FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FOI/PA# 21-cv-558

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From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Wednesday, January 06, 2021
To: [redacted] b7E -3
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: FBIDirBriefing210106.doc

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR'S AM NEWS BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 5:00 AM EST

Intel Agencies Say Russia Was Likely Behind Hacking Of Government Departments. The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 4, 0:25, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported "the FBI and three other national security agencies" issued "a rare joint statement saying Russia was likely behind the cyber hacking of multiple government departments." NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 7, 0:15, Holt, 6.11M) said the agencies' "assessment is a rebuke of President Trump's suggestion that China might have been behind it." Likewise, Bloomberg (1/5, Sebenius, 3.57M) says the statement "is the latest contradiction of Trump's assessment of the hack," and the New York Times (1/5, Sanger, Barnes, 20.6M) that it is "a clear rebuke of President Trump's efforts" to cast blame on China. Politico (1/5, Geller, 6.73M) says the statement "had been approved two weeks ago but was delayed at the White House's insistence, a person familiar with the matter told Politico."

The AP (1/5, Tucker) says Trump, "in a series of tweets late last month, sought to downplay the severity of the hack and raised the unsubstantiated idea that China could be responsible. Tuesday's statement makes clear that that is not the case, saying the intrusions are likely 'Russian in origin.'"

Reuters (1/5, Menn) says the statement from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI, the National Security Agency, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said that the hacker, "likely Russian in origin, is responsible for most or all of the recently discovered, ongoing cyber compromises of both government and non-governmental networks." The Washington Post (1/5, Nakashima, 10.52M) reports the statement "said that fewer than 10 federal entities had their networks breached, though that list includes major agencies such as the Departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Energy and Commerce. U.S. officials have told The Washington Post that they think that as many as 300 government and private-sector entities at most have been compromised, though investigators are working to ascertain the scope of the hacks and to notify nongovernment entities affected."

USA Today (1/5, Johnson, 12.7M) says the statement is "the most definitive accounting yet after separate statements last month by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then-Attorney General William Barr who both pointed to the Kremlin."

CNN (1/5, Cohen, 89.21M) reports, "While top US officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, have previously suggested that the hacking campaign was carried out by a Russian-backed group, Tuesday's joint statement offers the most definitive and concrete assessment about the attack's origins from agencies investigating the incident. In short, the statement issued by the Cyber Unified Coordination Group (UCG) clearly acknowledges what US officials and experts have suspected since the data breach was first disclosed last month: the Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor responsible is 'likely Russian in origin.'"

The Washington Times (1/5, Gertz, 626K) reports, "The Russian government has denied any involvement in the attack, which has raised serious questions about the security of public and private computer networks in both the U.S. and abroad. The cyberattack affected about 18,000 government and private networks, including computers at key federal agencies such as the Energy, Treasury and Commerce departments."

Yahoo! News (1/5, McLaughlin, 10.87M), The Hill (1/5, 5.69M), CNBC (1/5, Haselton, 7.34M), Forbes (1/5, Beer, 10.33M), the Financial Times (1/5, Subscription Publication, 1.48M), ABC News (1/5, Barr, 2.44M), TechCrunch (1/5, Whittaker, 502K), the Telegraph (UK) (1/5, Murphy, 249K), US News & World Report (1/5, Shinkman, 1.91M), Fox News (1/5, Betz, 23.99M), NBC News (1/5, Dilanian, 4.91M), NPR (1/5, Myre, 3.69M), NextGov (1/5, Baksh), Bloomberg (1/5, Korte, Sebenius, 3.57M), the Washington Examiner (1/5, Dunleavy, 888K), the Wall Street Journal (1/5, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), BBC News (1/5, 876K), Axios (1/5, Rummler, 1.26M) and The Daily Caller (1/5, Datoc, 375K) provide similar coverage.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) says protecting the government from the next cyber attack and developing a "strategy for speedy recovery from infiltration" must be "an urgent priority for the Biden administration."

Top Admiral Says SolarWinds Hack Did Not Harm US-Based Nukes. The Washington Times (1/5, Glenn, 626K) reports, "America's nuclear arsenal wasn't compromised by a recent cyber attack that targeted thousands of sensitive computer networks used by government agencies and private companies, the Navy admiral in charge of the U.S. Strategic Command said." According to the Times, "The hack exploited a flaw in network monitoring software produced by Texas-based SolarWinds that allowed an Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor – most likely Russia – to covertly install back door access points in computer networks, officials said. 'We believe this was, and continues to be, an intelligence gathering effort,' according to a joint statement from the FBI, the National Security Agency, the Director of National Intelligence and other federal officials."

FBI, FAA Investigate Threat To US Capitol To Avenge Soleimani. The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 3, 1:55, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported that "the FBI and FAA are looking into a breach of the air traffic control system tonight after someone broadcast a threat to attack the US Capitol over the radio frequencies used by pilots." CBS' Jeff Pegues added that a "chilling threat obtained exclusively by CBS News was heard by multiple air traffic controllers Monday afternoon in New York." Unidentified Speaker: "We are flying a plane into is it Capitol Wednesday. Soleimani will be avenged." CBS cited "sources" who said "the Pentagon and other agencies were briefed today about the digitized voice recording and believe it was designed to suggest hitting the Capitol on the same day Congress is set to count the electoral college results."

On its website, CBS News (1/5, Pegues, 5.39M) reports, "While the government does not believe the warning of an attack is credible, it is being investigated as a breach of aviation frequencies." CBS adds, "The FBI is not commenting but said it takes 'all threats of violence to public safety seriously.'"

The Hill (1/5, Budryk, 5.69M) reports, "The message was received on Jan. 3, the first anniversary of the U.S.' killing of Soleimani at a Baghdad airport." Additional coverage includes Fox News (1/5, Singman, 23.99M).

FBI Warns Of COVID-19 Related Fraud Schemes. USA Today (1/5, Phillips, 12.7M) reports, "For the past year, federal law enforcement agencies have received tens of thousands of complaints of fraud tied to the coronavirus pandemic." FBI Financial Crimes Section Chief Steven Merrill said, "We've been concerned about fraud schemes regarding the vaccine as soon as the vaccine went from an idea to reality ... The one thing that we've learned throughout this pandemic is that when there's money to be made, criminals will figure out how to do it." He added, "We want to make sure that the public understands that the information they should be getting about the vaccine should not be coming from an advertisement or unsolicited information; it should be coming from an official government website." Warned against "medical providers asking patients to undergo unnecessary tests and procedures, bad actors seeking personal information from unsuspecting victims in order to fraudulently bill Medicare, fraudsters asking people to pay out of pocket to obtain vaccines, and marketing representatives offering wholesale shipments of vaccines in exchange for fees."

Reuters (1/5, Bellon) reports, "Scams include emails promising entry to supposedly secret lists for early vaccine access and robocallers impersonating government agencies." Message boards on the dark web offer purported COVID-19 vaccines for sale.

The Houston Chronicle (1/5, Forward, 982K) reports indicators of fraud include "advertisements for paying for early access to the vaccine or requests for patients to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine or to enter personal medical information," offers for additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine, "as well as marketers offering to sell or ship doses of a vaccine, domestically or internationally, in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee."

FBI Says It Was Unaware Agent Was Interrogating Legislative Staffer About Conversation On Legislation. The Detroit Free Press (1/5, Boucher, 2.16M) reports that in a statement, the FBI said that while it interrogated Michigan state Sen. Rosemary Bayer's chief of staff Katie Reiter about a conversation Bayer and her staff had about discussing draft legislation on tear gas, it was unaware of "Reiter's job before coming to her home to question her." While "Bayer suggested the FBI may have eavesdropped on the call," Special Agent Mara Schneider, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Detroit, wrote in an email that the agency "received a complaint from a concerned citizen who overheard comments about the use of tear gas during the upcoming election." She added, "At no time prior to that interview did the citizen or the FBI know the reported comments were made in the context of proposed legislation."

Officials, Law Enforcement Prepare For Possible Violence As Trump Supports Flock To DC For Protests. The AP (1/5, Khalil, Balsamo) reports hundreds of supporters of President Trump gather in Washington, DC, "to cheer his baseless claims of election fraud a day before a congressional vote to affirm Joe Biden's victory." Local officials and law enforcement have been "bracing for potential violent street clashes" and many businesses boarded up their windows in case the protest devolves "into the unrest seen in May and June when dozens of businesses were vandalized." Both the National Guard and federal agents "were on standby, in case they were quickly needed in the city this week." Meanwhile, Trump expressed support on Twitter for the protesters and "president was expected to personally address his supporters in Washington on Wednesday during a rally on the Ellipse."

The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports, "Local authorities have enhanced security and warned residents in and around the city to steer clear of potentially violent agitators." The Times says that protestors' "vitriol had already begun on a rainy Tuesday," and, "after dark, groups of men wearing body armor and helmets began showing up," some armed.

Additional coverage includes the Wall Street Journal (1/5, Levy, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M).

Proud Boys Leader Tarrio Barred From DC. The AP (1/5, Balsamo, Long) reports, "A judge has banned the leader of the Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group, from the nation's capital after he was accused of vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church and found with high-capacity firearm magazines when he was arrested." Enrique Tarrio is barred "from entering the District of Columbia, with very limited exceptions to meet with his attorney or appear in court." He was arrested in Washington a the day before as he was arriving ahead of protests. He is "accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from a historic Black church in downtown Washington last month." Police say he "posted a confession on the right-wing site Parler that he had set fire to the sign."

The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that in charging Tarrio "police relied on his statement to the news media and videos that show him crouched with others near the banner as it was being set on fire." The Post adds, "The FBI's Washington Field Office enhanced some of the videos to obtain a clearer look." District police "said they also charged Tarrio with two felony counts of possessing high-capacity ammunition feeding devices, which is a legal term for a magazine that allows guns to hold additional bullets."

Additional coverage includes WTOP-FM Washington (1/5, Moore, 164K).

Far-Right Forums Urge Violence During Protests. The Washington Post (1/5, Harwell, 10.52M) reports, "Far-right online forums are seething with references to potential violence and urging supporters of President Trump to bring guns to Wednesday's protests in Washington." Trump's tweet promoting his baseless electoral fraud claims and promoting the January 6 protest "has become a central rallying cry," and "talk of guns and potential violence is rife on the encrypted messaging app Telegram, the conservative social media site Parler and on thedonald.win, an online forum that previously operated on Reddit before the company banned it in June after years of racism, misogyny, anti-Semitism and calls for violence."

Pentagon Seeks To Avoid Political Entanglements. The Washington Post (1/5, Ryan, 10.52M) reports, "Pentagon leaders are bracing for any renewed presidential attempts to employ the military for political ends." President Trump's effort "to use expansive military force to put down widespread protests over police violence against Black citizens" in June "served as a wake-up call to many top officials at the Pentagon and in Congress about Trump's willingness to reach for the military to advance his personal and political interests." As part of the careful posture and "the Pentagon's wariness in the final days of" Trump's presidency, it emphasized that National Guard units deployed at DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's request "wouldn't carry firearms, use armored vehicles or helicopters, or receive backup from units in other states."

David Ignatius, in a column in the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M), writes that "senior government officials appear confident that the chaotic situation can be handled by the D.C. police, federal law-enforcement agencies and the National Guard -- without requiring any use of regular-duty military troops." Police officers, joined by the guard, will establish control points near the main march sites. Officials' assessment is "based partly on experience," but officials also anticipate that left-wing counterprotesters will mostly not attend, lessening "the likelihood of confrontations that could escalate into bloodshed and serious disorder." While there are concerns that after dark on Wednesday "small bands of Proud Boys and other extremists" may "go looking for trouble," but "officials expect that the planned force would be adequate."

DC Mayor Urges Against Deployment Of "Unidentifiable Personnel." The Washington Times (1/5, Zantow, 626K) reports that in a letter to federal officials, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser urged against deploying "unidentifiable personnel" at pro-Trump rallies, writing, "Unidentifiable personnel -- in many cases, armed -- caused confusion among residents and visitors and could become a national security threat with no way for [D.C. police] and federal law enforcement to decipher armed groups."

Legislators Advised To Use Tunnels Amid Protests. The AP (1/5) reports the House sergeant-at-arm, in a memo to members of Congress, advised that, with "potential violence in Washington tied to protests," they should "use underground tunnels while traveling between chambers in the Capitol and to nearby office buildings during the day."

Kenosha DA Will Not Bring Charges In Police Shooting Of Jacob Blake. In the lead story, NBC Nightly News (1/5, lead story, 2:25, Holt, 6.11M) reported, "There's breaking news tonight from Wisconsin, where a prosecutor has announced there will be no charges filed against" Rusten Sheskey, "a white Kenosha police officer who shot" Jacob Blake "in the back as he leaned into a car last August." Blake "was left paralyzed after the shooting that was captured on video and led to angry protests and even deadly violence on the streets." NBC's Gabe Gutierrez added that Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley "says Blake was armed with a knife, and the officer could have successfully argued self-defense." Graveley said the officers were "called to the scene on a designated domestic abuse call" with the knowledge that there was an arrest warrant for Blake at the time.

On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 7.66M), Alex Perez reported that Kenosha is "bracing for more protests after" Graveley's decision. The August 23 shooting took place "after police responded to a call about a domestic

dispute," and cell phone footage of the incident "shows 29-year-old Blake struggling with Officer Rusten Sheskey and another officer," who "both deployed their tasers, but...were unsuccessful." Perez reported that Blake then "appears to lean into the driver's side of the car," and Sheskey "opens fire" with "Blake's three young boys in the backseat." Graveley said, "We say with confidence, based on Blake's admission, based on all the officers saying it, and this video evidence, he clearly is armed with a knife."

The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 6, 1:50, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported, "Tonight Kenosha, Wisconsin is on edge after prosecutors announced the police officer who shot Jacob Blake will not face criminal charges, nor will any other officers." The August shooting "sparked unrest in Kenosha, and the National Guard is on patrol tonight." Graveley said, "This case is really all about self-defense and can it be proven that it does not exist. It is really evidence about the perspective of Officer Sheskey." Blake's father, Jacob Blake, Sr., said, "We'll find federal ways that justice will find for my son. We're not done yet."

The AP (1/5, Richmond) reports that Graveley "announced Tuesday that he will not file criminal charges against" Sheskey, the white police officer who shot Blake "in the back in Kenosha last summer, leaving him paralyzed and setting off sometimes violent protests in the city." The August 23 shooting, "captured on bystander video, turned the nation's spotlight on Wisconsin during a summer marked by protests over police brutality and racism." Over 250 arrests were made "in the days that followed, including 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse."

Reuters (1/5) reports that Graveley "found police officer Rusten Sheskey acted in self-defense while shooting Blake seven times at close range, saying Blake was armed with a knife and had resisted arrest, withstanding multiple Taser shots." The decision, which also clears two other officers, "could incite more demonstrations, which have frequently broken out in the United States in recent years after police have been cleared of wrongdoing in shootings of African Americans." Ben Crump, an attorney for Blake, tweeted, "We are immensely disappointed and feel this decision failed not only Jacob and his family but the community that protested and demanded justice."

The Washington Post (1/5, Guarino, Berman, Bellware, 10.52M) reports that witness accounts differ from Graveley's depiction, describing Blake "trying to break up an argument between two women" and unarmed when he was shot while walking "back toward his vehicle."

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Ailworth, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Graveley also said that no charges will be brought against Blake following a review of the incident. Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband said that a separate investigation being carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation is ongoing. Bloomberg (1/5, Joyce, 3.57M) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) "activated about 500 National Guard soldiers and airmen in an effort to ensure public safety" on Monday, ahead of the announcement.

The New York Times (1/5, A1, Chiarito, Bosman, Eligon, 20.6M) reports, Evers said after the announcement, "Today's decision is further evidence that our work is not done — we must work each day in earnest toward a more just, more fair, and more equitable state and country, and to combat the racism experienced by Black Wisconsinites." The Kenosha City Council had "unanimously passed an emergency declaration Monday that would allow the mayor to implement a curfew" after the announcement, while the Kenosha County sheriff "declared a state of emergency" ahead of expected protests.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Barton, Spicuzza, Linnane, 844K) reports that Graveley "said he relied both on an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and on an outside assessment of that investigation, conducted by former Madison Police Chief Noble Wray," who "served as a federal police reform specialist during the Obama administration after his retirement in 2013." The Daily Caller (1/5, Dima, 375K) reports that Graveley said he made the decision "independent of political forces or outside winds that swirl about." Breitbart (1/5, Pollak, 1.26M) has more on the decision.

Rittenhouse Pleads Not Guilty To All Charges. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Vielmetti, 844K) reports, "More than four months after he was charged with killing two protesters and wounding a third during civil unrest in Kenosha, Kyle Rittenhouse formally entered not guilty pleas Tuesday, triggering the next phases of what is still expected to be a very drawn-out case." The Sentinel says, "Rittenhouse has become a symbol to both sides in the national debate over race and justice, law and order, and guns." Rittenhouse "is charged with five felonies: first-degree intentional homicide in the death of Joseph Rosenbaum, 36; first-degree reckless homicide of Anthony Huber, 26; attempted first-degree intentional homicide of Gaige Grosskreutz, 26; and two counts of recklessly endangering safety, for shots fired at others."

Fox News (1/5, Ruiz, 23.99M) reports that Rittenhouse "and his legal team have argued self-defense, maintaining that he only fired his rifle after being attacked from behind." Prosecutors allege that Rittenhouse traveled "from his home in Antioch, Ill., across state lines to nearby Kenosha, after learning of a call for militia to protect businesses during protests on Aug. 25." The case is set to go to trial "on March 29, but the start date could be delayed. A pretrial hearing was scheduled for March 10."

Attorneys For Woman On Death Row Ask Trump To Commute Sentence. USA Today (1/5, Timms, 12.7M) reports that lawyers for Lisa Montgomery, "the only woman on federal death row," filed a clemency petition on Tuesday asking the President to commute her sentence to life without parole. Montgomery "was convicted of killing 23-year-old Bobbie Jo Stinnett in the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore in December 2004." Her attorneys, Kelley Henry and Amy Harwell, have argued that congenital brain damage and multiple traumatic brain injuries "have resulted in incurable and significant psychiatric disabilities." Montgomery, who is set to be executed on January 12, "would be the ninth federal inmate put to death since the Justice Department resumed executions in July after a nearly 20-year hiatus," and the first woman since 1953.

Islamic State Support Trial Pushed Back. The AP (1/5, Selsky) reports Judge Marco Hernandez moved back the trial of Hawazen Sameer Mothafar, whose trial on allegedly producing and disseminating "Islamic State propaganda and recruiting material through social media platforms" had been scheduled to begin Tuesday, to November 1. Mothafar's attorney, Mark Ahlemeyer, ", told the judge he needed time to determine what evidence will be presented, what pretrial motions he would file and how much investigating his team needs to do, adding that he assumed it would involve international travel." Judge Hernandez "noted the case is complicated because of its international aspects, the requirements of classified discovery and other issues."

Pro-Trump Website Targeting "Enemies," Attributed To Iran, Reappears. The Washington Times (1/5, Blake, 626K) reports the pro-Trump website "Enemies of the People" reappeared, listing the addresses of purported "traitors" along with images of their faces in crosshairs. "The FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, CISA, ultimately determined Iranian were responsible for the original 'Enemies' site and related web addresses and accounts."

Sharpton: Firing Not Enough For Officer Who Killed Andre Hill. The AP (1/5, Amiri, Welsh) reports, "Dozens gathered at the First Church of God" in Columbus, Ohio to commemorate Andre Hill, "as family and lawmakers called for justice to be brought against the white Columbus police officer who fatally shot" Hill. The Rev. Al Sharpton said, when delivering Hill's eulogy, "We don't want your sympathy. We want justice." He added that firing the officer, Adam Coy, was not enough, saying, "We cannot have a precedent that if you kill us, you just lose your job and keep living your life as you were." Meanwhile, "Ohio's attorney general, the U.S. attorney for central Ohio and the FBI have begun their own probes into the shooting."

Appeals Court Upholds Corruption Conviction Of Former Texas State Judge. KRGV-TV Harlingen, TX (1/5) reports, "The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the conviction of former" Texas state District Judge Rudy Delgado. The court rejected Delgado's arguments that his conviction wasn't supported by the evidence. The FBI recorded conversations between attorney Noe Perez, a federal informant, and Delgado, "who accepted cash during conversations about pending cases."

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Please direct comments and concerns to [redacted] b7E -3

From: SIOC
Subject: CIRG'S DAILY SITREP
To: [redacted] b6 -1 b7C -1 b7E -5

[redacted] Haertel, Paul H. (SU) (FBI); [redacted]

[redacted] Ronnow, Kurtis (CIRG) (FBI); [redacted]

Cc: SIOC
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:55 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: [redacted] FBIDirBriefing210106.doc, [redacted] January 6, 2021.eml b7E -5

UNCLASSIFIED//~~LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~

CIRG's Daily SITREP

Prepared by: [redacted] b7E -5

Wednesday, January 06, 2021

SIOC On-Duty Watch Commanders

[redacted] b6 -1 b7C -1 b7E -5

CIRG CRITICAL INCIDENT DEPLOYMENT [redacted]

ACTIONS TAKEN

- NSTR

DECISION POINTS

- NSTR

STEPS GOING FORWARD

- NSTR

FBI HQ Directed TDY Personnel

Division	Function	Arrived	Estimated Departure Date	En route	Expected Inbound Dates/Notes
[redacted]					
Total Count of FBIHQ Directed Personnel		[redacted]			

b7E -5

CIRG OVERNIGHT UPDATES

- [redacted] b7E -5,8

support efforts Preventing Violence and Criminal Activity (PVCA) today in the National Capital Region.

- The NC3 will serve in a supportive role and will be comprised of FBIHQ Divisions as well as federal, state, and local partners. [redacted] b7E -5,8

CURRENT FIELD OFFICE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

[redacted]

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b6 -1,2,3,5
b7A -1
b7C -1,2,3,5
b7D -2
b7E -1,2,4,5,8,9

DAILY POLICY ENGAGEMENTS

- NSTR

FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE DEPLOYMENTS

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b7A -1

CIRG RESOURCE DEPLOYMENTS/TDYs

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b7A -1
b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -2, 5

ROUTINE OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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b7E -2,5

PENDING

- Please see the attached pending requests.

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b7A -1

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CIRG TRAINING

b7E -5

CMU will virtually provide Crisis Management and Sentinel-Crisis training to WFO.

SPECIAL EVENTS

b7E -5,8

FIELD OFFICE/LEGAT STATUS

b7E -5

LEO LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

* NSTR

SIOC FACILITY EVENTS

b7E -5

CIRG PERSONNEL COVID REPORTING

b7E -5

b7E -1

WEATHER FOR TODAY

NCR – Mostly sunny and breezy, with a high/low of 46°/33°
There are no active watches, warnings or advisories.

Richmond, VA – Mostly sunny, with a high/low of 48°/29°
There are no active watches, warnings or advisories.

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Emergency Action Specialist: [redacted] | Watch Commander: SSA [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
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FBI Action Tracker	
Event	
Presidential Inauguration	
Presidential Inauguration	

b7E -5,11

From:
Subject: January 6, 2021
To:
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:24 AM (UTC-05:00)

b7E -5

b7E -1, 5

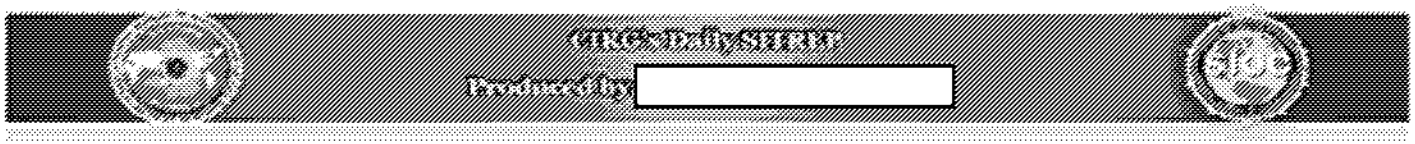
All information and inquiries should be directed to

b7E -1,3,5

b3 -1
b7E -1,3,5
b7A -1

[redacted] [2200 to 0600]

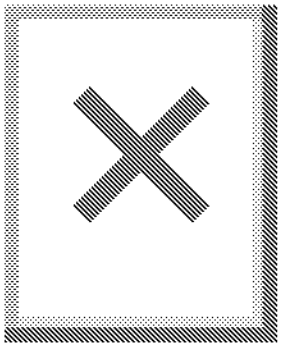
b7E -3



b7E -5

From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs News Briefing Wednesday, January 06, 2021
To: [redacted] b7E -3
Sent: January 6, 2021 6:29 AM (UTC-05:00)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at [redacted]



TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 6:30 AM

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LEADING THE NEWS

Intel Agencies Say Russia Was Likely Behind Hacking Of Government Departments.

The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 4, 0:25, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported "the FBI and three other national security agencies" issued "a rare joint statement saying Russia was likely behind the cyber hacking of multiple government departments." NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 7, 0:15, Holt, 6.11M) said the agencies' "assessment is a rebuke of President Trump's suggestion that China might have been behind it." Likewise, Bloomberg (1/5, Sebenius, 3.57M) says the statement "is the latest contradiction of Trump's assessment of the hack," and the New York Times (1/5, Sanger, Barnes, 20.6M) that it is "a clear rebuke of President Trump's efforts" to cast blame on China. Politico (1/5, Geller, 6.73M) says the statement "had been approved two weeks ago but was delayed at the White House's insistence, a person familiar with the matter told Politico."

The AP (1/5, Tucker) says Trump, "in a series of tweets late last month, sought to downplay the severity of the hack and raised the unsubstantiated idea that China could be responsible. Tuesday's statement makes clear that that is not the case, saying the intrusions are likely 'Russian in origin.'"

Reuters (1/5, Menn) says the statement from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI, the National Security Agency, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said that the hacker, "likely Russian in origin, is responsible for most or all of the recently discovered, ongoing cyber compromises of both government and non-governmental networks." The Washington Post (1/5, Nakashima, 10.52M) reports the statement "said that fewer than 10 federal entities had their networks breached, though that list includes major agencies such as the Departments of State, Treasury, Homeland Security, Energy and Commerce. U.S. officials have told The Washington Post that they think that as many as 300 government and private-sector entities at most have been compromised, though investigators are working to ascertain the scope of the hacks and to notify nongovernment entities affected."

USA Today (1/5, Johnson, 12.7M) says the statement is "the most definitive accounting yet after separate statements last month by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then-Attorney General William Barr who both pointed to the Kremlin."

CNN (1/5, Cohen, 89.21M) reports, "While top US officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, have previously suggested that the hacking campaign was carried out by a Russian-backed group, Tuesday's joint statement offers the most definitive and concrete assessment about the attack's origins from agencies investigating the incident. In short, the statement issued by the Cyber Unified Coordination Group (UCG) clearly acknowledges what US officials and experts have suspected since the data breach was first disclosed last month: the Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor responsible is 'likely Russian in origin.'"

The Washington Times (1/5, Gertz, 626K) reports, "The Russian government has denied any involvement in the attack, which has raised serious questions about the security of public and private computer networks in both the U.S. and abroad. The cyberattack affected about 18,000 government and private networks, including computers at key federal agencies such as the Energy, Treasury and Commerce departments."

Yahoo! News (1/5, McLaughlin, 10.87M), The Hill (1/5, 5.69M), CNBC (1/5, Haselton, 7.34M), Forbes (1/5, Beer, 10.33M), the Financial Times (1/5, Subscription Publication, 1.48M), ABC News (1/5, Barr, 2.44M), TechCrunch (1/5, Whittaker, 502K), the Telegraph (UK) (1/5, Murphy, 249K), US News & World Report (1/5, Shinkman, 1.91M), Fox News (1/5, Betz, 23.99M), NBC News (1/5, Dilanian, 4.91M), NPR (1/5, Myre, 3.69M), NextGov (1/5, Baksh), Bloomberg (1/5, Korte, Sebenius, 3.57M), the Washington Examiner (1/5, Dunleavy, 888K), the Wall Street Journal (1/5, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), BBC News (1/5, 876K), Axios (1/5, Rummler, 1.26M) and The Daily Caller (1/5, Datoc, 375K) provide similar coverage.

In an editorial, the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) says protecting the government from the next cyber attack and developing a "strategy for speedy recovery from infiltration" must be "an urgent priority for the Biden administration."

Top Admiral Says SolarWinds Hack Did Not Harm US-Based Nukes. The Washington Times (1/5, Glenn, 626K) reports, "America's nuclear arsenal wasn't compromised by a recent cyber attack that targeted thousands of sensitive computer networks used by government agencies and private companies, the Navy admiral in charge of the U.S. Strategic Command said." According to the Times, "The hack exploited a flaw in network monitoring software produced by

Texas-based SolarWinds that allowed an Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actor – most likely Russia – to covertly install back door access points in computer networks, officials said. 'We believe this was, and continues to be, an intelligence gathering effort,' according to a joint statement from the FBI, the National Security Agency, the Director of National Intelligence and other federal officials."

OPERATION LEGEND

Operation LeGend Resulted In More Than 6,000 Arrests.

Voice of America (1/5, Farivar, 85K) reports, "Before he stepped down last month, Attorney General William Barr touted" the results of Operation LeGend, an anti-violent crime initiative that was implemented in nine US cities last year, in which "the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and other federal law enforcement agencies teamed up with local police in these cities to crack down on violent criminals, make arrests and get firearms off the streets." However, Voice of America reports its own police data compilation shows "homicides during 2020 were up by an average of about 40% over the previous year across the nine cities: Kansas City, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; and Indianapolis, Indiana."

The Daily Memphian (TN) (1/5, Jones) reports Operation LeGend resulted in more than 6,000 arrests, "more than 2,600 firearms seized, along with 32 kilos of heroin, more than 17 kilos of fentanyl, more than 300 kilos of methamphetamine, more than 135 kilos of cocaine and more than $11 million in drug proceeds."

The Memphis (TN) Flyer (1/5, Sells, 94K) reports US Attorney D. Michael Dunavant said, "We will continue our targeted enforcement actions and coordination in the future with the federal agents permanently reassigned to Memphis, as well as our LeGend Task Force model."

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Sources: FBI Won't Classify Nashville Bombing As Terrorism.

WSMV-TV Nashville, TN (1/5, Finley, 230K) reports, "An FBI source close to the Christmas day bombing investigation tells News4 Investigates that evidence indicates it was not an act of domestic terrorism." Such a declaration would "come as a relief to many businesses, who feared their lack of terrorism coverage means they would be shut out of insurance money."

The Nashville (TN) Business Journal (1/5, Hutchinson, Subscription Publication, 859K) reports Nashville Chief of Police John Drake, during a question and answer session with Metro Council, "said the federal bureau's decision had to do with the ideology of Anthony Warner, who on Christmas Day detonated a bomb on Second Avenue." However, in a statement the FBI said, "We continue to assess the evidence collected and this remains an active investigation. At the appropriate time, we will make a final determination when we have been able to review the maximum amount of information."

The AP (1/6, Kruesi, Tucker) reports, "The FBI investigation into whether the Nashville bombing was a terrorist act has sparked criticism about a possible racial double standard," as the agency "has resisted labeling it an act of terrorism." Doug Korneski, the FBI agent in charge of the agency's Memphis office, told reporters, "When we assess an event for domestic terrorism nexus, it has to be tied to an ideology. It's the use of force or violence in the furtherance of a political or social ideology or event. We haven't tied that yet." However, a handful of state and city leaders argue "that authorities would have acted differently if the 63-year-old Warner had not been a white man."

Experts: License Not Needed To Obtain Materials To Build Bomb. WBIR-TV Knoxville, TN (1/5, 269K) reports that former federal investigators say that Warner "could have obtained all the materials needed to make the bomb" without a license to handle explosives.

Mural Honors Police Who First Responded To Bombing. The Hill (1/5, 5.69M) reports a mural posted Sunday in Nashville on the window of a Hard Rock Café honors the six police

officers who responded first to the bombing. It was organized by the group I Believe in Nashville.

FBI, FAA Investigate Threat To US Capitol To Avenge Soleimani.

The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 3, 1:55, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported that "the FBI and FAA are looking into a breach of the air traffic control system tonight after someone broadcast a threat to attack the US Capitol over the radio frequencies used by pilots." CBS' Jeff Pegues added that a "chilling threat obtained exclusively by CBS News was heard by multiple air traffic controllers Monday afternoon in New York." Unidentified Speaker: "We are flying a plane into is it Capitol Wednesday. Soleimani will be avenged." CBS cited "sources" who said "the Pentagon and other agencies were briefed today about the digitized voice recording and believe it was designed to suggest hitting the Capitol on the same day Congress is set to count the electoral college results."

On its website, CBS News (1/5, Pegues, 5.39M) reports, "While the government does not believe the warning of an attack is credible, it is being investigated as a breach of aviation frequencies." CBS adds, "The FBI is not commenting but said it takes 'all threats of violence to public safety seriously.'"

The Hill (1/5, Budryk, 5.69M) reports, "The message was received on Jan. 3, the first anniversary of the U.S.' killing of Soleimani at a Baghdad airport." Additional coverage includes Fox News (1/5, Singman, 23.99M).

Arizona Man Sentenced To Over 3 Years In Bomb-making Case.

The AP (1/5, Billeaud) reports Ahmad Suhad Ahmad "was sentenced to three years and five months in prison on convictions for heroin possession and distributing information related to explosives." His attorney argued that Ahmad "used his Middle Eastern background to trick people into thinking he could build bombs, when none of the devices he made actually worked," but as part of his guilty plea Ahmed "admitted that he, the confidential source and an undercover FBI agent traveled from Tucson in April 2017 to a condominium in Las Vegas, where Ahmad made two bombs and explained to the agent how to the explosive devices worked."

Police To Bring Charges In New York City Bomb Hoax.

The AP (1/5, Sisak) reports that Louis Shenker, "a self-described American nationalist" who is "suspected of leaving a hoax explosive device in a car at" the Queens Place Mall in New York City, will face "criminal charges after turning himself in to police, authorities said Tuesday." New York police spokesperson Detective Denise Moroney said Shenker will be charged for placing a false bomb, possession of stolen property, and abandonment of a disabled animal. The mall was evacuated Monday after the device "was found in a black Tesla parked on a ramp in a parking garage," along with a dog. The vehicle "had a Nevada license plate and has been reported stolen in that state." Shenker "surrendered to officers" on Tuesday, but "claimed that the suspicious device was actually a rig to charge the Tesla's dead battery."

Additional coverage includes Fox News (1/5, Pagones, 23.99M).

FBI Terrorism Task Force Aiding Bomb Threat Investigation.

The Wenatchee (WA) World (1/4, O'Cain, 57K) reports, "Investigators are working with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in Western Washington to identify" a man who called the RiverCom Dispatch business line and said there was a bomb in downtown Leavenworth.

Continuing Coverage: Guilty Plea In DC Private School Bomb Threat.

In continuing coverage, the Washington Patch (1/5, 1.44M) reports that Sonia Tabizada "pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to intentionally obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs by threatening to bomb Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School" after the school announced it would begin publishing same-sex wedding announcements in its alumni magazine.

Islamic State Support Trial Pushed Back.

The AP (1/5, Selsky) reports Judge Marco Hernandez moved back the trial of Hawazen Sameer

Mothafar, whose trial on allegedly producing and disseminating "Islamic State propaganda and recruiting material through social media platforms" had been scheduled to begin Tuesday, to November 1. Mothafar's attorney, Mark Ahlemeyer, ", told the judge he needed time to determine what evidence will be presented, what pretrial motions he would file and how much investigating his team needs to do, adding that he assumed it would involve international travel." Judge Hernandez "noted the case is complicated because of its international aspects, the requirements of classified discovery and other issues."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Bail Hearing For Assange Set For Wednesday.

Reuters (1/5, Holden) reports that Julian Assange, "who is currently being held in the top-security Belmarsh Prison in east London, will seek to be freed on bail at a hearing on Wednesday." On Monday, a UK judge "rejected a request from U.S. authorities for Assange" to be extradited to the US "to face 18 criminal charges of breaking an espionage law and conspiring to hack government computers." Judge Vanessa Baraitser "said Assange's mental health issues meant he would be at risk of suicide if he were extradited." If Assange's request is granted, "he will be able to enjoy freedom for the first time in more than eight years."

The Washington Times (1/5, Blake, 626K) reports, "Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Tuesday that Mr. Assange, an Aussie by birth, is free to return once the appeals process is finished and his extradition case is completely over." Meanwhile, "Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Monday that he is prepared to offer asylum to Mr. Assange." DOJ "subsequently said it plans to challenge the judge's ruling. In the meantime, she is slated to decide Wednesday whether to release Mr. Assange pending appeal."

Also reporting is The Hill (1/5, 5.69M).

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Officials, Law Enforcement Prepare For Possible Violence As Trump Supports Flock To DC For Protests.

The AP (1/5, Khalil, Balsamo) reports hundreds of supporters of President Trump gather in Washington, DC, "to cheer his baseless claims of election fraud a day before a congressional vote to affirm Joe Biden's victory." Local officials and law enforcement have been "bracing for potential violent street clashes" and many businesses boarded up their windows in case the protest devolves "into the unrest seen in May and June when dozens of businesses were vandalized." Both the National Guard and federal agents "were on standby, in case they were quickly needed in the city this week." Meanwhile, Trump expressed support on Twitter for the protesters and "president was expected to personally address his supporters in Washington on Wednesday during a rally on the Ellipse."

The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports, "Local authorities have enhanced security and warned residents in and around the city to steer clear of potentially violent agitators." The Times says that protestors' "vitriol had already begun on a rainy Tuesday," and, "after dark, groups of men wearing body armor and helmets began showing up," some armed.

Additional coverage includes the Wall Street Journal (1/5, Levy, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M).

Proud Boys Leader Tarrio Barred From DC. The AP (1/5, Balsamo, Long) reports, "A judge has banned the leader of the Proud Boys, a far-right extremist group, from the nation's capital after he was accused of vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church and found with high-capacity firearm magazines when he was arrested." Enrique Tarrio is barred "from entering the District of Columbia, with very limited exceptions to meet with his attorney or appear in court." He was arrested in Washington a the day before as he was arriving ahead of protests. He is "accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from a historic Black church in downtown Washington last month." Police say he "posted a confession on the right-

wing site Parler that he had set fire to the sign."

The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that in charging Tarrio "police relied on his statement to the news media and videos that show him crouched with others near the banner as it was being set on fire." The Post adds, "The FBI's Washington Field Office enhanced some of the videos to obtain a clearer look." District police "said they also charged Tarrio with two felony counts of possessing high-capacity ammunition feeding devices, which is a legal term for a magazine that allows guns to hold additional bullets."

Additional coverage includes WTOP-FM Washington (1/5, Moore, 164K).

Far-Right Forums Urge Violence During Protests. The Washington Post (1/5, Harwell, 10.52M) reports, "Far-right online forums are seething with references to potential violence and urging supporters of President Trump to bring guns to Wednesday's protests in Washington." Trump's tweet promoting his baseless electoral fraud claims and promoting the January 6 protest "has become a central rallying cry," and "talk of guns and potential violence is rife on the encrypted messaging app Telegram, the conservative social media site Parler and on thedonald.win, an online forum that previously operated on Reddit before the company banned it in June after years of racism, misogyny, anti-Semitism and calls for violence."

Pentagon Seeks To Avoid Political Entanglements. The Washington Post (1/5, Ryan, 10.52M) reports, "Pentagon leaders are bracing for any renewed presidential attempts to employ the military for political ends." President Trump's effort "to use expansive military force to put down widespread protests over police violence against Black citizens" in June "served as a wake-up call to many top officials at the Pentagon and in Congress about Trump's willingness to reach for the military to advance his personal and political interests." As part of the careful posture and "the Pentagon's wariness in the final days of" Trump's presidency, it emphasized that National Guard units deployed at DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's request "wouldn't carry firearms, use armored vehicles or helicopters, or receive backup from units in other states."

David Ignatius, in a column in the Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M), writes that "senior government officials appear confident that the chaotic situation can be handled by the D.C. police, federal law-enforcement agencies and the National Guard – without requiring any use of regular-duty military troops." Police officers, joined by the guard, will establish control points near the main march sites. Officials' assessment is "based partly on experience," but officials also anticipate that left-wing counterprotesters will mostly not attend, lessening "the likelihood of confrontations that could escalate into bloodshed and serious disorder." While there are concerns that after dark on Wednesday "small bands of Proud Boys and other extremists" may "go looking for trouble," but "officials expect that the planned force would be adequate."

DC Mayor Urges Against Deployment Of "Unidentifiable Personnel." The Washington Times (1/5, Zantow, 626K) reports that in a letter to federal officials, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser urged against deploying "unidentifiable personnel" at pro-Trump rallies, writing, "Unidentifiable personnel – in many cases, armed – caused confusion among residents and visitors and could become a national security threat with no way for [D.C. police] and federal law enforcement to decipher armed groups."

Legislators Advised To Use Tunnels Amid Protests. The AP (1/5) reports the House sergeant-at-arm, in a memo to members of Congress, advised that, with "potential violence in Washington tied to protests," they should "use underground tunnels while traveling between chambers in the Capitol and to nearby office buildings during the day."

Kenosha DA Will Not Bring Charges In Police Shooting Of Jacob Blake.

In the lead story, NBC Nightly News (1/5, lead story, 2:25, Holt, 6.11M) reported, "There's breaking news tonight from Wisconsin, where a prosecutor has announced there will be no charges filed against" Rusten Sheskey, "a white Kenosha police officer who shot" Jacob Blake "in the back as he leaned into a car last August." Blake "was left paralyzed after the shooting that was captured on video and led to angry protests and even deadly violence on the streets." NBC's Gabe Gutierrez added that Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley "says Blake was armed with a knife, and the officer could have successfully argued self-defense." Graveley said the officers were "called to the scene on a designated domestic abuse call" with the knowledge that there was an

arrest warrant for Blake at the time.

On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 7.66M), Alex Perez reported that Kenosha is "bracing for more protests after" Graveley's decision. The August 23 shooting took place "after police responded to a call about a domestic dispute," and cell phone footage of the incident "shows 29-year-old Blake struggling with Officer Rusten Sheskey and another officer," who "both deployed their tasers, but...were unsuccessful." Perez reported that Blake then "appears to lean into the driver's side of the car," and Sheskey "opens fire" with "Blake's three young boys in the backseat." Graveley said, "We say with confidence, based on Blake's admission, based on all the officers saying it, and this video evidence, he clearly is armed with a knife."

The CBS Evening News (1/5, story 6, 1:50, O'Donnell, 4.65M) reported, "Tonight Kenosha, Wisconsin is on edge after prosecutors announced the police officer who shot Jacob Blake will not face criminal charges, nor will any other officers." The August shooting "sparked unrest in Kenosha, and the National Guard is on patrol tonight." Graveley said, "This case is really all about self-defense and can it be proven that it does not exist. It is really evidence about the perspective of Officer Sheskey." Blake's father, Jacob Blake, Sr., said, "We'll find federal ways that justice will find for my son. We're not done yet."

The AP (1/5, Richmond) reports that Graveley "announced Tuesday that he will not file criminal charges against" Sheskey, the white police officer who shot Blake "in the back in Kenosha last summer, leaving him paralyzed and setting off sometimes violent protests in the city." The August 23 shooting, "captured on bystander video, turned the nation's spotlight on Wisconsin during a summer marked by protests over police brutality and racism." Over 250 arrests were made "in the days that followed, including 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse."

Reuters (1/5) reports that Graveley "found police officer Rusten Sheskey acted in self-defense while shooting Blake seven times at close range, saying Blake was armed with a knife and had resisted arrest, withstanding multiple Taser shots." The decision, which also clears two other officers, "could incite more demonstrations, which have frequently broken out in the United States in recent years after police have been cleared of wrongdoing in shootings of African Americans." Ben Crump, an attorney for Blake, tweeted, "We are immensely disappointed and feel this decision failed not only Jacob and his family but the community that protested and demanded justice."

The Washington Post (1/5, Guarino, Berman, Bellware, 10.52M) reports that witness accounts differ from Graveley's depiction, describing Blake "trying to break up an argument between two women" and unarmed when he was shot while walking "back toward his vehicle."

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Ailworth, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Graveley also said that no charges will be brought against Blake following a review of the incident. Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband said that a separate investigation being carried out by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation is ongoing. Bloomberg (1/5, Joyce, 3.57M) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) "activated about 500 National Guard soldiers and airmen in an effort to ensure public safety" on Monday, ahead of the announcement.

The New York Times (1/5, A1, Chiarito, Bosman, Eligon, 20.6M) reports, Evers said after the announcement, "Today's decision is further evidence that our work is not done — we must work each day in earnest toward a more just, more fair, and more equitable state and country, and to combat the racism experienced by Black Wisconsinites." The Kenosha City Council had "unanimously passed an emergency declaration Monday that would allow the mayor to implement a curfew" after the announcement, while the Kenosha County sheriff "declared a state of emergency" ahead of expected protests.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Barton, Spicuzza, Linnane, 844K) reports that Graveley "said he relied both on an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and on an outside assessment of that investigation, conducted by former Madison Police Chief Noble Wray," who "served as a federal police reform specialist during the Obama administration after his retirement in 2013." The Daily Caller (1/5, Dima, 375K) reports that Graveley said he made the decision "independent of political forces or outside winds that swirl about." Breitbart (1/5, Pollak, 1.26M) has more on the decision.

Rittenhouse Pleads Not Guilty To All Charges. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, Vielmetti, 844K) reports, "More than four months after he was charged with killing two protesters and wounding a third during civil unrest in Kenosha, Kyle Rittenhouse formally entered not guilty pleas Tuesday, triggering the next phases of what is still expected to be a very drawn-out case." The Sentinel says, "Rittenhouse has become a symbol to both sides in the national debate over race and justice, law and order, and guns." Rittenhouse "is charged with five felonies: first-degree intentional homicide in the death of Joseph Rosenbaum, 36; first-degree reckless homicide of Anthony Huber, 26; attempted first-degree intentional homicide of Gaige Grosskreutz, 26; and two counts of recklessly endangering safety, for shots fired at others."

Fox News (1/5, Ruiz, 23.99M) reports that Rittenhouse "and his legal team have argued self-defense, maintaining that he only fired his rifle after being attacked from behind." Prosecutors allege that Rittenhouse traveled "from his home in Antioch, Ill., across state lines to nearby Kenosha, after learning of a call for militia to protect businesses during protests on Aug. 25." The case is set to go to trial "on March 29, but the start date could be delayed. A pretrial hearing was scheduled for March 10."

FBI Says It Was Unaware Agent Was Interrogating Legislative Staffer About Conversation On Legislation.

The Detroit Free Press (1/5, Boucher, 2.16M) reports that in a statement, the FBI said that while it interrogated Michigan state Sen. Rosemary Bayer's chief of staff Katie Reiter about a conversation Bayer and her staff had about discussing draft legislation on tear gas, it was unaware of "Reiter's job before coming to her home to question her." While "Bayer suggested the FBI may have eavesdropped on the call," Special Agent Mara Schneider, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Detroit, wrote in an email that the agency "received a complaint from a concerned citizen who overheard comments about the use of tear gas during the upcoming election." She added, "At no time prior to that interview did the citizen or the FBI know the reported comments were made in the context of proposed legislation."

Continuing Coverage: Wray Urged To Investigate Trump Over Georgia Call.

In continuing coverage, the Washington Examiner (1/5, Doyle, 888K) reports Reps. Ted Lieu (D-CA) and Kathleen Rice (D-NY) "urged FBI Director Christopher Wray to open a criminal investigation" over President Trump's instructions to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger "to 'find' votes sufficient to alter the results of the election in the state." However, "legal observers are split on whether Trump's call offers sufficient basis for a federal investigation."

The Hill (1/5, Kruzel, 5.69M) reports, "It's not clear yet if federal or state officials will heed the calls for investigations," and such decisions "would likely involve weighing the interests of justice against the explosive political impact of prosecuting a current or recently sitting president."

The Washington Examiner (1/5, Brest, 888K) reports, "Nearly 100 Democratic members of the House have signaled their support for censuring President Trump for his phone call with the Georgia secretary of state."

Michelle Goldberg, in a column in the New York Times (1/4, Goldberg, 20.6M), writes that demanding accountability from President Trump "feels like smashing one's head into a brick wall, but our democracy might not be able to stagger along much longer without it." While "most excuses for not investigating or prosecuting Trump make at least some sense," if "there is no penalty for Republican cheating, there will be more of it," as the structure of our politics means the party doesn't need substantial majorities to wield national power, and so Republicans "feel free to openly scheme against the majority." Goldberg warns, "Trump and his Republican enablers have set a precedent for pressuring state officials to discard the will of their voters, and if that fails, for getting their allies in Congress to reject the results." It shows "that you can't rely on elections to punish attempts to subvert elections," only the law.

Attorneys For Woman On Death Row Ask Trump To Commute Sentence.

USA Today (1/5, Timms, 12.7M) reports that lawyers for Lisa Montgomery, "the only woman on federal death row," filed a clemency petition on Tuesday asking the President to commute her

sentence to life without parole. Montgomery "was convicted of killing 23-year-old Bobbie Jo Stinnett in the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore in December 2004." Her attorneys, Kelley Henry and Amy Harwell, have argued that congenital brain damage and multiple traumatic brain injuries "have resulted in incurable and significant psychiatric disabilities." Montgomery, who is set to be executed on January 12, "would be the ninth federal inmate put to death since the Justice Department resumed executions in July after a nearly 20-year hiatus," and the first woman since 1953.

Pro-Trump Website Targeting "Enemies," Attributed To Iran, Reappears.

The Washington Times (1/5, Blake, 626K) reports the pro-Trump website "Enemies of the People" reappeared, listing the addresses of purported "traitors" along with images of their faces in crosshairs. "The FBI and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, CISA, ultimately determined Iranian were responsible for the original 'Enemies' site and related web addresses and accounts."

Sharpton: Firing Not Enough For Officer Who Killed Andre Hill.

The AP (1/5, Amiri, Welsh) reports, "Dozens gathered at the First Church of God" in Columbus, Ohio to commemorate Andre Hill, "as family and lawmakers called for justice to be brought against the white Columbus police officer who fatally shot" Hill. The Rev. Al Sharpton said, when delivering Hill's eulogy, "We don't want your sympathy. We want justice." He added that firing the officer, Adam Coy, was not enough, saying, "We cannot have a precedent that if you kill us, you just lose your job and keep living your life as you were." Meanwhile, "Ohio's attorney general, the U.S. attorney for central Ohio and the FBI have begun their own probes into the shooting."

Denver Police Seized Guns Over Threats To Colorado's Attorney General.

The AP (1/5, Slevin) reports Denver police seized the guns of Bryce Shelby, who "was under investigation by the FBI when he made plans with an undercover agent to shoot Attorney General Phil Weiser in the head after planning to obtain a getaway vehicle." According to court records, the police used the state's new extreme risk protection order law. The Daily Caller (1/5, Greenlee, 375K) reports, "Shelby allegedly told an undercover FBI agent what he was planning on shooting Weiser and that he didn't mind having 'blood on his hands.'"

Police Officer Chicago's Latest Carjacking Victim.

The AP (1/5, Babwin) reports a Chicago police office suffered a carjacking while off duty on Monday. The city has seen carjackings more than double in 2020 compared to the year before. Chief of Detectives Brendan Deenihan "attributes much of the spike in carjackings and other violent crimes to the pandemic and the social unrest following" the police killing of George Floyd.

Man Arrested Over Concerns About Disrupting Vermont COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution.

VTDigger (VT) (1/5, Keays, 9K) reports Aaron Loucks was arrested "after a source turned over notes to law enforcement that 'suggested' a threat to vaccine distribution in Vermont." Notes reportedly belonging to Loucks and information from a source "indicated Loucks believes the Covid-19 vaccination effort is part of a government conspiracy to control the population." The investigation involved the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and other law enforcement agencies.

Continuing Coverage: FBI Traced Ghislaine Maxwell Using Cell Phone Data.

In continuing coverage, Newsweek (1/5, Royston, 2.67M) reports an affidavit indicates that the FBI's Jeffrey Epstein investigation traced Ghislaine Maxwell "using her cell phone data and a fake mobile phone mast." Newsweek adds, "The FBI had already obtained a warrant for her GPS and location data on the mobile phone but applied for an additional warrant because they had still been unable to pinpoint her exact location."

Additional coverage includes The Guardian (UK) (1/5, Milman, 5.53M) and the Independent (UK) (1/5, 1.19M).

Continuing Coverage: Barr Questioned Jeffrey Epstein's Cellmate.

In continuing coverage, the Daily Mail (UK) (1/5, Gordon, 4.11M) reports, "Attorney General William Barr personally questioned" Efrain "Stone" Reyes, the last inmate to share a cell with Jeffrey Epstein before his suicide.

Undercover Police Sought To Buy A Gun From Dolal Idd Prior To Fatal Shooting.

The Daily Mail (UK) (1/5, Mulraney, 4.11M) reports that prior to shooting and killing Dolal Idd, "Minneapolis police was trying to buy a handgun" from him in an undercover operation, according to search warrant documents. "After the shooting, cops carried out a raid on his father's home where the informant had also told them that they would find further firearms that Idd planned to sell illegally," but no guns were found there.

Man Held On Bail For Attempted Arson Of Historically Black Church.

The Boston Globe (1/5, Andersen, 1.04M) reports Dushko V. Vulchev of Maine "was held on $25,000 bail Tuesday for allegedly trying to set fire to" Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church, a predominantly Black church in Springfield. Vulchev's public defender, Nicholas J. Raring, said in an email that Vulchev "vehemently denies setting fire to the church" and the other crimes he's accused of. He was arraigned on three felony counts of attempting to burn a building, three counts of malicious damage to a motor vehicle and one count of taking and stealing parts from a vehicle

Videos Show Chicago Police Pinned A Woman Under Their SUV For Eight Minutes.

USA Today (1/5, Hauck, 12.7M) reports Bodycam videos show how on Nov. 13, 2019 a Chicago police officer drove into Martina Standley, "knocking her to the ground and crushing her leg beneath the SUV for more than eight minutes as she bled in the street." Community organizer William Calloway released the videos after a judge ordered the department to satisfy a Freedom of Information Act request for them. An investigation of the incident by the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, the police department's civilian oversight agency, is ongoing and "the officers involved in the incident remain on full-duty status."

Indiana Woman Arrested In Connection To Murder.

The What's New LaPorte (IN) (1/5) reports Lynn Ware has been arrested in connection to the disappearance of Laura Wolfe, who was reported missing last July. The FBI joined the investigation last October, when a farmer located human remains on his property in Springfield Township.

WKVI-FM Knox, IN (1/5) reports Ware "was arrested New Year's Eve."

Florida Man Sentenced Over Bank Fraud.

The Miami Herald (1/5, 647K) reports Yasmani Granja Quijada "was sentenced Monday to 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit bank fraud and aggravated identity theft last year." He "was arrested in June 2019 after investigators spotted him at several Harris Teeter stores in Virginia."

US Embassy Staffer Charged With Serial Rape.

The Daily Beast (1/5, 933K) reports US Embassy staffer Brian Jeffrey Raymond is "accused of drugging and sexually assaulting at least 23 women over the past 10 years," and he "lured at least one of his victims across international borders to Mexico from the United States for a night of abuse she barely remembers." He "was arrested Oct. 9 in La Mesa, California, where he had been staying with his parents after abruptly quitting his job."

Cliven Bundy's Son Arrested.

The AP (1/6) reports Cliven Lance Bundy, one of "rancher and states' rights advocate" Cliven Bundy's sons, has been arrested and jailed in Nevada. The arrest comes years after Cliven Lance Bundy "was sentenced to prison for 2013 felony convictions." At that time, "he apologized for

missing court dates, failing to keep in contact with probation officers and failing...to complete a one-year court-run drug diversion program." A similar Las Vegas Sun (1/5, Torres-Cortez, 165K) article says "warrants for violating a domestic violence restraining order and resisting a public officer" led to Cliven Lance Bundy's recent arrest. The Sun adds, "The Bundy family shot into prominence in 2014 over an armed standoff with federal agents after the Bureau of Land Management tried to round up" Cliven Bundy's "cattle on public land near the family's home."

Human Trafficking Organization Profiled.

WFLX-TV West Palm Beach, FL (1/5) profiles No More Tears, which was founded by child sex abuse survivor Somy Ali. She said of her organization's mission, "Our mission is to rescue and empower victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, victims in the LGTBQ community, animals that are abused, children that are sexually and physically abused."

Drug Case Defendant Sentenced To More Than 20 Years In Prison.

The Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (1/5, Ellis, 55K) reports Danny Ray Williams, Jr., a resident of Jonesboro, Arkansas, was recently "sentenced to nearly 23 years in federal prison" for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine. The drug trafficking investigation that led to Williams' arrest was "conducted by the FBI in conjunction with state and local authorities."

Tennessee FBI Agent Interviewed Over Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

WATE-TV Knoxville, TN (1/5, 157K) reports about its interview with Supervisory Special Agent Neal Gruhn, who discussed the FBI's human trafficking team. He said, "Here in the United States, both U.S. residents and foreign nationals are being bought and sold like modern day slaves. Traffickers use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to exploit victims. Victims are forced to work as prostitutes or to take jobs as migrant, domestic, restaurant, or factory workers with little or no pay. Human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits the most vulnerable in society."

Investigators Searching For FBI Most Wanted Fugitive In Arizona.

My Local News (AZ) (1/5) reports about the ongoing search for FBI's Ten Most Wanted list fugitive Robert William Fisher, who "is wanted for the murder of his wife and two children in Scottsdale, Arizona in 2001." Retired Arizona police sergeant Christine Burke "launched HelpSolveTheCase.com in 2010 to assist in resolving cold cases and wrongful convictions by uncovering new clues and utilizing new tools like genetic genealogy."

Michigan Residents Arrested In Connection To Bank Robberies.

WZZM-TV Grand Rapids, MI (1/5, 232K) reports Kimathi R. Smith and Dennis L. Burger "are facing 20 years for robberies" committed last year.

Washington State Minor Located.

KHQ-TV Spokane, WA (1/5, 164K) reports that the FBI successfully located 15-year-old Angeles Revueleta-Buenrostro, who "was reported missing from her Yakima home Monday morning." She "was located during a traffic stop on a highway near Wells," and Eric Landeros "was arrested and charged with kidnapping and contributing to the delinquency of a minor."

KTVK-TV Phoenix (1/5, 390K) reports that Arizona police "are also looking for 36-year-old Daniel Ovante, who is suspected of having arranged for Revueleta-Buenrostro to be taken from Yakima to Phoenix."

FBI Searching For Texas Bank Robber.

KTRK-TV Houston (1/5, 314K) reports that the FBI Violent Crime Task Force "is seeking Houstonians' help in identifying the 'Dynamite Desperado,' responsible for a bank robbery in the Galleria area Monday." The suspect "gave the teller a 'threatening note' demanding money."

FBI Investigating Illinois Bank Robbery.

The Naperville (IL) Patch (1/5, 1.44M) reports that the FBI is investigating the January 4 robbery of the Fifth Third Bank in Naperville. The suspect's vehicle "was pursued on eastbound I-88, where it was last seen approaching I-294."

The Chicago Sun-Times (1/5, 970K) reports that the FBI "hasn't released photos of the suspects."

The Chicago Daily Herald (1/5, Rohr, 360K) also reports.

Memphis Police Department Warns Of Growing Gang Violence.

The Memphis (TN) Flyer (1/5, Hill, 94K) reports Memphis Police Deputy Chief Michael Hardy and Major Frank Winston spoke Tuesday at the Memphis City Council meeting, where they "gave a presentation that outlined where local gang activity is concentrated and demonstrated their expertise on the subject." The pair "said gangs in the Memphis area are generally managed under three major umbrella organizations: Folk Nation, People Nation, and Latino Gangs."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

FBI Warns Of COVID-19 Related Fraud Schemes.

USA Today (1/5, Phillips, 12.7M) reports, "For the past year, federal law enforcement agencies have received tens of thousands of complaints of fraud tied to the coronavirus pandemic." FBI Financial Crimes Section Chief Steven Merrill said, "We've been concerned about fraud schemes regarding the vaccine as soon as the vaccine went from an idea to reality ... The one thing that we've learned throughout this pandemic is that when there's money to be made, criminals will figure out how to do it." He added, "We want to make sure that the public understands that the information they should be getting about the vaccine should not be coming from an advertisement or unsolicited information; it should be coming from an official government website." Warned against "medical providers asking patients to undergo unnecessary tests and procedures, bad actors seeking personal information from unsuspecting victims in order to fraudulently bill Medicare, fraudsters asking people to pay out of pocket to obtain vaccines, and marketing representatives offering wholesale shipments of vaccines in exchange for fees."

Reuters (1/5, Bellon) reports, "Scams include emails promising entry to supposedly secret lists for early vaccine access and robocallers impersonating government agencies." Message boards on the dark web offer purported COVID-19 vaccines for sale.

The Houston Chronicle (1/5, Forward, 982K) reports indicators of fraud include "advertisements for paying for early access to the vaccine or requests for patients to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine or to enter personal medical information," offers for additional medical testing or procedures when obtaining a vaccine, "as well as marketers offering to sell or ship doses of a vaccine, domestically or internationally, in exchange for payment of a deposit or fee."

Appeals Court Upholds Corruption Conviction Of Former Texas State Judge.

KRGV-TV Harlingen, TX (1/5) reports, "The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the conviction of former" Texas state District Judge Rudy Delgado. The court rejected Delgado's arguments that his conviction wasn't supported by the evidence. The FBI recorded conversations between attorney Noe Perez, a federal informant, and Delgado, "who accepted cash during conversations about pending cases."

Pharmacist Who Tried To Spoil COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Released.

USA Today (1/5, Vielmetti, 12.7M) reports Steven R. Brandenburg, a "pharmacist suspected of intentionally spoiling 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at a Wisconsin hospital," was released from jail Monday. Grafton was concerned "the vaccines could change people's DNA, an unfounded claim that has been debunked." At a hearing, "Ozaukee County District Attorney Adam Gerol told Circuit Judge Paul Malloy that the hospital had 'walked back' some of the information on which police had relied, that the vials in question have not since been destroyed, but are still in the hospital's

possession and might even still be viable." If the vaccine remains okay, "Gerol said, the most he could charge Brandenburg with would be attempted criminal damage to property, a misdemeanor."

CYBER DIVISION

Trump Order Bans Eight Chinese Apps.

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Restuccia, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports President Trump signed an executive order Tuesday banning transactions with eight apps tied to China including the Alipay payment platform owned by Ant Group Co. and the WeChat Pay app owned by Tencent Holdings Ltd. In the order, Trump said the apps can access users' private information which the Chinese government could use to "track the locations of Federal employees and contractors, and build dossiers of personal information." Reuters (1/5, Alper, Shepardson) reports, "The order released by the White House names 'Alipay, CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHAREit, Tencent QQ, VMate, WeChat Pay, and WPS Office.'"

The Washington Post (1/5, Whalen, 10.52M) says Trump's order "will take effect in 45 days, after the start of the Biden administration, leaving its fate unclear." The New York Times (1/5, Swanson, 20.6M) provides similar coverage.

NYSE Reconsidering Plan To Allow Three Chinese Telecom Companies To Remain Listed.

Reuters (1/5, McCrank, Alper, Li) reports, "The New York Stock Exchange [NYSE] is reconsidering its plan to allow" China Mobile Ltd, China Telecom Corp Ltd, and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd "to remain listed." NYSE "said late Monday it reversed an decision announced just last week to delist" the three telecom companies "after consulting with regulatory authorities in connection with the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control." The change in plans "was due to ambiguity over an executive order issued by President Donald Trump barring investment in firms Washington says are tied to the Chinese military, and whether the three firms were banned under the order," according to an unnamed source. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin called NYSE President Stacey Cunningham "on Tuesday to tell her he disagreed with the exchange operator's decision to reverse course on the delistings, a separate source said."

The New York Post (1/5, Manskar, 7.45M) reports, "The companies were among 35 firms that the Trump administration has sought to cut off from US investors under the president's November executive order because of their links to the Chinese military." The three companies "issued statements saying they had noted the stock exchange's latest move and would release information in line with regulations," adding "that investors should pay attention to investment risks." Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying on Monday "said American political forces were 'wantonly suppressing foreign companies' listed in the US." Hua said, "We hope the United States will respect the market and rule of law and do things conducive to upholding order in the global financial market, protecting investors' lawful rights and interests, and promoting the steady development of the global economy."

Bloomberg (1/5, Zhao, Tu, 3.57M) reports that the NYSE "gave no reason for its decision...saying only that it had consulted 'relevant regulatory authorities' about Trump's executive order, signed in November as part of his administration's push to check China's growing economic power." Bloomberg reports that the shift "came as a surprise and sparked confusion among officials at the U.S. Treasury and State departments, and National Security Council."

The New York Times (1/5, Rappeport, Mozur, 20.6M) says the "sudden reversal...sowed confusion and reflected the ongoing fighting within the Trump administration about how hard a line to take against China during President Trump's final days in office."

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Osipovich, Subscription Publication, 8.41M), The Hill (1/5, Castronuovo, 5.69M) and TechCrunch (1/5, Ha, 502K) also report.

San Francisco Cybersecurity Company Moves Headquarters To Florida.

The San Francisco Business Times (1/5, Coffey, Subscription Publication, 895K) reports that

OPSWAT "announced Monday it is relocating its corporate headquarters to Tampa, Florida" from San Francisco. The cybersecurity company's CEO, Benny Czarny, said the move "signals rapid growth but also our commitment to providing the best-in-class infrastructure protection to our global customers." OPSWAT's move is part of a "corporate exodus" from the San Francisco area, "with many companies moving their headquarters outright out of California or opening regional headquarters in states such as Texas, Denver, Arizona, Tennessee, Florida and North Carolina." Czarny added, "we are excited to strengthen our East Coast presence and join Tampa's emerging technology and cybersecurity ecosystem."

Report: Ransomware Attacks To Worsen In 2021.

According to Fox News (1/5, Crothers, 23.99M), ransomware attacks "may be even worse" in 2021 after wreaking havoc in 2020. The outlet says the "ransom payment jumped 31% to $233,817 in the third quarter from the second quarter, according to a report from Coveware." The report said, "The biggest change over the past 6 quarters is [criminals] now realize that their tactics scale to much larger enterprises without much of an increase in their own operating costs," adding the "profit margins are extremely high and the risk is low." Index Engines vice president of marketing and business development Jim McGann said, "Cybercriminals are deploying advanced technology, including machine learning, to aid them in penetrating security defenses."

Government IGs Launch Cyber-Threat Interagency Report.

NextGov (1/5, Baksh) reports that the Commerce Department's IG "is required to create an interagency report on the most recent two-year period in collaboration with" other IGs in the IC "and other appropriate federal agencies under the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, according to a Dec. 14 memo alerting Commerce' chief information officer." The IG's office will "begin assessing agencies' information-sharing practices." Previous reports "have focused on weak private-sector information sharing with the government or vice versa." But the 2015 law "also governs how well information is being disseminated within the federal government, and on that front, a key government contractor has already weighed in with a scathing review." IGs from departments including DOD, DOE, DHS, DOJ, and Treasury, as well as Commerce and ODNI, will participate in the interagency report.

Cybersecurity Stocks On The Rise After Recent Hacking Attacks.

CNBC (1/5, 7.34M) discusses Jim Cramer's "top cybersecurity picks," which include CrowdStrike, Zscaler, and Okta. Cramer emphasized NortonLifeLock. The rise in cybersecurity stocks is "not really surprised due to recent corporate headlines." Microsoft, for instance, disclosed "a massive security breach with hackers accessing the company's source code in that SolarWinds hack last month, which included a breach of cybersecurity company FireEye."

Iboss Among Cybersecurity Firms Taking Advantage Of Cloud Market Boom.

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Uberti, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that shifting to remote work due to the pandemic has helped cybersecurity firms raise funds. For instance, Iboss Inc. raised $145 million, with plans to grow its sales and marketing teams. Iboss is eyeing the growing cloud computing sector, hoping the trend continues after the pandemic, according to co-founder and CEO Paul Martini, who commented, "The next 24 to 36 months are really important."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Continuing Coverage: Gun Background Checks, Violence Rose In 2020.

In continuing coverage, Mother Jones (1/5, Cohen, 889K) reports, "Nearly 40 million firearms were sold in 2020, according to FBI data," a record for "guns sold in a single year since the FBI started tracking background checks conducted through its National Instant Criminal Background Check System in 2000." Additionally, "as gun sales soared in 2020, so did gun violence."

OTHER FBI NEWS

US Attorney For The Eastern District of Virginia Resigns.

The AP (1/5, Barakat) reports G. Zachary Terwilliger, US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced he is resigning to join the Vinson and Elkins law firm. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (1/5, Green, 401K) reports, "With President-elect Joe Biden taking office later this month, Terwilliger said Monday that 'I think it just makes a lot of sense, rather than wait.'"

Trump Names New US Attorney For Atlanta.

Politico (1/5, Gerstein, 6.73M) reports that President Trump "has replaced the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta with another Trump-appointed prosecutor from southern Georgia, bypassing a top career prosecutor." According to Politico, "Trump's move came after the U.S. attorney in Atlanta, Byung 'BJay' Pak, abruptly resigned Monday." Politico reports that Justice Department officials have "declined to say whether Pak resigned voluntarily or was asked to do so." Politico adds, "Trump's installation of a new leader in the U.S. attorney's office in Georgia's largest city comes as he continues to rail against the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for failing to move aggressively against what he has baselessly alleged was rampant fraud in the November election in Georgia and in other swing states."

Additional coverage includes The Hill (1/5, Castronuovo, 5.69M) and Fox News (1/5, Rambaran, 23.99M).

Senators Urge Biden To Chose Doug Jones For Attorney General.

HuffPost (1/5, Terkel, Reilly, Robillard, 363K) reports that, according to two congressional sources, "at least 14 Democratic senators have sent a letter to President-elect Joe Biden recommending" former Sen. Doug Jones for attorney general.

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

GOP Senators Remain Divided On Electoral Vote Certification.

The Senate and House will meet in joint session on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. for the formal certification of the Electoral College vote for president and vice president. Reports say Republicans remain split over whether, and to what extent, to challenge results in close states won by Joe Biden, with more GOP senators, including some who are usually allied with President Trump, saying Tuesday that they will not block certification. Coverage also highlights the role of Vice President Pence, who is scheduled to preside over the event.

David Muir said on ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 2, 3:45, 7.66M), "Congress is now set to certify the presidential election results and tonight, new pressure from President Trump on [Pence] to reject the electors. This comes after that recorded phone call – the President pressuring Georgia's Secretary of State to find 11,780 votes, saying there's 'nothing wrong with saying...you recalculated.'" On Tuesday, Trump "tweeted about the Vice President, saying, 'The Vice President has the power to reject fraudulently chosen electors.'" ABC's Jonathan Karl said, "That's just not true. Pence has no actual power to change or reject any electoral vote. And one of Trump's longtime lawyers is saying as much, directly contradicting the President." Jay Sekulow: "I actually don't think that's what the Constitution has in mind. If that were the case, any vice president could refuse any election."

Norah O'Donnell said on the CBS Evening News (1/5, story 2, 2:55, 4.65M) that Trump "is still insisting the election was stolen from him, even as Congress is set to confirm Joe Biden's win. The President plans to address supporters tomorrow here in Washington." CBS' Weijia Jiang: "The President has privately and publicly pressured Mr. Pence to stop Congress from approving the election results. ... But election law expert David Becker said it's up to members of Congress to approve the Electoral College's count affirming Mr. Biden's win, not the Vice President." Becker: "The Vice President's role during this joint session of Congress is entirely ceremonial. He basically

operates like a host at the Oscars would. His role is to open up envelopes and count what's in there."

Kristen Welker said on NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 3, 2:20, Holt, 6.11M) that Trump "falsely tweet[ed Tuesday], 'The Vice President has the power to reject fraudulently chosen electors.' But under the Constitution, Pence cannot change the election results. His role tomorrow will be largely ceremonial. A person close to him telling NBC News, 'Don't expect any surprises,' quote, 'The Vice President thinks it is his job to follow the Constitution and the law.'"

Politico (1/5, Kumar, 6.73M) reports Trump "has privately acknowledged he lost the presidency" and "recognizes Congress will formally certify the results on Wednesday. To one person, Trump even confided he was 'just disappointed we lost.' ... Sometimes, Trump does still lapse back into the belief that maybe, just maybe, he could somehow eke out a win, most often when listening to his small group of lawyers. ... But mostly, he is continuing his fight to subvert the election for a Trumpian reason: to keep the attention on himself and give his supporters what they want, according to the people who have spoken with him."

According to the AP (1/5, Mascaro, Jalonick, Freking), Republicans "who are orchestrating a last-gasp attempt to overturn" Biden's victory "have not settled on a full strategy ahead of Wednesday's joint session. ... Those Republicans leading the longshot effort in Congress are still deciding the details of their strategy." The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) are expected to object to the certification of Arizona's electors, Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-GA) to those of Georgia, and Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) to those of Pennsylvania. The challenges "were all but certain to fail amid bipartisan opposition. But their decision to join House Republicans in seeking to overturn the election ensured that Congress would be thrust into a caustic debate over the results." The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that until Tuesday, Cruz "had declined to identify a specific state whose electors he will challenge."

USA Today (1/5, Garrison, 12.7M) says "13 Republican senators and perhaps more than 100 House members will look to exert enormous federal power in choosing a president that would be unprecedented in modern American history. ... Trump loyalists in the Senate and House have cast the joint session as the moment where the truth will finally come out – a fact-finding mission – about voter fraud allegations that have been debunked in court over the past two months." Roll Call (1/5, Tully-McManus, McPherson, 130K) says "the GOP effort will likely extend the process into the night – and possibly the next day."

The Los Angeles Times (1/5, 3.37M) writes, "If the Senate upholds an objection and the House does not, or vice versa, the objection does not succeed and the votes are counted. ... So why are Republicans doing this? Mostly because Trump has asked them to as part of his effort to falsely portray the 2020 election results as invalid." The Washington Post (1/5, Nakamura, 10.52M) writes that "since his defeat in the November election, Trump's critics have warned that his scorched-earth effort to invalidate the outcome amounts to a new level of danger: the first attempted coup d'etat in U.S. history to illegally maintain power."

However, CNN (1/5, Raju, Herb, 89.21M) reports on its website, "a growing number of Republicans are balking at efforts to reject the Electoral College votes." Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) writes in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette (1/5, 309K), "Objecting to certified electoral votes won't give the president a second term. With Democrats in control of the House, Republicans have no chance of invalidating even a single electoral vote, much less enough votes to deny Joe Biden a majority in the electoral college. Instead, these objections would exceed Congress' constitutional power, while creating unwise precedents that Democrats could abuse the next time they are in power."

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) writes in the Manhattan (KS) Mercury (1/5, 30K), "I am a conservative Republican. Therefore, I must strictly adhere to the United States Constitution. ... To vote to reject these state-certified electoral votes would be to act outside the bounds of the Constitution, which I will not do." Axios (1/5, Treene, 1.26M) reports Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) also plans to certify Biden's win. Fox News (1/5, Singman, 23.99M) reports on its website that Sens. John Boozman (R-AR), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Mitt Romney (R-UT), and Roger Wicker (R-MS), among others, have also "said that they will vote to certify the Electoral College count."

Pence Reportedly Told Trump He Has No Power To Block Certification. The AP (1/5, Miller, Colvin) says Pence "finds himself in the most precarious position of his tenure as he prepares to preside over Wednesday's congressional tally of Electoral College votes." According to the AP, Pence, "whose proscribed role is largely pro forma, is under intense pressure from the president and legions of supporters who want the vice president to use the moment to overturn the will of the voters in a handful of critical battleground states." Reuters (1/5, Mason) reports, "Trump ramped up pressure on Pence on Tuesday to block Congress' certification of the November election results. ... But the vice president, a loyal lieutenant during the four years of Trump's often chaotic presidency, has no plans to attempt to do so, even as he seeks to show support for the Republican president's quest."

The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports Pence told the President on Tuesday "that he did not believe he had the power to block congressional certification" of Biden's victory "despite Mr. Trump's baseless insistence that he did." Pence's message, "delivered during his weekly lunch with the president, came hours after Mr. Trump further turned up the public pressure" on Pence "to do his bidding when Congress convenes Wednesday." However, The Hill (1/5, Samuels, 5.69M) reports Trump denied the Times account. He "called the report 'fake news' and insisted he and Pence were 'in total agreement that the Vice President has the power to act' to decertify results of the Electoral College."

CNN (1/5, Liptak, 89.21M) reports on its website that Pence "has previously sought to explain his ceremonial role to the President in the hopes of easing pressure on himself in the lead-up to the January 6 joint session of Congress. A person close to him said Tuesday he would 'follow the law and Constitution.'" Politico (1/5, Niedzwiadek, Cheney, 6.73M) reports Pence "was also tangentially involved in a minor imbroglio Tuesday about whether he would show up on the Capitol at all Wednesday, leaving the duties" to Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), the Senate president pro tempore. However, "both the vice president and Grassley's offices moved quickly to defuse the speculation."

The Washington Post (1/5, Dawsey, 10.52M) says Pence and his team "have begun anticipating the ire of President Trump -- likely to come in the form of angry tweets -- in the aftermath" of Wednesday's certification.

WPost Analysis: Wednesday Session Marks Start Of "More Challenging Era" For McConnell. The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that "a new chapter" in Senate Majority Leader McConnell's "14-year run as Senate Republican leader is set to begin in dramatic fashion Wednesday, with the GOP majority hanging in the balance and his members badly split on a fundamental question of democracy. ... McConnell appears to be entering a more challenging era -- a return to a period of GOP jockeying and infighting likely to be further complicated by Trump's continued presence." McConnell will be the first to speak on any challenges Wednesday, providing "an opportunity to make an early and definitive statement that Trump lost and it is time to move on. ... Yet any gesture rejecting Trump's claims will inflame the GOP's hard-right base and stoke a conflict inside his own ranks."

Federal Judge Dismisses Trump's Bid To "De-Certify" Georgia Results. Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that on Tuesday, President Trump "failed again to invalidate his election loss in Georgia and allow the state's Republican-led legislature to declare him the winner." Bloomberg says US District Judge Mark H. Cohen in Atlanta "denied Trump's motion to 'de-certify' [Biden's] victory in the state." According to Bloomberg, "The ruling came in a Dec. 31 lawsuit filed by Trump that rehashed claims of voter fraud previously made by his campaign and allies in dozens of other cases that were universally rejected by courts." The New York Times (1/5, Feuer, 20.6M) also covers the ruling.

Mitchell Resigns From Law Firm Following Trump Call To Georgia Officials. The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) reports attorney Cleta Mitchell, who has been "advising [Trump] in recent weeks," has resigned from her law firm "after it was revealed that she participated in the call where Mr. Trump pressured Georgia officials to help him reverse the state's election results." The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (1/5, 844K) reports a statement from Milwaukee-based Foley & Lardner read in part, "Cleta Mitchell has informed firm management of her decision to resign from Foley & Lardner effective immediately. Ms. Mitchell concluded that her departure was in the firm's

best interests, as well as in her own personal best interests." The Washington Post (1/5, Kranish, 10.52M) says Mitchell "is a onetime Democratic member of the Oklahoma legislature who became a Republican and has made a Washington career representing GOP candidates, committees and causes, culminating with her work after the election advising Trump."

Navarro Says Democrats Employed "Conscious Strategy To Tip This Election" To Biden. In an appearance on the Brian Kilmeade Show (1/5), Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Navarro said Democrats focused "on two prongs of attack. One was to dramatically increase the absentee and mail-in ballots specifically in the battleground states, and at the same time, they wanted to dramatically decrease the level of ballot verification." Navarro continued, "There was a conscious strategy to tip this election in favor of Biden using sometimes legal means, but at times, clear bending and breaking rules."

Scottish Leader Says Trump Cannot Travel There At Time Of Inauguration. The New York Times (1/5, Landler, Haberman, 20.6M) reports, "Trump has not said where he plans to go after leaving the White House on Jan. 20. But the leader of Scotland made clear on Tuesday that Mr. Trump is not welcome in her country." First Minister Nicola Sturgeon "said that under newly imposed virus restrictions, which prohibit all but essential travel, a visit by the president to one of his Scottish golf resorts, Trump Turnberry, would not be acceptable." The Times says rumors that Trump "would head for Scotland flared after a Scottish paper reported that an American military version of a Boeing 757 – sometimes used by Mr. Trump – was scheduled to land at a nearby airport" on January 19.

The Independent (UK) (1/5, 1.19M) reports Sturgeon said, "We are not allowing people to come in to Scotland without an essential purpose right now and that would apply to him, just as it applies to anybody else. Coming to play golf is not what I would consider to be an essential purpose." The Washington Post (1/5, Booth, 10.52M) says "the White House batted away the speculation. 'Anonymous sources who claim to know what the President is or is not considering have no idea. When President Trump has an announcement about his plans for Jan. 20 he will let you know,' White House spokesman Judd Deere said in a written statement."

US Passes 21M COVID Cases.

On the CBS Evening News (1/5, story 5, 3:20, 4.65M), Norah O'Donnell reported the US has "just passed 21 million confirmed cases. And after one to have the deadliest weeks of the pandemic, the US death toll now tops 356,000." Jonathan Vigliotti added one "major concern now is that new variant of the virus, over 50% more contagious, found in California, Florida, Colorado, New York, and now Georgia." The AP (1/5, Kirka, Charlton) also highlights that a growing number of countries "are reporting cases of [the] new, more contagious variant that has already swept across Britain."

In addition, the Washington Post (1/5, A1, Nirappil, Wan, 10.52M) reports the US now has "record numbers of Americans hospitalized with the coronavirus, straining a health-care system bracing for a post-holidays surge that has the potential to further stress hospitals." The Post adds, "More than 131,000 covid-19 patients were hospitalized nationwide as of Tuesday, eclipsing the record set in the last week of 2020. Facilities across the West and South are especially burdened."

Arizona Has Highest Rate Of COVID Cases Nationwide. On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 4, 3:55, Muir, 7.66M), Matt Gutman reported Arizona has "the highest rate of infections in the country. Patients driving as far as six hours to find an open ICU bed." The New York Times (1/5, Robertson, Smith, 20.6M) also reports that from "more than a month, from early June until mid July," Arizona had "added cases at the highest per capita rate in the country," and now "is again in dire shape, with a higher rate of new cases than any other state." According to the Times, "Hospitalizations and deaths have surpassed records. Over the last week, the state has averaged more than 8,000 cases a day, more than double the summer peak."

NIH Scientists Work With Moderna To Study Benefit Of Smaller Doses.

On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 4, 2:15, 6.11M), Lester Holt said that the US COVID vaccine roll out is sparking "growing frustration over the slow pace, [with] just 273,000 vaccinated

[Monday]." Tom Costello reported on long waits in Florida to receive the vaccine, and added that one California hospital "had to vaccinate local jail staff and nursing home residents within hours after the hospital freezer failed, putting all of its vaccine doses in jeopardy." Costello added, "Nationwide, 12,000 vaccination sites are up and running, an increase from 1,000 three weeks ago."

However, the New York Times (1/5, A1, Stolberg, LaFraniere, 20.6M) reports that federal officials "and drugmakers, faced with a slower-than-expected rollout of the coronavirus vaccine, are racing to find ways to expand the supply, looking at lowering the required dosage and extracting more doses from the supplies they have." The Times adds that scientists at the National Institutes of Health and Moderna "are analyzing data to see if they can double the supply of the company's coronavirus vaccine by cutting doses in half" as part of a "long planned" study that has become "increasingly urgent in the face of looming shortages as the country tries to fight off a surging pandemic."

In another article, the New York Times (1/5, Stolberg, 20.6M) reports John Mascola, the Director of the Vaccine Research Center at the NIH, indicated that "the research, which also involves scientists from Operation Warp Speed, the government's vaccine initiative, could take about two months." The Times says "the prospect of doubling the supply of Moderna doses was first raised on Sunday by Dr. Moncef Slaoui, the head of Operation Warp Speed, who said...that data from Moderna's clinical trials demonstrated that people between the ages of 18 and 55 who received two 50-microgram doses showed an 'identical immune response' to the two 100-microgram doses."

Fauci Says US Could Soon Be Giving At Least 1M COVID Vaccinations A Day. The AP (1/5, Neergaard) reports NIAID Director Fauci on Tuesday predicted the US "could soon be giving at least a million COVID-19 vaccinations a day despite the sluggish start...even as he warned of a dangerous next few weeks as the coronavirus surges." Fauci told the AP, "Any time you start a big program, there's always glitches. I think the glitches have been worked out." With the holidays over, Fauci added, "once you get rolling and get some momentum, I think we can achieve one million a day or even more." The Hill (1/5, Axelrod, 5.69M) also reports that Fauci called "Joe Biden's plan to inject 100 million Americans with the vaccine in his first 100 days 'a very realistic, important, achievable goal.'"

Adams Says States Should Proceed To Vaccinate "Other Priority Groups" Beyond Healthcare Workers. The New York Times (1/5, Goodnough, 20.6M) reports that amid a slow rollout of vaccines, Surgeon General Adams "urged the states on Tuesday not to stick rigidly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines about whom to vaccinate first" if healthcare workers are not getting the vaccine. On NBC's Today, Adams argued, "If the demand isn't there in 1a, go to 1b and continue on down. If the demand isn't there in one location, move those vaccines to another location." Adams said, "Your headline today really should be, 'Surgeon General tells states and governors to move quickly to other priority groups.'"

Asked on NBC's Today (1/5, 1.98M) about current challenges in distributing vaccines, Adams said, "We need to continue to do a better job of matching up supply and demand at the local level. Some states are doing a really good job," noting that others "still haven't distributed more than 25% of their vaccines."

Messonnier Predicts Delays In Vaccinations Will Improve Soon. STAT (1/5, Joseph, 262K) reports Nancy Messonnier, Director of the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, on Tuesday "predicted...delays in the administration of the shots would improve soon, even as public health experts have piled up complaints about the slow rollout and about the gap between the number of doses distributed versus those actually going into people's arms." Messonnier said, "I really expect the pace of administration to go up pretty massively in the next couple weeks."

Cuomo: New York In Talks To Increase Its Vaccine Allotment. Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) revealed on Tuesday that the state is "talking to the federal government about an increase in its weekly 300,000-dose vaccine supply as it prepares to boost distribution." However, "So far, only about 900,000 vaccines have been distributed for a cohort of 2.1 million health-care workers, Cuomo said Tuesday at a virus briefing.

'You'd need another four weeks of allocations before you can get out of health-care workers, roughly, roughly, before you finish 1A and then move to 1B,' Cuomo said, describing the state's tiered distribution system." According to Bloomberg, "The 1B category includes essential workers and members of the general public over the age of 75."

Hogan Outlines Plans To Accelerate Vaccine Rollout. The Baltimore Sun (1/5, Wood, Stole, 629K) reports Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) "announced actions Tuesday to speed up the [vaccine] process, while cautioning against assigning blame." The Sun adds Hogan "said he had 'productive' conversations Tuesday with CVS CEO Lerry Merlo and Walgreens President John Stanley," and said he contacted HHS Secretary Azar "on Tuesday 'to express our serious concerns about the pace of the federal nursing home/pharmacy program.'" According to the Sun, Hogan also "pledged that vaccines soon would be administered so quickly that the state would be using up its doses of vaccines before the next shipments arrive."

In addition, the Washington Post (1/5, Cox, Tan, Fadulu, 10.52M) reports that Hogan announced he will "deploy the state's National Guard to hasten local health departments' inoculation of medical workers, while threatening to take away unused vaccines from hospitals slow to administer them." The Hill (1/5, Weixel, 5.69M) provides similar coverage.

California Has Only Administered A Third Of Its Available Vaccine Doses. The AP (1/5, Ronayne) reports that "distribution hiccups and logistical challenges have slowed the initial coronavirus vaccine rollout in California," and "so far only about 1% of California's 40 million residents have been vaccinated." According to the AP, "The 454,000 doses of vaccine that have been administered in California represent just a third of the more than nearly 1.3 million received in the state so far." The AP says that "even as he acknowledged the state must do better," Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) "sought to shift some responsibility for the slow rollout, noting 'the vaccines don't arrive magically in some state facility.'"

Congress Using Curative COVID Test Despite FDA Warning Of False Hits.

Politico (1/5, Lim, Ferris, 6.73M) reports that the House and Senate have been "screening members and staff with a Covid-19 test that the Food and Drug Administration says is prone to false results – complicating the already difficult task of stemming coronavirus outbreaks on Capitol Hill." According to Politico, the Office of the Attending Physician "has been offering the test, made by Curative, to members, staff and reporters on Capitol Hill since at least November," but its accuracy is "in doubt, after the FDA took the unusual step Monday of alerting health care providers and patients that the test poses a 'risk of false results, particularly false negative results.'"

Some California Hospitals Activate Crisis Care Standards.

On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 6, 1:55, Holt, 6.11M), Miguel Almaguer reported California's healthcare system is "in critical condition," and "at least one LA hospital has activated its crisis care standards, allowing the medical center to ration care. As COVID cases cripple and overwhelm ERs, residents in southern California are being urged to only call 911 in an extreme emergency. And now in a stunning directive, EMS teams in Los Angeles County are being asked to conserve oxygen as paramedics have been told not to transport patients who can't be resuscitated."

The New York Times (1/5, Patil, 20.6M) also says California deployed the US Army Corps of Engineers and the California Emergency Medical Services Authority to deliver and refill oxygen tanks. In addition, the Times reports Los Angeles County officials "said a person is being infected every six seconds in the county and one in five residents currently tested was infected with Covid-19." Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times (1/5, Cosgrove, 3.37M) reports Los Angeles County "hit another disturbing milestone Tuesday, exceeding 11,000 COVID-19 deaths." Los Angeles County has "reported nearly 1,300 deaths since Dec. 30, according to health officials, including 237 on Tuesday, according to data compiled by The Times."

Mississippi Says 108 Inmates Died In 2020 But Does Not Disclose Cause Of Death.

The New York Times (1/5, Griesbach, 20.6M) says the Mississippi Department of Corrections "reported that 108 people died in its prisons in 2020, a toll that was significantly higher than a year earlier," but the department as of Monday "had not disclosed whether any of those deaths were

caused by the coronavirus, though more than 1,400 inmates have been infected since the pandemic's start, according to state data."

Florida Nursing Home Vaccinated Wealthy Donors.

The Washington Post (1/5, Boburg, 10.52M) reports Keith Myers, the CEO of MorseLife Health System, "a high-end nursing home and assisted-living facility" in West Palm Beach, Florida, has made "scarce coronavirus vaccines -- provided through a federal program intended for residents and staff of long-term-care facilities -- available not just to its residents but to board members and those who made generous donations to the facility, including members of the Palm Beach Country Club, according to multiple people who were offered access, some of whom accepted it." The Post adds the vaccinations, "in appearing to rely on a program run by chain pharmacies for nursing home residents and staff, may have violated national immunization guidelines, as well as state protocols."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WHO Director-General Criticizes China For Blocking Researchers' Access.

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Hinshaw, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports the World Health Organization on Tuesday criticized China, with the agency utilizing a news conference to convey disappointment that China has yet to provide authorization to United Nations investigators to look into the coronavirus pandemic's origins.

The AP (1/5, Keaten) reports WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus "said...he was 'very disappointed' that China has still not authorised the entry of a team of international experts to examine the origins of the coronavirus," and "said members of the international scientific team began departing from their home countries over the last 24 hours as part of an arrangement between WHO and the Chinese government." Reuters (1/5) says that "the 10-strong team had been due to set off in early January as part of a long-awaited mission to probe early cases of the coronavirus."

EU Confronts Problems With Vaccine Rollout.

The New York Times (1/5, Santora, 20.6M) reports European officials "promised that mass vaccinations will bring an end to the suffering," but the bloc is facing "shortages of needles in Italy, Greece and other countries," while Spain "has not trained enough nurses," and France "has only managed to vaccinate around 7,000 people." The Times adds Poland "was rocked by scandal after it was revealed that celebrities were given preferential treatment," and Germany faces "calls...to take control over vaccine purchases from European Union authorities." According to the Times, "Nearly every country in Europe has complained about burdensome paperwork. And then there is the Netherlands, which has not even begun its campaign."

Germany Lengthens Lockdown, Toughens Restrictions.

The AP (1/5, Grieshaber) reports the German government "said Tuesday it is extending the country's lockdown by three weeks until Jan. 31." Chancellor Angela Merkel "said it was 'absolutely necessary' to maintain restrictions, particularly in light of a more infectious variant of the virus that emerged in England." Following a videoconference with Germany's state governors, Merkel said, "We must reach a point where we can once again follow the chains of infection." The AP adds that Merkel "said that restrictions on social contacts will be tightened. People will be allowed to meet only one person outside their own household." Moreover, "authorities across Germany will allow people in areas with more than 200 new infections per 100,000 residents over seven days to travel only 15 kilometers (just over nine miles) from their hometown unless they have a good reason to go further."

UK Says One Out Of Every 50 People In England Has COVID.

Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that according to the British government, in excess of one million

individuals in England are now infected with the coronavirus. Official survey results indicated that one out of every 50 people in England has COVID, with that ratio in London being one in 30. Prime Minister Boris Johnson "unveiled the statistics as he vowed to speed up the government's vaccination program, in order eventually to lift the latest lockdown," which Johnson "put the country into" on Monday. On ABC World News Tonight (1/5, story 5, 1:15, Muir, 7.66M), James Longman reported that on Tuesday, "there were more than 60,000 new cases in just one day, the most ever in Britain."

According to the AP (1/5, Kirka), the UK "is facing a long, bleak winter as cold, wet weather and a more contagious variant of the coronavirus," which has "put unprecedented strain on the nation's hospitals and force record numbers of patients to wait 12 hours or more, sometimes on ambulance gurneys, before receiving treatment." The New York Times (1/5, Castle, Santora, 20.6M) reports that with "more than a million confirmed cases in the week ending Jan. 2, or 2 percent of England's population, Britain is in a race against time to distribute vaccines."

Israel Leading World In Coronavirus Vaccination.

On NBC Nightly News (1/5, story 5, 1:30, Holt, 6.11M), Richard Engel reported Israel "is rolling out the COVID vaccine far more quickly and efficiently than any other nation by far." According to Engel, "Israel has immunized 1.3 million people, about 12% of the population, with the Pfizer vaccine. And of the top priority group including those over 60 or in fragile health they've given the first shot to 55%." However, the Los Angeles Times (1/5, Tarnopolsky, 3.37M) reports that while Israel's "extraordinary achievement" is being "hailed by public health experts at home and abroad, and one that could propel it toward coveted herd immunity more rapidly than almost any nation," the country faces "criticism for leaving behind the nearly 5 million Palestinians under its control in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who are expected to wait considerably longer for mass inoculation."

Palau Would Owe Vaccination Effort To Operation Warp Speed.

The Washington Post (1/5, Berger, 10.52M) reports Palau, a "tiny island nation" that is "partnered with the United States under a 'free association' agreement," could soon "vaccinate nearly its entire population against the coronavirus. If it succeeds, it will have Operation Warp Speed, the U.S. vaccine development and distribution plan, to thank." The Post adds that Palau's isolation has "served as a shield during the coronavirus pandemic: Palau has not recorded a single case of covid-19, the illness caused by the virus," and this week, "after receiving 2,800 doses of the Moderna coronavirus vaccine through the U.S. program Saturday, the country swiftly began a mass vaccination plan for its population of 18,000."

US Accuses Iran Of Seizing South Korean Tanker In Response To Sanctions.

The New York Times (1/5, Kwai, Choe, 20.6M) reports that South Korea "will send a delegation to negotiate the release of a ship and its 20-member crew after the vessel was seized by Iranian forces." According to the Times, Iranian officials "said the ship was detained in the Persian Gulf by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps because it had violated environmental protocols and was polluting the sea," but the seizure happened "as Tehran has sought to pressure the government in Seoul to release about $7 billion in revenues from oil sales that remain frozen in South Korean banks since the Trump administration tightened sanctions on Iran." The Times reports that "news outlets linked to the Revolutionary Guards ran front-page headlines on Tuesday linking the seizure of the ship to negotiations with South Korea on releasing the frozen funds."

The Washington Post (1/5, 10.52M) reports that the State Department called the seizure "part of a clear attempt to extort the international community into relieving the pressure of sanctions." Iran "rejected that characterization, even as it repeated its demand for Seoul to return money that has been frozen by its banks due to U.S. sanctions." Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei told reporters, "We've become used to such allegations...but if there is any hostage-taking, it is Korea's government that is holding $7 billion which belongs to us hostage on baseless grounds."

Reuters (1/5, Cha) says Iran's "ability to challenge shipping in the Gulf is one of its main

points of leverage in what is expected to be a difficult negotiation when the Biden administration takes office." Bloomberg (1/5, Motevalli, 3.57M) reports that South Korea "ordered its naval destroyer ROKS Choi Young to waters near the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday."

Treasury Sanctions Chinese Firm Tied Iran's Steel Industry.

Reuters (1/5) reports that on Tuesday, the US "blacklisted a Chinese company that makes elements for steel production, 12 Iranian steel and metals makers and three foreign-based sales agents of a major Iranian metals and mining holding company, seeking to deprive Iran of revenues." Reuters says the Treasury Department "named the China-based company as Kaifeng Pingmei New Carbon Materials Technology Co Ltd. (KFCC), saying it specialized in the manufacture of carbon materials and provided thousands of metric tonnes of materials to Iranian steel companies between December 2019 and June 2020." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin released a statement reading, "The Trump Administration remains committed to denying revenue flowing to the Iranian regime as it continues to sponsor terrorist groups, support oppressive regimes, and seek weapons of mass destruction."

AP Analysis: Trump Moves Make It Harder For Biden To Engage With Iran.

The AP (1/5, Burns, Baldor) reports in an analysis that Joe Biden is "facing an increasingly uncertain situation when it comes to Iran," due to its "provocative moves...and less-than-coherent actions by the outgoing Trump administration." In "the past week alone, President Donald Trump's team has dispatched B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf in response to alleged Iranian attack planning and reversed an order to bring home the USS Nimitz, the only U.S. aircraft carrier in the region." The AP adds that on Monday, Iran "announced it had resumed advanced uranium enrichment in violation of the 2015 nuclear deal." According to the AP, "This combustible combination coming just two weeks before [Biden's] inauguration threatens to derail or at least delay Biden's hopes to return the U.S. to the nuclear accord that Trump withdrew from in 2018." In a separate story, the AP (1/5) reports that "later comments Tuesday by the head of Iran's civilian nuclear program suggested Tehran's current production of uranium enriched to 20% wouldn't reach levels needed for a nuclear weapon for over two years, potentially giving time for negotiations under" Biden.

Reuters (1/5, Cha) says Biden "aims to revive the nuclear agreement, but any thaw is likely to pose a diplomatic challenge." Reuters continues, "Since Trump abandoned the deal, Iran has taken steps that violate it; Biden says Iran must be fully compliant before the deal can be restored, while Iran says Washington must first lift the sanctions."

Afghan Peace Talks Resume In Qatar.

The Washington Post (1/5, Constable, 10.52M) says that on Tuesday, "Afghan delegates flew to Qatar...to reopen peace talks with Taliban leaders amid a rash of mutual recriminations, mixed signals from U.S. officials and a continued spate of assassinations targeting prominent civilians." Also Tuesday, Zalmay Khalilzad, "the U.S. diplomat who brokered a separate U.S. deal with the Taliban in February, arrived in Kabul" from Qatar. According to the Post, "While both Afghan and Taliban officials have issued recent statements saying they were committed to the talks...their messages were tinged with anger and blame that boded ill for the new round." The Post adds that "some observers in Kabul predicted that the talks, which are resuming after a two-week holiday hiatus, would probably collapse." The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Amiri, Donati, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Countries Along Former Soviet Borders Rebuilding Their Defenses.

The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports countries along the former borders of the Soviet Union are alarmed by Russia's aggressive foreign policy under Vladimir Putin and are moving to rebuild their defenses. The Journal focuses in particular on Sweden, which remained neutral during the Cold War but is now strengthening its ties with the US.

At Start Of North Korean Party Congress, Kim Says Five-Year Economic Plan Failed.

Reuters (1/5, Shin) reports as North Korean leader Kim Jong-un opened the ruling Worker's Party congress on Tuesday, he "said his five-year economic plan had failed to meet its goal 'on almost every sector.'" Kim said, "The previous five-year plan was due last year but it tremendously fell short of goals on almost every sector." Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports Kim said the party would explore a "new path" for making a "big leap forward."

The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) says Kim's comments come "amid deepening economic trouble caused by the one-two punch of international sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic." Similarly, the AP (1/5, Kim) says the congress "could be crucial, coming as it does amid what some experts see as the most fraught moment of Kim's nine-year rule."

Pro-Democracy Figures Arrested In Hong Kong.

The AP (1/5, Soo) cites local media reports which say "about 50 Hong Kong pro-democracy figures were arrested by police on Wednesday under a national security law, following their involvement in an unofficial primary election last year held to increase their chances of controlling the legislature." The New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) says the arrests "marked the largest roundup yet under the security law, which the central Chinese government imposed on Hong Kong in June to quash dissent after months of fierce anti-Beijing protests. The move on Wednesday suggested that the authorities were casting a wide net for anyone who had played a prominent role in opposing the government."

The Washington Post (1/5, Yu, 10.52M) reports, "Several arrested and charged under the law have been denied bail, meaning the pro-democracy activists arrested Wednesday could be held indefinitely until formal hearings, which could take weeks."

Former Chief Of Major Chinese State Bank Sentenced To Death.

The New York Times (1/5, Stevenson, 20.6M) reports that Lai Xiaomin, "the former chief of a big Chinese state lender, was sentenced to death on Tuesday for bribery, corruption and bigamy, in a rare and dramatic example of Beijing's use of capital punishment for economic crimes." Lai "was found guilty by a court in the coastal city of Tianjin of receiving some $277 million in bribes," and "was among the highest-profile figures to fall from grace amid a sweeping crackdown on corruption by Xi Jinping, China's top leader." The Times adds that "the unusually harsh sentence could send a signal that Mr. Xi is not ready to ease his anticorruption campaign, which he began shortly after he took control of the Communist Party in late 2012."

Bloomberg (1/5, 3.57M) reports that "capital punishment is unusual for corruption in China," and says "the move underscores the ruling Communist Party's increasingly tough stance on corruption among government cadres and corporate executives, which has seen more than 1.5 million government officials punished."

Saudis End Three-Year Rift With Qatar At Urging Of Trump Administration.

The AP (1/5, Batrawy, DeBre, Nabil) reports that on Tuesday, "Gulf Arab leaders signed a declaration...to ease a rift with Qatar, following Saudi Arabia's decision to end a 3 1/2-year embargo of the tiny energy-rich country that deeply divided regional U.S. security allies and frayed social ties across the Arabian Peninsula." In addition, Saudi Arabia "said it was restoring full diplomatic relations with Qatar, although it was not clear how soon the step would be followed by the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, which had joined the kingdom in isolating the country over its regional policies." According to the AP, "The diplomatic breakthrough followed a final push by the outgoing Trump administration," and "also came as Saudi Arabia seeks to unify Arab ranks ahead of the incoming administration...which is expected to take a firmer stand toward the kingdom and re-engage with Iran."

The New York Times (1/5, Specia, 20.6M) says "few details were immediately available" about the deal, which was "signed at a regional summit meeting in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia, by representatives from that kingdom and the five other Gulf Cooperation Council countries." According to the Times, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, "speaking during the meeting, said the agreement emphasized 'solidarity and stability in the Gulf.'" Reuters (1/5, Yaakoubi) reports that the deal "followed mediation efforts by the United States and Kuwait, and a

U.S. official has said Qatar would suspend legal cases related to the boycott." Reuters notes that White House senior adviser Jared Kushner attended the regional gathering in Al Ula on Tuesday. According to Reuters, the Trump Administration "has been pushing for a resolution to the dispute that Washington sees as hindering efforts to contain Iran," and Kushner was "making phone calls on the emerging deal until the early hours of Monday." The Wall Street Journal (1/5, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) provides similar coverage.

Socialists Take Control Of Venezuela's Congress.

The AP (1/5, Rueda, Goodman) reports "allies of President Nicolas Maduro retook control of Venezuela's congress Tuesday, the last institution in the country it didn't already control." The ruling socialist party "swept legislative elections last month boycotted by the opposition and denounced as a sham by the U.S., the European Union and several other foreign governments." Incoming assembly president Jorge Rodriguez "vowed to 'exorcise' from the legislative palace all vestiges of its previous occupants, who he accused of plotting from its neo-classical chamber Maduro's violent overthrow with the help of foreign mercenaries and the Trump administration."

Vietnam Sentences Three Journalists To Prison.

In what the New York Times (1/5, 20.6M) calls "the latest crackdown on independent thought" in Vietnam, "where the authorities are busy stamping out dissent ahead of an important meeting by the ruling Communist Party later this month," three journalists were sentenced to prison on Tuesday, "including a prominent reporter who had written for foreign news organizations and advocated press freedom in the one-party state." The reporter, Pham Chi Dung, "was sentenced to 15 years on charges of making and disseminating propaganda against the state. ... Two other journalists, Nguyen Tuong Thuy and Le Huu Minh Tuan, were sentenced on similar charges in the same Ho Chi Minh City court. They received 11 years each."

Ethiopian Police Release Reuters Cameraman.

Reuters (1/5) reports Reuters cameraman Kumerra Gemechu was released by Ethiopian police Tuesday after he was detained "without charge for 12 days. Police had told his lawyer Melkamu Ogo that their lines of inquiry included accusations of disseminating false information, communicating with groups fighting the government, and disturbing the public's peace and security," but Melkamu "said he had seen no evidence."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:
Tight Georgia Runoff Races Leave Senate Control In Balance
Hong Kong Police Arrest Dozens Of Opposition Politicians Over Alleged Subversion
NYSE Takes Heat After Flip-Flop On Chinese Companies
Russian Aggression Spurs Neighbors To Rebuild Defenses
Frank Gehry's Luxury New York City Skyscraper Has Everything – Except Enough Tenants
Saudi Arabia To Cut Oil Production Sharply In Bid To Lift Prices

New York Times:
Pence Said To Have Told Trump He Lacks Power To Change Election Result
Warnock Beats Loeffler In Georgia Senate Race
Warning Of Shortages, Researchers Look To Stretch Vaccine Supply
Jacob Blake Shooting: No Charges Against Officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin
One Hospital System Sued 2,500 Patients After Pandemic Hit
'I Will Get Up': A Hard New Year Greets A World In Waiting

Washington Post:
West And South Feel Pressure As Hospitalizations Hit Record
With Senate Control At Stake, Georgia Votes
He's Not On Ballot, But Trump Looms Large In Voters' Minds
A Final Test Of Pence's Loyalty To Trump
McConnell Is Assured A Turbulent Road Ahead

Financial Times:
Trump Pressures Pence To Overturn US Election Result
Microsoft Looks To Make 2021 The Year Of Teams
Gojek And Tokopedia In Advanced Talks To Form $18BN Tech Group

Washington Times:
Democrats On Verge Of Stunning Sweep In Georgia Senate Runoffs
Trump Presses Pence To Upend Electoral College: 'The Vice President Has The Power'
Greens Rip EPA's New 'Secret Science' Rule As Last-Ditch Attempt To Hamstring Biden
Tighter Budgets Force Marines To Speed Embrace Of Ambitious Overhaul
Immigration Loophole, Often Ripped By Truron, Finally Confirmed By DHS Data
Side Effects: US Sees 400,000 More Deaths In 2020 As COVID Wreaks Havoc

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:
ABC: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case; COVID Surge; UK-Lockdown; NFL-COVID; American Airlines-Emotional Support Animal Ban; Stepdad Adopts Stepson.
CBS: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Iranian Threat; Russia-Cyber Hack; COVID Surge; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case; NFL-COVID; Amazon-Boeing Jets; Grammys; Alex Trebek Farewell.
NBC: Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case; Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Vaccines; Vaccines-Israel; COVID Surge; Russia-Cyber Hack; Maryland-Rep. Raskin's Son; COVID Protocols; Powerball; Man Helps Family Who Lost Everything In Fire.

Network TV At A Glance:
Georgia-Senate Runoff – 9 minutes, 35 seconds
COVID Surge – 9 minutes, 10 seconds
Election Certification – 9 minutes, 0 seconds
Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case – 6 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:
ABC: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Vaccines; COVID-Variants.
CBS: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Biden-Georgia Runoff; COVID-Variants; Russia-Cyber Hack; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case.
FOX: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Election Certification; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case.
NPR: Georgia-Senate Runoff; Wisconsin-No Charges In Jacob Blake Case; DC-Pro Trump Protests.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Trump — Will work from early in the morning until late in the evening. He will make many calls and have many meetings. The President will depart for the Ellipse at 10:50 AM to deliver remarks at a Save America Rally.
- Vice President Pence — Presides over a joint session of Congress to count Electoral votes.

US Senate:

* Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters
  Location: CVC 217, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC; 10:00 AM
* Senates convenes and begins a period of morning business
  Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 12:30 PM
* Joint session of Congress convened to certify presidential election result – Congress meets in a joint session to count the Electoral College votes, presided over by Vice President Mike Pence, who announces the result before declaring who has been elected as president and vice president * Several Republican lawmakers, in both the House of Representatives and Senate, have said they intend to object to certain state electors, though any challenges are unlikely to succeed as they need to be passed by both the full Senate and Democrat-controlled House * Democrats Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won the election by over seven million votes ahead of President Donald Trump and Vice President Pence, with an Electoral College victory of 306 – 232, making Trump the first one term president since George H.W. Bush * Biden and Harris are sworn in 20 Jan
  Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

***US House*:**

* House of Representatives meets for legislative business
  Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 12:00 PM
* Joint session of Congress convened to certify presidential election result – Congress meets in a joint session to count the Electoral College votes, presided over by Vice President Mike Pence, who announces the result before declaring who has been elected as president and vice president * Several Republican lawmakers, in both the House of Representatives and Senate, have said they intend to object to certain state electors, though any challenges are unlikely to succeed as they need to be passed by both the full Senate and Democrat-controlled House * Democrats Joe Biden and Kamala Harris won the election by over seven million votes ahead of President Donald Trump and Vice President Pence, with an Electoral College victory of 306 – 232, making Trump the first one term president since George H.W. Bush * Biden and Harris are sworn in 20 Jan
  Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

***Cabinet Officers*:**

* No public schedules released.

***Visitors*:**

* No scheduled visitors.

***This Town*:**

* Federal Open Market Committee meeting minutes and economic forecast published – Federal Open Market Committee meeting minutes published. Summary of quarterly economic projections made by Federal Reserve Board members and Reserve Bank presidents also included * The FOMC decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 0-0.25% at its last meeting in December as it continued to deal with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the U.S. economy; *2:00 PM*
* Operation Warp Speed logistics chief discusses vaccine rollout (virtual) – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation holds a 'Path Forward: Navigating the Return to Work' event with Operation Warp Speed Supply, Production, and Distribution Head Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Paul Ostrowski, who discusses the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine rollout; *2:00 PM*

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custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

From: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]
To: Shivers, Calvin A. (CID) (FBI); Dunham, Timothy M. (CID) (FBI); Fomby, Jermicha L. (CID) (FBI); Cohen, Brian M. (CID) (FBI); Nordwall, Michael D. (CID) (FBI); Greenberg, Jay (CID) (FBI); Lowe, Zachary T. (CID) (FBI); Merrill, Steven B. (CID) (FBI); Bujanda, Raul (CID) (FBI); Scott, David J. (CID) (FBI); Meacham, Robert W. Jr. (SU) (FBI); [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:37 AM (UTC-05:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -5

Goof morning, FYSA.

[redacted]

b7E -1

b7E -1

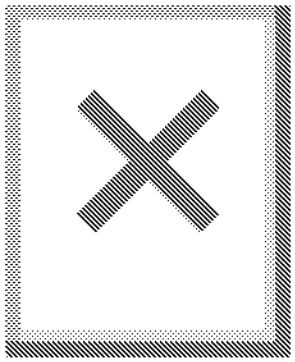
Thanks,

SSA

Office:
Mobile

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3,5

From: Secure Community Network
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [MARKETING] SCN Daily Update 06 January 2021
To: Alway, Donald (WMDD) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:52 AM (UTC-05:00)



06 January 2021

Please report all relevant information and direct all media inquiries to the SCN Duty Desk:

Email: DutyDesk@securecommunitynetwork.org | **Phone: 844.SCN.DESK**

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- Proud Boys Leader Arrested, Accused Of Burning Church Banner (District of Columbia)
- Stickers In Downtown Lexington Link To Antisemitic Content (Kentucky)
- [UPDATE] Staten Island Leaders Issue Bipartisan Letter Condemning Antisemitic Flyers (New York)

International

- Rabbi Subjected To Antisemitic Abuse In German City Of Offenbach Praises Witnesses For Intervening (Germany)

Article Summaries

Fears Of Violence Simmer As Trump Supporters, Including Antisemitic Extremists, Descend On D.C.
Source: Jewish Telegraphic Agency

(District of Columbia) Once again, diehard supporters of President Donald Trump are gathering for a mass protest of the election results in Washington, D.C. Once again, extremist groups will be among them, and may be violent. And once again, antisemitism analysts will be watching — though they stress that they don't know of any specific threats against Jews or Jewish institutions. Michael Masters, CEO of the Secure Community Network, which coordinates security for Jewish institutions nationwide, said that his organization did not know of any threats to Jews in the area. He said that while the gathering of extremists is concerning, it's not equivalent to the 2017 far-right rally in Charlottesville, which was explicitly white supremacist. "Charlottesville was a directed white supremacist, neo-Nazi effort," Masters said. "I think the motivation behind the upcoming rally this week is very different than the identifying motivator behind Charlottesville." Read More

The Suspect In A NYC Bomb Hoax Is A Former Jewish Youth Group Officer Turned Far-Right Extremist
Source: Jewish Telegraphic Agency

(New York) The chief suspect in a New York City bomb hoax is a 22-year-old far-right activist who once served as a leader of a Jewish youth group. Louis Shenker, who surrendered to police on Tuesday, according to NBC News, was a BBYO regional vice president five years ago while in high school. Campus provocations in recent years have made Shenker a cause celebre of right-wing media sites. Now he stands accused of committing arson and causing a fake bomb scare that cleared a mall on Monday. He allegedly placed wiring, a can and a roll of duct tape on a stolen Tesla in the Queens Place Mall in an attempt to mimic a bomb. Read More

Proud Boys Leader Arrested, Accused Of Burning Church Banner
Source: ABC7 Eyewitness News

(District of Columbia) Police in the nation's capital on Monday arrested the leader of the Proud Boys, who is accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from a historic Black church in downtown Washington last month. Henry "Enrique" Tarrio, 36, was arrested by Metropolitan Police Department officers after he arrived in Washington ahead of protests planned by supporters of President Donald Trump to coincide with the congressional vote expected Wednesday to affirm Joe Biden's election victory. Tarrio was taken into custody after a warrant was issued for his arrest for destruction of property, police said. He was also facing a weapons charge after officers found him with two high-capacity firearm magazines when he was arrested, a police spokesman said. Read More

Stickers In Downtown Lexington Link To Antisemitic Content
Source: WKYT

(Kentucky) Lexington Rabbi Shlomo Litvin is calling on the community to speak out after stickers linking to antisemitic content were

placed throughout downtown Lexington over the weekend. A viewer sent pictures of several stickers to WKYT. They're red and white with a QR code printed in the center. WKYT blurred out the code. The viewer told WKYT the stickers were on Sunrise Bakery, Corto Lima, Pearl's, and the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center, to name a few. "Over the weekend, dozens of stickers were illegally plastered around downtown Lexington, with links to incoherent racist and antisemitic drivel," said Rabbi Litvin in a statement. Read More

[UPDATE] Staten Island Leaders Issue Bipartisan Letter Condemning Antisemitic Flyers
Source: Silive.com

(New York) Community leaders and Staten Island's entire bi-partisan elected delegation issued a statement Tuesday condemning antisemitic flyers recently posted in New Dorp by a purported white supremacist group that has repeatedly made a presence in the borough. The Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force, co-chaired by District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and CEO of the Council of Jewish Organizations on Staten Island Scott Maurer, along with over 50 politicians, police officials and other leaders on the Island condemned the flyers as "despicable." "These antisemitic postings in New Dorp have no place in our community, and we stand united in our absolute condemnation of this despicable act of hate and bigotry," said the statement. Read More

Rabbi Subjected To Antisemitic Abuse In German City Of Offenbach Praises Witnesses For Intervening
Source: Algemeiner

(Germany) A German rabbi warmly praised his fellow citizens in the city of Offenbach for rushing to his aid when he and his family were subjected to antisemitic abuse on New Year's Day. Rabbi Mendel Gurewitz was walking home from synagogue with his children last Friday when they were confronted by a man screaming antisemitic invective. Several witnesses to the assault immediately called the police, while others followed the assailant as he left the scene. Police officers later arrested a 46-year-old man for sedition, hate speech and displaying symbols of far-right organizations banned under the German constitution. Read More

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For questions, please contact the SCN Duty Desk at Duty.Desk@securecommunitynetwork.org

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From: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Road Closures in Washington, DC near FBI HQ Beginning Tuesday, 1/5/2021 through Wednesday, 1/6/2021
To: Corsi, Dina M. (IB) (FBI); [redacted]
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:12 AM (UTC-05:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -5

Wednesday's protests could get ugly. But officials should be able to handle it — without the armed forces.

Opinion by
David Ignatius
Columnist
Jan. 5, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. EST

As President Trump's supporters gather in Washington for what could be several days of violent protests, senior government officials appear confident that the chaotic situation can be handled by the D.C. police, federal law-enforcement agencies and the National Guard without requiring any use of regular-duty military troops.

"I can see no situation where the cops can't handle it," said one official familiar with preparation for Wednesday's pro-Trump marches, adding that "the introduction of the military in the next 72 hours would be irreparably damaging to the country." This official said top leaders of both parties shared this opposition to use of the uniformed military to quell civil strife.

Worries about Wednesday's gathering have been fueled by Trump's call for demonstrations "will be wild," he tweeted to protest Congress's expected certification of the electoral college victory of President-elect Joe Biden. Some officials feared that if the protests led to violent confrontations, Trump might seek to invoke the Insurrection Act to maintain order and protect the 74 million supporters he falsely contends have been fraudulently disenfranchised by Biden's victory.

The protests could indeed get nasty, and the next few days may be very disorderly. But officials, led by some senior members of the administration, have worked hard to prevent a worst-case scenario in which Trump might seek to overturn the election result by deploying the uniformed military and imposing martial law.

Planning for this week's protests has been coordinated by an interagency team headed by acting attorney general Jeffrey A. Rosen and acting defense secretary Christopher C. Miller, joined by the secretaries of homeland security and interior and backed by Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy. The team has been in regular contact and has drawn up detailed, written rules of engagement to avoid mistakes that might inflame the situation.

The FBI estimates that the protesters who assemble at the Ellipse and other march sites Wednesday will total 10,000 to 20,000 well below the 50,000 to 100,000 touted on some pro-Trump websites. To keep order, the D.C. government can call on about 3,800 members of its police force, supplemented by thousands of officers from the Capitol Police, the U.S. Park Police, the Federal Protection Service and other units.

Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) has also requested help from 350 members of the D.C. National Guard. The civilian overseeing the guard will be McCarthy, a widely respected former aide to then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates. The forces dealing with peaceful protests won't be allowed to use helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft, riot shields or lethal weapons. "There is no need to present an impression of anticipating violence," one official said.

Confidence that the D.C. and federal police plus National Guard can handle the situation is based partly on experience. The D.C. police force here has managed crowd control with more than 100,000 demonstrators in the past, one official said. To manage the crowds, control points will be established near the main march sites with police officers joined by the guard.

A final reason for confidence is that officials anticipate that left-wing counterprotesters from antifa and Black Lives Matter will mostly stay off the streets. That would lessen the likelihood of confrontations that could escalate into bloodshed and serious disorder, which might encourage Trump to invoke the Insurrection Act.

One flash point Wednesday may be the U.S. Capitol, where legislators will be meeting to certify the electoral college results. Protesters who gather initially at the Ellipse, near the White House, may then march down Pennsylvania Avenue, in the reversal of the usual inaugural parade route, and converge on the Capitol.

More than 500 Capitol Police will protect the building, but the situation could be inflamed if pro-Trump members of Congress emerge and make inflammatory speeches. Officials warn that if protesters try to "storm" the Capitol, as some have pledged, they will be arrested.

The flash point could come after dark Wednesday, if small bands of Proud Boys and other extremists go looking for trouble. One scenario weighed by contingency planners is that if 20,000 protesters gather overall, perhaps 1,000 would disperse after dark in roving bands of a dozen or so. Even in that situation, officials expect that the planned force would be adequate.

In Trump's effort to retain power, some officials feared he might use a foreign conflict with Iran as an additional pretext. But several officials said Tuesday that Iran doesn't appear to seek a direct confrontation in Trump's final days; Iranian-backed militias in Iraq could threaten Americans there, but U.S. forces are well positioned to protect personnel. The Pentagon's plan seems to be to watch carefully, avoid provocation and react to any attack with a deliberate, calculated response.

As the Trump administration nears its end, senior administration officials have a delicate task. They want to seem supportive of Trump's dream of somehow reversing the election outcome. But they know that any open attempt to subvert the transition could be illegal and might subject them to future legal prosecution.

In these last tense days, these administration officials are caught between entertaining Trump's fantasies of retaining power and managing the reality that he lost.

Read more from David Ignatius's archive, follow him on Twitter or subscribe to his updates on Facebook.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Corsi, Dina M. (IB) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: Re: Road Closures in Washington, DC near FBI HQ Beginning Tuesday, 1/5/2021 through Wednesday, 1/6/2021

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3,5

This appeared on the Post's website about two hours ago. Hopefully these postings reflect nonsensical machismo but it only takes one armed demonstrator to misinterpret or overreact.

Pro-Trump forums erupt with violent threats ahead of Wednesday's rally against the 2020 election

Posters respond to Trump's prediction of "wild" day with discussion of potential bloodshed and advice on sneaking guns into D.C.

By Craig Timberg and Drew Harwell
Jan. 5, 2021 at 12:57 p.m. EST

Far-right online forums are seething with references to potential violence and urging supporters of President Trump to bring guns to Wednesday's protests in Washington — in violation of local laws — as Congress meets to certify President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

Many of the posts appear to be direct responses to Trump's demands that his supporters pack the nation's capital in support of his bogus claims that November's national vote for Biden resulted from election fraud. Congress's largely ceremonial role in confirming Biden's victory has emerged as a catalyst for expected unrest that has D.C. police and the National Guard deploying on city streets to quell potential trouble.

Talk of guns and potential violence is rife on the encrypted messaging app Telegram, the conservative social media site Parler and on thedonald.win, an online forum that previously operated on Reddit before the company banned it in June after years of racism, misogyny, anti-Semitism and calls for violence.

Trump's tweet last month pushing baseless fraud claims and promoting the "big protest" on Jan. 6 — "Be there, will be wild!" — has become a central rallying cry. It was the top post on thedonald.win Tuesday morning, and anonymous commenters saw it as a call to action: "We've got marching orders," the top reply said.

Discussion in the thread followed about how most effectively to sneak guns into Washington, laced with occasional references to using them. D.C. has some of the nation's strictest gun laws: Openly carrying guns is banned, concealed-carry licenses from other states aren't recognized, and all firearms in the District must be registered with local police.

Of carrying guns in D.C., one poster in the thread wrote, "Yes, it's illegal, but this is war and we're clearly in a post-legal phase of our society." Wrote another: "LIVE AS A FREE AMERICAN AND BRING YOUR ARMS!"

More than half of the top 50 posts on thedonald.win's homepage Monday related to Wednesday's certification featured calls of violence within the top five comments, according to research by Advance Democracy, a group headed by former FBI analyst and Senate investigator Daniel J. Jones, who lead the review of the CIA's torture program.

The group said thedonald.win had more than 18 million visits in November, and the recent posts with calls for violence had more than 40,000 engagements. One particularly troubling post said protesters should travel in groups that should "not let [anyone] disarm someone without stacking bodies." It added that protesters should be "ARMED WITH RIFLE, HANDGUN, 2 KNIVES AND AS MUCH AMMO AS YOU CAN CARRY."

In one thread promoted by moderators Tuesday morning, titled "GOOD LUCK PATRIOTS, THE EYES OF THE WORLD LOOK UPON YOU NOW!!!," posters shared tactical guides on how to avoid police blockades and D.C. gun laws, including: "If you plan on carrying concealed, don't tell anyone you have a gun." One commenter responded, "We The People, will not tolerate a Steal. No retreat, No Surrender. Restore to my President what you stole or reap the consequences!!!"

Moderators for thedonald.win did not respond to requests for comment.

Researchers expressed concern that the roiling political atmosphere is being fueled by Trump's unfounded claims about the integrity of the election that have swirled on far-right online forums for two months.

"You have what disinformation researchers have worried about for years, which is people becoming motivated to action by lies," said Joan Donovan, the research director at Harvard Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy.

References to guns and potential violence also have become routine on Telegram and Parler, according to the Coalition for a Safer Web, a nonprofit group that advocates for technologies and policies to remove extreme content from social media. It cited a Parler post from last week, by an account touting the QAnon conspiracy theory, that said, "To all the Patriots descending on Washington DC on #jan6 ....come armed....

A number of posts on Parler and thedonald.win voiced anti-police messages and slammed "Coptifa" — a combination of "cop" and "antifa," the far-left protest movement. "WE THE PEOPLE ... are through with you," said one expletive-filled post on Parler. "To all our enemies high and low you want a war? Well your asking for one. ... To the American people on the ground in DC today and all over this great nation, be prepared for anything. ... Now we are here. Now they get what they want."

Parler's chief operating officer, Jeffrey Wernick, declined to comment.

The arrest of Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio on Monday, for charges related to the burning of a historically Black church's Black Lives Matter flag in a protest last month, has further inflamed far-right conversations online, said Eric Feinberg, vice president for content moderation for the Coalition for a Safer Web.

"You don't know who's going to get radicalized by this," Feinberg said. "The next three days, I'm really worried about what could happen."

[redacted] b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3,5

From: Corsi, Dina M. (IB) (FBI) [redacted] b7E -3,5
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:28 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Road Closures in Washington, DC near FBI HQ Beginning Tuesday, 1/5/2021 through Wednesday, 1/6/2021

All - [redacted] b7E -5

Dina

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: SIOC [redacted] b7E -3

Date: Jan 5, 2021 12:41 AM
Subject: Road Closures in Washington, DC near FBI HQ Beginning Tuesday, 1/5/2021 through Wednesday, 1/6/2021
To: [redacted] b7E -3,5
Cc: SIOC [redacted]
The below message is sent on behalf of Assistant Director Larissa L. Knapp, Security Division,

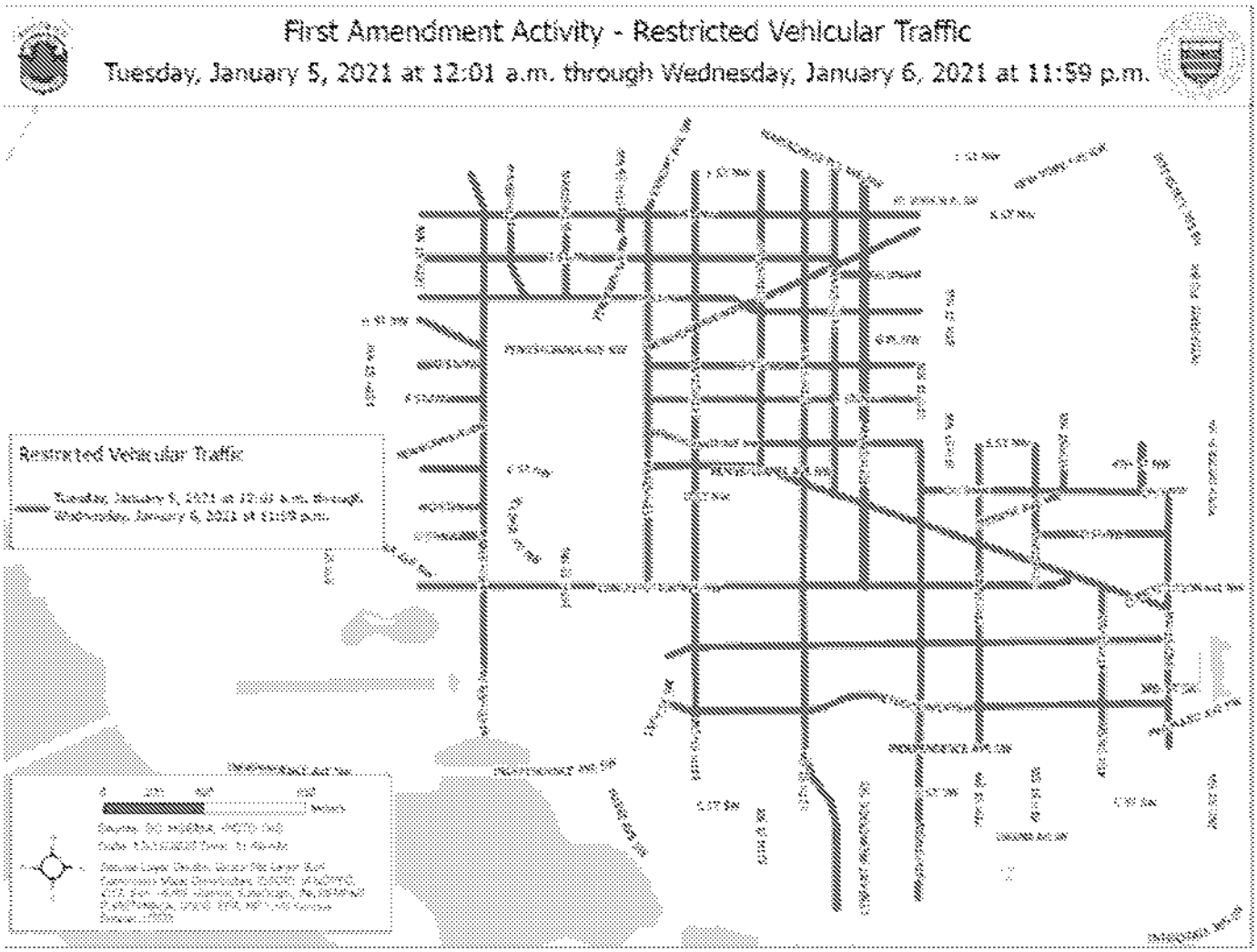
Regarding: First Amendment Demonstrations in the District of Columbia on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 through Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

Details: Due to planned First Amendment Demonstrations in the District of Columbia this week, numerous roads may be closed in the vicinity of FBI Headquarters, WFO, and other FBI facilities, beginning Tuesday (1/5/21) through Wednesday (1/6/21).

[redacted] b7E -5

There is a potential for groups with competing agendas to conduct demonstrations near FBI facilities. The closest known assembly point is Freedom Plaza located four blocks from FBIHQ. At the moment, the FBI is not aware of any credible, violent, or criminal threat against FBI personnel or its facilities. No changes are planned for access into FBIHQ/JEH. The FBI Police will maintain a heightened security posture and advise of any changes to access into FBIHQ/JEH.

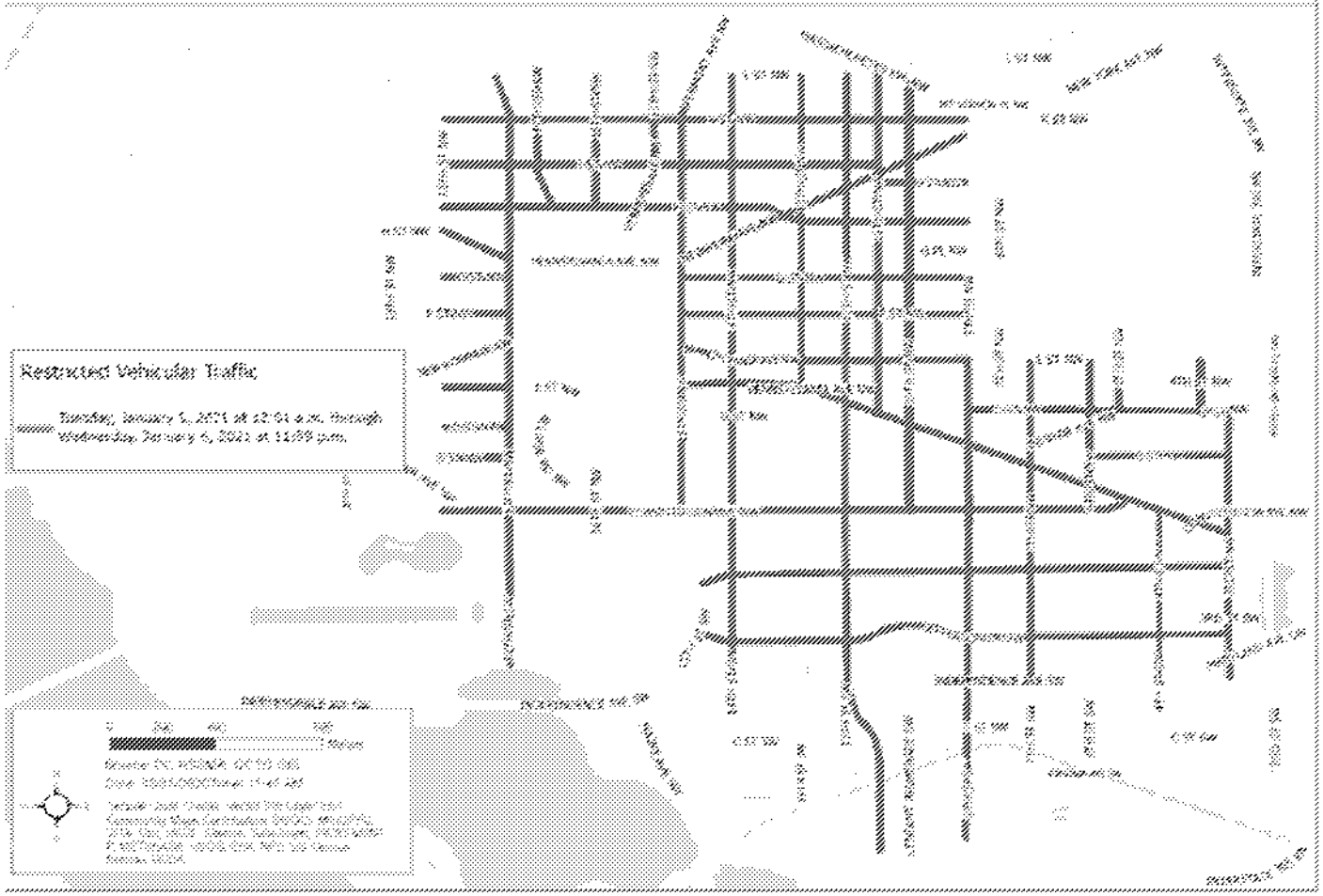
The Security Division request any information concerning traffic or safety in the vicinity of FBIHQ be reported to the Security Operations Center at [redacted] b7E -3



Larissa Knapp
AD SecD

First Amendment Activity - Restricted Vehicular Traffic

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. through Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.



From: The Washington Post
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [MARKETING] The Daily 202: Biden's debt to Black voters grows as Warnock makes history in Georgia
To: Wray, Christopher (DO) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 11:23 AM (UTC-05:00)

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Intelligence for leaders.

By James Nohmann
with Mariana Alfaro
Email

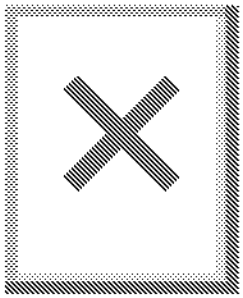
Biden's debt to Black voters grows as Warnock makes history in Georgia

Black voters delivered for Joe Biden. By rallying behind him in South Carolina's February primary, they catapulted the former vice president to the Democratic nomination. By turning out in huge numbers from Philadelphia to Detroit and Milwaukee in November, they ensured he won the electoral college. By defying expectations in Georgia on Tuesday, and turning out at higher rates than their White counterparts, it appears more likely than not that they have just provided Democrats with control of the Senate for the first time in six years and, with it, the ability for the president-elect to enact key elements of his agenda and confirm his nominees.

Democrats have definitely picked up one of Georgia's two runoff elections and lead in the other. The Rev. Raphael Warnock defeated appointed Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler to become the first African American Democrat to ever win a Senate seat in what was once the Confederacy. Jon Ossoff and national Democrats declared victory this morning over Sen. David Perdue (R) in the other contest, but his lead is narrower, and that race remains too close to call.

If Ossoff prevails, Democrats would control the 50-50 Senate because Vice President-elect Kamala Harris can cast a tie-breaking vote. The Californian, one of just 10 Black senators to ever serve in the chamber, will be the first Black vice president.

Campaigning with Harris on Sunday in his hometown of Savannah, Warnock reminisced about once being arrested by Capitol Police during a protest for racial justice. "They were doing their job, and I was doing my job, but in a few days I'm going to meet those Capitol Hill police officers again and, this time, they will not be taking me to central booking," he said. "They can help me find my new office."



The 51-year-old grew up in the Savannah housing projects and became the senior pastor of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, which was led by Martin Luther King Jr. until his martyrdom in 1968. Warnock was the 11th of 12 children. His mother, Verlene, grew up in a sharecropping family. She spent her summers picking cotton and tobacco as a teenager in the 1950s.

"The 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton went to the polls and picked her youngest son to be a United States senator," Sen.-elect Warnock said in a live-streamed address in the wee hours of this morning. "The improbable journey that led me to this place in this historic moment in America could only happen here."

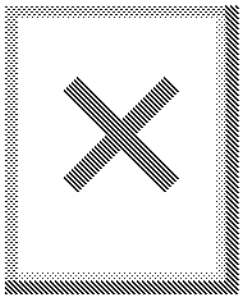
A third of Georgia's population is African American. In Fulton County, which as home to Atlanta is the state's most populous, more in-person voters showed up Tuesday than on Nov. 3. But Democrats also benefited from major turnout across the more rural, majority African American counties such as Macon and Randolph that comprise what's known as the Black Belt.

Loeffer saturated the airwaves with commercials that featured out-of-context clips of past sermons by Warnock at Ebenezer. She and her bevy of Republican consultants misrepresented standard-fare religious teachings as somehow sinister and anti-military.

Loeffler's attacks backfired by galvanizing Black voters who historically have not voted at high rates in runoff elections. More than 100 religious leaders condemned the "naked hypocrisy" and "blatant contradictions" of Loeffler's message in an open letter last month. "We see your attacks against Warnock as a broader attack against the Black Church and faith traditions for which we stand," the letter said.

Biden's narrow victory there in November might also have motivated African Americans, who saw that their votes can make a real difference. Stacey Abrams, who narrowly lost the governor's race in 2018, has also spent years spearheading voter

registration efforts in the Black community to combat what she decries as continuing voter suppression.



Some African Americans also said they were motivated by the death from cancer of civil rights legend and longtime congressman John Lewis, who had frequently been on the receiving end of President Trump's attacks. Ossoff once interned for Lewis, who supported his campaign before he passed away, and he worked as a staffer for Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), another Black congressman.

If he wins, the 33-year-old Ossoff would be the youngest newly elected Democratic senator since a 29-year-old kid named Joe Biden won a 1972 upset in Delaware.

During his victory speech on Nov. 7, the president-elect referred to the South Carolina primary. "Especially those moments when this campaign was at its lowest ebb, the African American community stood up again for me," Biden said. "You've always had my back, and I'll have yours."

Warnock, the first Democrat of any color to win a Senate seat in Georgia since 2000, said this morning that he plans to continue pastoring while holding public office. "I intend to return to my pulpit and preach on Sunday mornings and talk to the people," Warnock said on CNN. "The last thing I want to do is become disconnected from the community and just spend all of my time talking to the politicians. I might accidentally become one, and I have no intentions of becoming a politician. I intended to be a public servant."

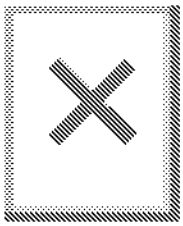
The Trump era looks like it may end in 14 days with Republicans having lost control of the House, Senate and White House. Trump loomed large in these runoffs, and his domination of the battle space may have helped gin up Democrats who hate him as much as the Republicans who love him but also now doubt the efficacy of voting because he spread so much disinformation.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) might have erred by appointing Loeffler last year to

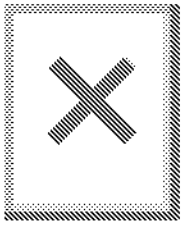
replace Johnny Isakson when the senator retired for health reasons. This put him at loggerheads with Trump, who had pushed Kemp to appoint Rep. Doug Collins (R), a frequent defender of the president on Fox News. Collins challenged Loeffler from the right, and to make it to the runoff, she lurched far to the right. But the first-time candidate often did so in ham-handed and cartoonish ways.

Loeffler campaigned with QAnon adherents and ran a commercial that described her as "more conservative than Attila the Hun." She also coupled her fate completely with Trump's, boasting at every stop that she supports him "100 percent" of the time. This week, Loeffler even announced plans to vote against certifying the presidential results from her own state in a bid to placate Trump.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) may soon be demoted from majority leader to minority leader because of the post-election donnybrook caused by Trump. His former campaign manager and chief of staff Josh Holmes, who remains a top adviser, said the party's messaging in Georgia repulsed the suburbanites who reliably voted Republican in the pre-Trump era:



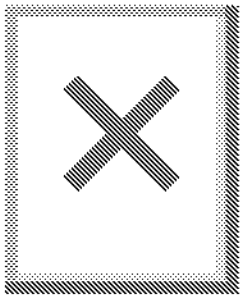
Other Republicans also pointed fingers. A writer for National Review cited a trio of factors:



And a leading immigration hardliner, who has been a close ally of White House aide Stephen Miller, warned that the Georgia results could undermine Trump's hope for a comeback in 2024:

Join us this afternoon for a special report.

I will join Libby Casey in The Washington Post newsroom starting at noon Eastern for live video coverage as Congress counts electoral votes. We will live-stream the floor proceedings as long as they go, offering context and analysis during any pauses



Vice President Pence prepares for a final performance that will probably infuriate Trump.

"Pence and his team have huddled for hours with the Senate parliamentarian. They have studied historical examples of other vice presidents who have presided over election results. And they have begun anticipating the ire of Trump — likely to come in the form of angry tweets — in the aftermath of Wednesday's certification of the electoral college vote count before a joint session of Congress," Ashley Parker and Josh Dawsey report. "Pence's team views the vice president's role as procedural and limited, not unlike an umpire calling balls and strikes but ultimately hemmed in by the rules of the game. ... The president's faulty belief that Pence can somehow overturn the election results is being fueled by agitators who are feeding Trump misinformation ... The group includes Rudolph W. Giuliani, the president's personal

attorney; Peter Navarro, a top White House trade adviser; and Sidney Powell, a lawyer and Trump ally. Few if any legal experts agree. ...

"During their weekly lunch Tuesday, Pence explicitly told Trump that he does not believe he has the authority to block the congressional certification of Biden's electoral victory, according to a White House official. But Trump issued a statement later Tuesday denying the conversation. ... Some advisers have proposed that Pence, while leading the Senate on Wednesday, make comments that allege irregularities while still certifying the results, in a bid to show Trump he is fighting and is supportive. ...

"Two administration officials said the president was frustrated because he thought that Pence should be doing more to publicly push his view that the election was stolen and that Pence had given up too easily. A person familiar with Trump's ire said the president largely blames Marc Short, Pence's chief of staff, for the vice president's rhetorical caution. Short has told others that Pence's language about the election has been deliberately careful and that the vice president did not want to echo some of Trump's most incendiary claims."

- Republican lawyer Cleta Mitchell, who advised Trump during his weekend call to Georgia's secretary of state, resigned as a partner in the D.C. office of law firm Foley & Lardner. Mitchell's resignation came a day after the law firm issued a statement saying it was "concerned by" her role in the call. (Michael Kranish)
- The city of Detroit is trying to get the pro-Trump attorneys Sidney Powell and Lin Wood disbarred. "We have been horrified by the inappropriate actions of these attorneys and the plaintiffs themselves, and we have intended to seek any sanction the court can order," said Detroit's counsel David Flink. (Law and Crime)
- After the abrupt and unexplained resignation of the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta, Trump bypassed the normal line of succession on Tuesday to install a temporary replacement from outside the office. The president named Bobby Christine, the U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Georgia, to replace BJay Pak on an acting basis, even as he maintains his current role. Longtime federal prosecutor Kurt Erskine would have otherwise assumed the job. (Matt

Zapotosky and Devlin Barrett)

- Trump and his campaign shared the wrong phone number on social media for a Michigan legislator, urging followers to call and demand a vote to decertify the election results. The 28-year-old who has that number was deluged by calls from angry Trump supporters. (Jaclyn Peiser)
- "At this point, the strategy of his legal team is far more Jim Jones than James Baker," quipped journalist Ben Jacobs.

Democrats are prepared for today's culminating dispute.

"The Biden camp, led by rival-turned-ally Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), prepared to force the dissenters to debate into the night, hoping to dispose of the challenge as quickly as possible and prevent a days-long ordeal. Klobuchar and her aides also distributed background to Democrats and lined up swing-state lawmakers to speak," Annie Linskey and Michelle Ye Hee Lee report. "During Wednesday's proceedings, a joint session of Congress is set to accept the electoral college tallies as they are called out alphabetically by state. If at least one senator and one House member question any state's result, the chambers individually debate and vote on that challenge. **The Republican dissenters say they will object to the tallies of at least three states — Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania — and adding more could prolong the process to more than 24 hours.** Klobuchar, who as the top Democrat on the Senate Rules Committee will be one of four lawmakers tallying the votes, said that although the rules allow for a break — Klobuchar said she and Chairman Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) have decided they would not take one."

Republican Sens. Tim Scott (S.C.), Jerry Moran (Kan.) and John Boozman (Ark.) announced their opposition on Tuesday to the efforts led by fellow Republicans Josh Hawley (Mo.) and Ted Cruz (Tex.) to challenge the results. "There is no constitutionally viable means for the Congress to overturn an election," Scott said in a statement. (Here's our whip count. More than a dozen senators have not taken a clear position on what they'll do.)

Quote of the day

"The coup-fighters are a group that is bipartisan," Klobuchar said in an interview. "This is game day."

Trump diehards began protesting in D.C. on Tuesday.

"For nearly eight hours, speakers repeated election conspiracy theories, closed their eyes to pray and shared discount codes for MyPillow, a company owned by a Trump

ally. Shortly before 8 p.m., they danced to a part-country, part-rap song, 'Roger Stone did nothing wrong.' Stone, who was pardoned by Trump for lying to Congress and obstructing justice, appeared onstage in a pinstripe suit and feathered fedora, swinging his hips to the tune," Marissa Lang, Emily Davies, Peter Hermann, Jessica Contrera and Clarence Williams report. "He then launched into a speech comparing the investigation into his wrongdoing to centuries of abuses and terror inflicted on Black people. He claimed he was the subject of a 'legal lynching.' He said Trump 'freed this slave,' referring to himself. The mostly White crowd howled their support, chanting his name. [Someone else recently pardoned by Trump, former national security adviser Michael Flynn, also spoke during the rally.] ...

"All day, the crowd ranted against the need for masks, vaccines and precautions against the virus ... D.C. police are not enforcing the District's mask mandate, despite the worsening coronavirus surge ... Local law enforcement will instead focus on arresting anyone who is unlawfully armed. ... In all, D.C. police made five arrests Tuesday and Park Police made one. Charges included weapons violations and assault. ... A group of about 200 Trump supporters marched to the police line at Black Lives Matter Plaza just before 10:15 p.m. Punches were thrown at the line and a woman was bloodied."

- Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio, accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner taken from a Black church, was barred from the District by a judge, forcing him out of the city ahead of potentially volatile demonstrations led by his followers. He is allowed to return only for a court hearing on June 8. (Peter Hermann and Keith Alexander)
- A group of Trump supporters heckled Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) as he flew from Salt Lake City to Washington. The group, recorded on video, chanted "Traitor!" for 20 seconds and demanded that he resign. Before boarding, Romney was approached by a maskless woman, who yelled at him for not supporting Trump. "I do support President Trump in things I agree with," Romney responded, calmly and patiently. (Jaclyn Peiser)

As Trump backers descend on the capital, the military hopes to avoid the political fray.

"Pentagon leaders are bracing for any renewed presidential attempts to employ the

military for political ends," Paul Sonne, Missy Ryan and Ellen Nakashima report. "Top Pentagon officials, in answering a request by D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) to deploy National Guardsmen in the nation's capital in advance of Wednesday's protests, emphasized that the Guard wouldn't carry firearms, use armored vehicles or helicopters, or receive backup from units in other states — a far more muted presence than in June after the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd. The careful posture reflects the Pentagon's wariness in the final days of a presidency during which Trump has tested the norms of a politically impartial military. ... A senior U.S. official said Tuesday that the Pentagon senior leadership — civilian and military — will not obey an unlawful order from the president to use the military to his own political ends. These leaders likely would resign before following an unlawful order, the senior official said."

- Multiple air traffic controllers in New York heard someone vow on their radio channel that will be revenge for the killing of Iran's Qassem Soleimani. "We are flying a plane into the Capitol on Wednesday. Soleimani will be avenged," a voice in the audio said. Federal officials don't believe this is a credible threat, but they're investigating the breach of aviation frequencies. And a message was sent to all air traffic controllers yesterday reminding them any threat or a plane deviating from its flight path should be reported immediately. (CBS News)
- Three people who have spoken to Trump recently say he privately acknowledges he lost the presidency but say he's continuing his fight to keep attention on himself. "The point is to still be relevant and still be talked about in the news," one of the people told Politico.
- The White House denied reports Trump will travel to his resort in Scotland to golf during Biden's inauguration. (William Booth and David Fahrenthold)

Trump's anti-democratic impulses are contagious.

"The seating of new Pennsylvania legislators turned into a bitter partisan spectacle Tuesday, as Republicans in the state Senate blocked a Democratic lawmaker from taking his oath of office and removed the Democratic lieutenant governor from his role overseeing the proceedings," Hannah Knowles reports. "Republicans say they will not seat Sen.-elect Jim Brewster as a legal challenge to his victory is pending, although his win has been certified and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court recently sided with him in a dispute over how to count votes in a close race. Democrats

decried the move as an overreach and an echo of Republican attempts to overturn the result of the presidential election. In an interview, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman (D) accused Republicans of 'raw partisanship,' drawing a 'straight line' between their actions and broader GOP resistance to certifying the election of Biden. ... Brewster edged out his Republican opponent Nicole Ziccarelli by 69 votes, and Ziccarelli is urging a federal court to discount about 300 mail ballots from Allegheny County without handwritten dates on their envelopes."

The coronavirus

Motorists line up to take coronavirus tests in the parking lot at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. (Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP)

States in the West and South have the highest share of residents hospitalized.

"More than 131,000 covid-19 patients were hospitalized nationwide as of Tuesday," Fenit Nirappil and William Wan report. "Several Los Angeles hospitals have turned

away ambulance traffic in recent days because they can't provide the airflow needed to treat patients. Arizona now has the nation's highest rate of coronavirus hospitalizations. In the Atlanta area, nearly every major hospital is almost full, prompting state officials to reopen a field hospital for the third time. ... Vaccine distribution is also off to a slow start, with at least 4.6 million inoculated, far short of the 20 million the Trump administration vowed to vaccinate by the end of 2020. ...

"The back-to-back timing of Christmas and New Year's Eve could have catastrophic results because many people develop symptoms roughly five to seven days after infection and are most contagious during the 48 hours before those symptoms appear. That means someone who was exposed to the virus on Christmas could have been contagious by the time they attended a New Year's party or began traveling home. Just how bad the situation gets in the United States may depend on how widely the virus's new variant — which scientists believe is more contagious, but not deadlier or vaccine-resistant — is circulating. The variant has been reported in five states including Georgia, which reported its first case [on] Tuesday. ... New daily deaths and cases have increased by more than 20 percent over the past week, to a total of more than 355,000 fatalities and 21 million infections. But experts say the toll on hospitals paints a clearer picture of the pandemic because of complications in reporting test results during the holidays."

- Two House Republican from Texas, Reps. Kevin Brady and Kay Granger, tested positive for the virus. Brady received the first of two vaccine shots last month. Both are isolating. (NPR)
- Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) will deploy the state's National Guard to help local health departments as they inoculate medical workers, and he threatened to take away unused vaccines from hospitals that are slow to administer them. (Erin Cox, Rebecca Tan and Lola Fadulu)
- Moderna said it will be able to produce at least 600 million doses of the vaccine this year, 100 million more than previously announced. The Massachusetts company also said it is making investments and adding staff to make as much as 1 billion doses this year. (WSJ)

The rich receive special invites to the front of the vaccine line in

Florida.

"The invitation to affluent Floridians arrived in writing and by telephone. 'He asked me if I wanted to have a vaccine,' said Ryna Greenbaum, 89, recounting the phone message she got last week. 'I'm one of the people who has given him some money.' The call, she said, had come from Keith Myers, chief executive of MorseLife Health System, a high-end nursing home and assisted-living facility in West Palm Beach, Fla.," Isaac Stanley-Becker and Shawn Boburg report. "MorseLife has made scarce coronavirus vaccines — provided through a federal program intended for residents and staff of long-term-care facilities — available not just to its residents but to board members and those who made generous donations to the facility ...

"The arrangement, in appearing to rely on a program run by chain pharmacies for nursing home residents and staff, may have violated national immunization guidelines, as well as state protocols, even though state officials ... acknowledged that the rules have not been spelled out clearly enough by Gov. Ron DeSantis (R). ... The MorseLife episode highlights how the country's patchwork approach to immunization against the coronavirus — leaving decisions about eligibility to state and local authorities as well as to individual providers — is creating opportunities for facilities to provide access to well-connected people while thousands of others wait in line. In Florida, some elderly residents have camped out overnight in hopes of receiving a shot."

- Native American tribes are prioritizing the vaccination of speakers of endangered languages. "When all of us first-language speakers are gone, it's gonna be gone," John Ross, a Cherokee translator who was among the first to get immunized, told the Tulsa World.
- "When the coronavirus began spreading through New York, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo ordered state-run hospitals to stop suing patients over unpaid medical bills. But one chain of hospitals plowed ahead with thousands of lawsuits: Northwell Health, which is the state's largest health system and is run by one of Mr. Cuomo's closest allies. The nonprofit Northwell sued more than 2,500 patients last year," the Times reports.
- The coronavirus-free nation of Palau could soon vaccinate almost all its people. A partnership with the U.S. government provided 2,800 doses of the Moderna vaccine. The island has a population of 18,000. (Adam Taylor and Miriam

Berger)

- A nurse became the first person to be vaccinated in the Netherlands as the Dutch government faces growing criticism for its belated rollout. The Netherlands is the last country in the E.U. to begin distributing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. (Antonia Farzan)
- Colleges are adjusting their plans for in-person spring semesters. Since mid-December, Syracuse, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Old Dominion University and more than a dozen other schools have updated their academic calendars. (WSJ)
- So many pets have been adopted during the pandemic that shelters are running out in the D.C. region. "We thought people would stop adopting because they would need to conserve their money," said Cindy Sharpley, founder and director of Last Chance Animal Rescue, a nonprofit animal shelter in Waldorf. "It's been just the opposite. They're going like hot cakes." Last Chance saw its pet adoptions — mostly dogs — increase 30 to 40 percent last year. (Dana Hedgpeth)

China claims it's "negotiating" with the WHO over a mission to investigate the pandemic's origins.

"Responding to criticism from the World Health Organization that China had blocked a scheduled mission to investigate the origins of the coronavirus, Beijing on Wednesday said the two sides were 'still negotiating,'" Lily Kuo reports. "Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news briefing that the issue of tracing the source of the virus was 'very complicated' and arrangements were needed to 'ensure the smooth progress' of the team of researchers. ... An international team of scientists led by the WHO were to begin a deployment to China on Tuesday but WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the group was barred from traveling to the country ... In a rare rebuke of China, Tedros said at a news conference on Tuesday that he was 'very disappointed.'"

- More than 41 Hong Kong residents, including pro-democracy activists, lawmakers, a pollster and a lawyer, were arrested in an early-morning sweep that marked the most far-reaching and chilling use of a new Beijing-imposed national security law. Many of those who have been detained were taken from their homes by plainclothes officers. (Shibani Mahtani and Theodora Yu)

The lame-duck agenda

- Trump signed an executive order banning transactions with a number of

A rare bird, the Painted Bunting, was spotted in Great Falls, Md., on Sunday. (Jacques Pitteloud)

A new Trump rule says it's okay to kill scores of birds.

"In a last-gasp effort before departing the White House, the Trump administration took another swipe at weakening enforcement of a 100-year-old law that protects migrating birds," Darryl Fears reports. "With only two weeks left in office, the administration published a rule Tuesday that spares industries and individuals from prosecution or penalties under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act if their actions, such as development or failure to cover tar pits, results in bird deaths. If the deaths were unintentional, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says in the rule, there will be no enforcement.

"Conservation groups immediately promised to sue to stop the rule from going into

effect a month from now. They also called on the Biden administration to overturn it. The groups are confident a legal challenge will prevail due to an earlier court decision that rejected the opinion on which the new rule is based. U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni issued a blistering opinion in August that quoted Harper Lee's famous novel, after deciding in favor of state attorneys general and conservationists who sued the administration. 'It is not only a sin to kill a mockingbird, it is also a crime,' Caproni wrote. ...

"In May 2019, a United Nations panel determined that 1 million species face extinction — 'more than any other period in human history.' Four months later, top ornithologists in government and academia reported that 3 billion birds have vanished in North America over the past 50 years. ... The American Exploration and Production Council, an oil industry lobby group, supported the rule ... Past Fish and Wildlife estimates show that industry sources kill an average of 709 million birds each year, and up to 1.1 billion. Oil pits alone kill up to 1 million birds yearly."

Trump races to undermine decades-old rules against discrimination.

"The Justice Department is seeking to change interpretation of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which bars discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by recipients of federal funding. Under these rules, actions are considered discriminatory if they have a discriminatory effect, what's known as a 'disparate impact,' on protected groups. Under the new version, only intentional discrimination would be prohibited," Laura Meckler and Devlin Barrett report. "The Trump administration has been considering this change for more than two years but waited until its final weeks to try to put it into effect. ... The Justice Department currently distributes about $6 billion a year in grants or awards ... The planned change was pushed in late December by William P. Barr, one of his last acts as attorney general. ... Typically regulations of this magnitude are published first as proposals and the government collects public comment before publishing its final version. It would be unusual to publish a final regulation — particularly one of this magnitude — without going through that process, but the document says that its proposal falls under an exception and therefore the administration is not required to seek public comment."

The intelligence community officially blames Russia for the major cyberattacks.

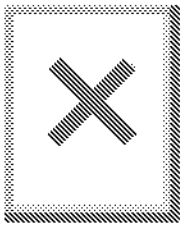
"The statement, issued jointly by four agencies in a special task force, counters Trump's baseless suggestion last month that the intrusions might have been the work of Chinese hackers," Ellen Nakashima reports. "Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said previously that the breaches were 'clearly' Russian in origin, and U.S. officials have for weeks said privately that Moscow's foreign intelligence service carried them out. The breaches were so alarming that they had government and private-sector personnel working through the holidays to identify and mitigate them."

Biden names more Obama administration alumni for key foreign policy jobs.

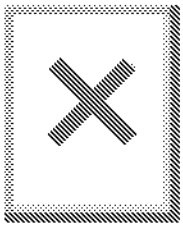
"For deputy secretary of state, Biden will nominate Wendy Sherman, the chief U.S. negotiator of the Iran nuclear deal under the Obama administration," John Hudson reports. "The nomination for the No. 3 job at the State Department, undersecretary for political affairs, is expected to go to Victoria Nuland, who served as spokesperson for the department under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and was the top U.S. diplomat for Europe under Secretary of State John F. Kerry ... At the National Security Council, Biden is expected to give the job of deputy national security adviser to Jon Finer ... Finer is a former Washington Post reporter who worked in a number of jobs in the Obama administration that culminated in his role as director of policy planning at the State Department."

Social media speed read

Stuart Stevens, who was Mitt Romney's chief strategist in 2012 and has emerged as a vocal Trump critic, celebrated Loeffler's defeat:

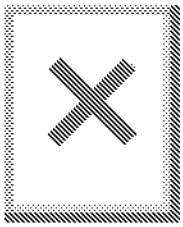


George W. Bush's spokesman said the former president will attend Biden's inauguration:



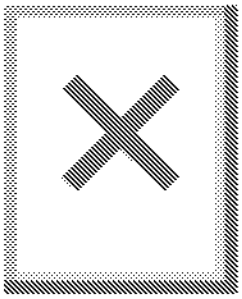
And his brother got the vaccine:

Alabama's DeVonta Smith became the first wide receiver to win the Heisman Trophy in 29 years:

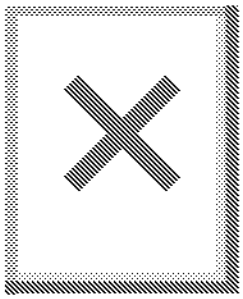


Videos of the day

Seth Meyers said Republicans are running a scam by suggesting to voters that there is a chance Trump can remain in office:



Stephen Colbert said Trump is putting Pence in a bind:



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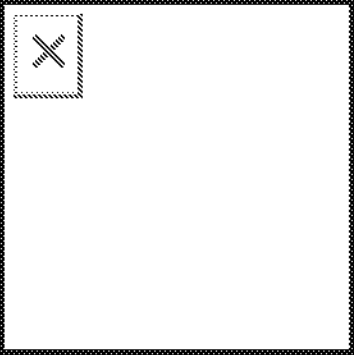

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From: The Washington Post
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [MARKETING] The Daily 202: Biden's debt to Black voters grows as Warnock makes history in Georgia
To: Brown, John A. (NSB) (FBI)
Sent: January 6, 2021 11:23 AM (UTC-05:00)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 21-cv-558

Total Deleted Page(s) = 352
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Page 319 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 320 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 321 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 322 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 323 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 324 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
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Page 326 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 327 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 328 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 329 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
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Page 331 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 332 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 333 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 334 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 335 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 336 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 337 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 338 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 339 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 340 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 341 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 342 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 343 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 344 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 345 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 346 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 347 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 348 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 349 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 350 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 351 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 352 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;
Page 353 ~ b6 - 4; b7C - 4; b7E - 1;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
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From: [redacted] b6 -1,4

Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Fwd: DONALD TRUMPS-BALLOT FRAUD, PRESIDENTIAL ORGANIZED CRIME, TAX EVASION, ESTATE THEFT, TERRORIST GENOCIDE PLAN b7C -1,4 b7E -3,5

To: Sharp, Johnnie Jr. (BH) (FBI); Jewell, James E. (MO) (FBI); [redacted] Phillips, Dean (ITID) (FBI); [redacted] Sporre, Eric W. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Sanborn, Jill (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Hendricks, James N. (AL) (FBI); [redacted] Norris, Alphonso (CO) (FBI); [redacted] Buie, Emmerson Jr. (CG) (FBI); [redacted] (AT) (FBI); [redacted] Duda, Raymond P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]

Cc: info@rondesantis.com; info@donaldtrump.com; fsuarez@miamigov.com

Sent: January 6, 2021 3:54 PM (UTC-05:00)

Attached: GODS POWER PROSECUTES THE GUILTY AND DEFENDS INNOCENT-23.pdf

[redacted] b6 -4 b7C -4 b7E -1