating Haitian migrants harshly, facing a growing backlash from angry Democrats who sought to pressure President Biden to ease his immigration policies. Even as Biden confronts attacks from Republicans portraying his policies as weak and ineffective, many immigrant-rights activists have increasingly concluded that Biden has failed to live up to his campaign vows to defend vulnerable foreigners seeking a better life in the United States. Their fury marks a new inflection point in Biden's ongoing struggles with immigration. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [CNN-1](#), [Detroit News](#), [Forbes](#), [The Hill](#), [NBC](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [VOA](#), [USA Today](#), [USA Today-1](#),

[WXYZ-ABC \(Detroit, MI\)](#)

NPR, Up First: [AUDIO] Pandemic Future, Migrants at the Border, Investigating Hurricane Ida Power Outages, September 22, 2021, 6:29 AM

Will the winter season prompt another COVID surge? (1:59). And how are U.S. border agents managing the thousands of migrants camping under a border bridge? (6:12). Plus, an investigation into Hurricane Ida's power collapse (9:28). [[Listen](#)]

NBC: Haitian deportees assaulted U.S. pilots, injured three ICE officers, Julia Ainsley, September 21, 2021, 7:27 PM

Haitians deported from the U.S. on Tuesday assaulted the pilots on board one of the flights when it arrived in Port-au-Prince and injured three U.S. immigration officers, according to a source familiar with internal reports of the incident. Unrest broke out shortly after a flight carrying single adult men arrived and released the men to Haitian authorities on the tarmac. Then, the source said, several of the men stormed another recently arrived flight carrying families. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Judge Finds Parts Of Fla. Anti-Sanctuary Law Unconstitutional, Nathan Hale, September 21, 2021, 10:59 PM

A Florida federal judge on Tuesday struck down key portions of a 2019 state law banning "sanctuary" immigration policies as unconstitutional, finding a South Florida city and immigration advocates proved discriminatory intent and violations of equal protection rights at a bench trial in January. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Law360: Gay Man Narrowly Wins Review Of Asylum Credibility, Lauren Berg, September 21, 2021, 9:05 PM

A split Fifth Circuit panel has revived a gay Cameroonian man's bid for protection in the U.S., agreeing that there are inconsistencies in his persecution account, but said the Board of Immigration Appeals needs to take another look at whether there are enough inconsistencies to again deny him asylum. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: ACLU Asks DC Circ. To Not Vacate Transit Ban Ruling, Jennifer Doherty, September 21, 2021, 8:20 PM

The American Civil Liberties Union urged the D.C. Circuit to maintain a lower court ruling that blocked a Trump-era asylum bar, saying that though the regulation is now moot, vacating the injunction would create "perverse incentives" for the government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NJ Spotlight: Release detainees now, senators tell ICE, Monsy Alvarado, September 22, 2021, 1:00 AM

U.S. Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker (both D-NJ) on Tuesday called for the release of federal immigration detainees housed in New Jersey who do not pose a threat to public safety and are not a priority for enforcement and removal. The senators sent a letter to Tae D. Johnson, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, nearly a month before Hudson County is due to stop housing ICE detainees at its jail. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Spectrum News: Detainee files complaint against ICE and Rensselaer County Jail, Spencer Conlin, September 21, 2021, 5:43 PM

Egregious living conditions and medical negligence are among the allegations made by a female

held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Rensselaer County Jail in Troy. “She sustained pretty significant ankle injuries,” said the inmate’s attorney, Sophia Genovese. “A month later, she is still not able to walk on her own.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WOAI- NBC (San Antonio, TX): Fake DEA badges seized before headed to Texas, Yami Virgin, September 21, 2021, 11:00 PM

We warned you about phone scams, crooks using the DEA’s name to con money out of people. Now, a new warning - thieves may be putting down the phone and knocking on your front door instead. Last month, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized eight fake DEA badges and one FBI badge at the Chicago International Mail Branch. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KTVT-CBS (Fort Worth, TX): Fugitive Sought For Sexual Assault Of A Child Arrested At Juarez Lincoln International Bridge, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:29 PM

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Laredo Port of Entry, detained a man who was wanted on an outstanding felony warrant for sexual assault of a child out of Dallas County Sheriff’s Office. “CBP Field Operations is always ready to assist our law enforcement partners in locating those wanted persons with outstanding warrants, especially those allegedly involved in heinous crimes of a sexual nature with children,” said Port Director Alberto Flores, Laredo Port of Entry. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KGNS-NBC/ABC \(Laredo, TX\)](#)

ANTITRUST

Reuters: Lupin agrees to pay \$150 mln to settle Glumetza antitrust claims, Blake Brittain, September 21, 2021, 3:12 PM

Indian generic drugmaker Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc has agreed to pay \$150 million to settle claims brought by a group of grocery stores, drug stores and other direct buyers of the diabetes drug Glumetza for its role in an alleged "pay-for-delay" scheme that supposedly raised the drug's price by nearly 800%, according to a filing in San Francisco federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Pharmacies Win Remand Of FDA's Compounded Drug Memo, Dave Simpson, September 21, 2021, 11:16 PM

A D.C. federal judge on Tuesday ordered the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to either perform an analysis of its memorandum that created new regulations to fully implement a decades-old rule governing pharmacy compounding, or certify that the memo won't greatly impact small businesses, like the pharmacies challenging the memo. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: [OPINION] Biden's crackdown on monopolies should include live event ticketing, Mark Perry, September 21, 2021, 9:00 PM

Throughout the pandemic, many of us missed the opportunity to see our favorite musicians, sports teams, theater productions, and stand-up comedians. Now that live events are finally coming back, Americans are being reminded of the difficulties and annoyances associated with getting tickets. The reality is that there are many things broken when it comes to live event ticketing, and it’s only going to get worse unless Washington lawmakers and regulators step in with a fix. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: Live Nation Monopoly Class Action Set For Arbitration, J. Edward Moreno, September 21, 2021, 6:02 PM

A California federal judge granted Live Nation Entertainment and Ticketmaster’s request to

arbitrate a class action accusing the ticket selling giants of monopolizing ticket sales, saying that the concertgoers' claims that they are rushed to complete web purchases aren't enough to get out of the agreement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Google Defeats Antitrust Lawsuit Over Switch From Flash to HTML5, Mike Leonard, September 21, 2021, 5:44 PM

Google parent Alphabet Inc. dodged antitrust claims Tuesday over its alleged scheme to manipulate the internet-wide transition from Flash video to HTML5, when a federal judge in Atlanta threw out the case, rebuking a defunct digital advertising platform for its vague, sprawling complaint. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Reuters: Tribes invoke treaties in lawsuit to halt Wisconsin wolf hunt, Sebastien Melo, September 21, 2021, 5:13 PM

Six tribes in northern Wisconsin sued the state in Madison federal court on Tuesday to stop a state-sanctioned November gray wolf hunt. The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and the other tribes claim the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' planned hunting season for the predator, whose endangered species protections were lifted in January, violates treaties signed with the U.S. government in the 19th century by nullifying their guaranteed share of natural resources. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [AP](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

Reuters: Judge tosses Greenpeace suit over Walmart recyclable labeling, Sebastien Malo, September 21, 2021, 1:58 PM

Retail giant Walmart Inc has been handed a win by a federal judge in San Francisco who tossed claims that the company labels some of its house-brand plastic products "recyclable" when that option is not available for most consumers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg Law](#)

Law360: Ga. Judge Allows Most Pollution Claims In Carpet Case, Brett Barrouquere, September 21, 2021, 8:43 PM

A Georgia federal judge will allow to move forward most nuisance and Clean Water Act claims against 3M and a series of other carpet and chemical manufacturers accused of improperly releasing chemicals known as PFAS. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Wash. Judge Rules Against Lummi Nation In Fishing Dispute, Andrew Westney, September 21, 2021, 7:34 PM

A Washington federal judge has ruled that certain waters in Puget Sound aren't part of the Lummi Nation's traditional fishing grounds, handing a win to three other tribes that opposed the Lummi tribe's bid to open a crab fishery in the disputed area. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: Biodiversity Group Sues Forest Service Alleging Threats to Bears, David McAfee, September 21, 2021, 7:02 PM

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies hit the U.S. Forest Service with a lawsuit in federal court in Montana Tuesday, challenging the decision to approve a 29,180-acre project that features 13 miles of permanent roads and allegedly threatens an imperiled population of bears. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: EPA Asked To Sanction N.M. Over Oil & Gas Permitting, Morgan Conley, September 21, 2021, 6:33 PM

WildEarth Guardians is asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to sanction New Mexico environmental regulators for allegedly allowing nearly two dozen oil and gas facilities to operate without federal air pollution permits designed to enforce the Clean Air Act. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Feds Didn't Tell Oil Cos. To Deceive Hawaiians, 9th Circ. Hears, Morgan Conley, September 21, 2021, 5:20 PM

Maui and Honolulu urged the Ninth Circuit to keep their suits seeking climate change-related infrastructure damages in state court, arguing virtually no federal courts have found credible a claim by fossil fuel companies that they produced oil at the behest of the federal government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Asbury Park Press (Ocean County, NJ): Farmingdale man admits to labeling 10 live, Hong Kong-bound iguanas as 'toys' for \$500, Ken Serrano, September 21, 2021, 3:12 PM

A Farmingdale man admitted in federal court Tuesday that he falsely labeled a package containing 10 live rhinoceros iguanas bound for Hong Kong as "toys," authorities said. Jason Ksepka, 44, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Zahid Quraishi in Trenton to one count of violating the Lacey Act by falsely labeling an international shipment of wildlife. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [Daily Voice \(Monmouth, NJ\)](#), [New Jersey Advance Media](#)

TAX

Reuters: Former wunderkind Massachusetts mayor gets six years in prison, Nate Raymond, September 21, 2021, 2:29 PM

A former Massachusetts mayor first elected at age 23 was sentenced on Tuesday to six years in prison after being convicted in May of defrauding investors in a smartphone app company and extorting money from local marijuana businesses. Former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia, now 29, said nothing as U.S. District Judge Douglas Woodlock in Boston ordered him to be incarcerated for engaging in "reprehensible corruption of a type that is incomprehensibly crude." [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [The Herald News \(Fall River, MA\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: Coroner IDs remains, says Gabby Petito was homicide victim, Curt Anderson, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

Gabby Petito was killed by another person, a coroner concluded while also confirming that the human remains found recently at a Wyoming national park were those of the 22-year-old woman who disappeared months after she set out on a cross-country road trip with her boyfriend, the FBI said Tuesday. Teton County Coroner Brent Blue determined Petito was a homicide victim, but did not disclose a cause of death pending final autopsy results, officials said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [Fox-2](#), [Guardian](#), [The Hill](#), [KDFW-Fox \(Dallas, TX\)](#), [KMGH-ABC \(Denver, CO\)](#), [KMTV-CBS \(Omaha, NE\)](#), [KSL-NBC \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [KWTU-CBS \(Oklahoma City, OK\)](#), [NBC](#), [Newsday](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Times](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WKOW-ABC \(Madison, WI\)](#), [WPTV-NBC \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WSJ](#), [WQOW-ABC/CW \(Eau Claire, WI\)](#), [WTTG-Fox \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [WTVL-ABC \(Tallahassee, FL\)](#),

[WXIA-NBC \(Atlanta, GA\)](#)

WSJ: [OPINION] Abolish the FBI, Holman W. Jenkins, Jr., September 21, 2021, 6:28 PM

In ignoring the latest John Durham indictment, most of the media and official Washington are ignoring the elephant between its written lines: the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Durham, the special counsel appointed to investigate the government's handling of the Russia collusion mess, levels a single criminal charge against Michael Sussmann, then a lawyer for the Democrat-linked firm Perkins Coie. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: FBI asks for the public's help in finding Gabby Petito's fiance as new tip emerges about his previous movements, Madeline Holcombe, September 22, 2021, 5:09 AM

The FBI is asking for the public's help in finding Gabby Petito's fiancé Brian Laundrie after a coroner made an initial determination that Petito died by homicide. Petito's remains were found Sunday in an undeveloped camping area in Bridger-Teton National Forest on the eastern edge of Grand Teton National Park, officials said. She was first reported missing by her family on September 11, after Laundrie returned home from the road trip without her on September 1. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Beast: The NRA Is Bankrupt but It Still Owns America's Gun Agency, Eleanor Clift, September 22, 2021, 5:05 AM

The gun group didn't act alone, but as part of an array of gun groups determined to fend off any real leadership at the ATF from "Waco Dave" or anyone else. The NRA declared bankruptcy; its longtime chief executive, Wayne LaPierre, has been disgraced, setting the gun-rights group back on its heels. Yet the NRA is still a powerful enough force in Washington politics to derail President Biden's effort to install a Senate-confirmed leader of the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives), once again reminding gun control advocates of how steep the climb is to achieve reasonable regulation of firearms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NY Post: FBI arrests man for planting bombs outside Michigan cellphone stores, Patrick Reilly, September 21, 2021, 6:28 PM

The FBI has arrested a man for allegedly planting bombs outside cellphone stores in Northern Michigan, the agency announced Tuesday. FBI Detroit Division Special Agent Timothy Waters announced that the arrest was made in connection to two incidents in which the man allegedly placed explosive devices outside of a Verizon store in Cheboygan and an AT&T store in Sault Ste. Marie on Sept. 16. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WJRT-ABC \(Flint, MI\)](#), [WLNS-CBS \(Lansing, MI\)](#)

KRQE-CBS/Fox (Albuquerque, NM): FBI investigates Albuquerque couple for bank robbery, Unattributed, September 22, 2021, 12:12 AM

Federal agents are investigating an Albuquerque couple for a bank robbery earlier this month. The FBI says last Tuesday, Christopher Moya and Sabrina Morgan held up the Bank of the West on Juan Tabo and Candelaria. The next day, employees at a Los Lunas Walmart recognized the duo from new reports and called Los Lunas Police, who arrested them. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WJBK-Fox (Detroit, MI): 'I need help,' Illinois mother of missing college student asks for FBI's help, Zara Barker, September 21, 2021, 11:43 PM

Twenty-five-year-old Jelani Day is a graduate student studying to get his master's in speech pathology at Illinois State University. He was last seen Aug. 24 and hasn't been heard from since.

Police found his car, a 2010 White Chrysler 300 with a blacktop, in a wooded area in Peru, Illinois, a few days later. “Nothing is more important to me than getting Jelani back,” Carmen Bolden Day, Jelani’s mother said. “I need help to find my son, it’s been 28 days.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFIE-NBC (Evansville, IN): ATF Agents conduct search warrant at Newburgh business, Monica Watkins, September 21, 2021, 11:11 PM

ATF agents say they executed a search warrant at the Mooney Building in Newburgh. Agents on scene wouldn’t release any more information about the warrant. They say no one has been arrested. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WEHT-ABC \(Evansville, IN\)](#)

KTVN-CBS (Reno, NV): Federal Agents Bust Illegal Marijuana Operation In Gardnerville, Justin Garcia, September 21, 2021, 8:31 PM

An illegal marijuana operation was shut down in Gardnerville on Monday. Officials say multiple agencies served two search warrants in the Bodie Flats area of Gardnerville on September 20. Both warrants were a result of a lengthy investigation of the illegal marijuana grow, involving numerous Chinese nationals believed to be associated with organized crime. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFMJ-NBC/CW (Youngstown, OH): U.S. Marshals offer \$5,000 reward for capture of Youngstown fugitive, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 8:30 PM

U.S. Marshals are offering a \$5,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the arrest of Andre McCoy Jr. (21). McCoy is currently wanted by the Mahoning County Sheriff’s Office for aggravated murder, felonious assault, aggravated burglary, robbery and tampering with evidence. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WOIO-CBS \(Cleveland, OH\)](#)

WWTV (Cadillac, MI): DEA Teaching Doctors How They Can Help Decrease Opioid Addiction, Kevin Hodge, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

In an effort to decrease opioid addiction, the DEA is teaching medical professionals what they can do to help. They stopped by Brimley for a presentation Tuesday morning to help doctors understand the role they can play in fighting addiction. It’s part of their Operation Engage Program, which looks to teach those in Michigan about how they can combat the opioid epidemic. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KWCH-CBS (Wichita, KS): \$10K reward offered in search for sexually violent offender who escaped from Larned State Hospital, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 6:29 PM

The U.S. Marshals are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the capture of a convicted sex offender who, on June 30, escaped from a state mental hospital in Larned. Investigators believe John Freeman Colt, 42, planned his escape for several months, obtaining a replica of a staff ID badge and dress clothes. The U.S. Marshals Service said Colt was able to convince a worker that he was a new doctor and needed help finding his way out of the hospital. Several hours passed before staff noticed Colt was missing. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KSHB-NBC \(Kansas City, MO\)](#)

WDAF-Fox (Kansas City, MO): ATF submits evidence to crime lab, asks for tips about church arson, Heidi Schmidt, September 21, 2021, 1:41 PM

Investigators looking into a weekend arson at a Kansas City, Missouri church need help finding the person responsible for setting it. Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said they are following up on some very strong leads as they investigate the arson at Harlem Baptist Church. Investigators say they are waiting on the results of several pieces of

evidence that were submitted to the Kansas City, Missouri, crime lab and the ATF Fire Lab.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

The Hill: **[OPINION] Biden needs to act on growing anti-death penalty sentiments**, Russ Feingold and Brett Tolman, September 21, 2021, 3:00 PM

The flattening of public discourse — political, social, moral and ethical — into a simplistic left-right binary is a disturbing trend that too few of us push back against. People are encouraged to live in their echo chambers through news outlets tailored to confirm their worldviews and social media feeds custom-designed to reinforce their biases. This polarized discourse has created a false narrative around the death penalty that relies on simplistic and overgeneralized notions of our country's partisan divide. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

CNN: **SCOTUS revises oral argument format ahead of blockbuster term**, Ariane de Vogue,, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

In advance of the new term set to begin in October, the Supreme Court announced Tuesday that it is revising its oral argument format, importing a system it employed when it held arguments over the phone after the courthouse doors were shut because of Covid. While the Court will maintain the traditional practice of allowing justices to engage in questioning in no particular order — the traditional free for all — there will now be an opportunity, once an attorney's time has expired, for the justices to ask specific questions in order of seniority. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [SCOTUSblog](#)

Law360: **Muslims Tell Justices State Secrets Can't Nix FBI Spying Suit**, Daniel Wilson, September 21, 2021, 8:51 PM

A group of Muslims alleging they were unlawfully surveilled based on their religious identity urged the U. S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to rule that the FBI is wrongly trying to use the state secrets privilege to avoid facing their case. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: **Biden administration urges Supreme Court to uphold New York's handgun restriction**, John Kruzal, September 21, 2021, 5:15 PM

The Biden administration on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to uphold a New York handgun restriction in an upcoming and potentially landmark Second Amendment court clash. The Department of Justice, in a brief filed on behalf of the administration, argued that the justices should defer to the longstanding legislative practice of placing limits on firearms to protect public safety. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: **Biden Administration Urges Supreme Court to Uphold Roe v. Wade**, Kimberly Strawbridge Robinson, September 21, 2021, 5:20 PM

The federal government urged the Supreme Court to reaffirm the right to an abortion and strike down Mississippi's ban on abortions after 15 weeks. If "States are permitted to ban pre-viability abortion, the effects are likely to be felt most acutely by young women, women of color, and those of lesser means, further diminishing their opportunities to participate fully and equally in the Nation's social and economic life," the government said in its brief filed Monday. [\[Continue](#)

[Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: **Dakota Access Wants Supreme Court to Settle Pipeline Dispute**, Maya Earls, September 21, 2021, 4:23 PM

Dakota Access pipeline attorneys asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review a lower court's decision that the project needs additional environmental review, saying that the pipeline faces a significant risk of being shut down. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

JUDICIAL NOMINEES & APPOINTMENTS

AP: **Biden nominee confirmed as federal judge for New Mexico**, Morgan Lee, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

Las Cruces-based defense and civil rights attorney Margaret Strickland was confirmed Tuesday by the U.S. Senate to serve as a federal judge in New Mexico, where two prior nominees from former President Donald Trump were sidelined in the runup to the 2020 election. Strickland was among President Joe Biden's first slate of nominees to the federal bench announced in March. She was confirmed Tuesday by a 52-45 vote of the Senate, including supportive votes by U.S. Sens. Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Law360](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: **Oklahoma court lifts stays in 2 McGirt-related decisions**, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 3:17 PM

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday lifted stays in two cases it overturned based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on tribal lands by non-American Indians against Native Americans. The court lifted stays of its previous reversals of the murder conviction of Shawn McDaniel and the child neglect conviction of Victor Castro-Huerta. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CBS: **An Indigenous woman went missing in November. The FBI is now offering \$10,000 for information about her disappearance**, Li Cohen, September 21, 2021, 5:09 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of anyone who might be responsible for the disappearance of an Indigenous woman in Washington state. Mary Johnson, who also goes by the last name Davis, was last seen traveling to a friend's house last year. The FBI said in its missing person flyer that Johnson, 40, was last seen walking along Firetrail Road on the Tulalip Reservation on November 25, 2020. She never made it to her destination, and she was not reported missing until December 9. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: **Wash. Judge Rules Against Lummi Nation In Fishing Dispute**, Andrew Westney, September 21, 2021, 7:34 PM

A Washington federal judge has ruled that certain waters in Puget Sound aren't part of the Lummi Nation's traditional fishing grounds, handing a win to three other tribes that opposed the Lummi tribe's bid to open a crab fishery in the disputed area. U. S. District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez on Monday granted summary judgment to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, the Tulalip Tribes and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, which had sought to define the Lummi Nation's usual and accustomed fishing grounds, or U&A, as not including waters east of Whidbey Island in the

sound. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Calif. Tribe Drops Suit Over County's Casino Tax Plan, Asha Glover, September 21, 2021, 6:40 PM

The Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians and a California county have agreed to end their dispute in federal court over a contract the tribe said was unlawful because it created an unfair tax arrangement for its recently built casino. The California federal court dismissed the case Monday, shortly after the tribe and Amador County reported they had agreed to settle the tribe's lawsuit. No details on the settlement were included in the filing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSL-NBC (Salt Lake City, UT): Federal judge tosses out most of tribal water rights lawsuit against US, Utah, Carter Williams, September 21, 2021, 8:12 PM

A federal judge last week tossed out most of a water rights lawsuit filed by the Ute Indian Tribe against the U.S. Department of Interior, the state of Utah and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. The lawsuit, first filed over three years ago, claimed that federal and state agencies discriminated against tribal land water rights among other violations; however, Washington, D.C. District Court Judge Carl J. Nichols on Sept. 15 tossed out 12 of the 16 lawsuit claims in the federal court and sent the four remaining claims to the U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Marijuana Moment: U.S. House Approves Marijuana Banking Reform As Part Of Defense Spending Bill, Kyle Jaeger, September 21, 2021, 8:00 PM

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved an amendment to protect banks that service state-legal marijuana businesses from being penalized by federal regulators. It passed on a voice vote, and no member requested a roll call. The measure is now attached to large-scale defense spending legislation. This action comes hours after the House Rules Committee made in order the amendment from Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) for floor consideration. It was one of numerous drug policy proposals that lawmakers had hoped to attach to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

WTAE-ABC (Pittsburgh, PA): Attorney General, district attorneys at odds over \$1 billion opioid settlement, Paul Van Osdol, September 21, 2021, 6:38 PM

Pennsylvania is slated to receive about \$1 billion from a settlement with drug distributors over the opioid crisis. But there is a major dispute among the state's top prosecutors over whether to accept that money or go to court to seek more. District attorneys in Philadelphia and Allegheny County have filed suit to block the settlement reached by Attorney General Josh Shapiro and attorneys general from other states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. House Democrats advance abortion rights bill, Senate passage unlikely, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:14 PM

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives advanced a bill on Tuesday that would protect the right to abortion and annul some new restrictions passed by Republican-controlled state governments. If the "Women's Health Protection Act" passes the Democratic-controlled House, it is unlikely to succeed in the 100-member Senate, where Republicans also are a minority but hold enough votes to prevent it from reaching the 60-vote threshold to pass most legislation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Protesters press Congress for path to citizenship as Democrats' plan hits obstacle, Julia Ainsley, September 21, 2021, 7:21 PM

This was finally a moment of hope for Pavel Mena, an undocumented immigrant who has been living in the United States for six years. He saw Democratic leaders pushing to insert sweeping immigration provisions in their \$3.5 trillion budget package and believed the long-awaited promise of a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States would finally happen. [[Continue Reading](#)]

VOA: Lawmakers Urge Justice Department to Act Against Rising Hate Crimes in US, Rob Garver, September 22, 2021, 2:15 AM

Two members of the U.S. Congress instrumental in the passage of anti-hate crime legislation this year are pressing the Department of Justice to step up enforcement of the measure, warning that reinstatement of pandemic-related restrictions is likely to provoke more attacks particularly on Asian Americans. The new law seeks to accelerate the Justice Department's reviews of alleged hate crimes reported to federal authorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- A body discovered in Wyoming has been identified as Gabby Petito after the 22-year-old vanished while on a cross-country trip with her fiancé. The coroner has initially ruled the death a homicide. On the ground, and through the air, the FBI resumed its search for Brian Laundrie, the fiancé of Gabby Petito, in a Florida reserve where his family said he was going. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Homeland Security is now investigating incidents of Border Patrol agents on horseback seen intimidating Haitian migrants along the US-Mexico border as mass deportations continue. Roughly 8,000 men, women and children are in encampments under a bridge in Del Rio. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Johnson & Johnson say a second dose of their COVID vaccine is 94% effective against symptomatic COVID cases and are pushing for a booster. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden was on the defensive at the UN General Assembly. Following an Afghan

withdrawal that rattled many allies, he argued that it was time to move on fighting COVID and climate change amid a new transatlantic rift. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

- Terrorism investigations have “exploded,” over the last year nearly tripling to around 2,700 cases, the FBI director said Tuesday. [[CBS](#)]
- The nation’s most restrictive abortion law is forcing women to flee Texas in search of clinics to provide the procedure. In a rare access to a facility in Denver, nearly half the patients are Texans. [[CBS](#)]
- In an exclusive interview at the UN General Assembly, Moon stressed the importance of reactivating North-Korea-US talks as well as the inter-Korean talks. [[ABC](#)]
- Daniel Robinson was last seen leaving a Buckeye job site nearly three months ago. His car and some of his belongings were found a month after he disappeared. Then, a human skull was found near the site at the end of July. After detectives ran tests and found the skull was not Robinson’s, hope remained that he might still be found. [[ABC](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- “Pressure Grows on U.S. Companies to Share Covid Vaccine Technology” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [LAT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Amid furor over border images, Biden faces backlash from Democrats” [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#)]
- “Fed Meeting Will Focus on Taper Timetable” [[WSJ](#)]

END

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Subject: Fwd: Abbreviated AM Clips
To: Attorney General Garland (JMD)
Sent: September 22, 2021 7:26 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" <Anthony.D.Coley@usdoj.gov>
Date: September 22, 2021 at 7:17:31 AM EDT
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>, "Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)" (b) (6), "Seidman, Ricki (OASG)" (b) (6), "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b) (6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b) (6)
Subject: Abbreviated AM Clips

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

AP: US sues to stop deal between American Airlines and JetBlue, David Koenig, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Justice Department and officials in six states have filed a lawsuit to block a partnership formed by American Airlines and JetBlue, claiming that it will reduce competition and lead to higher fares. The Justice Department said Tuesday that the agreement will eliminate important competition in New York and Boston and reduce JetBlue's incentive to compete against American in other parts of the country. Attorney General Merrick Garland said the lawsuit was about ensuring fair competition that lets Americans fly at affordable prices. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) See also: [Axios](#), [CNBC](#), [CNN](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [Washington Times](#), [WSJ](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: Wray: Afghanistan Unrest Could Inspire Extremism Inside US, Eric Tucker, September 21, 2021, 5:10 PM

The possibility of a 9/11-type attack has diminished over the last 20 years, but the Taliban victory in Afghanistan could embolden U.S.-based extremists at the same time that the FBI is confronting increasing threats from individuals motivated by racial and political grievances, top national security officials warned Tuesday. Christine Abizaid, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, testified before the Senate Homeland Security Committee that the terrorism threat to the country is less "acute" than it was two decades ago, and that the danger posed in Afghanistan by groups like al-Qaida and the Islamic State is at the moment primarily a regional threat. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) See also: [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [CBS](#), [CBS-1](#), [The Hill](#), [LAT](#), [Newsweek](#), [Reuters](#), [VOA](#)

Reuters: Judge sets May for possible trial of 'Proud Boys' facing Jan 6 riot charges,

Mark Hosenball, September 21, 2021, 1:43 PM

A federal judge on Tuesday set May 18 as a tentative date for the start of a trial of four men allegedly affiliated with the "Proud Boys" movement on charges stemming from their participation in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot. U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly said that a May trial slot was the first available for a large courtroom at the Washington D.C. federal courthouse often used on ceremonial occasions. In conversations with defense lawyers, the judge discussed the possibility of a trial running four to six weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#)

WaPo: FBI held back ransomware decryption key from businesses to run operation targeting hackers, Ellen Nakashima and Rachel Lerman, September 21, 2021, 2:58 PM

The FBI refrained for almost three weeks from helping to unlock the computers of hundreds of businesses and institutions hobbled by a major ransomware attack this summer, even though the bureau had secretly obtained the digital key needed to do so, according to several current and former U.S. officials. The key was obtained through access to the servers of the Russia-based criminal gang behind the July attack. Deploying it immediately could have helped the victims, including schools and hospitals, avoid what analysts estimate was millions of dollars in recovery costs. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [The Hill-2](#)

WSJ: Zoom's Nearly \$15 Billion Deal for Five9 Under U.S. Government Review Over China Ties, Kate O'Keefe, Aaron Tilley and Dawn Lim, September 21, 2021, 2:02 PM

The department said the interagency committee—known as Team Telecom—needed to review a license application that arose from the San Jose, Calif.-based company's nearly \$15 billion deal to buy Five9 Inc. to see if it "poses a risk to the national security or law enforcement interests" of the U.S., according to a letter posted on the Federal Communications Commission website. The department said there could be a risk from "the foreign relationships and ownership" associated with the application. In the letter, dated last month, the Justice Department requested the FCC defer action on the application until Team Telecom finishes its review, putting Zoom's deal for Five9 on hold. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Hill](#), [Law360](#)

WaPo: Huge hack reveals embarrassing details of who's behind Proud Boys and other far-right websites, Drew Harwell, Craig Timberg and Hannah Allam, September 21, 2021, 1:58 PM

Epik long has been the favorite Internet company of the far-right, providing domain services to QAnon theorists, Proud Boys and other instigators of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol — allowing them to broadcast hateful messages from behind a veil of anonymity. But that veil abruptly vanished last week when a huge breach by the hacker group Anonymous dumped into public view more than 150 gigabytes of previously private data — including user names, passwords and other identifying information of Epik's customers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Fox: \$5.9M ransomware attack on major agriculture group poses risk to US grain, pork, chicken supply, Lucas Manfredi, September 21, 2021, 3:00 PM

The U.S. grain, pork and chicken supply could be at risk after a ransomware attack on New Cooperative Inc. has forced the Iowa-based agriculture services provider's systems to go offline. "Out of an abundance of caution, we have proactively taken our systems offline to contain the threat, and we can confirm it has been successfully contained," a New Cooperative spokesperson told the Wall Street Journal. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NBC: The battle between the U.S. and ransomware hackers is escalating, Kevin Collier, September 21, 2021, 2:53 PM

The White House is taking additional steps to encourage ransomware victims to alert the federal government, just as the hackers behind those attacks are threatening victims from doing so. The moves mark an escalation between the Biden administration, which has vowed to crack down on criminal hackers who try to extort Americans, and ransomware gangs, which have proven resilient to efforts to stop them. [[Continue Reading](#)]

BuzzFeed: Prosecutors Lost A Fight To Keep A Set Of Jan. 6 Capitol Surveillance Videos Under Seal, Zoe Tillman, September 21, 2021, 9:37 PM

Federal prosecutors on Tuesday released a new collection of Capitol surveillance videos from Jan. 6 after a judge ordered them to do so, rejecting the government's argument that making the clips public could threaten the security of the complex. The disclosure marks a setback for the US Capitol Police and the US attorney's office in their efforts to control how much footage from the Capitol's closed circuit video (CCV) system gets out. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Hill: Former Air Force contractor sentenced for taking thousands of pages of classified information, Lexi Lonas, September 21, 2021, 1:05 PM

A former Air Force contractor was sentenced to prison for taking thousands of pages of classified information from an Air Force Base, the Justice Department announced Tuesday. Izaak Vincent Kemp was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for taking more than 2,500 classified documents to his home in Fairborn, Ohio. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: Alleged Capitol Rioter Caught on Snapchat Maps After Tipster Sent Screenshots to FBI, Alexandra Hutzler, September 21, 2021, 12:42 PM

A Maryland man is facing several charges related to his alleged participation in the U.S. Capitol riot after being caught in part due to the maps feature on Snapchat. Matthew Buckler has been charged with knowingly entering or remaining on restricted grounds as well as disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building, according to new court documents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: Pharma companies defend dismissal of terror case at D.C. Circuit hearing, Jonathan Edwards, September 21, 2021, 6:18 PM

Major pharmaceutical companies urged a Washington, D.C., federal appeals court on Tuesday to uphold the dismissal of claims that their medical-goods contracts with Iraq's health ministry helped finance terror activity in the country that injured or killed American service members between 2005 and 2011. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard oral arguments for nearly two hours over whether the drug companies, represented at the hearing by Kannon Shanmugam of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, can be held liable under the federal Anti-Terrorism Act for certain deliveries of drugs and medical equipment. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRIV-Fox (Houston, TX): Former Houston officer pleads guilty to involvement in U.S. Capitol riot, Eli Higgins, September 21, 2021, 3:10 PM

A former Houston police officer has pleaded guilty to his involvement in the U.S. Capitol riot on January 6. Tam Pham pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building. According to documents from the U.S. Department of Justice, Pham was offered a plea agreement. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KTRK-ABC \(Houston, TX\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: University to pay \$1.6M to students assaulted by employee, Unattributed,

September 21, 2021, 8:28 PM

San Jose State University has agreed to pay \$1.6 million to 13 female student-athletes whose complaints about being sexually assaulted by an athletic trainer were mishandled by the university, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. The payment is part of a settlement between the university, the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, which conducted a Title IX investigation that found the university failed to adequately respond to reports of sexual harassment and assault that started in 2009, exposing additional student-athletes to harm for over a decade. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KGO-ABC \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [KRON \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [KPIX-CBS \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [LAT](#), [Law360](#), [NYT](#), [The Mercury News \(San José, CA\)](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [SF Gate](#), [San Jose Inside](#), [USA Today](#)

The Hill: **Biden launches investigation into Texas school mask mandate ban**, Celine Castronuovo, September 21, 2021, 8:39 PM

The Biden administration has launched a civil rights investigation into Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's (R) executive order prohibiting school mask mandates, the latest in a series of probes by the Department of Education into whether the statewide bans violate the rights of students with disabilities. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#), [Texas Tribune](#)

WTVA-ABC/ABC (Tupelo, MS): **Former Booneville police officer expected to plead guilty to civil rights violations**, Zac Carlisle, September 21, 2021, 2:43 PM

A former Booneville police officer is expected to plead guilty in federal court to civil rights violations, according to the court docket. The former officer Dustin Rambo is scheduled to appear in federal court in Greenville on Wednesday, Sept. 22. According to an FBI affidavit, Rambo allegedly forced a woman to perform sexual acts in 2020 while he was on duty. He's not pleading guilty to this alleged crime on Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

NYT: **Trump Campaign Knew Lawyers' Voting Machine Claims Were Baseless, Memo Shows**, Alan Feuer, September 21, 2021, 8:00 PM

Two weeks after the 2020 election, a team of lawyers closely allied with Donald J. Trump held a widely watched news conference at the Republican Party's headquarters in Washington. At the event, they laid out a bizarre conspiracy theory claiming that a voting machine company had worked with an election software firm, the financier George Soros and Venezuela to steal the presidential contest from Mr. Trump. [...] The release of the documents was only the latest legal trouble for Mr. Giuliani and Ms. Powell, both of whom have been sued directly by Dominion for defamation. Dominion has also brought a defamation suit against Mike Lindell, the chief executive of MyPillow, for amplifying false election claims. Last month, a federal judge in Washington ruled that the cases could continue moving toward trial. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

NYT: **Lawsuits Filed Against Texas Doctor Could Be Best Tests of Abortion Law**, Ruth Graham, Adam Liptak and J. David Goodman, September 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

When the United States' most restrictive abortion law went into effect in Texas on Sept. 1, it worked exactly as intended: It effectively stopped all abortions in the second-most populous state. But its very ingenuity — that ordinary citizens, and not state officials, enforce it — has begun to unleash lawsuits that are out of the control of the anti-abortion movement that fought for the law. On Monday, a man in Arkansas and another in Illinois, both disbarred lawyers with no apparent association with anti-abortion activists, filed separate suits against a San Antonio doctor who publicly wrote about performing an abortion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [ABC](#), [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#)

AP: Down syndrome issue at center of Missouri abortion law case, Jim Salter, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

A federal appeals court is deciding the fate of a Missouri law that puts sweeping restrictions on abortions, and a focal point of oral arguments on Tuesday was a provision prohibiting abortions based solely on a Down syndrome diagnosis. The law adopted in 2019 would ban abortions at the eighth week of pregnancy. The full 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis isn't expected to rule for several weeks. In June, a three-judge 8th Circuit panel upheld an injunction from U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs prohibiting Missouri from enforcing the law's provisions, but the full court decided to hear the case. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): U.S. Justice Department announces settlement with ECU, UNC-CH surrounding grant money allegations, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:18 PM

The U.S. Justice Department has announced a settlement with East Carolina University and UNC-Chapel Hill surrounding false claims involving grant money. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina said that ECU, UNC-Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service have agreed to pay a total of \$842,500 to the U.S. for alleged false claims surrounding AmeriCorps grant funds. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [WFMY-CBS \(Greensboro, NC\)](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

Baltimore Sun: Former Baltimore Safe Streets worker sentenced for role in federal drug case, Justin Fenton, September 21, 2021, 5:27 PM

A former Baltimore Safe Streets anti-violence worker who returned to dealing drugs and tried to use his job as cover is headed back to federal prison for another 11 years. Ronald L. Alexander, 51, was hired by Safe Streets after having served 17 years in federal prison, from 2000 to 2017. The program involves hiring credible messengers from the community to mediate conflict and prevent violence, and it has been targeted for expansion. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Officials: Many Haitian migrants are being released in US, Juan A. Lozano, Elliot Spagat and Maria Verza, September 22, 2021, 5:30 AM

Many Haitian migrants camped in a small Texas border town are being released in the United States, two U.S. officials said, undercutting the Biden administration's public statements that the thousands in the camp faced immediate expulsion. Haitians have been freed on a "very, very large scale" in recent days, according to one U.S. official who put the figure in the thousands. The official, with direct knowledge of operations who was not authorized to discuss the matter Tuesday and thus spoke on condition of anonymity. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Amid furor over border images, Biden faces Democratic backlash on immigration, Sean Sullivan and Nick Miroff, September 21, 2021, 10:55 PM

White House officials on Tuesday struggled to explain searing images of border agents treating Haitian migrants harshly, facing a growing backlash from angry Democrats who sought to pressure President Biden to ease his immigration policies. Even as Biden confronts attacks from Republicans portraying his policies as weak and ineffective, many immigrant-rights activists have increasingly concluded that Biden has failed to live up to his campaign

vows to defend vulnerable foreigners seeking a better life in the United States. Their fury marks a new inflection point in Biden's ongoing struggles with immigration. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [CNN-1](#), [Detroit News](#), [Forbes](#), [The Hill](#), [NBC](#), [Newsweek](#), [NYT](#), [Politico](#), [VOA](#), [USA Today](#), [USA Today-1](#), [WXYZ-ABC \(Detroit, MI\)](#)

NBC: Haitian deportees assaulted U.S. pilots, injured three ICE officers, Julia Ainsley, September 21, 2021, 7:27 PM

Haitians deported from the U.S. on Tuesday assaulted the pilots on board one of the flights when it arrived in Port-au-Prince and injured three U.S. immigration officers, according to a source familiar with internal reports of the incident. Unrest broke out shortly after a flight carrying single adult men arrived and released the men to Haitian authorities on the tarmac. Then, the source said, several of the men stormed another recently arrived flight carrying families. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: Gay Man Narrowly Wins Review Of Asylum Credibility, Lauren Berg, September 21, 2021, 9:05 PM

A split Fifth Circuit panel has revived a gay Cameroonian man's bid for protection in the U.S., agreeing that there are inconsistencies in his persecution account, but said the Board of Immigration Appeals needs to take another look at whether there are enough inconsistencies to again deny him asylum. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WOAI- NBC (San Antonio, TX): Fake DEA badges seized before headed to Texas, Yami Virgin, September 21, 2021, 11:00 PM

We warned you about phone scams, crooks using the DEA's name to con money out of people. Now, a new warning - thieves may be putting down the phone and knocking on your front door instead. Last month, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized eight fake DEA badges and one FBI badge at the Chicago International Mail Branch. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Reuters: Tribes invoke treaties in lawsuit to halt Wisconsin wolf hunt, Sebastien Melo, September 21, 2021, 5:13 PM

Six tribes in northern Wisconsin sued the state in Madison federal court on Tuesday to stop a state-sanctioned November gray wolf hunt. The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and the other tribes claim the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' planned hunting season for the predator, whose endangered species protections were lifted in January, violates treaties signed with the U.S. government in the 19th century by nullifying their guaranteed share of natural resources. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [AP](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

TAX

Reuters: Former wunderkind Massachusetts mayor gets six years in prison, Nate Raymond, September 21, 2021, 2:29 PM

A former Massachusetts mayor first elected at age 23 was sentenced on Tuesday to six years in prison after being convicted in May of defrauding investors in a smartphone app company and extorting money from local marijuana businesses. Former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia, now 29, said nothing as U.S. District Judge Douglas Woodlock in Boston ordered him to be incarcerated for engaging in "reprehensible corruption of a type that is

incomprehensibly crude.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [The Herald News \(Fall River, MA\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: Coroner IDs remains, says Gabby Petito was homicide victim, Curt Anderson, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

Gabby Petito was killed by another person, a coroner concluded while also confirming that the human remains found recently at a Wyoming national park were those of the 22-year-old woman who disappeared months after she set out on a cross-country road trip with her boyfriend, the FBI said Tuesday. Teton County Coroner Brent Blue determined Petito was a homicide victim, but did not disclose a cause of death pending final autopsy results, officials said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [Forbes](#), [Fox](#), [Fox-2](#), [Guardian](#), [The Hill](#), [KDFW-Fox \(Dallas, TX\)](#), [KMGH-ABC \(Denver, CO\)](#), [KMTV-CBS \(Omaha, NE\)](#), [KSL-NBC \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [KWTU-CBS \(Oklahoma City, OK\)](#), [NBC](#), [Newsday](#), [NYT](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WaPo](#), [Washington Times](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WKOW-ABC \(Madison, WI\)](#), [WPTV-NBC \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WSJ](#), [WQOW-ABC/CW \(Eau Claire, WI\)](#), [WTTG-Fox \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WTFX-Fox \(Philadelphia, PA\)](#), [WTVX-ABC \(Tallahassee, FL\)](#), [WXIA-NBC \(Atlanta, GA\)](#)

WSJ: [OPINION] Abolish the FBI, Holman W. Jenkins, Jr., September 21, 2021, 6:28 PM
In ignoring the latest John Durham indictment, most of the media and official Washington are ignoring the elephant between its written lines: the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Durham, the special counsel appointed to investigate the government’s handling of the Russia collusion mess, levels a single criminal charge against Michael Sussmann, then a lawyer for the Democrat-linked firm Perkins Coie. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: FBI asks for the public's help in finding Gabby Petito's fiance as new tip emerges about his previous movements, Madeline Holcombe, September 22, 2021, 5:09 AM

The FBI is asking for the public's help in finding Gabby Petito's fiancé Brian Laundrie after a coroner made an initial determination that Petito died by homicide. Petito's remains were found Sunday in an undeveloped camping area in Bridger-Teton National Forest on the eastern edge of Grand Teton National Park, officials said. She was first reported missing by her family on September 11, after Laundrie returned home from the road trip without her on September 1. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Beast: The NRA Is Bankrupt but It Still Owns America’s Gun Agency, Eleanor Clift, September 22, 2021, 5:05 AM

The gun group didn’t act alone, but as part of an array of gun groups determined to fend off any real leadership at the ATF from “Waco Dave” or anyone else. The NRA declared bankruptcy; its longtime chief executive, Wayne LaPierre, has been disgraced, setting the gun-rights group back on its heels. Yet the NRA is still a powerful enough force in Washington politics to derail President Biden’s effort to install a Senate-confirmed leader of the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives), once again reminding gun control advocates of how steep the climb is to achieve reasonable regulation of firearms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WJBK-Fox (Detroit, MI): ‘I need help,’ Illinois mother of missing college student asks for FBI’s help, Zara Barker, September 21, 2021, 11:43 PM

Twenty-five-year-old Jelani Day is a graduate student studying to get his master’s in speech pathology at Illinois State University. He was last seen Aug. 24 and hasn’t been heard from

since. Police found his car, a 2010 White Chrysler 300 with a blacktop, in a wooded area in Peru, Illinois, a few days later. “Nothing is more important to me than getting Jelani back,” Carmen Bolden Day, Jelani’s mother said. “I need help to find my son, it’s been 28 days.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WWTV (Cadillac, MI): DEA Teaching Doctors How They Can Help Decrease Opioid Addiction, Kevin Hodge, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM

In an effort to decrease opioid addiction, the DEA is teaching medical professionals what they can do to help. They stopped by Brimley for a presentation Tuesday morning to help doctors understand the role they can play in fighting addiction. It’s part of their Operation Engage Program, which looks to teach those in Michigan about how they can combat the opioid epidemic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

The Hill: [OPINION] Biden needs to act on growing anti-death penalty sentiments, Russ Feingold and Brett Tolman, September 21, 2021, 3:00 PM

The flattening of public discourse — political, social, moral and ethical — into a simplistic left-right binary is a disturbing trend that too few of us push back against. People are encouraged to live in their echo chambers through news outlets tailored to confirm their worldviews and social media feeds custom-designed to reinforce their biases. This polarized discourse has created a false narrative around the death penalty that relies on simplistic and overgeneralized notions of our country’s partisan divide. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

CNN: SCOTUS revises oral argument format ahead of blockbuster term, Ariane de Vogue, September 21, 2021, 2:00 PM

In advance of the new term set to begin in October, the Supreme Court announced Tuesday that it is revising its oral argument format, importing a system it employed when it held arguments over the phone after the courthouse doors were shut because of Covid. While the Court will maintain the traditional practice of allowing justices to engage in questioning in no particular order -- the traditional free for all -- there will now be an opportunity, once an attorney’s time has expired, for the justices to ask specific questions in order of seniority. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [SCOTUSblog](#)

Law360: Muslims Tell Justices State Secrets Can’t Nix FBI Spying Suit, Daniel Wilson, September 21, 2021, 8:51 PM

A group of Muslims alleging they were unlawfully surveilled based on their religious identity urged the U. S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to rule that the FBI is wrongly trying to use the state secrets privilege to avoid facing their case. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: Biden administration urges Supreme Court to uphold New York’s handgun restriction, John Kruzal, September 21, 2021, 5:15 PM

The Biden administration on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to uphold a New York handgun restriction in an upcoming and potentially landmark Second Amendment court clash. The Department of Justice, in a brief filed on behalf of the administration, argued that the justices should defer to the longstanding legislative practice of placing limits on firearms to protect public safety. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Oklahoma court lifts stays in 2 McGirt-related decisions, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 3:17 PM

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday lifted stays in two cases it overturned based on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on tribal lands by non-American Indians against Native Americans. The court lifted stays of its previous reversals of the murder conviction of Shawn McDaniel and the child neglect conviction of Victor Castro-Huerta. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: An Indigenous woman went missing in November. The FBI is now offering \$10,000 for information about her disappearance, Li Cohen, September 21, 2021, 5:09 PM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering up to \$10,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of anyone who might be responsible for the disappearance of an Indigenous woman in Washington state. Mary Johnson, who also goes by the last name Davis, was last seen traveling to a friend's house last year. The FBI said in its missing person flyer that Johnson, 40, was last seen walking along Firetrail Road on the Tulalip Reservation on November 25, 2020. She never made it to her destination, and she was not reported missing until December 9. [[Continue Reading](#)]

OPIOID CRISIS

WTAE-ABC (Pittsburgh, PA): Attorney General, district attorneys at odds over \$1 billion opioid settlement, Paul Van Osdol, September 21, 2021, 6:38 PM

Pennsylvania is slated to receive about \$1 billion from a settlement with drug distributors over the opioid crisis. But there is a major dispute among the state's top prosecutors over whether to accept that money or go to court to seek more. District attorneys in Philadelphia and Allegheny County have filed suit to block the settlement reached by Attorney General Josh Shapiro and attorneys general from other states. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Reuters: U.S. House Democrats advance abortion rights bill, Senate passage unlikely, Unattributed, September 21, 2021, 4:14 PM

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives advanced a bill on Tuesday that would protect the right to abortion and annul some new restrictions passed by Republican-controlled state governments. If the "Women's Health Protection Act" passes the Democratic-controlled House, it is unlikely to succeed in the 100-member Senate, where Republicans also are a minority but hold enough votes to prevent it from reaching the 60-vote threshold to pass most legislation. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: Protesters press Congress for path to citizenship as Democrats' plan hits obstacle, [Ellie Silverman](#), September 21, 2021, 7:21 PM

This was finally a moment of hope for Pavel Mena, an undocumented immigrant who has been living in the United States for six years. He saw Democratic leaders pushing to insert sweeping immigration provisions in their \$3.5 trillion budget package and believed the long-awaited promise of a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States would finally happen. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

- The nation's most restrictive abortion law is forcing women to flee Texas in search of clinics to provide the procedure. In a rare access to a facility in Denver, nearly half the patients are Texans. [[CBS](#)]
- A body discovered in Wyoming has been identified as Gabby Petito after the 22-year-old vanished while on a cross-country trip with her fiancé. The coroner has initially ruled the death a homicide. On the ground, and through the air, the FBI resumed its search for Brian Laundrie, the fiancé of Gabby Petito, in a Florida reserve where his family said he was going. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Terrorism investigations have “exploded,” over the last year nearly tripling to around 2,700 cases, the FBI director said Tuesday. [[CBS](#)]
- Homeland Security is now investigating incidents of Border Patrol agents on horseback seen intimidating Haitian migrants along the US-Mexico border as mass deportations continue. Roughly 8,000 men, women and children are in encampments under a bridge in Del Rio. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Biden was on the defensive at the UN General Assembly. Following an Afghan withdrawal that rattled many allies, he argued that it was time to move on fighting COVID and climate change amid a new transatlantic rift. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

From: The Marsha Project
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Charging paramedics in custody deaths
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: September 22, 2021 6:29 AM (UTC-04:00)



Opening Statement
September 22, 2021

Ed ed by **ANDREW COHEN**



Good morning,

We're more ambitious than ever heading into the fall here at The Marshall Project. Donations from readers like you sustain this important work and allow us to commit the time and attention needed to tell stories that are driving real change.

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Susan Chira
Editor-in-chief, The Marshall Project

PICK OF THE NEWS

▫ **When should first responders be held accountable for deaths in police custody?** A Colorado grand jury this month indicted two paramedics for allegedly failing to adequately treat Elijah McClain after he was rendered unconscious by police officers in 2019. Such prosecutions are extremely rare, even as victims of police misconduct focus more on in-custody mistreatment by first responders. Wrongful death or injury claims against medical providers are usually resolved through civil litigation or disciplinary action. “At the heart of it, that is what we call medical malpractice or negligence,” says a lawyer who represents EMTs. In collaboration with USA Today, Beth Schwartzapel and Cary Aspinwall have our story. [THE MARSHALL PROJECT](#)

“My child is hungry, but the water is fast.” Migrants in a cramped, dirty border camp under a bridge in south Texas have to wade back across the Rio Grande to Mexico for food and supplies. They do so, they say, because federal immigration agents don’t allow them to cook in camp. [LOS ANGELES TIMES](#) **More:** “I don’t know this country anymore.” Many of the migrants deported to Haiti from Texas in the past week haven’t lived in their home country for many years. [THE NEW YORK TIMES](#) **Related:** Both federal officials and Biden allies outside the administration, expressed outrage over images of Border Patrol agents on horseback rounding up Haitian migrants. [THE WASHINGTON POST](#)

A federal agent caught supporting the Capitol rioters. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer arrested in Washington, D.C. over the weekend at the “Justice for J6” rally won’t be charged for illegally carrying a gun at the Capitol. [THE ASSOCIATED PRESS](#) **More:** Threats against members of Congress continue to soar after the Capitol riot. In 2016, U.S. Capitol Police investigated 902 threats. In 2018, there were 5,206 threats. Last year there were 8,613. There may be double that number this year. [LOS ANGELES TIMES](#)

Accountability for public safety officials is a flat circle in Texas. State officials and local prosecutors can and often do block public integrity investigations in Texas, even when obvious conflicts of interest exist. The Texas Rangers, responsible for reviewing allegations of illegal conduct by elected officials, rarely open formal investigations. When they do, they almost always end their probes without taking action against the accused. And the few criminal cases that stem from official misconduct investigations usually end with plea deals and no meaningful punishment. [TEXAS OBSERVER](#)

N / S / E / W

Isaabdul Karim became the 11th person to die in **New York** City's jail system this year. He died at Rikers Island, two days after Gov. Kathy Hochul ordered the release of nearly 200 prisoners who, like Karim, were held on technical parole violations. [THE NEW YORK TIMES](#) **TMP**

Context: At Rikers when the coronavirus spread. [THE MARSHALL PROJECT](#)

Kentucky has a broad asset forfeiture law that encourages police and prosecutors to seize and keep property, especially cash, even if the owner is never charged with a crime. [KENTUCKY](#)

[CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING](#) **TMP Context:** Hands off my yacht. [THE MARSHALL PROJECT](#)

The FBI seized the contents of hundreds of safe deposit boxes from a store in Beverly Hills, **California**. Agents say the bounty in the boxes comes from ill-gotten gains. Many box owners disagree and have slowly been able to get their assets back. [LOS ANGELES TIMES](#)

No one in **Pennsylvania** seems to have a good answer for why a homeless man was charged with a felony and jailed on a \$50,000 cash bond for allegedly shorting a convenience store 43 cents on a soda purchase. [PENN LIVE](#)

The family of a **Washington** prisoner allegedly murdered by his cellmate has sued corrections officials for failing to heed warnings about the danger of "double-celling." [SEATTLE TIMES](#)

TMP Context: The deadly consequences of solitary with a cellmate. [THE MARSHALL PROJECT](#)

COMMENTARY

The fix was in. New details about the broken legal process that helped the Sackler family, owners of Purdue Pharma and Oxycontin, use bankruptcy law to emerge relatively unscathed from their catastrophic role in the opioid crisis. [THE NEW YORKER](#)

"We have kept too many secrets for far too long." Three stigmas about opioid addiction undermine efforts to prevent people from fatally overdosing on drugs. [BOSTON GLOBE](#)

United States v. Michael Sussman. Special Counsel John Durham got a grand jury to indict the Washington, D.C. lawyer who worked for Hillary Clinton's campaign for allegedly lying to the FBI. The case will be a tough sell to jurors. [POLITICO](#) "One of the very weakest federal

criminal indictments I have ever seen in more than 25 years covering federal investigations and prosecutions.” [LAWFARE](#)

Judge and immigration law and policy. Trump judges on the federal bench are trying to control Mexico’s foreign policy, too. This form of judicial activism is not going so well. [SLATE](#)

The domestic violence victims we obsess about. The victims we ignore. The Gabby Petito case says a great deal about police work, the media, race and our attention spans. [DAILY BEAST](#)

ETC .

Jeremy Travis on criminal justice reform. “We are now in a period of fundamental course correction, where we have to recognize the harm that we’ve done and undo many of the policies that have promoted this era of punitive excess.” [THE CRIME REPORT](#)

The death of a witness to history. Using a bulky handheld camcorder decades before cell phones, plumber George Holliday took the famous video showing Los Angeles police officers beating Rodney King in 1991. Holliday’s life, like King’s, was never the same. Holliday died Sunday of complications from COVID-19. He was 61. [LOS ANGELES TIMES](#)

The R. Kelly sex crimes trial is still going on in New York City. The main prosecution case is over, the defense has begun, and journalists can’t tell how jurors are reacting to the evidence. [NEW YORK MAGAZINE](#)

A blow to white supremacy. Buoyed by a successful ballot initiative last November, Alabama begins to redraft its state constitution to remove the racist language in it. Legislators and their constituents will both play roles in selecting the new words. [THE NEW YORK TIMES](#)

Roger Goldman’s crusade to hold police accountable. The 79-year-old Missouri professor has been working for four decades to strengthen laws and policies that preclude rogue cops from easily getting new jobs in other jurisdictions. [MISSOURI INDEPENDENT](#)

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From: GovExec Today
Subject: [EXTERNAL] House passes measure that will avoid a shutdown and debt default, but it faces an uphill battle in Senate
To: Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: September 22, 2021 6:02 AM (UTC-04:00)

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GovExec Today

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

[House Passes Shutdown and Default-Averting Package That Now Faces Uphill Battle in Senate](#) // Eric Katz

The measure's passage appears unlikely to do much to avoid a shutdown at the end of the month.

[GovExec Daily: The Shutdown Watch Begins](#) // Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune

Eric Katz joins the podcast to discuss the continuing resolution negotiations.

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[Labor Department Seeks Advice on Increasing Equity in Contracting, Other Programs](#) // Courtney Bublé

The effort furthers an early executive order from President Biden.

[Homeland Security Investigates Border Patrol Agents for Potential Misconduct, Sends More Personnel to Texas](#) // Eric Katz

DHS secretary says he was "horrified" and "troubled" by actions of federal border personnel in Del Rio, Texas.

[Introducing the Government Hall of Fame Class of 2021](#) // Tom Shoop

From the first career civil servant to the head of the Smithsonian, it's an exemplary group.

[US Air Force Developing Combat Tanker-Airlifter that Can Land on Water](#) // Tara Copp

In a conflict with China, aircraft will need flexibility in basing, and that means water takeoffs, landings.

[Guess How Many People Worked From Home Last Year](#) // Elaine Godfrey

A misconception about the prevalence of remote work explains a lot about confirmation bias in America.

[Defense Tech Startup Led by Former Government Leaders Reaches \\$1 Billion Valuation](#) // Brandi Vincent

Rebellion Defense Founder Chris Lynch discussed the company's recent endeavors and investments.

[Biden Counters China's Allegations Of A New 'Cold War' In UN Speech](#) // Jacqueline Feldscher

The president's remarks on human rights, freedom of navigation, and authoritarianism were a thinly veiled message to Beijing.

[Disinformation May Be the New Normal, Election Officials Fear](#) // Matt Vasilogambros

Races for governor in New Jersey and Virginia this year could face election falsehoods.

[Treasury Sanctions First Cryptocurrency Exchange to Combat Ransomware](#) // Mariam Baksh

The department also emphasized guidance for victim organizations who risk running afoul of enforcers by paying attackers and failing to report incidents.

[Air Force Secretary Warns of China's Burgeoning Nuclear Arsenal, Reveals B-21 Detail](#) // Marcus Weisgerber

Frank Kendall also criticized Congress for not allowing the Air Force to retire old, unneeded warplanes and questioned the need for hypersonic weapons.

[Nearly One-Third of Infrastructure Jobs are Tough to Fill, Research Finds](#) // Andrea Noble

Job opportunities are likely to boom if Congress approves a pending infrastructure bill, but a National League of Cities report says the current workforce may not be able to meet the demand.

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Here's what was on Lawfare's agenda yesterday:

Today's Headlines and Commentary

By Emily Dai on Sep 21, 2021 03:30 pm

North Korea warned that the new security agreement between the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia could trigger a nuclear arms race, [according](#) to The Washington Post. The three nation pact, referred to as AUKUS, shares sensitive nuclear powered submarine technology with Australia. The announcement of the deal prompted swift backlash from the Chinese government, as it is perceived as a threat to the Chinese military. Although Australian officials said last week that the country has “no plans to acquire nuclear weapons,” a foreign ministry official in North Korea stated, “these are extremely undesirable and dangerous acts which will upset the strategic balance in the Asia Pacific region and trigger off a chain of nuclear arms race.”

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FBI Director Christopher Wray said that the FBI has more than doubled its domestic terrorism caseload since spring 2020, [according](#) to Reuters. During testimony before the Senate’s Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, Director Wray said the number of cases has “exploded.” Consequently, the FBI has dedicated more resources to domestic terrorism investigations, which has included, in the words of Director Wray, “increasing personnel by 260 percent last year.” U.S.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said that the Jan 6 attack on the Capitol had shown that white supremacists and militia groups were the greatest domestic security threat

The House of Representatives is expected to consider the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) later this week, [according](#) to The Hill On Monday, 56 anti war groups urged lawmakers to use the NDAA to end all US participation in the Saudi led military campaign in Yemen The letter provides implicit support of an amendment proposed by Rep Ro Khanna (D Calif), which was among more than 800 amendments that have been filed for this year's NDAA While US lawmakers in both parties have been increasingly critical of US involvement in the war, Congress has been unsuccessful in ending support for the Saudi coalition President Biden has committed to ending military support for offensive Saudi operations, but critics contend that the administration's continued logistical support still enables these operations "US taxpayer dollars still bankroll the maintenance and spare parts for Saudi warplanes raining down bombs on Yemeni men, women, and children amidst the world's largest humanitarian crisis ," Khanna and Sen Bernie Sanders (I Vt) said in a joint statement earlier this month

President Biden is raising the refugee admissions cap to 25,000 for the fiscal year that starts Oct , making good on his campaign pledge to do so, [according](#) to NPR The White House said this change was made in light of an unprecedented number of displaced people around the world The cap had previously been cut to a historic low of 5,000 by President Donald Trump Several key groups, including Central Americans, Afghans affiliated with the United States, LGBTQ refugees and at risk Uighurs, will be given particular focus by the administration Sen Dick Durbin (D Ill) expressed that while he was disappointed with the projected number of refugees to be admitted in the next fiscal year, he "acknowledge[s] the challenges the Biden Administration inherited with the US Refugee Admissions Program due to the anti immigrant actions of the previous Administration "

ICYMI: Yesterday on Lawfare

Jen Patja Howell [shared](#) an episode of the *Lawfare Podcast* in which Alan Rozenshtein spoke with Seth Stoughton on the fatal shooting of Ashli Babbitt, a protester at the January 6 attack on the US Capitol

Matthias C Kettmann and Torben Klaus [discussed](#) how German law could provide clearer rules in content moderation practices

Benjamin Wittes [explained](#) how John Durham's case against Michael Sussmann is remarkably weak

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The Cyberlaw Podcast: China, U.S. Tech Policy: 'Let Thousand Hands Throw Sand in the Gears.'

By Stewart Baker on Sep 21, 2021 12:14 pm

[Jordan Schneider](#) rejoins us after too long an absence to summarize the tech policy coming out of Beijing today: Any Chinese government agency with a beef against a tech company has carte blanche to at least try it out From Didi and others being told to stop taking on subscribers to an end to Western IPOs, to the forced contributions to common welfare, China's beefs with Big Tech sound a lot like those in the West (well, except for the complaints about AI enabled censorship) What's different is that China has freed up its agencies to actually throw sand in the gears of technology businesses Jordan and I explore the [downside of empowering agencies](#) this way First, it makes the Chinese government responsible for an enormous and hard to govern part of the economy, as the government's problems with the overvalued property sector show And it creates opportunities for companies that are better at politics than customer service to cripple their competitors

Meanwhile, the US government is trying out its own version of letting a thousand regulatory flowers bloom [Michael Weiner](#) unpacks the new, amended complaint in *FTC v Facebook* and concludes that the FTC has done a plausible job of meeting the objections that led the district court to throw out the first complaint

Then he tells us the five buckets of sand the Biden administration is dumping into technology merger law in the hope of slowing a massive acquisition boom, from no longer granting early termination, insisting on future merger approvals in standard consent agreements, issuing “close at your own peril” letters when they haven’t finished their review, and replacing the Vertical Merger Guidelines issued in June 2020 with, uh, nothing

[Pete Jeydel](#) takes us on a tour of Project Raven and the [deferred prosecution agreements](#) imposed on three former US government hackers who sold their services too freely to the United Arab Emirates. The cases raise several novel legal issues, but one of the mysteries is why the prosecutors ultimately settled the cases without jail time. My guess? Graymail.

In quick hits and updates we note: That TikTok faces an Irish General Data Protection Regulation [probe over children’s data](#) and more significantly its transfers of data to China. What’s most remarkable to me is how long TikTok has staved off this scrutiny. Who says Donald Trump was bad for Chinese tech companies?

President Biden has nominated a 5th Federal Trade Commission Commissioner. [Alvaro Bedoya](#) is a Georgetown Law professor who writes about privacy and face recognition. There’s a lot of dumb stuff out there about AI bias and face recognition, but I’m pleased to say that it doesn’t look as though Prof. Bedoya wrote any of it.

The special prosecutor for Russia, Russia, Russia, gate has indicted a [Perkins Coie lawyer for lying](#) to the FBI general counsel while turning over a bunch of bogus evidence of Donald Trump’s ties to Russia. Turns out, I know all of the principals in this drama, and it’s uncomfortable.

Captain Obvious, speaking for the FBI, acknowledged that there is “no indication” Russia has [cracked down](#) on ransomware gangs after President Biden yelled at Vladimir Putin about them.

The 4th Circuit has [tossed Wikimedia’s money wasting lawsuit](#) against the National Security Agency for its collection of overseas intelligence in the US.

And the [Bolsonaro’s ban](#) on social media censorship of politicians has been doubly overturned by the Brazilian Senate and its Supreme Court, leaving Bolsonaro’s decree in the same place as Florida’s (and, probably soon, Texas’s) effort to do something similar.

And more!

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TechTank: Why Schools Still Need a Remote Option to Mitigate COVID-19

By Nicol Turner Lee on Sep 21, 2021 11:14 am

Coronavirus cases are on the rise again—this time hitting K-2 students, especially those who are unvaccinated, under 2, and back in the classroom. Before the start of the new school year, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona shared that “[s]tudents belong in the classroom” as more buildings were encouraged to fully open. But over the last two weeks, [more than 500,000](#) new coronavirus cases have been reported among students, accounting for 29 percent of all cases reported nationwide. Students below the age of 2 are still not eligible for vaccinations and are at greater risk of hospitalization and the infection of other unvaccinated family members.

The larger questions are: will schools be ready to shift to a remote option if the virus continues to ravage student populations, teachers and their families? Have we learned any lessons from the first round of school closures, especially strategies for making digital access more universally available to historically disadvantaged communities? For students without reliable access to the internet, they will once again be left behind and at risk of suffering even greater learning losses. But to achieve

even greater digital equity, educators and administrators must be convinced of the power of connectivity as a supplement to traditional learning

In the latest TechTank podcast episode, co host Nicol Turner Lee is by Jon Valant, senior fellow in Governance Studies and director of the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution, Amina Fazlullah, director of equity policy for Common Sense Media, and Alejandro Roark, executive director of the Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership They delve into these and other issues related to ensuring that no child is left offline

You can listen to the episode and subscribe to the [TechTank podcast](#) on [Apple](#), [Spotify](#), or [Acast](#)

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Western Sahara, the Biden Administration and Human Rights

By Amit Dadon, Janna Ramadan on Sep 21, 2021 10:35 am

For decades, the Sahrawi people of Western Sahara have mobilized toward the UN backed goal of the right to express their choice of either independence from or integration with the Moroccan state Despite international support, Sahrawis have been denied this freedom of expression and other human rights by a repressive Moroccan government and military rule, one entrenched since its annexation and claim of sovereignty over Western Sahara in 1975 In December 2020, then President Trump drastically broke from established US policy, international consensus, and UN resolutions to formally recognize Morocco's control of Western Sahara in a quid pro quo for Morocco to normalize relations with Israel But in the process, Trump dismissed the human rights of Sahrawis, further marginalizing an oppressed people already struggling to maintain their collective voice, which is unjustifiable Thousands upon thousands of Sahrawis have seen their peaceful, lawful expression and protest met with disturbing abuse and extreme crackdowns by Moroccan authorities Yet despite promising commitments early in his administration to champion human rights as integral to the United States' international role, President Biden has so far left the Sahrawis behind Meanwhile, Moroccan authorities have carried out increased crackdowns on Sahrawi human rights and dissent under the green light of sustained US recognition for Morocco's claim to Western Sahara The administration's [recent public statements](#) on the matter and [continued commitments](#) to a strong security relationship with the Moroccan government suggest a refusal to address these abuses and hold Morocco to account

Implicitly allowing and abetting continued violations of Sahrawi rights and international law diminishes the Biden administration's credibility when it criticizes abuses committed by other countries The administration's stances in defense of human rights have so far conveniently focused on geopolitical adversaries Morocco, let alone any country, cannot be an exception just because it is a US ally

President Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken must stand up for Sahrawis' human rights without further hesitation There are no political considerations that justify not doing so

Western Sahara, From Annexation to Today

Classified as a [non self governing territory](#) by the United Nations, Western Sahara and its indigenous population have faced forceful repression by Moroccan authorities since Spain withdrew its colonial rule in the 1970s, despite UN General Assembly resolutions passed with broad support in [1979](#) and [1990](#) that explicitly called for Sahrawi self determination and an end to Morocco's de facto annexation The United Nations has [reaffirmed this position numerous times](#), including just last year Since conflict first broke out nearly five decades ago, the armed clashes and then post cease fire control by Moroccan forces have displaced tens of thousands of Sahrawis to [Algeria](#) Generations of refugees remain there in run down camps, waiting for a chance to return to a home where their rights are not repressed

The Polisario Front, Western Sahara's self proclaimed government in exile in Algerian refugee camps, has held the banner of the Sahrawi movement for independence since its establishment in the 1970s and gained control of a small portion of territory ceded by Morocco in a cease fire brokered by the United Nations in 1991 That [cease fire](#), and the compromises that immediately preceded it, also guaranteed a free and fair referendum for Sahrawis to choose independence or integration into Moroccan jurisdiction The kingdom of Morocco explicitly agreed to facilitate the referendum Yet Moroccan authorities have time and time again failed to follow through due to perpetual contention over who would be eligible to vote As it stands, Morocco now effectively controls three fourths of Western Sahara, with the Polisario controlling the remaining one fourth

Historically, US policy toward Western Sahara prior to the Trump administration had strayed little from the international consensus and the UN plan for a referendum, formally supporting neither Morocco's nor the Polisario Front's claim to the territory. When the Moroccan government proposed a plan for regional autonomy for Western Sahara, the Obama administration [called](#) the plan "realistic and credible" and claimed it could enable the Sahrawi people to "run their own affairs in dignity." Otherwise, the United States continued to encourage UN negotiations between Moroccan authorities and Sahrawi leaders. But the Trump administration's decision abandoned any pretense of neutrality over the question of sovereignty.

Human Rights Violations and Lack of Monitoring

The United States remains the only country to formally recognize full Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara. But even with the broader international consensus and associated UN resolutions, meaningful international human rights monitoring and accountability in the territory are woefully inadequate.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara, [MINURSO](#), inexplicably lacks a human rights monitoring and reporting mechanism to ensure Sahrawis' rights, an extreme rarity across UN missions. With MINURSO renewed via UN Security Council vote each October, the United States—and now the Biden administration—holds significant influence as the mandate's "penholder," responsible for drafting and proposing the resolution. With impunity fueled by the absence of UN monitoring, Moroccan authorities continue to systemically assault, torture, arbitrarily arrest and detain, forcibly disappear, and silence Sahrawi activists and human rights defenders. And if the Biden administration does not include and push for such a human rights mechanism in its draft before the Security Council, these crackdowns are only likely to worsen.

Abuses against Sahrawis are nothing new. In one case in July 2019, Amnesty International [verified](#) Moroccan police's use of excessive force targeting Sahrawi protesters, in a wave of brutality in which security forces in a tactical police vehicle also trampled and killed a demonstrator. Sahrawi journalist Ibrahim Amrikli was arbitrarily [arrested](#), detained and beaten over two days in May 2020 until he signed a "confession" to false charges. Authorities had long targeted Amrikli, previously detaining him at least three times from 2017 to 2019 for between four days and two months on falsified charges of "committing violent acts." In a similar case, in July 2020, police in Laayoune arbitrarily detained another journalist, Essabi Yahdih, interrogating him for 10 hours about the editorial line of the publication he founded, threatening him with baseless prosecution; he was not charged.

In recent months, several Sahrawi activists [have raised alarm](#) about authorities increasingly arresting and surveilling activists and their families in a renewed crackdown emboldened by Trump's decision. In all, Amnesty International [documented in a July 2022 report](#) the targeting by Moroccan security forces of at least 22 Sahrawi activists, journalists, human rights defenders, and even minors peacefully exercising their rights to free speech and assembly since November 2020 alone. Among them, Amnesty has found at least seven cases of torture and cruel treatment; three house raids; and 11 instances of arbitrary detention, house arrest, assault, harassment, and/or credible allegations of rape by security forces.

Moroccan security forces have imposed a campaign of [targeted](#) abuse toward prominent Sahrawi activist Sultana Khaya and her family, held under violently enforced arbitrary house arrest since November 2020 without cause. On May 10, police [raided](#) Khaya's home and arrested three activists who had sneaked in to support Khaya: Babouzi Labhi, Salek Baber and Khaled Boufraya. Authorities proceeded to torture them for hours and then stranded them deep in the desert. And in a horrifying episode two days later, dozens of masked police entered Khaya's home on the eve of the Muslim celebration of Eid al-Fitr and tied, beat, and attempted to rape her, while also attacking and raping her sister. There has been no meaningful investigation or accountability for any of this horrific abuse.

The Khayas' plight is emblematic of the myriad government abuses against Sahrawis. This February, videos [circulated on social media](#) showing masked Moroccan policemen forcibly entering the home of another Sahrawi activist, [Ghali Bouhla](#), where they tortured him in front of his mother and sister. Authorities later abducted and jailed him for the lawful acts of peaceful protest and distributing Sahrawi flags. He remains in jail, sentenced through the end of 2022 on bogus drug charges with no investigation into the torture against him.

Security forces also broke into activist Mina Bali's house and attacked and beat her and her sister Embarka Alina in May 2021 after they waved Western Sahara flags on their rooftop. And when Lahcen Dali, a human rights defender, came to check on the family, he was also beaten and then later abducted and dropped off deep in the desert. Mustapha Razouk, a 15-year-old boy, was violently assaulted and arrested by police, along with 4 other minors, after peacefully demonstrating in solidarity with Sultana Khaya. Mustapha was detained and brutally tortured for three days, with authorities pouring boiling melted plastic onto his body, beating him with iron sticks, and suspending him from the ceiling by a rope around his hands.

At least [9 Sahrawi activists](#) currently remain detained following convictions in unfair mass trials over the past decade that carried sentences of 20 years to life imprisonment. These [sham trials](#) failed to investigate allegations of torture and coerced confessions. Several detainees have carried out hunger strikes to protest the poor conditions and ill treatment. One of them,

[Brahim Ismaili](#) who is serving a life sentence was transferred to a psychiatric ward without justification in November 20 7, just after he had started a second hunger strike Authorities have further tortured, denied critical medical care and carried out other inhumane treatment of Sahrawi detainees [Abdeljalil Laaroussi](#), [Mohamed Haddi](#), [Sidi Abbahah](#) and [Bachir Khadda](#) The latter three have been held in 23 hours a day solitary confinement for four years As of mid June, Haddi's family had not heard from him since April 9, when authorities had him call his family to relay their threats to put him in a dungeon like cell if his family did not stop publicly calling for his release

The pattern throughout is clear: Moroccan authorities have gone to brutal, extreme lengths to crush dissent and the freedom of expression of Sahrawi activists and critics no matter how tangential their involvement in the independence movement

This worsening crackdown received condemnation from [UN special rapporteur Mary Lawlor](#) in July; meanwhile, the Biden administration has kept silent and maintained its military and diplomatic relations with the Moroccan government as if no crackdown is happening While authorities continue to arbitrarily imprison and torture Sahrawi dissidents, the Biden administration agreed to increase military cooperation with Morocco's security forces during a [visit](#) by Army Chief of Staff James McConville in August, and awarded Raytheon with a \$2 2 million contract [to arm the Moroccan military](#) just weeks before McConville's visit

Since the inauguration in January, President Biden has contradicted his stated commitment to human rights in foreign policy by failing to press for and uphold accountability for Moroccan authorities' flagrant, systematic human rights abuses In fact, there has been no sign of any greater scrutiny of violations by Moroccan authorities in Western Sahara than the low bar set by the Trump administration

Meaningful Action Needed by the Biden Administration

The empowering effect of Biden and Blinken's silence on the abuses in Western Sahara is clear This silence, with the maintenance of the new status quo set by Trump, serves as a tacit rubber stamp that grants political cover for Moroccan authorities to continue cracking down on pro independence Sahrawis with impunity

As an ally and backer of Morocco's security state, the United States must stand up for the human rights of Sahrawis, not enable the government to violate them That means exhausting all avenues to ensure inclusion of human rights monitoring mechanisms in Western Sahara when the UN Security Council votes in October to renew MINURSO, and pressing Moroccan authorities to end and allow independent investigations into the systematic abuses against Sahrawi activists Biden must also hold Moroccan authorities accountable for the increasing crackdowns and human rights abuses against Sahrawis, increase efforts to secure appointment of a new UN special envoy, and bring an end to the denial of Sahrawis' right to freedom of expression including expression in support of independence

The Moroccan government's crackdown must also prompt a reevaluation of the US security relationship with Morocco, to hold authorities accountable and ensure Washington is not enabling abuses against Sahrawis In fact, this is explicitly required by US law The Leahy Laws and the Foreign Assistance Act both bar the US government from providing security assistance to foreign security forces committing gross violations of human rights and international law According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the United States supplies [90 percent of all of Morocco's arms](#), with more sales still pending or under negotiation The Biden administration has a moral and legal obligation to review and report pursuant to these laws if US assistance was used to carry out such abuses, and to suspend arms transfers if there is substantial risk of their use in carrying out further violations

Eight months into his presidency, Biden still has time to place the United States unwaveringly on the side of the human rights of the Sahrawis, including their right to expression and to advocate for their independence Systematic, flagrant human rights violations cannot be met by this administration with silence not in Western Sahara, not anywhere

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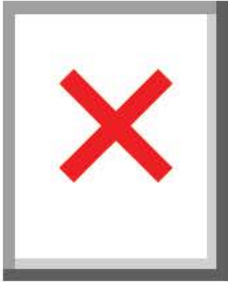
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Homeland Security (DHS) said Mayorkas has directed the DHS's internal oversight office to be on-site full-time to monitor agents' conduct. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz suggested that what many viewers took to be agents using whips were actually agents swinging their horses' reigns. This incident comes as tensions at the makeshift camp in Del Rio, Tex., increased due to thousands of migrants crossing the river daily last week, overwhelming U.S. Border Patrol. In response to this sudden influx of undocumented migrants from Haiti—a country impacted by gang violence, the assassination of its president and a 7.2-magnitude earthquake—the Biden administration has begun a mass deportation of Haitians. President Biden stated that while his administration “is committed to developing safe, orderly and humane pathways for migration,” crossing the border is “not the way to do it.”

The Treasury Department announced Tuesday that it has imposed sanctions against Suex, a cryptocurrency exchange operating in Russia, for its role in ransomware attacks and other financial crimes, according to [Politico](#). In response, the Treasury also plans to identify other exchanges tied to illegal activity and update its ransomware guidance for victims to include a warning advising companies not to pay any ransom demanded by hackers. These actions represent a significant step in the Biden administration's efforts to mitigate the threat of ransomware gangs as they continue to target U.S. infrastructure. Given that cybercriminals often rely on digital currencies to carry out their ransomware attacks, several cybersecurity experts have called for extreme measures such as an outright ban on cryptocurrency. Ari Redboard, former senior adviser to the Treasury Department's terrorism and financial intelligence unit, believes the Treasury's most recent countermeasures show “that law enforcement and regulators can go after the illicit actors who take advantage of crypto without sort of going after the technology itself.”

FBI Director Christopher Wray said that the FBI has more than doubled its domestic terrorism caseload since spring 2020, [according](#) to Reuters. During testimony before the Senate's Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, Director Wray said the number of cases has “exploded.” Consequently, the FBI has dedicated more resources to domestic terrorism investigations, which has included, in the words of Director Wray, “increasing personnel by 260 percent last year.” U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said that the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol had shown that white supremacists and militia groups were the greatest domestic security threat.

The House of Representatives is expected to consider the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) later this week, [according](#) to The Hill. On Monday, 56 anti-war groups urged lawmakers to use the NDAA to end all U.S. participation in the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen. The letter provides implicit support of an amendment proposed by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), which was among more than 800 amendments that have been filed for this year's NDAA. While U.S. lawmakers in both parties have been increasingly critical of U.S. involvement in the war, Congress has been unsuccessful in ending support for the Saudi coalition. President Biden has committed to ending military support for offensive Saudi operations, but critics contend that the administration's continued logistical support still enables these operations. “U.S. taxpayer dollars still bankroll the maintenance and spare parts for Saudi warplanes raining down bombs on Yemeni men, women, and children amidst the world's largest humanitarian crisis.,” Khanna and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said in a joint statement earlier this month.

President Biden is raising the refugee admissions cap to 125,000 for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, making good on his campaign pledge to do so, [according](#) to NPR. The White House said this change was made in light of an unprecedented number of displaced people around the world. The cap had previously been cut to a historic low of 15,000 by President Donald Trump. Several key groups, including Central Americans, Afghans affiliated with the United States, LGBTQ refugees and at-risk Uighurs, will be given particular focus by the administration. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) expressed that while he was disappointed with the projected number of refugees to be admitted in the next fiscal year, he “acknowledge[s] the challenges the Biden Administration inherited with the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program due to the anti-immigrant actions of the previous Administration.”

ICYMI: Yesterday on Lawfare

Jen Patja Howell [shared](#) an episode of the Lawfare Podcast in which Alan Rozenshtein spoke with Seth Stoughton on the fatal shooting of Ashli Babbitt, a protester at the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Matthias C. Kettemann and Torben Klaus [discussed](#) how German law could provide clearer rules in content moderation practices.

Benjamin Wittes [explained](#) how John Durham’s case against Michael Sussmann is remarkably weak.

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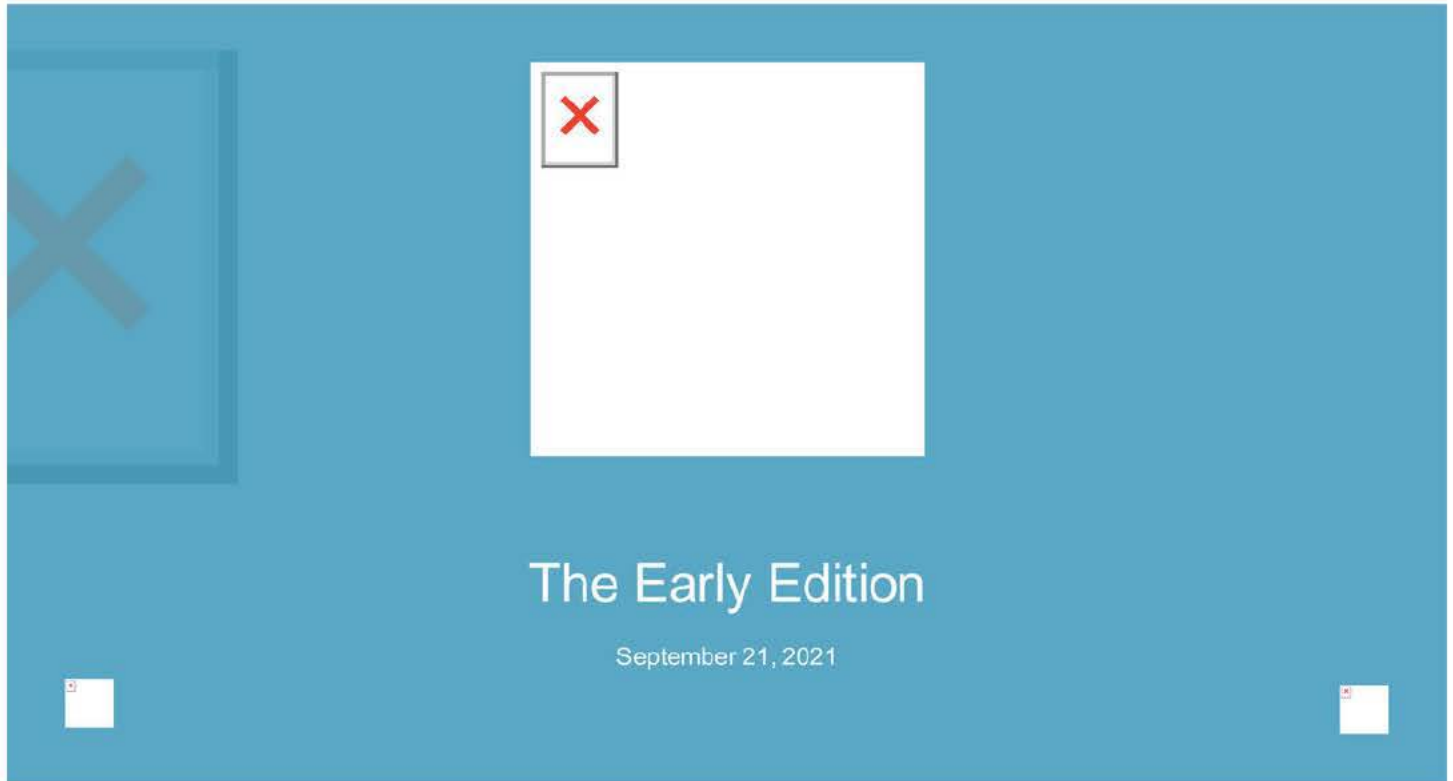
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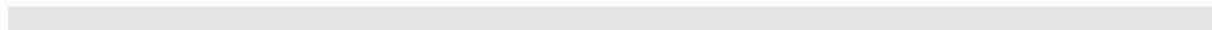


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U.S. RELATIONS

A member of CIA Director William Burns' team reported symptoms consistent with Havana syndrome during Burns' trip to India earlier this month, sources have said. The staff member had to receive medical attention, with the incident setting off a arms race within the government and leaving Burns "fuming" with anger, according to one source. Kyle Atwood reports for [CNN](#).

Two veteran Republican campaign operatives have been charged in a new federal indictment with funneling \$25,000 from a Russian national into former President Trump's 2016 campaign. The grand jury indictment alleges that Jesse Benton and Doug Wead "worked together to accept \$100,000 from an unidentified Russian national in order to get the foreigner a meeting with then-candidate Trump at a fundraiser in Philadelphia on Sept. 22, 2016...Neither Trump nor his campaign are mentioned by name in the indictment, but details in the 19-page document make clear that the scheme involved seeking the donation in connection with the Trump event and an opportunity to get face-to-face with him...For example, the indictment's reference to a \$25,000 donation on Oct. 27, 2016, to a political committee by Benton

— a eged y to cover up the fore gn source of the money — nes up w th a donat on of the same s ze and date to Trump s po t ca comm ttee attr buted to a Jesse Benton, wh ch prosecutors sa d s a garb ng of Benton s name,” Josh Gerste n and Ky e Cheney report for [POLITICO](#).

According to the indictment, Benton and Wead “concealed the scheme from the candidate, federal regulators, and the public,” Fe c a Sonmez and Isaac Stan ey-Becker report for the [Wash ngton Post](#).

The U.S. has added Guatemalan Attorney General Consuelo Porras, a top aide of Porras and five Salvadoran Supreme Court judges on a list of “undemocratic and corrupt” officials. Secretary of State Antony B nken announced the move on Tw tter w th E Sa vador s Pres dent Nay b Buke e, respond ng on Tw tter that “t s c ear the st has NOTHING to do w th corrupt on, t s pure po t cs and the owest k nd of nterference.” [Reuters](#) report ng.

A drone strike has killed at least one person in a rebel-controlled area of northwestern Syria. The drone ht a veh c e trav ng on a rura road n the area, k ng one un dent fed nd v dua , rescue workers and the Syr an Observatory for Human R ghts have sa d. Spokesperson Co . Wayne Marotto sa d that the U.S. coa t on was not beh nd the attack. However, U.S. Centra Command ater announced that U.S. forces conducted a “k net c counterterror sm str ke” near Id b prov nce target ng a sen or a -Qaeda eader. “In t a nd cat ons are that we struck the nd v dua we were a m ng for, and there are no nd cat ons of c v an casua es as a resu t of the str ke,” the [statement](#) sa d. “The Syr an Observatory for Human R ghts, based n Br ta n, sa d the veh c e carr ed a m tant from one of the rad ca groups operat ng n the prov nce. The Observatory d dn t dent fy the group but sa d t was nked to a -Qaeda,” [AP](#) reports.

Agriculture group New Cooperative group was hit by a ransomware attack from Russia-linked ransomware group BlackMatter over the weekend. The attack potent a y endangers the operat ons of a company key to the agr cu tura supp y cha n and appears to test Pres dent B den s terms that Russ a-based hack ng groups shou d steer c ear of 16 crt ca sectors of the U.S. economy, wh ch ncude “food and agr cu ture.” In messages w th B oomberg News, however, B ackMatter sa d that t has ru es for how t operates ts ransomware operat on and the hack on New Cooperat ve d d not v o ate B den s mandate as “the vo umes of the r product on do not correspond to the vo ume to ca them crt ca.” W am Turton reports for [B oomberg](#).

President Biden intends to defend the U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan at a speech to the U.N. today and to argue that it was needed to pivot U.S. policy to focus on a global challenge from China and climate change. Trevor Hunn cutt and Steve Ho and report for [Reuters](#).

56 anti-war groups are urging lawmakers to use the annual defense policy bill, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), to end all U.S. support for the Saudi Arabia-led coalition fighting in Yemen’s civil war. In a [etter](#) sent yesterday the organ zat ons wrote that “by suspend ng the sa e of arms and end ng U.S. part c pat on n the Saud coa t on s war and bockade, Congress can prevent a human tar an catastrophe from spr ng further out of contro as t reasserts ts const tut ona author ty on matters of war and peace.” Rebecca Khee reports for [The H](#) .

AFGHANISTAN

U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace has launched an investigation into U.K. Ministry of Defense data breaches involving the email addresses of hundreds of Afghan interpreters who worked for British forces in Afghanistan. More than 250 peop e seek ng reocat on to the U.K. - many of whom are n h d ng - were m staken y cop ed nto an ema from the Mn stry of Defense, w th the r ema addresses, names and some assoc ated prof e p tures, be ng v s be to a rec p ents. The U.K. Mn stry of Defense has apo og zed n a statement. Ph Kemp, Lucy Mann ng and Ed Campbe report

for [BBC News](#).

The Taliban have expanded their interim Cabinet and have announced a list of deputy ministers, failing to name any women. The additional deputy ministers were announced, despite an international outcry when the Taliban presented the additional Cabinet earlier this month. At a news conference today, Taliban government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid held out the possibility of adding women to the Cabinet later but gave no specifics. Kathy Gannon reports for [AP](#).

Among the deputy ministers appointed, two veteran battlefield commanders from the movement's southern heartlands were named as deputies in important ministries. Taliban spokesperson Mujahid said Mu'ah Abdu Qayyum Zakrawi be deputy defense minister, while Sadr Ibrahim was named deputy minister for the interior. [Reuters](#) reports.

The Taliban have said that there is no evidence of Islamic State or al Qaeda militants being in Afghanistan, despite Islamic State recently claiming responsibility for bomb attacks in the eastern city of Jalalabad. "We do not see anyone in Afghanistan who has anything to do with al Qaeda," Taliban spokesperson Mujahid told a news conference in Kabul. "We are committed to the fact that, from Afghanistan, there will not be any danger to any country," he added. [Reuters](#) reports.

The Taliban administration is working towards reopening high school education for girls in Afghanistan, Mujahid has said, giving no time frame for action. The Taliban last week that they would open schools for high school-aged boys but not girls. "The Ministry of Education is working hard to provide the ground for the education of high school girls as soon as possible, works under way on the procedure, and it is hoped that this will be done, God willing," the Taliban spokesperson told reporters. [Reuters](#) reporting.

Nearly three metric tons of heroin with a street value of \$2.7 billion from Afghanistan have been seized from Mundra Port in the western Indian state of Gujarat in a major bust, officials have said. The consignment – with one container carrying nearly 2,000kg of heroin and another holding nearly 1,000kg – originated from Afghanistan and was shipped from a port in Iran to Gujarat. The [Guardian](#) reports.

AUKUS AGREEMENT

E.U. officials are demanding answers and an apology from Australia over its treatment of France following the Aukus security deal between Australia, U.S. and U.K. which resulted in Australia pulling out of a prior submarine deal it had made with France. The fallout from the Aukus pact has threatened to delay a free-trade agreement that Australia has been hoping to enter with the E.U., with E.U. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen saying that Australia had some explaining to do first. "One of our member states has been treated in a way that is not acceptable, so we want to know what happened and why," von der Leyen said in an interview with [CNN](#). "Therefore, you first of all clarify that, before you keep on going with business as usual," she said. Amy Remes reports for the [Guardian](#).

The E.U.'s top leaders have accused President Biden of disloyalty to the transatlantic alliance, and demanded he explain why he misled France and other E.U. partners in forging the Aukus pact. "With the new Joe Biden administration, America's back. What does that mean America's back? Is America back in America or somewhere else? We don't know," European Council President Charles Michel told reporters in New York. "The elementary principles for an alliance are loyalty and transparency," Michel said, adding: "we are observing a clear lack of transparency and loyalty." David M. Herszenhorn reports for [POLITICO](#).

Germany has joined France today in criticizing the U.S. for negotiating the Aukus pact with Australia and the U.K., which cost France the lucrative submarine deal, saying Washington and Canberra have damaged trust between allies that would be difficult to rebuild. Further, “in a concrete sign of the bloc’s outrage, E.U.

ambassadors postponed preparations for an inaugural trade and technology council on Sept. 29 with the United States, a gathering that was trumpeted as a major advance in the transatlantic alliance,” Philip Benknosop and Robyn Emmott report for [Reuters](#).

The Philippines has said that it is backing the Aukus pact and hopes that the defense alliance can maintain the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region, a view that contrasts sharply with Indonesia and Malaysia. “The enhancement of a near-abroad ally’s ability to project power should restore and keep the balance rather than destabilize it,” the Philippines foreign minister, Teodoro Locsin, said in a statement. [Reuters](#) reporting.

DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

The chair of the select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Bennie Thompson (D-MS), has said that the select committee will likely send out subpoenas to companies and individuals who have not complied with the committee’s records requests “within a week.” The select committee requested records from a variety of government agencies and social media companies over August and earlier this month the committee told social media companies that it still needs “much more information” and would use any available means to compel them to cooperate. Thompson would not go into detail on which companies have been cooperating or resisting the requests but said that “we will probably as a committee issue subpoenas either to witnesses or organizations within a week.” Anne Grayer and Ryan Nobles report for [CNN](#).

House Democrats are planning to introduce a package of proposed new limits on executive power today, seeking to strengthen checks on the presidency and addressing the ways that former President Trump shattered norms over the course of his presidency. The Democrats have compiled numerous bills into a package they call the Protecting Our Democracy Act, however it’s likely that the Act may be taken up in a piecemeal way in the Senate given the previous support from Republicans to only certain of its reforms. The changes proposed include making it “harder for presidents to offer or bestow pardons in situations that raise suspicion of corruption, refuse to respond to oversight subpoenas, spend or secretly freeze funds contrary to congressional appropriations, and fire inspectors general or retaliate against whistle-blowers, among many other changes,” Charles Savage reports for the [New York Times](#).

A Pentagon appeals panel has overturned a ruling by an army judge who found that evidence obtained during the torture of a defendant could be considered in determining pretrial matters in a death-penalty case at Guantánamo Bay. “The issue of admissibility of such evidence is not ripe or ready for judicial review, the Court of Military Commission Review ruled in a six-page [decision](#) that essentially left to another day the overarching issue of whether prosecutors can in some instances use evidence obtained through the torture of a prisoner,” Carol Rosenberg reports for the [New York Times](#).

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer who was arrested for carrying a gun at Saturday’s “Justice for J6” rightwing rally at the U.S. Capitol will not be prosecuted. “Generally, under federal law, law enforcement officers are given reciprocity to legally carry their weapons in other states, even those with restrictive gun laws. But the law has an exemption for government property or military bases where it’s legal to carry a gun, like the U.S. Capitol. A spokesperson for the U.S. attorney’s office in Washington said prosecutors were not moving forward with charges but did not provide additional information about the decision,” Michael Basamo, Eric Tucker and Coleen Long report for [AP](#).

Lawyers for the Trump Organization’s chief financial officer, Allen Weisselberg, have asked a judge for more time to prepare their defense, saying that they are reviewing millions of pages of documents and that prosecutors may file further indictments against other people. Since Weisselberg’s indictment, his defense team has received more than six million pages of documents from prosecutors, which they need additional time to review, his lawyers said. “We have strong reasons to believe there could be other indictments coming...we are shooting at a moving target,” Bryan Skaratos, a lawyer for Weisselberg, asked the New York State Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan yesterday. Prosecutors did not respond in court to Skaratos’s comment about further expected indictments. Corinne Ramey and Deanna Pau report for the [Wall Street Journal](#).

The Manhattan criminal court judge tentatively scheduled Weisselberg’s trial for the end of summer 2022. The proposed time frame would overlap with the closing stretch of the 2022 midterm campaign season, potentially influencing the impact of Trump on the midterms. Jonah E. Bromwich and Kate Chrostobek report for the [New York Times](#).

A lawyer working with Trump’s legal team tried to convince then-Vice President Pence that he could overturn the 2020 election results on Jan. 6 when Congress counted the Electoral College votes by throwing out electors from seven states, according to the new book “Peril” from journalists Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. The scheme was outlined in a two-page [memo](#), obtained by Woodward and Costa and subsequently CNN, which “provides new details showing how Trump and his team tried to persuade Pence to subvert the Constitution and throw out the election results on Jan. 6,” James Gane and Jeremy Herb report for [CNN](#).

According to Woodward and Costa’s new book, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Mike Lee (R-UT) agreed separately to consider Trump’s election fraud claims, with both senators remaining unconvinced. The new book reveals how far the two Republicans, who both ultimately voted to certify the election results, went in examining the former president’s fraud claims, including getting briefed on the details, involving the senator staff and calling state officials throughout the country. Isaac Stanley-Becker reports for the [Washington Post](#).

IMMIGRATION

Photos and video have emerged showing Border Patrol agents chasing and grabbing immigrants while on horseback, with the Department for Homeland Security (DHS) announcing an investigation into the footage. The images show the Border Patrol agents attempting to grab migrants and use their horses to push them back towards Mexico. One agent is heard on video shouting an obscenity as a child jumps out of the horse’s path. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters in Del Rio, Texas, that the DHS would look into the incident, with the department announcing more formal inquiries yesterday evening. “The footage is extremely troubling and the facts learned from the investigation, which will be conducted swiftly, will define the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken,” the DHS said in a [Tweet](#). Nick Mroff and Felicia Sonmez report for the [Washington Post](#).

White House press secretary Jen Psaki yesterday called the pictures that appeared to show a Border Patrol agent on horseback with a whip to deter migrants “horrific” and that she could not imagine “what context would make that appropriate.” Psaki declined to confirm yesterday what the consequences would be for the agent’s actions, saying “we just have to get more information on that” before she could comment further. Doreh Gregorian reports for [NBC News](#).

The DHS has asked the Pentagon for help in moving migrants waiting asylum processing in Del Rio, Texas, to other processing facilities, Department of Defense (DOD) press secretary John Kirby said yesterday. Kirby said

that the DOD support, which will be on a reimbursable, temporary basis, will conclude on or before Oct. 20 and can “be provided at minimal risk to current DOD missions.” Eleni Mitchell reports for [The Hill](#).

President Biden’s administration has said that the U.S. will raise the cap on refugee admissions to 125,000 next year, fulfilling an earlier pledge from Biden to raise the cap that had been cut to a historic low by former President Trump. “The White House set the proposed annual cap in a report to Congress, saying there was an unprecedented number of displaced people around the world because of conflict, humanitarian crises and climate change,” [AP](#) reports.

ELECTIONS

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Liberal Party has won the most seats of any party in Canada’s parliamentary elections, but Trudeau’s gamble to win a majority of seats failed. According to the unofficial results, “Trudeau’s Liberals were elected in 156 seats — one less than they won in 2019, and 14 short of the 170 needed for a majority in the House of Commons,” [AP](#) reports.

President Vladimir Putin’s United Russia party has maintained its tight grip on the Russia’s parliament following three-day elections, according to election results announced by the Central Election Commission. The turnout, at 51.68 percent, for the elections surpassed the 2016 turnout of 47.88 percent, which was the lowest in Russian history. Robyn Dixon reports for the [Washington Post](#).

The elections in Russia have been criticized by opposition parties and independent observers of mass fraud, ballot stuffing and tampering. “Pre-vote surveys had suggested that discontent over years of falling living standards and corruption against would-be United Russia support. In the event, near final official results showed turnout around only 4% less than the last time a similar election was held in 2016. The U.S. State Department said the election conditions had not been conducive to free and fair proceedings, Britain’s foreign ministry called the vote a setback for democratic freedom, and E.U. foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the bloc noted reports of serious violations,” Andrew Osborn and Polina Nkoskaya report for [Reuters](#).

OTHER GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Sudanese government has said that military officers and civilians linked to the deposed regime of longtime president Omar al-Bashir had attempted a coup today but have been brought under control. Over 40 officers have been arrested, including the leaders of the failed coup, and interrogations of suspects involved in the attempted coup is due to begin. Arwa Ibrahim provides live updates for [Al Jazeera](#).

Russia was responsible for the killing of Alexander Litvinenko, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has found today. Litvinenko, a former Russian spy who became a British citizen, was fatally poisoned with radioactive polonium-210 in London in 2006. A U.K. public inquiry which concluded that the killing was “probably approved” by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Litvinenko’s widow took the case against Russia to the ECHR, which has agreed with the U.K. inquiry’s conclusion. [BBC News](#) reporting.

The Kremlin has rejected the “unsubstantiated” ruling from the ECHR that found Russia was responsible for the 2006 poisoning of ex-KGB officer Litvinenko. “The ECHR hardly has the authority or technological capacity to

possess information on the matter. There are still no results from this investigation and making such claims at the very least unsubstantiated," a Kremlin spokesperson has said. [Reuters](#) reporting.

The annual “Freedom on the Net” report by U.S. think-tank Freedom House paints a grim picture of online rights declining globally in 2021 for the 11th year in a row. Internet users in a record number of countries have faced arrest and physical attacks for their posts over the past year, the report states, with internet shutdowns in Myanmar and Belarus being particular low points. [A Jazeera](#) reports.

Just Security have published a piece titled **“Revenge of the State: Freedom House Finds Tech Increasingly Serves Authoritarian Ends”** by Justin Hendrix, which unpacks some of the Freedom on the Net report’s broader themes and considers the report’s findings in regard to the U.S., India and China.

A Rwandan court has convicted Paul Rusesabagina, a U.S. resident immortalized by Hollywood for saving more than 1,200 people during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, and sentenced him to 25 years in prison. Rusesabagina was found guilty of at least a dozen charges spanning from terrorism to financing and founding armed groups, murder, arson and conspiracy to involve children in militancy. Rusesabagina, one of Rwandan President Paul Kagame’s sharpest critics, has described the trauma as politically motivated to silence him. Nicholas Baro reports for the [Washington Street Journal](#).

A New York man has been arrested for threatening to kill the Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader after he tracked down Abinader in New York City where he is staying for the U.N. General Assembly, federal authorities said yesterday. Enrique Figueroa, a self-proclaimed QAnon supporter, made repeated threats on social media in recent weeks, depicting a growing violent obsession with Abinader and putting him on the radar of law enforcement officials in New York. Shayna Jacobs and Samantha Schmidt report for the [Washington Post](#).

CORONAVIRUS

The coronavirus has infected over 42.28 million and has now killed over 676,000 people in the United States, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Globally, there have been over 229.1 million confirmed coronavirus cases and over 4.70 million deaths. Sergio Hernandez, Sean O’Key, Amanda Watts, Byron Maney and Henrik Pettersson report for [CNN](#).

A map and analysis of the vaccine roll out across the U.S. is available at the [New York Times](#).

A map and analysis of all confirmed cases of the virus in the U.S. is available at the [New York Times](#).

U.S. and worldwide maps tracking the spread of the pandemic are available at the [Washington Post](#).

A state-by-state guide to lockdown measures and reopenings is provided by the [New York Times](#).

Latest updates on the pandemic at the [Guardian](#).





ICYMI: YESTERDAY ON *JUST SECURITY*

[Revenge of the State: Freedom House Finds Tech Increasingly Serves Authoritarian Ends](#)

by Justin Hendrix

[Announcing a Partnership With Oxford University Press](#)

by Tess Bridgeman and Ryan Goodman

[In the Wake of the January 6 Attacks, Will Congress and the Administration Heed the Lessons of 9/11?](#)

by Russ Feingold

[Why the UN Needs a Comprehensive “Agenda for Protection”](#)

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Cc: "Iverson, Dena (PAO)" <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>, "Heinzelman, Kate (OAG)" (b) (6), "Seidman, Ricki (OASG)" (b) (6), "Matthews-Johnson, Tamarra D. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Visser, Tim (OAG)" (b) (6), "Reich, Mitchell (OAG)" (b) (6)
Subject: Abbreviated AM Clips

NATIONAL SECURITY

WSJ: Iowa Grain Cooperative Hit by Cyberattack Linked to Ransomware Group, David Uberti, September 20, 2021, 5:22 PM

An Iowa grain co-op said it was hit with a cyberattack that security researchers are linking to newly launched ransomware group BlackMatter, which the researchers said demanded \$5.9 million to unlock the organization's data. Fort Dodge, Iowa-based New Cooperative Inc. said Monday that it took its computer networks down after some of its devices and systems recently were hacked. The organization notified law enforcement and is working with data-security experts to investigate what happened, it said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) See also: [The Hill](#)

Bloomberg: After Biden Warning, Hackers Define 'Critical' as They See Fit, William Turton, September 20, 2021, 2:42 PM

After a furious run of ransomware attacks in the first half of the year, President Joe Biden in July warned his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, that Russia-based hacking groups should steer clear of 16 critical sectors of the U.S. economy. In recent days, a Russia-linked ransomware group called BlackMatter attacked a grain cooperative in Iowa, an incident that appears to test Biden's terms since "food and agriculture" is one of the protected sectors. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: Alaskan health department still struggling to recover after 'nation-state sponsored' cyberattack, Sean Lyngaas, September 20, 2021, 9:00 PM

Some computer networks at the Alaskan health department are still offline after foreign government-backed hackers breached the department in May, a spokesperson told CNN on Monday. News of the breach first emerged in May, but Alaskan officials now say that "nation-state sponsored" hackers exploited a vulnerability in the health department's website to gain further access to department data. The hackers may have accessed Alaskans' Social Security numbers and health and financial information, officials said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Politico: **‘Cowboys for Trump’ founder’s Jan. 6 case highlights challenges facing prosecutors**, Kyle Cheney and Josh Gerstein, September 20, 2021, 5:20 PM

A New Mexico county official charged with two misdemeanors for breaching Capitol grounds on Jan. 6 lashed out Monday after a federal judge set a March 2022 trial date to resolve his case. “I broke nothing, I didn’t fight with anybody,” Couy Griffin, an Otero County commissioner and the founder of “Cowboys for Trump,” said during a video hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden. “My life’s been turned upside down. ... I’m being punished every day I don’t have a trial.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

WaPo: **Two GOP operatives indicted for allegedly routing money from Russian national to support Trump campaign**, Felicia Sonmez and Isaac Stanley-Becker, September 20, 2021, 10:29 PM

A political strategist who was pardoned by the former president after being convicted in a 2012 campaign finance scheme is facing new charges related to an alleged 2016 plot to illegally funnel donations made by a Russian national to support then-candidate Donald Trump’s White House bid. Jesse Benton, 43, who was previously a top aide to former congressman Ron Paul (R-Tex.) and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and later ran a pro-Trump super PAC, was charged this month, according to a federal indictment in Washington unsealed Monday. Also charged is Roy Douglas “Doug” Wead, 75, a conservative author and former special assistant to President George H.W. Bush. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Axios](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [Politico](#), [UPI](#)

AP: **California militia member pleads guilty to conspiracy charge**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 9:00 PM

An alleged member of a California right-wing militia group pleaded guilty Monday to charges stemming from the fatal shooting of a federal guard in Oakland more than a year ago. Kenny Miksch, 21, became the fourth member of the so-called Grizzly Scouts to plead guilty to conspiring to obstruct justice, KTVU-TV reported. He faces 20 years in prison when sentenced. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Courthouse News](#), [KTVU-Fox \(Oakland, CA\)](#), [The Mercury News \(san Jose, CA\)](#), [NBC](#)

WaPo: **[OPINION] Two miscarriages of justice reveal a sickening disparity**, Ruth Marcus, September 20, 2021, 6:15 PM

Two individuals allegedly made false statements to federal investigators. One now faces trial on a felony charge. The other does not. I defy you to read about their cases and conclude that justice is served in either instance, or that it is being applied even-handedly. Let’s start with the person who has been let off the hook, because the decision is so infuriating and underscores so dramatically the unfairness of the other prosecution. W. Jay Abbott was the special agent in charge of the FBI’s Indianapolis field office in 2015, when it received reliable reports that USA Gymnastics physician Larry Nassar had sexually abused multiple gymnasts. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law360: **Ex-State Dept. Staffer Cops To Contractor Kickback Scheme**, Max Jaeger, September 20, 2021, 5:08 PM

A longtime U. S. Department of State employee has copped to taking \$60,000 in bribes and handing a government contractor insider bidding information on a multi-million-dollar consulate security project, the U. S. Department of Justice announced on Monday. May Salehi, 66, voluntarily surrendered to authorities and pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit

honest services fraud for helping a winning contractor raise its bid by nearly \$1 million before it was selected, the government said. Salehi was released pending sentencing. "As a State Department employee, May Salehi was entrusted to serve the public. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: Feds `examining' shooting of Black man by Georgia trooper, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 5:00 PM

Federal authorities said Monday they are looking into the shooting death of a Black man by a Georgia state trooper, who tried to stop the motorist last year over a broken tail light. The family of Julian Lewis have been urging federal investigators to take up the case after a grand jury in rural Screven County declined in June to indict the trooper on murder charges. Lewis' son and family attorneys arrived in Savannah to meet with federal prosecutors Monday after concluding a 63-mile (100-kilometer) march that began last week at the shooting scene. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTOC-CBS \(Savannah, GA\)](#)

WaPo: Asian American lawmakers want quicker action from hate-crimes law, David Nakamura, September 20, 2021, 2:30 PM

A pair of Asian American lawmakers are pressing the Justice Department to speed up implementation of provisions in a new federal law combating hate crimes, citing a recent FBI report showing the highest number of bias attacks in the United States in two decades. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), co-sponsors of the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act that took effect in May, warned Attorney General Merrick Garland in a letter Monday that public fatigue and frustration with coronavirus restrictions and public safety mandates could lead to another spike in "hate-based violence." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: DOJ's historic week was more about restoration than reform, Hassan Kanu, September 20, 2021, 3:28 PM

It was an eventful week at the U.S. Justice Department. Starting last Monday, the DOJ announced a slate of new policies that represents a historic extension of its mission to guard civil and constitutional rights and a sharp pivot from the Trump administration's ultraconservative tough-on-crime approach to law enforcement. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said on Sept. 13 that the DOJ will toughen oversight of the federal monitors who oversee police reforms required under agreements the agency typically reaches with cities (instead of suing them). [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL LAW

AP: Federal appeals court to hear Missouri abortion law case, Jim Salter, September 21, 2021, 12:00 AM

A federal appeals court on Tuesday will consider whether Missouri can implement a sweeping law aimed at limiting abortions. The law adopted in 2019 would ban abortions at or around the eighth week of pregnancy. It also would prohibit abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis isn't expected to rule for several weeks. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Texas doctor who defied state's new abortion ban is sued, Jamie Stengle, September 20, 2021, 10:00 PM

A San Antonio doctor who said he performed an abortion in defiance of a new Texas law all but dared supporters of the state's near-total ban on the procedure to try making an early

example of him by filing a lawsuit — and by Monday, two people obliged. [...] Two federal lawsuits were already making their way through the courts over the law, known as Senate Bill 8. In one, filed by abortion providers and others, the Supreme Court declined to block the law from taking effect while the case makes its way through the legal system. It's still proceeding in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In the second case, the Justice Department is asking a federal judge to declare the law invalid, arguing it was enacted "in open defiance of the Constitution." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Bloomberg](#), [CNN](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [NYT](#)

AP: Men suing Ohio State over doc's sex abuse want judge recused, Kantele Franko, September 20, 2021, 4:00 PM

Some of the hundreds of men who sued Ohio State over its failure to stop sexual abuse by a team doctor are seeking the recusal of the federal judge overseeing the remaining unsettled cases after he disclosed this month that his wife's business has ties with the university. The attorneys involved already knew U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson is an adjunct professor for OSU's law school, and over the past three years they hadn't objected to his handling the cases related to decades-old misconduct by the late Dr. Richard Strauss. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: Biden follows through on pledge to take in more refugees, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Biden administration said the U.S. would take in 125,000 refugees and their families next year, fulfilling an earlier pledge to raise a cap that had been cut to a historic low under his predecessor. The White House set the proposed annual cap in a report to Congress, saying there was unprecedented number of displaced people around the world because of conflict, humanitarian crises and climate change. Administrations make an annual recommendation in consultation with lawmakers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)

AP: US officials defend expulsion of Haitians from Texas town, Juan A. Lozano, Eric Gay, Elliot Spagat, and Evens Sanon, September 20, 2021, 5:55 PM

More than 6,000 Haitians and other migrants have been removed from an encampment at a Texas border town, U.S. officials said Monday as they defended a strong response that included immediately expelling migrants to their impoverished Caribbean country and using horse patrols to stop them from entering the town. Calling it a "challenging and heartbreaking situation," Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas issued a stark warning: "If you come to the United States illegally, you will be returned. Your journey will not succeed, and you will be endangering your life and your family's life." [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Axios](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Courthouse News](#), [The Hill](#), [LAT](#), [Miami Herald](#), [Politico](#), [Reuters](#), [VOA](#), [USA Today](#), [USA Today-1](#), [WaPo](#)

WaPo: [ANALYSIS] The myth of 'open borders', Anna O. Law, September 20, 2021, 6:00 AM

A federal judge recently halted an executive policy by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) that would have allowed state troopers to intercept cars suspected of transporting migrant passengers. Abbott claimed that this policy was necessary to enforce immigration laws and protect the state from the spread of the coronavirus. The Department of Justice intervened, however, because immigration policy is supposed to be under the purview of the federal government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: [EDITORIAL] Biden's mixed messaging on immigration brings a surge of

Haitian migrants to the Texas border, Editorial Board, September 20, 2021, 3:39 PM

The sight of federal officers from the Western hemisphere's wealthiest country corralling and deporting migrants from the hemisphere's poorest one is a wrenching tableau, and nothing for Americans to be proud of. That is what is underway now, as U.S. Border Patrol agents unleash a show of force against thousands of desperate Haitian and other asylum seekers camped on the banks of the Rio Grande in South Texas. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Bloomberg: **JetBlue CEO Says DOJ Has No Case in American Alliance Inquiry**, Mary Schlangenstein, September 20, 2021, 4:04 PM

JetBlue Airways Corp. Chief Executive Officer Robin Hayes on Monday defended the airline's alliance with American Airlines Group Inc., saying the U.S. Justice Department doesn't have evidence to support allegations that it is anti-competitive. The so-called Northeast Alliance has increased competition in the New York area and Boston, Hayes said in an interview. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: **States rally around proposed U.S. laws to rein in Big Tech**, Unattributed, September 20, 2021, 1:54 PM

A bipartisan group of U.S. state attorneys general sent a letter to lawmakers on Monday urging them to pass a series of bills that tighten antitrust laws aimed at Big Tech companies like Facebook and Alphabet's Google. The letter, which was addressed to leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, expressed explicit support for six bills that passed the House Judiciary Committee in June. Four of the bills directly address Big Tech's platform powers while two others empower enforcers. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Law360](#)

TAX

The Republican (Springfield, MA): **Former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia to be acquitted on handful of wire, tax fraud convictions; sentencing on several corruption charges still likely Tuesday**, Benjamin Kail, September 20, 2021, 3:48 PM

Former Fall River Mayor Jasiel Correia, convicted of felony fraud and corruption charges in May, will be acquitted on a handful of wire and tax fraud counts due to insufficient evidence, a U.S. District Court judge in Boston said Monday. Judge Douglas P. Woodlock said prosecutors did not provide the jury sufficient evidence that six counts of wire fraud actually included interstate wire communications. He also said he intended to dismiss at least two convictions of tax fraud because prosecutors failed to show that a private company's funds — misused by Correia for personal expenses — amounted to reportable income that the former mayor knowingly failed to report on his tax returns. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WPRI-CBS \(Providence, RI\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

AP: **FBI searches Florida home of Gabby Petito's boyfriend**, Curt Anderson, September 20, 2021, 8:00 PM

FBI agents and police Monday searched the home of the boyfriend wanted for questioning in the death of 22-year-old Gabby Petito, whose body was discovered over the weekend at a Wyoming national park months after the couple set out on a cross-country road trip. The FBI gave no details on the search by at least a dozen law enforcement officers, but agents

removed several boxes and towed away a car that neighbors said was typically used by 23-year-old Brian Laundrie's mother. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [CNN-2](#), [CNN-3](#), [Deseret News \(Salt Lake City, UT\)](#), [KHOU-CBS \(Houston, TX\)](#), [KNBC-NBC \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#), [KNSD-NBC \(San Diego, CA\)](#), [NBC](#), [Newsday](#), [NY Post](#), [NY Post-2](#), [Orlando Sentinel \(Orlando, FL\)](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#), [WABC-ABC \(New York, NY\)](#), [WAFB-CBS \(Baton Rouge, LA\)](#), [WALA-Fox \(Mobile, AL\)](#), [WaPo](#), [WBBH-NBC \(Fort Myers, FL\)](#), [WCBS-CBS \(New York, NY\)](#), [WFLA-NBC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFTS-ABC \(Tampa, FL\)](#), [WFTX-Fox \(Naples, FL\)](#), [WNBC-NBC \(New York, NY\)](#), [WPTV-NBC \(West Palm Beach, FL\)](#), [WSJ](#), [WTVT-Fox \(Tampa, FL\)](#)

The Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY): **FBI investigations of Byron Brown linger with no charges in sight**, Dan Herbeck, Charlie Specht, September 20, 2021, 4:00 PM

For more than six years, FBI agents and federal prosecutors have investigated people, businesses and political organizations closely associated with Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown. Federal agents raided one of his administration's City Hall offices, seized thousands of City Hall documents, questioned dozens of people, including city employees and contractors who did business with the city, and persuaded Brown's former deputy mayor to become an informant. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Florida Times-Union: **Former Jacksonville police dispatcher arrested on federal child sex abuse video charges**, Dan Scanlan, September 20, 2021, 6:32 PM

A former Jacksonville Sheriff's Office emergency dispatcher has been arrested on charges of distributing images and a video of the sexual abuse of children, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Scott Matthew Yotka, 37, faces up to 20 years in federal prison if convicted, as well as a potential life term of supervised release, prosecutors said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WJAX-CBS \(Jacksonville, FL\)](#), [WOKV \(Jacksonville, FL\)](#), [WTLV-NBC \(Jacksonville, FL\)](#)

US ATTORNEYS

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: **Campaign for drug treatment, recovery programs unveiled for Westmoreland, eastern Allegheny residents**, Rich Chlodofsky, September 20, 2021, 5:30 PM

The U.S. Justice Department on Monday announced a new public campaign to promote local addiction and recovery programs to combat the still climbing numbers of drug overdoses and deaths in Western Pennsylvania. The Press Play PA program will target Westmoreland County and eastern Allegheny County communities to highlight efforts being undertaken to curb addiction, show current statistics and link residents to services. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WTAE-ABC \(Pittsburgh, PA\)](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

AP: **Oklahoma sets 7 executions in 6 months; 1st since 2015**, Terry Wallace, September 20, 2021, 6:00 PM

Oklahoma scheduled seven executions Monday in what would be the first lethal injections for the state since putting them on hold six years ago following a series of mishaps. Among the men scheduled to die is Julius Darius Jones, even though the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board just last week recommended that his death sentence be commuted to life in prison. The case that drew national attention after it was featured in 2018 on the ABC television documentary series "The Last Defense." [[Continue Reading](#)]

Quad-City Times (Davenport, IA): Thomson Federal Prison employees to receive 25% retention pay increase, Sarah Hayden, September 21, 2021, 12:00 AM

Employees at Thomson Federal Prison will soon have added incentive to remain on the job. After pressure from Illinois Democratic Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Moline, the Federal Office of Personnel and Management (OPM) approved a 25% retention pay increase for all officers and staff at USP Thomson in an effort to keep the prison from losing employees. The high-security federal prison has been struggling with a shortage of correctional officers and staff due to low pay, low morale and a lack of affordable housing in the small community. Despite hiring more than 70 new staff members this year, the prison still has 96 open positions. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

Reuters: Dakota Access pipeline asks U.S. Supreme Court to scrap environmental study order, Devika Krishna Kumar, September 20, 2021, 6:53 PM

Dakota Access on Monday asked the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit whether the largest pipeline out of the North Dakota oil basin requires additional environmental review. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia revoked a key environmental permit for the pipeline last year and ordered an additional environmental study. The pipeline entered service in 2017 following months of protests by environmentalists, Native American tribes and their supporters. Opponents said its construction destroyed sacred artifacts and posed a threat to Lake Oahe, a critical drinking supply, and the greater Missouri River. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: Supreme Court sets arguments in big abortion case, Mark Sherman, September 20, 2021, 5:55 PM

The Supreme Court will hear arguments Dec. 1 in Mississippi's bid to have the landmark Roe v. Wade decision guaranteeing a woman's right to an abortion overturned. The court issued its arguments calendar for late November and early December on Monday. Mississippi is asking the high court to uphold its ban on most abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [See also: CNN](#), [Guardian](#), [Law360](#), [NPR](#), [Politico](#), [SCOTUSblog](#), [NYT](#), [WSJ](#)

Reuters: Megan Rapinoe, other women athletes back abortion rights at U.S. Supreme Court, Lawrence Hurley, September 20, 2021, 4:05 PM

A group of prominent women athletes including soccer star Megan Rapinoe and basketball standouts Diana Taurasi and Sue Bird on Monday urged the U.S. Supreme Court to protect abortion rights in a case involving Mississippi's Republican-backed bid to ban the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [Forbes](#), [USA Today](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AP: Native Americans Aim to Boost Voting Power in New Mexico, Morgan Lee, September 20, 2021, 9:51 PM

A coalition of Native American communities has proposed redrawing New Mexico's political map to boost Indigenous voters' influence in elections. The proposed changes from New Mexico's 19 Native American pueblos and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, outlined Monday, would reshape a congressional swing district where Republicans regained control in 2020. They would also bolster Native American majorities among eligible voters in six state House and three Senate districts in northwestern New Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

Reuters: **Biden calls on U.S. Supreme Court to protect abortion rights**, Lawrence Hurley, September 20, 2021, 7:53 PM

President Joe Biden's administration urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday not to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide in an upcoming case concerning a restrictive Mississippi law. The administration brief backs Jackson Women's Health Organization, the only abortion clinic in Mississippi, in its fight over the state's attempt to ban the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [NYT](#)

CONGRESS

Reuters: **Senators urge U.S. Justice Dept to prosecute unruly air passengers**, David Shepardson, September 20, 2021, 8:00 PM

Two senior U.S. Senate Democrats urged Attorney General Merrick Garland on Monday to investigate and prosecute unruly air passengers in the face of a rising number of incidents onboard airplanes. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin and Commerce Committee chair Maria Cantwell called on the Justice Department and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to coordinate efforts to "ensure qualifying passenger behavior is criminally prosecuted."

[[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: **Democrats Begin Effort to Curb Post-Trump Presidential Powers**, Charlie Savage, September 21, 2021, 12:01 AM

House Democrats are planning to introduce a package of proposed new limits on executive power on Tuesday, beginning a post-Trump push to strengthen checks on the presidency that they hope will compare to the overhauls that followed the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War. Democrats have spent months negotiating with the Biden White House to refine a broad set of proposals that amount to a point-by-point rebuke of the ways that Donald J. Trump shattered norms over the course of his presidency. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: **After Setback, Democrats Vow to Push Ahead on Immigration Overhaul**, Luke Broadwater and Eileen Sullivan, September 20, 2021, 8:00 PM

Congressional Democrats vowed on Monday to continue their efforts to grant legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants, a centerpiece of President Biden's immigration plan, after a top Senate official rejected their bid to include it in their \$3.5 trillion social policy bill. Sunday's decision by the Senate parliamentarian threatened to scuttle what Mr. Biden and Democrats had considered their best chance in decades to enact an initiative that has been stymied amid partisan polarization and procedural obstacles. [[Continue Reading](#)]

See also: [Law360](#)

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

- Pfizer said Monday its COVID-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek US authorization for this age group soon — a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters. The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech already is available for anyone 12 and older. [[ABC](#), [ABC-1](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- More than 6,000 Haitians and other migrants have been removed from an encampment at a Texas border town, US officials said Monday as they defended a strong response

that included immediately expelling migrants to their impoverished Caribbean country and using horse patrols to stop them from entering the town. The Biden administration is speeding up deportations of thousands of Haitian migrants who are camped under a bridge on the Texas border. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]

- The FBI searched the home Brian Laundrie, the fiancé of Gabby Petito, whose body was believed to have been found in Wyoming. Laundrie has also disappeared. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Wall Street had its worst day since May amid fears that a Chinese real estate company could default, and that the Federal Reserve could begin ending stimulus measures it enacted during the pandemic. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Two 17-year-old students were wounded in a shooting Monday at a Virginia high school, and a suspect was in custody, police said. Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew said a boy was shot on the side of his face and a girl was shot in her lower leg at Heritage High School. They were taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- After the Pentagon admitted to mistakenly killing 10 innocent civilians, including seven children, in a drone attack, relatives are calling for the US to get them to a safe place. [[NBC](#)]

From: The Marsha Project
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Whips, horses used on migrants in Texas
To: Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: September 21, 2021 6:45 AM (UTC-04:00)



Opening Statement
September 21, 2021

Edited by **ANDREW COHEN**



Good morning,

We're more ambitious than ever heading into the fall here at The Marshall Project. Donations from readers like you sustain this important work and allow us to commit the time and attention needed to tell stories that are driving real change.

We're more than halfway to our goal of \$15,000 before September 25 — if you're able, please donate today. We're extremely grateful to each and every donor who helps power our journalism. We could not do it without you.

Susan Chira
Editor-in-chief, The Marshall Project

PICK OF THE NEWS

“Let’s go! Get out now! Back to Mexico!” Border Patrol agents are using whips and horses to round up Haitian migrants near the south Texas border town of Del Rio, scenes the White House press secretary later called “horrific” and unacceptable. [USA TODAY](#) Feds say they are investigating “extremely troubling” footage. [POLITICO](#) Thousands of asylum seekers from Haiti have shown up at the border over the past few weeks. [THE WASHINGTON POST](#) The use of Border Patrol horses is not uncommon, but video and photographs from enforcement operations over the weekend show chaotic scenes of desperation by the migrants. [EL PASO TIMES](#) Six hundred more Homeland Security agents are sent to Texas. [USA TODAY](#)

When thousands of Haitian migrants come to your sleepy border town. Residents of Del Rio are understandably conflicted by the sudden influx of asylum seekers. “We won’t be the same after this is over,” says a resident. [THE NEW YORK TIMES](#) **More:** For the migrants, “an unending tale of displacement, discrimination and deportation that many had hoped would end” with a permanent spot in the U.S. [THE WASHINGTON POST](#) Biden administration officials say they are building levees along the border in south Texas. Some residents say they look an awful lot like border walls. [TEXAS MONTHLY](#)

The deadly toll of gun violence on our children. More than 5,100 kids under 18 were shot last year; more than 1,300 died. Both the numbers of children shot and the number killed increased by more than one-third from the previous year. [USA TODAY](#) Gun violence has risen sharply in Milwaukee since 2019. Experts say it could take years to understand precisely why. [LOS ANGELES TIMES](#) **More:** The tragic toll of gun violence across three generations in Washington, D.C. Their fathers were fatally shot. So were they. What happens now to their children? [THE WASHINGTON POST](#) **TMP Context:** The Gun King. [THE MARSHALL PROJECT](#)

Amazon Ring markets to domestic violence survivors. The surveillance company, with its long and lucrative association with law enforcement agencies, now markets to domestic violence victims by offering them free video doorbells “as an additional resource for them to feel safe in their residence and potentially assist in the prosecution of their offenders.” Such offers are sprouting up around the country. But domestic violence experts worry the offer is too good to be true for survivors, whose privacy may be jeopardized by the technology and the lack of oversight over it. [TECHNOLOGY REVIEW](#)

N / S / E / W

Roger Rudloff, a police officer in Dallas, **Texas**, has steadily risen through the ranks, even as

brutality allegations against him have mounted. He's never been held accountable for his conduct, an extensive investigation concludes. [DALLAS MORNING NEWS](#)

Seven executions are now scheduled in **Oklahoma**. Julius Jones, recommended for clemency last week by state parole officials, is scheduled to be executed on Nov. 18. [THE OKLAHOMAN](#)
TMP Context from 2015: After lethal injection. [THE MARSHALL PROJECT](#)

Summer Stephan, the district attorney in San Diego County, **California**, is trying to straddle a political line between justice reformer and traditional prosecutor when it comes to gang violence. She seems to be frustrating advocates in both camps. [SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE](#)

The murder rate in Atlanta, **Georgia**, is up 15% this year over last year. Black residents continue to suffer disproportionately. [THE WASHINGTON POST](#)

Persistent violence inside the Long Creek Youth Development Center in **Maine**, a juvenile detention center, forces the ouster of senior prison officials and an investigation by law enforcement agents. [BANGOR DAILY NEWS](#)

COMMENTARY

The next abortion battle. How the push to establish fetal personhood plays out in states where women who give birth to stillborns are prosecuted for using drugs while they were pregnant. [NEW YORK MAGAZINE](#)

Sad trombone. Scenes from the "Justice for J6" rally in Washington, D.C. this past weekend were a relief to the cops, but maybe a silver lining for the protestors seeking media attention and a new narrative. [THE NEW REPUBLIC](#)

It's often not an either/or proposition. There is "much more we could be doing to help people who live with both mental illness and substance use disorder." [LOS ANGELES TIMES](#)

Gov. Abbott and company are failing the children. Year after year, Texas lawmakers fail to fix the state's foster care system, which endangers children every day while encouraging

mindless bureaucracy. [TEXAS TRIBUNE](#)

A miscarriage of justice in Harris County, Georgia. A sheriff's deputy sexually assaults a motorist. He is charged and convicted, but the doctrine of qualified immunity shields him from civil liability. [USA TODAY](#)

ETC .

Racial disparities in the Rocky Mountain West. Police in Utah shoot at racial and ethnic minorities at disproportionately higher rates than they do white people, a new statewide analysis confirms. [SALT LAKE TRIBUNE](#)

The Bureau of Prisons has a Transgender Executive Council whose members determine where to house transgender prisoners among the hundreds of penitentiaries within the federal system. The Justice Department is reviewing the policies that govern the council to try to better protect prisoners after four years of Trump era rule. [THE ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

“Deeply troubling failures” at U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Federal officials confirmed last week that Border Patrol agents failed to adequately monitor the failing condition of a 16-year-old Guatemalan boy and then falsified records to protect themselves after he died of the flu. [PROPUBLICA](#)

Deliberate indifference meets qualified immunity. A federal appeals court last week granted qualified immunity to a Georgia prison guard who left a bleeding prisoner in a cell for hours without allowing him to get medical attention. [11TH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS](#)

Contempt for court. The California Highway Patrol is refusing to abide by a federal appeals court ruling from four years ago that prohibits the police from impounding the vehicles of unlicensed drivers for longer than 30 days. [CALMATTERS](#)

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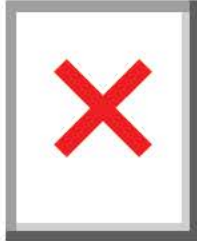
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From: POLITICO Paybook
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Double trouble for Biden
To: Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)
Sent: September 21, 2021 6:19 AM (UTC-04:00)

Sep 21, 2021

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B R Y A N R A L C I H Z A Z B A R A B A R E N A U D E G M E E N R E I D A N



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D R I V I N G T H E D A Y

SIREN, just posted: [“Dems fear Biden’s domestic agenda could implode,”](#) by Burgess Everett and Heather Caygle, POLITICO’s co-congressional bureau chiefs: “Internal Democratic discord has wounded President **JOE BIDEN’s** massive social spending plan, raising the prospect that the package could stall out, shrink dramatically — or even fail altogether.”

TRUDEAU HANGS ON — “**JUSTIN TRUDEAU** will hang on to his job as Canada’s prime minister in an election victory Monday that fell short of his main objective: tightening his hold on power,” Andy Blatchford and Zi-Ann Lum write from Ottawa. [More on what Trudeau now faces here](#)

BIDEN’S OTHER MISSION — Today, Biden interrupts his mission to rescue his agenda in Congress with a mission to rescue his agenda with world leaders.

He’ll speak at 10 a.m. before the U.N. General Assembly to an audience far more skeptical about his insistence that “America is back” than they were in the afterglow of **DONALD TRUMP’s** loss, which was (mostly) celebrated around the world.

AFGHANISTAN FALLOUT: The hangover for European allies perturbed by America’s messy pullout from Afghanistan still lingers. [A new report from Amnesty International](#) details what everyone expected: “The Taliban are steadily dismantling the human rights gains of the last twenty years.” One of America’s final acts of the war was a drone strike killing 10 civilians (mostly children) that the White House on Monday said Biden [wanted investigated](#) and that will be used as a cudgel by adversaries to attack America this week at the U.N.

CLIMATE SKEPTICISM: On climate policy, a top priority at the UNGA this week, [Biden’s aggressive plan to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030](#) has been [outsourced to a coal-state senator](#) with no interest in the White House’s preferred approach to reaching that goal. On Monday, before his meeting with Biden, U.N. Secretary-General **ANTÓNIO GUTERRES** said there was “a high risk of failure” at the November climate summit in Scotland.

COVID OUTRAGE: Biden’s Covid-19 policies have fared little better. Europeans have seethed for 18 months over a Trump-Biden ban on travel to the United States. Biden will be showing up with good news: [The administration announced Monday](#) that fully vaccinated foreigners are now welcome into the U.S. The World Health Organization has criticized America’s approach to vaccine sharing and the Biden administration’s push for booster shots when much of the world hasn’t had a single dose yet.

OVERCOMING THE ULTIMATE INSULT: When France recalled its ambassador last weekend, the statement heard ’round the world from the French foreign minister is one that seemed unthinkable from an ally when Biden was inaugurated but was akin to remarks already being whispered in D.C. diplomatic circles:

“This brutal, unilateral and unpredictable decision reminds me a lot of what Mr. Trump used to do.”

We checked in with Ryan Heath, who is reporting all week from the U.N. for his [Global Insider](#)

[newsletter](#) and [podcast](#). Here's his rundown of what you should watch:

BIDEN'S GOALS:

- **Look past Afghanistan and French fury** over losing their \$70 billion Australian submarine contract with no warning.
- **Get developing countries to believe** whatever climate finance deal that he's ready to offer to help pay for global emissions cuts.
- **Show commitments way beyond Covid vaccine charity.** (Developing countries are angry they can't buy U.S.-made vaccines on the open market or use American intellectual property to make their own generic versions of vaccines.)

BIDEN'S RISKS: Platitudes about multilateralism and "America's back" will be quickly shot down. Diplomats from four continents told POLITICO that trust and goodwill around the administration took a heavy hit from the Afghanistan withdrawal, a point hammered home by France's wounded pride in recent days.

OVER THE TOP: Brazilian President **JAIR BOLSONARO** is set to break New York law this morning by entering the U.N. General Assembly hall unvaccinated to deliver the opening speech. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. **LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD** and British PM **BORIS JOHNSON** threw shade at him Monday, promoting vaccines, and in LTG's case taking a Covid test in front of U.N. HQ to role-model "responsible behavior."

More headlines: ["Climate, Covid and Biden's Challenged Credibility Underline U.N.'s Big Week,"](#) NYT ... ["Biden's U.N. speech will try to convince member states that 'America is back,'"](#) The Guardian ... ["Biden seeks to open a new chapter in world affairs, facing fresh skepticism from allies,"](#) WaPo

Good Tuesday morning, and thanks for reading Playbook. Drop us a line: [Rachael Bade](#), [Eugene Daniels](#), [Ryan Lizza](#), [Tara Palmeri](#).

A message from Facebook:

Why Facebook supports reforming Section 230

The internet has changed a lot in the last 25 years—the last time comprehensive internet regulations were passed.

Facebook supports updated regulations—like reforming Section 230, to set standards for the way larger tech companies enforce rules about content.

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — Ben Schreckinger’s [“The Bidens: Inside the First Family’s Fifty-Year Rise to Power,”](#) out today, finds evidence that some of the purported **HUNTER BIDEN** laptop material is genuine, including two emails at the center of last October’s controversy.

A person who had independent access to Hunter Biden’s emails confirmed he did receive a 2015 email from a Ukrainian businessman thanking him for the chance to meet Joe Biden. The same goes for a 2017 email in which a proposed equity breakdown of a venture with Chinese energy executives includes the line, “10 held by H for the big guy?” (This person recalled seeing both emails, but was not in a position to compare the leaked emails word-for-word to the originals.)

MORE: Emails released by a Swedish government agency also match emails in the leaked cache, and two people who corresponded with Hunter Biden confirmed emails from the cache were genuine.

While the leak contains genuine files, it remains possible that fake material has been slipped in.

BACKGROUND: A former Hunter Biden business partner, **TONY BOBULINSKI**, [said last year](#) the “10 Held by H” email was genuine and referred to plans for Hunter to hold equity in the venture — which did not get off the ground — on behalf of his father. Biden’s campaign said he never considered going into business with his family.

WHAT DOES THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE TO SAY? Asked for the book whether Joe Biden had an April 2015 encounter with Burisma adviser **VADYM POZHARSKYI** at a dinner at Cafe Milano, a White House spokesman did not respond directly. Instead, the spokesman referred to [an April WaPo article](#) that includes a campaign denial of any meeting. The article confirms Joe Biden’s presence at the dinner, while casting doubt on any Pozharskyi encounter there. Pozharskyi did not respond to requests for comment.

WHAT DOES HUNTER HAVE TO SAY? This spring, he told CBS [the laptop](#) “certainly” could be [his](#). His lawyer, **CHRIS CLARK**, did not respond to questions for the book.

JOIN US — The killing of 20-year-old Army soldier **VANESSA GUILLEN**, who had told family she was being sexually harassed by several soldiers prior to her disappearance at Fort Hood last year, has galvanized calls to change how the military deals with sexual assault and harassment. Sens. **KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND** (D-N.Y.) and **JONI ERNST** (R-Iowa), a veteran and a sexual assault survivor, have long pushed Congress to act on the issue. Their efforts are gaining steam but still face opposition. Join **Rachael** on Thursday at 1 p.m. for a Women Rule virtual joint interview with Ernst and Gillibrand to discuss the state of their proposed legislation and what it will take to curb sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military. [Register here](#)



BIDEN'S TUESDAY:

- **10 a.m.:** The president will deliver remarks before the U.N. General Assembly.
- **12 p.m.:** Biden will participate in a bilateral meeting with Australian PM **SCOTT MORRISON**.
- **2:15 p.m.:** Biden will depart Manhattan to return to the White House, where he is scheduled to arrive at 3:55 p.m.
- **4:45 p.m.:** The president will participate in a bilateral meeting with Johnson in the Oval Office.

VP KAMALA HARRIS' TUESDAY: The VP will travel to the D.C. home of **JAMIE SMITH** — who is part of the “Sandwich Generation,” caring for her children and her parents — for a kitchen table conversation on the administration’s agenda.

— **9:30 a.m.:** Harris will meet with **MELINDA FRENCH GATES** to discuss the pandemic in the VP’s office.

— **3 p.m.:** Harris will meet with Johnson in the Vice President’s Ceremonial Office.

Press secretary JEN PSAKI will gaggle aboard Air Force One on the way back to D.C.

The SENATE will meet at 10:30 a.m. to take up **MARGARET STRICKLAND’s** judicial nomination, with a cloture vote at 11:30 a.m. and a potential confirmation vote at 2:30 p.m. after weekly conference meetings. DHS Secretary **ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS** and FBI Director **CHRISTOPHER WRAY** will testify before the Homeland Security Committee at 9:30 a.m.

The HOUSE will meet at 10 a.m.

Speaker NANCY PELOSI will visit **SUZANNE BRENNAN FIRSTENBERG’s** “In America: Remember,” a public art installation commemorating U.S. coronavirus deaths on the National Mall, at 11 a.m. and deliver remarks.

INTRODUCING CONGRESS MINUTES: Need to follow the action on Capitol Hill blow-by-blow? Check out Minutes, POLITICO’s new platform that delivers the latest exclusives, twists and much more in real time. Get it on your desktop or download the POLITICO mobile app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#). [GET A FIRST LOOK AT CONGRESS MINUTES HERE.](#)

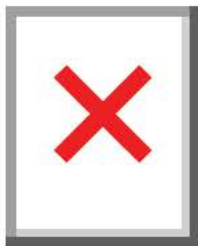


PHOTO OF THE DAY: A girl keeps her stuffed animal dry as migrants cross the Rio Grande from Del Rio, Texas, back to Mexico as the U.S. deports people to Haiti. Felix Marquez/AP Photo

CONGRESS

WHIP COUNT — [In a must-read up this morning](#), our Olivia Beavers provides early clues to an all-important question on the Hill this week: If progressives oppose the bipartisan infrastructure bill when it comes up for a scheduled vote Monday, will Republicans provide the votes needed to pass it? The short answer appears to be no, at least not in the numbers needed. “Fewer than a dozen House Republicans are expected to vote for the \$550 billion infrastructure bill — which got 19 Senate GOP votes last month — according to multiple lawmakers in the party,” Beavers writes. **BUT ...** if it becomes clear that the party’s \$3.5 trillion reconciliation plan is dead, GOP votes for the infrastructure bill “could triple.”

“**If the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation push dies**, there will be more GOP support,’ said centrist Rep. **DON BACON** (R-Neb.), referring to the filibuster-proof process Democrats are using for their separate social spending bill. Bacon, a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, said its members would lend a hand on infrastructure ‘if there is a standalone vote.’”

A REMINDER: Progressives are vowing to tank the infrastructure bill unless it's paired with the reconciliation package. And it's unlikely at best that sprawling measure will be ready by Monday.

DISASTER FORECAST — [WaPo's Tony Romm](#): “House and Senate Democrats on Monday unveiled a measure that would fund the government into December while staving off a potential default on U.S. debts through next year ... But the party's plans immediately encountered fierce resistance from Senate Minority Leader **MITCH MCCONNELL** (R-Ky.), who reaffirmed Republicans' prior threats to vote against an increase in the country's borrowing limit even if it is attached to a measure that funds the government.”

IMMIGRATION PLAN B — Democrats are preparing a backup plan for immigration reform following the Senate parliamentarian's Sunday ruling, in hopes that the parliamentarian can get behind a revised provision, [Marianne LeVine and Sarah Ferris report](#): “One alternate policy that Democrats and advocates are floating is narrowing their horizons on immigration by making a simple change to a decades-old ‘registry’ law ... That law allows immigrants to apply for a green card if they arrived in the U.S. before a certain year, and that date was last altered in 1986 to let undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. before 1972 apply for legal status.

“**Some Democrats say simply updating that law with a more recent year**, greatly increasing the number of immigrants eligible to apply for legal status, could pass muster with the Senate parliamentarian.”

ALL POLITICS

RETHINKING REDISTRICTING — David Wasserman [reports for The Atlantic](#) that Democrats are undergoing a shift in thinking when it comes to redistricting. Rather than pack people of color into a single district to guarantee representation, “multiple lawsuits aiming to *unpack* hyper-minority seats could help determine control of the House.” The lede quote, from Rep. **TERRI SEWELL**, who represents a gerrymandered, 61% Black district in Alabama.: “I'm for broadening the representation of African Americans across Alabama, instead of concentrating it in my district,” she said.

DEPT. OF POT STIRRING — LAT's ace political columnist [Mark Barabak writes](#) that California Gov. **GAVIN NEWSOM** is a “hot commodity” right now whose natural next step would be running for president. “But one thing stands in his way: Vice President Kamala Harris.”

A message from Facebook:

Facebook's safety teams protect billions of people every month

We've more than **quadrupled our safety and security teams to 40,000** in the last 5 years to stop bad actors and remove illicit content.

It's working: In just the past few months, we took down 1.7 billion fake accounts & 7.1 million terrorism-related posts.

But our work to reduce harmful and illicit content on our platforms is never done. **[Learn more about how we're working to help you connect safely.](#)**

POLICY CORNER

WHERE'S XAVIER? — A big knock on HHS Secretary **XAVIER BECERRA** before he assumed the job was his lack of public health experience. Now, it turns out, he's curiously removed from some of the biggest internal debates over the administration's pandemic response, [our Adam Cancryn reports today](#). The lead example: "[W]hen Biden's senior health officials gathered one Sunday in August to make the high-stakes decision that all adults should get Covid-19 booster shots, Becerra wasn't included on the call." His limited role is "contributing to breakdowns in coordination that have hampered the response and fueled accusations of political interference."

TEXAS ABORTION LATEST — Two lawsuits were filed against Texas doctor **ALAN BRAID**, who said he performed an abortion despite the state's new law prohibiting such procedures after six weeks. The lawsuits are the first to come out of the state's new law, [Texas Tribune's Reese Oxner reports](#).

GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS — Defense Secretary **LLOYD AUSTIN** is recruiting a senior official to investigate the review by the Central Command that found that 10 Afghan civilians were killed in a U.S. drone strike, [AP's Robert Burns reports](#).

— **Meanwhile, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced it would begin a formal investigation** into operations at the border, following photos that surfaced online of agents using "whips on migrants seeking asylum along the U.S.-Mexico border," [Natasha Korecki reports](#).

"**DHS, which said a full probe would help** 'define the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken,' has also dispatched additional personnel to oversee future border patrol operations over what's become a sprawling, makeshift encampment of Haitians in Del Rio, Texas, seeking entry in the U.S."

ANOTHER GRIM MILESTONE — The coronavirus pandemic has killed more Americans than the 1918 flu, [AP's Carla Johnson reports](#).

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

HAVANA SYNDROME WATCH — [CNN's Kylie Atwood reports](#) that “when CIA Director **BILL BURNS** traveled to India earlier this month a member of his team reported symptoms consistent with Havana syndrome and had to receive medical attention ... The incident set off alarm bells within the U.S. government and left Burns ‘fuming’ with anger. Some officials at the CIA viewed the chilling episode as a direct message to Burns that no one is safe, including those working directly for the nation's top spy.”

FOR YOUR RADAR — **PAUL RUSESABAGINA**, the Rwandan man whose life-saving actions inspired the movie “Hotel Rwanda,” [was sentenced Monday to 25 years in prison](#) in a case widely condemned as a sham trial against a political opponent of President **PAUL KAGAME**. Rusesabagina is a permanent U.S. resident, and his daughter is pushing the Biden administration to pressure Kagame: **ANAÏSE KANIMBA** said it was time for Biden to “walk the talk on human rights” and prioritize African issues.

SUBSCRIBE TO "THE RECAST" TODAY: Power is shifting in Washington and in communities across the country. More people are demanding a seat at the table, insisting that politics is personal and not all policy is equitable. The Recast is a twice-weekly newsletter that explores the changing power dynamics in Washington and breaks down how race and identity are recasting politics and policy in America. Get fresh insights, scoops and dispatches on this crucial intersection from across the country and hear critical new voices that challenge business as usual. [Don't miss out, SUBSCRIBE](#). Thank you to our sponsor, Intel.

■ P L A Y B O O K E R S

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — **Jason Rezaian** is the subject of a new podcast on Spotify called “544 Days,” produced by Gimlet, Crooked Media and A24. “For 544 days, Jason Rezaian was held hostage in Iran’s notorious Evin prison. Interrogated. Sealed off from the outside world. He was accused of being an American spy, though his formal title was Washington Post Tehran Correspondent. This is a story about government and family and journalism, and what it took to free an innocent man ... all while navigating the high-stakes world of nuclear diplomacy,” the podcast’s description says.

— **Sarah Longwell** is launching a new podcast, [“The Focus Group with Sarah Longwell”](#) on

Bulwark Media. Her first guest is Cook Political Report's **Amy Walter**. The podcast is starting as a six-episode limited series that will take listeners "behind the glass and let them hear what Americans are really thinking about politics."

John Delaney, the former congressman and 2020 presidential candidate, is relaunching Congressional Bank [as Forbright Bank](#), focused on financing and speeding up the transition to a clean-energy economy.

Jesse Benton, who was pardoned by Trump a month before he left office, [was charged with funneling \\$25,000 from a Russian national](#) into Trump's 2016 campaign. Also charged was **Doug Wead**.

Jeff Bezos [committed \\$1 billion to conservation efforts](#) Monday, and had a "[good exchange of ideas on climate change](#)" with Johnson.

[The Bidens' family cat](#) is in foster care and not coming to the White House any time soon.

Chuck Grassley, 88, [says he'll decide by Nov. 1](#) whether to run for an eighth term in the Senate.

[The guy who wreaked havoc at Le Diplomate](#) Sunday night destroyed 24 bottles of liquor worth about \$2,000. He was arrested and charged with felony destruction, per AP.

In better culinary news, **Central Michel Richard**, the classic downtown D.C. bistro, [is reopening today](#). And [a new coffee spot is opening](#) in the basement of the Cannon House Office Building.

The Concordia Summit is announcing **Matthew Swift** and **Morgan Ortagus** are chairing a new Indo-Pacific Summit in parallel to the November APEC meetings to focus on public- and private-sector American and Indo-Pacific cooperation.

POLITICO is now accepting applications for the 2022 Fellows Program in partnership with the National Association of Black Journalists. One NABJ member will be chosen for one of the four available slots. Two fellows will begin in January, and two fellows will begin in June. [More information and application details here](#)

New America announced its 2022 National Fellows: **Azam Ahmed, Keisha Blain, Benoit Denizet-Lewis, Rose Eveleth, Mike Giglio, Lauren Michele Jackson, Myra Jones-Taylor, Sarah Kay, Abrahm Lustgarten, Francesca Mari, Julian Brave NoiseCat, Janet Reitman, Anna Louie Sussman, Justine van der Leun** and **Ellen Wu**.

TRANSITIONS — **Emily Trifone** is now deputy comms director at the Democratic Attorneys General Association. She previously was a press officer at Planned Parenthood Federation of

America. ... **Jason McMann** is joining Morning Consult as head of geopolitical risk analysis. He previously was head of analytics at GeoQuant. ... **Patrick Kelly** is now a speechwriter for NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. He previously was director of speechwriting and publications for the AFL-CIO. ...

... **Emily Bromberg** is joining ICHOR Strategies as a managing partner. She most recently was senior VP/COS at the Anti-Defamation League and is a Clinton White House and Hillary for America alum. ... **Ryan Naples** is now a senior manager for public policy at DailyPay. He previously was deputy director at Tech:NYC. ... **Helene Holstein** is now a social media strategist with CVS Health. She previously was a social media strategist with the American Academy of Pediatrics and is a Sherrod Brown alum.

ENGAGED — **Kendall Breitman**, a writer at Wix and an NBC, Bloomberg and POLITICO alum, and **Dana Adelson**, a doctor, got engaged Sept. 13. Adelson proposed in Washington Square Park in Philadelphia, Breitman's hometown. The couple met when Breitman was on a Birthright trip to Israel four years ago. [Pic](#) ... [Another pic](#)

— **Sarah Sutton**, director of public affairs at PhRMA, and **Evan Ryan**, a U.S. Marine Corps captain, got engaged Saturday in Grand Marais, Minn. The two met through Hinge during the earlier days of the pandemic and went on a run in Old Town for their first date. [Pic](#) ... [Another pic](#)

— **Sebastian Ontiveros**, national director of the multicultural business alliance and strategy group at Toyota, and **Oriana Piña**, lead comms manager for diversity and inclusion at AT&T, got engaged over the weekend at the LACMA Lights in Los Angeles. The two met in D.C. at a friend's and the next day attended a U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce reception. Four years later, they have a fur baby, Diego, and a human baby, Oliver. [Pic](#) ... [Another pic](#)

WEEKEND WEDDING — **Wyatt Yankus**, an associate at the Brunswick Group and an Obama White House alum, and **Daniel Prins**, a cancer researcher at the University of Cambridge originally from Canada, got married Saturday. The ceremony took place on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, with immediate family from both sides in attendance. The two met in spring 2017 in England, where Dan works and where Wyatt was stationed as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy. [Pic](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: NYT's **Dean Baquet** ... Reps. **Pramila Jayapal** (D-Wash.) and **David Trone** (D-Md.) ... USAID Administrator **Samantha Power** ... **Shealah Craighead** ... CNN's **Brianna Keilar** ... **Maggie Dougherty** ... POLITICO's **Karey Van Hall** ... **Jessica Andrews** ... **Ian Tuttle** of Sen. Ben Sasse's (R-Neb.) office (3-0) ... Reuters' **Alexandra Alper** ... **Anna Greenberg** of Greenberg Quinlan Rosner ... **Franklin Zyriek** ... **Georgette Kerr** of Plurus Strategies ... **Erin Graefe Dorton** of Prime Policy Group ... **Toula Vlahou** ... **Mike Walsh** of Foley & Lardner ...

Facebook's **Brian Roehrka** ... Beacon Media's **Ian Russell** ... **Rodney Whitlock** ... **Melanie Steele** ... former CIA Director **James Woolsey** ... **Cass Sunstein** ... **Kiki Burger** ... The Atlantic's **Tori Latham** ... NBC News PR's **Dom Cuce**

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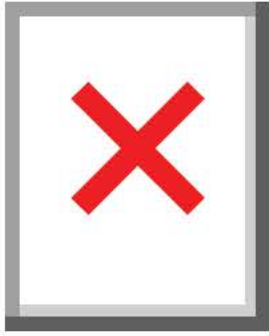
P R E S E N T E D B Y M O R G A N S T A N L E Y



By Mike A en · Sep 20, 2021

Good afternoon: Today's PM — edited by Justin Green — is 396 words, a 1.5-minute read.

1 big thing: Gabby Petito's online sleuths



Law enforcement searching for Brian Laundrie at the Carlton Reserve in Florida. Photo: North Port Police Department via AP

Gabby Petito made her name online. Now, social media sleuths are rushing to help investigators crack her disappearance.

- **Police recovered** remains believed to be Petito's near Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming yesterday, ending a week of coverage that sparked a social media frenzy.

By the numbers: The #GabbyPetito hashtag has more than 500 million views on TikTok, and #FindGabbyPetito has more than 50 million.

- **Her body** was reportedly found close to where YouTubers said they saw her van in footage they recorded while camping in late August.

Quick timeline:

- **July 2:** Petito and Brian Laundrie left New York for a four-month road trip to Oregon.
- **Aug. 24:** Petito last FaceTimed with her mother.
- **Sept. 11:** Petito's family reported her missing. Laundrie, now also missing, has not been named a suspect.
- **Sept. 19:** YouTubers claimed they'd filmed her van while camping on Aug. 27.

The big picture: Crowd-sleuthed investigations helped track down hundreds of Jan. 6 suspects, but also falsely ID'd several people as suspects in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

Between the lines: These sagas have a racial bias, with more attention paid to missing white women, criminologist Scott Bonn [told](#) The Washington Post.



2. White House calls whip video "horrific"

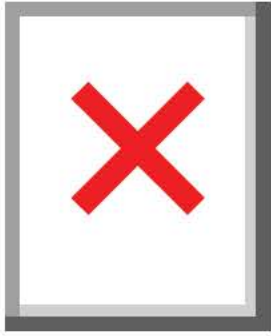


Photo: Pau Ratje/AFP va Getty Images

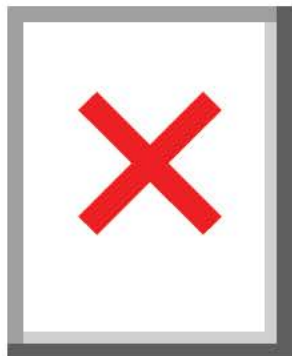
New photos and video [showed](#) Border Patrol agents swinging whips and charging their horses at migrants in Del Rio, Texas, yesterday.

- **Asked about the footage**, White House press secretary Jen Psaki [said](#): "I've ... seen the video. I can't imagine what the scenario is where that would be appropriate. ... It's obviously horrific, the footage."



A M E S S A G E F R O M M O R G A N S T A N L E Y

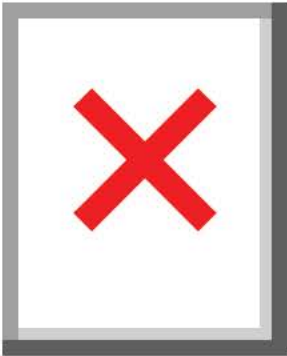
Innovations selected for sustainable solutions collaborative



The world's most complex sustainability challenges, from climate change and waste reduction to equitable health care and food insecurity, require large-scale solutions.

[Learn how Morgan Stanley is helping advance breakthrough innovations for sustainability issues.](#)

3. Catch up quick



Members of South Korean K-pop band BTS speak to the UN General Assembly today. Photo: John Angeli o/Poo Photo via AP

1. **Tomorrow in New York**, President Biden will use his first address before the UN General Assembly to say he "does not believe in the notion of a new Cold War, with the world divided into blocs," Axios' Zachary Basu reports. [Keep reading](#).
2. **The State Department** condemned Russia's crackdown on opposition groups during this weekend's parliamentary elections, the busy Zachary Basu reports. The [statement](#) said the vote "took place under conditions not conducive to free and fair proceedings." [Go deeper](#).
3. **Twitter agreed** to pay \$800 million to settle a 2016 class-action lawsuit that alleged the tech giant misled investors about user metrics, Axios' Sara Fischer reports. [Go deeper](#).

[x](#) [x](#) [x](#) [x](#)

4. Halloween sneak peek

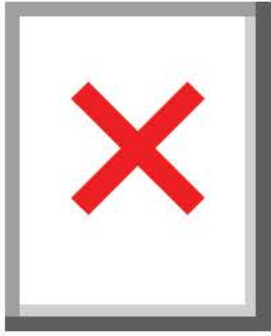


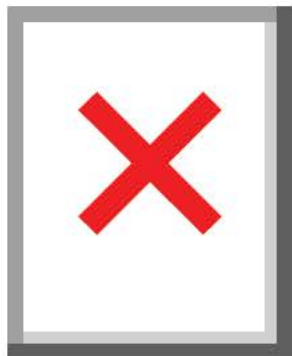
Photo: Grant a verson/Getty Images

This Carolina Panthers fan was spotted during the game against the New Orleans Saints at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte yesterday.



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