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CC: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: DHS Morning Briefing (11-17-21)
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Good Morning!

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
By TechMIS
www.TechMIS.com

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff
DATE: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 6:00 AM ET

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[MA] Massachusetts Man Sentenced to Over One Year in Prison for Bank Fraud

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CISA/Cybersecurity

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[\[China\] U.S.-China engagement to intensify - U.S. national security adviser](#)

Top News

DHS inspector general declines to investigate Del Rio horse patrol incident

[CNN \[11/16/2021 5:20 PM, Priscilla Alvarez, 5705K\]](#) reports the horse patrol incident in Del Rio, Texas, that drew swift condemnation from senior Biden administration officials will not be investigated by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general, the department announced Tuesday. US Customs and Border Protection had referred the incident -- where Border Patrol agents on horseback aggressively confronted migrants -- to the watchdog, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Instead, CBP's Office of Professional Responsibility is now investigating the incident, the department said, adding that the office has reviewed videos and photographs and interviewed witnesses, employees and CBP leadership. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said he was "horrified" by the incident and had previously pledged he was committed to completing the investigation in "days, not weeks." But nearly two months later, the probe continues. "Once completed, the results of the investigation will be provided to CBP management to determine whether disciplinary action is appropriate and, if so, the specific discipline to be imposed. At that time, the employees will be afforded due process, including an opportunity to respond, and any corrective actions will comport with applicable laws and regulations," DHS said in a statement Tuesday. "The disciplinary process, which is separate from the fact-finding investigation, is subject to certain timelines established in CBP's labor-management agreement with the employees' union of the United States Border Patrol," the statement added. During a Senate hearing Tuesday, Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah pressed Mayorkas on his response to the Del Rio incident at the time, asking why he did not defend the Border Patrol. Mayorkas pushed back, saying that an independent investigation will determine the facts and eventually, the outcome. The agents involved in the incident remain on

administrative duty, according to DHS spokeswoman Marsha Espinosa. Horse patrol units continue to be deployed based on operational assessments, but are not deployed in the city of Del Rio, she added. [FOX News](#) [11/16/2021 11:14 AM, Jessica Chasmar, 11051K] reports the news came just hours before Mayorkas is set to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee, where he will likely face questions about what he and the DHS are doing with the record numbers of migrants crossing the southern border. Mayorkas had initially backed the agents alongside Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz, noting the use of reins to control the horse. He later claimed he had not seen the images when he made those remarks and, while staying away from the "Whip" claims, continued to call the images disturbing as the agents were placed on desk duty and the use of horses were ended in the Del Rio Sector. [USA Today](#) [11/16/2021 4:56 PM, Kevin Johnson and Rebecca Morin, 7620K] reports DHS remains committed to conducting a thorough, independent, and objective investigation. DHS will share information, as available, consistent with the need to protect the integrity of the investigation and individuals' privacy. "I want to assure you that we are addressing this with tremendous speed and tremendous force," Mayorkas said told lawmakers in September.

Reported similarly:

[Univision](#) [11/16/2021 11:26 AM, Jorge Cancino, 389K]

[Washington Times](#) [11/16/2021 5:12 AM, Stephen Dinan, 389K]

Mayorkas defends border policies against GOP attacks

[Roll Call](#) [11/16/2021 4:13 PM, Suzanne Monyak, 106K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas found himself on defense Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee as Republicans grilled him on the record-high number of migrants who journeyed to the southwest border last fiscal year. In the first hearing on oversight of the Department of Homeland Security under the Biden administration, Mayorkas defended the department's policies and decisions to roll back some of the prior administration's immigration restrictions, which Republicans blame for the higher migration levels. Data released last month revealed last fiscal year was the busiest on record at the U.S.-Mexico border, with federal agents logging roughly 1.7 million encounters with migrants from October 2020 through September 2021. "I don't think that the approximately 965,000 people who were subject to Title 42 expulsions under the CDC's authority would consider the border open," Mayorkas shot back at Sen. Mike Lee, after the Utah Republican questioned the administration's control over the southwest border. Mayorkas also defended the administration against questions from Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., on the steep increase in migrant encounters in 2020 — when migration slowed during the COVID-19 pandemic — and in 2021. When Cotton asked if Mayorkas was "satisfied" with the increase, Mayorkas replied: "No, I'm not, but worse is to promulgate and operationalize a policy that defies our values as a nation." A number of Republicans also asked Mayorkas about the reported \$450,000 settlement payments under consideration for migrant families separated at the border under the Trump administration. Mayorkas declined to answer their queries, maintaining that those payments and litigation exist under the jurisdiction of the Justice Department, not DHS. He also insisted the payments are not a so-called pull factor drawing migrants to cross the border. However, the data also showed a downward trend in migrant encounters. The number of overall encounters decreased by 14 percent between September and October, and October was the third consecutive month where the number of encounters decreased. [Town Hall](#) [11/16/2021 11:50 AM, Katie Pavlich, 489K] reports that testifying in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday morning, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas confirmed the Biden Administration is encouraging illegal immigrant families "separated from their children" to sign up for taxpayer funded relief checks. "We recently launched a website where families who were indeed separated can register for relief. We are working very closely with counsel for the families. We are working with the government, the nation's of origin to accelerate the provision of passports for parents who do indeed want to come here," Mayorkas said.

DHS stops releasing some migrants without providing immigration court dates

[CBS News](#) [11/16/2021 1:40 PM, Staff, 2907K] reports Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas faced pointed questions from members of Congress about the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border. Among

the topics addressed was an initiative to instruct 78,000 migrants who were not fully processed for deportation to appear before an immigration judge. CBS News immigration reporter Camilo Montoya-Galvez joined CBSN's Tanya Rivero to discuss. [Editorial note: consult video at source link] [CNN](#) [11/16/2021 7:37 PM, Priscilla Alvarez, 5705K] reports the Department of Homeland Security has stopped the practice of releasing migrants in the United States only with paperwork that tells them to report to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told senators Tuesday. The Biden administration continues to expel tens of thousands of migrants arrested at the US-Mexico border under a Trump-era public health order. But some are released into the United States depending on capacity at border facilities and individual circumstances, typically with a "notice to appear," which is a document that instructs people to appear before an immigration judge on a certain date and kicks off the deportation process. But earlier this year, to move migrants faster out of overwhelmed facilities, US Border Patrol began releasing people encountered at the US-Mexico border without the "notice to appear." Instead, agents provided migrants, many of them families, only with notices to report, which put the onus on migrants to initiate their own immigration process. The practice drew wide condemnation from Republicans who argued the Biden administration didn't know the whereabouts of migrants released into the US without the impetus of set court dates for them to reappear.

Mayorkas says not all 1.2M illegal immigrants with final removal orders should be deported

[FOX News](#) [11/16/2021 9:03 AM, Ronn Blitzer, 11051K] reports that Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday that the American immigration system is "Broken," while stating that not all of the 1.2 million illegal immigrants with final removal orders should be deported. Committee ranking member Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, pointed to a Sept. 30 memo in which Mayorkas said "The fact that an individual is a removable non-citizens should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them." Grassley then asked if this still applied to those who already have final removal order against them. "We cannot remove one point two million individuals," Mayorkas said, speaking to the impracticability of deporting so many people. He then called into question the validity of those orders. "I would not necessarily accept the fact that all of them have received due process," he said. When asked if any of the 1.2 million people should be deported, Mayorkas said those "Who pose a public safety threat, who pose a national security threat, who pose a border security threat," should be deported from the U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., defended DHS's use of "prosecutorial discretion" in deciding which deportation cases to pursue. Coons claimed that "an approach that effectively makes any undocumented immigrant a priority is actually making no one a priority." [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Cruz confronts Mayorkas with photo of migrants sleeping on floor at Texas facility: 'Biden cages'

[FOX News](#) [11/16/2021 3:43 PM, Ronn Blitzer, 11051K] Video: [HERE](#) reports Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas got into a heated exchange over children kept in poor conditions in detention facilities at the border. During a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, Mayorkas took issue with Cruz characterizing the facilities as "cages," when the senator asked how many children have been kept there. "Senator, I respectfully disagree with your use of the term cages," Mayorkas said. Mayorkas did not have a firm number of how many children had been there. Cruz then made a point that Democrats have not paid close attention to the situation, having Mayorkas confirm that neither President Biden nor Vice President Harris has been to the facility. The senator then turned the focus to his own colleagues. Mayorkas insisted that Democrats have been there, but he was unsure whether any of them were part of the committee.

DHS chief Mayorkas: 'I give myself an A for effort'

[Newsweek](#) [11/16/2021 2:26 PM, Alex J. Rouhandeh, 2013K] reports that Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, where he answered questions about the state of America's national security, particularly in regard to the situation at the southern border. During the questioning period, South Carolina's Republican Senator Lindsey Graham asked the secretary a number of questions regarding the Biden administration's handling of the border. Among those questions, Graham asked Mayorkas to grade himself. "I'm a tough grader on myself,"

Mayorkas said. "And I give myself an 'A' for effort, investment in mission, and support of our workforce." Despite the number of reported encounters at the southern border dropping each month since August, over 164,000 migrants were still encountered in October, a figure far exceeding any monthly total reported between October 2019 to January of 2021. On top of this issue, which has served as a continued source for Republican criticism, the Customs and Border Protection agency also faces mounting criticism for its treatment of migrants. CBP's Office of Professional Responsibility finds itself involved in an investigation over whether its horse patrol units used whips against Haitian migrants after disturbing images surfaced in late September. Republican Senator Mike Lee of Utah came after Mayorkas regarding the investigation against the horse patrol units. The Washington Times [11/16/2021 6:06 AM, Stephen Dinan, 389K] reports that fighting through three hours of combative questions from senators on the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Mayorkas said it "takes time" for the results to show along the border, but defended the slow progress even as new numbers showed illegal border crossings last month broke the record for October, usually a slow month. "We're on the road to success," he said. His defense was not reassuring to Republicans on the committee. "The Department of Homeland Security has clearly failed in its mission to obtain operational control," said Sen. Mike Lee, Utah Republican. Mr. Mayorkas found himself on the defensive over activities across his sprawling department. He sparred with one senator who accused him of holding immigrant children in cages, and repeatedly admitted he didn't have data on hand that senators were seeking. Some of his toughest questions came over the screening of Afghan evacuees. Under questioning by Sen. Josh Hawley, Missouri Republican, Mr. Mayorkas admitted that tens of thousands of Afghans who he has granted parole to enter the U.S. were not put through the same rigorous screening as they would have been had they come as refugees. "They have not all been given interviews," he acknowledged. Instead, he said, the department is relying on fingerprints to try to flag potential bad actors, and those folks were then given interviews before boarding planes.

DHS Launches Cybersecurity Recruitment and Talent Management System

HS Today [11/16/2021 6:07 AM, Staff, 14K] reports that the Department of Homeland Security has launched the Cybersecurity Talent Management System, a new personnel system that will enable DHS to more effectively recruit, develop, and retain the United States' top cybersecurity professionals. CTMS will enable DHS to fill mission-critical cybersecurity positions by screening applicants based on demonstrated competencies, competitively compensating employees, and reducing the time it takes to be hired into the Department. Employees hired through this system will join the new DHS Cybersecurity Service, the Nation's preeminent federal cybersecurity team working to protect U.S. critical infrastructure and the American people from cybersecurity threats, and increase nationwide resilience. "The DHS Cybersecurity Talent Management System fundamentally re-imagines how the Department hires, develops, and retains top-tier and diverse cybersecurity talent," said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "As our Nation continues to face an evolving threat landscape, we cannot rely only on traditional hiring tools to fill mission-critical vacancies. This new system will enable our Department to better compete for cybersecurity professionals and remain agile enough to meet the demands of our critical cybersecurity mission." Earlier this year, Secretary Mayorkas announced the most successful cyber hiring initiative in the Department's history and established the Secretary's Honors Program to recruit talented recent graduates.

DHS chief information security officer wary of Pentagon's changes to CMMC

The Federal News Network [11/16/2021 1:16 PM, Justin Doubleday, 76K] reports that the Department of Homeland Security is testing out its own way of evaluating contractor cybersecurity measures, amid concerns about the efficacy of the Defense Department's Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification program. DHS launched a pathfinder this summer to begin evaluating existing contractors with cyber hygiene clauses in their contracts, according to Ken Bible, chief information security officer at DHS. He said DHS has had those clauses in place since 2015, but has never held companies accountable for meeting the standards. He said DHS has assessed one contractor so far on whether it is meeting the cybersecurity standards. "We're going to continue to expand upon that Pathfinder," Bible said during a conference today hosted by SC Media. "I don't know that we found from that one Pathfinder everything that we needed to really build out our DHS program in that area." DHS has been monitoring the

Pentagon's CMMC program as it builds out its own approach to contractor cybersecurity. Bible said initial impressions were that the Pentagon's use of third-party audits would not work for DHS. "We looked at that and said, 'Well, that may be a little bit too heavy handed for the industrial base that supports the Department of Homeland Security, really didn't want to disadvantage small businesses, which have been kind of at the heart of being able to innovate within the Department of Homeland Security,'" Bible said. DHS may be concerned the Pentagon has swung too far in the opposite direction.

[AL] Migrant Teen Trafficking Probe Leaves Lingering Concerns

Bloomberg BNA [11/16/2021 5:19 PM, Ellen M. Gilmer, Ben Penn, 19K] reports federal investigators have been unable to locate most of a group of migrant children allegedly turned over to labor traffickers, but they've also found no evidence of exploitation. At least three agencies looked into reports of potential trafficking or exploitation of unaccompanied migrant children in Enterprise, Ala., and couldn't substantiate those claims, according to two people familiar with the investigation. But the unknown whereabouts of many of the children who had been approved by the Health and Human Services Department for release to adult sponsors in Enterprise, a small city in southeastern Alabama that's home to a cluster of chicken slaughterhouses, exposes major gaps in the government's inquiries. While some of the children who weren't living at the Enterprise addresses listed on their HHS-approved paperwork could have moved to a safer location with a family member, there are still concerns that a network of traffickers used Enterprise as an initial "staging area," before shuttling them off to different worksites, said one of the sources. The Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Labor departments investigated the Enterprise situation but couldn't track down most of the minors who were placed with sponsors there, according to the people familiar with the investigation. It's not uncommon for federal officials to lose contact with unaccompanied children after their release from government custody. The status of probes into other jurisdictions, including Woodburn, Ore., following a similar pattern was not immediately clear. A Department of Labor spokesperson said the Wage and Hour Division has investigations open with HHS related to labor violations in the Southeastern U.S., but declined to provide additional details. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) on Tuesday accused the Department of Homeland Security of "washing your hands" of children's well-being after they're transferred to HHS and then to sponsors. Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas pushed back on the characterization and said he has "confidence in the dedication" of HHS personnel charged with caring for migrant children.

[Mexico] Mexican president says he will call out US lawmakers who vote against immigration reform

The Hill [11/16/2021 1:14 PM, Rafael Bernal, 2054K] reports that Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Tuesday he will personally call out U.S. members of Congress who vote against immigration reform. "If legislators from one party block this initiative, we will call them out at a later time in a respectful manner. We will make it known from here that legislators from one party did not help something that is just and humanitarian," said López Obrador at his daily press conference. The remarks were first reported by Mexican daily Reforma. López Obrador also praised President Biden, whom he credited with a proposal to regularize the status of 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. "No president has made a deeper commitment in benefit of migrants than President Biden," López Obrador said. "He committed to 11 million, to regularize the situation of 11 million migrants," he added. Biden's Build Back Better spending bill, which is still to be debated in Congress but should get a House vote later this week, currently includes language that could grant some form of immigration relief to about 7 million foreign nationals in the United States. On the campaign trail, Biden did commit to creating a "road map to citizenship" for 11 million undocumented immigrants, in conjunction with Congress. López Obrador and Biden are due to meet in person, along with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, at the White House on Thursday.

[Mexico] Over 1,500 migrants in Mexico caravan regularized, government says

Reuters [11/16/2021 11:08 PM, Tamara Corro, 5304K] reports more than 1,500 members of a migrant caravan that set off toward the U.S. border from southern Mexico last month have been issued documents to regularize their stay in Mexico, the migration authority said on Tuesday. The National Migration Institute

(INM) said it had given 1,574 foreign nationals migration cards and ensured they could work in Mexico since the caravan set off on Oct. 23. Enduring adverse weather and under pressure from officials to give up, the caravan containing many women and children has made slow progress through southern Mexico, and on Tuesday moved into the Gulf state of Veracruz from neighboring Oaxaca. Reuters witnesses estimated up to 1,500 people entered Veracruz. Organizers of the caravan put the figure at 2,000. About 3,000 people were in the caravan when it set out, though some estimates since then have put the number higher. Overnight, the caravan stopped in the municipality of Jesus Carranza on Veracruz's border with Oaxaca.

[Mexico] U.S. offers reward for criminal group to which "El Chapo" Guzman's brother belongs
Telemundo [11/16/2021 7:18 PM, Staff, 38K] reports the U.S. State Department on Friday announced a \$5 million reward for information leading to the arrest or conviction of four Mexican drug traffickers, including Aureliano Guzmán Loera, brother of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera. This, after the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona unsealed two indictments against "high-ranking members of the Sinaloa Cartel for international drug trafficking". The other three are brothers Ruperto Salgueiro Nevárez, José Salgueiro Nevárez and Heriberto Salgueiro Nevárez, whom U.S. authorities identify as a cell of the Sinaloa Cartel. The brother of "Chapo" Guzmán, who is imprisoned in the United States, and the Salgueiro Nevárezes are accused of violating U.S. drug laws by allegedly distributing controlled substances internationally, including fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana. The indictments date back to Nov. 13, 2019, and Feb. 19, 2020, but were sealed.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Immigration Court accumulates almost 1.5 million cases and the waiting time continues to increase

Univision [11/16/2021 2:27 PM, Jorge Cancino, 389K] reports that the portfolio of processes in the Immigration Court does not stop and is approaching the barrier of 1.5 million cases. The conclusion was reported this week in a report by researchers at Syracuse University's Center for Transactional Records Information and Access. The study indicates that in October alone, the first month of fiscal year 2022, some 50,000 new deportation cases were added to the Immigration Review Office, bringing the cumulative to 1,486,495 cases. The report adds that immigration judges "completed 21,154 cases in October, less than half of the total number of new cases that go to court, which means that the total number of pending cases continues to grow each month." In January 2017, when then-President Barack Obama handed over command to Donald Trump, the Immigration Court had accumulated some 520,000 cases. Four years later, when Trump handed over the mandate to Joe Biden, the EOIR had just over 1.2 million cases, an increase of 56.67%. Report details. The TRAC report highlights that immigration courts have recorded the receipt of 49,817 new cases so far in fiscal 2022. In the same period of fiscal year 2021, there were 21,154 cases that were completed. The report further indicates that, according to court records, "Only 0.68% of new cases in fiscal year 2022 sought deportation orders based on any alleged criminal activity of the immigrant, in addition to possible illegal entry." The revised data also indicates that the courts located in Los Angeles County have the majority of deportation cases pending in Immigration Court. And so far in fiscal year 2022, immigration judges have issued removal and voluntary departure orders in 24.7% of completed cases.

[CA] She promised them citizenship so they could visit dying relatives, but they ended up scammed out of \$ 5,000

Univision [11/16/2021 6:10 PM, Staff, 389K] reports a woman posing as an immigration consultant turned herself in to authorities after allegedly defrauding thousands of dollars from people seeking to adjust their immigration status through citizenship procedures and the Deferred Action program, DACA. In a statement, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office identified the suspect as Jasmine E. Sánchez, 36, whom they accused of fraud, theft and violations of the Immigration Consultants Act. Sánchez operated

from an office in the La Tropicana shopping center, located at 1692 Story Road, in San José. Noticias Univision 14 attended dispatch number 200 and was able to verify that the offices are closed.

[CA] Judge: Iraqi refugee held on murder claims can be deported

The [AP](#) [11/16/2021 8:47 PM, Don Thompson, 706K] reports an Iraqi refugee initially accused of committing a killing for the Islamic State terror group before coming to the U.S. is eligible to be deported because he lied on his immigration papers, a federal judge decided Tuesday. Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Tara Naselow-Nahas ruled that Omar Abdulsattar Ameen lied when he was filling out his refugee application to gain entry into the United States. Among other things, she found he wasn't being truthful when he said he had never interacted with, knew or had involvement with various terrorist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq. But she rejected other allegations, including that he provided support, engaged in terrorist activity, participated in harming another person, or misrepresented that he was a member of such a group. Naselow-Nahas found that Ameen interacted with a cousin "who is clearly a member of an armed terrorist group." She also found the government proved that he lied when he said his father had been fatally shot and that his brother had been kidnapped.

[China] U.S. and China Agree to Ease Restrictions on Journalists

The [New York Times](#) [11/16/2021 3:00 PM, Michael D. Shear] reports the United States and China announced an agreement on Tuesday to ease restrictions on foreign journalists operating in the two countries, tempering a diplomatic confrontation that led to the expulsion of some American reporters from China during the last year of the Trump administration. The deal was first reported by China Daily, a newspaper controlled by the Chinese government, and later confirmed by a statement issued from the State Department. Under the agreement, made public just a day after President Biden met with President Xi Jinping of China, three news organizations — The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The New York Times — will be allowed to send journalists back to China, though it remained unclear whether the specific correspondents expelled last year will be permitted to return to work there.

The [AP](#) [11/16/2021 10:50 PM, Staff] reports in a statement to The Associated Press late Tuesday, the State Department said China had committed to issuing visas for a group of U.S. reporters "provided they are eligible under all applicable laws and regulations." "We will also continue issuing visas to (Chinese) journalists who are otherwise eligible for the visa under U.S. law," the statement said. China also committed to increase the length for which U.S. media visas are valid from the current 90 days to one year. "On a reciprocal basis, we are committing to increase validity of U.S. visas issued to PRC journalists to one year as well," the State Department statement said, referring to the People's Republic of China. Both sides will also offer multiple-entry visas, it said.

Reported similarly:

[Washington Post](#) [11/17/2021 2:17 AM, Lily Kuo, 12515K]

[Bloomberg](#) [11/16/2021 9:53 AM, Staff, 8629K]

[Reuters](#) [11/16/2021 10:06 AM, Staff]

[Axios](#) [11/16/2021 5:03 PM, Zachary Basu, 526K]

Customs and Border Protection

As migrants travel to the U.S., the U.S. tries to stop them south of the border

[NPR](#) [11/16/2021 4:20 PM, Ailsa Chang, Miguel Macias, Justine Kenin, 5854K] Audio: [HERE](#) reports NPR's Ailsa Chang speaks with journalists Maria Hinojosa and Julieta Martinelli about their reporting in Mexico and Colombia on the policies designed to stop migrants from reaching the U.S border.

Reuters reports: Mexico evaluates tightening entry requirements for Venezuelans at the request of the US

[Univision](#) [11/16/2021 1:07 PM, Staff, 389K] reports that in the first month of fiscal year 2022, the Border Patrol detained 13,385 Venezuelans at the southern boundary, a number that had not been seen in the

past two previous fiscal years. The figure led the United States to pressure Mexico to tighten the requirements for the admission of Venezuelans, according to a report by Reuters. A Mexican official told the agency that the measures could begin to be implemented soon. Another explained that they are reviewing the options with Venezuela and exploring the possibility of imposing a visa. Until now, citizens of the South American country do not require a visa to enter Mexico. A third source said the United States is urging its neighbor to take measures to slow down the entry of Venezuelans, noting repeated complaints from Border Patrol agents about the spike in arrests of citizens of that country. Mexico, the source explained, seeks to ensure that those who enter do not do so by telling lies. A fourth source assured that the US effort with Mexico is being made through informal diplomatic channels and the Department of Homeland Security, but without exerting strong pressure, as it did during the Donald Trump administration in the face of migratory crises. In the previous two fiscal years, the bulk of Venezuelans who have been detained are adults who arrived alone across the Rio Grande from Mexico. A much smaller number are Venezuelan children who traveled without their parents or guardians to the southern border and were arrested: 7 in 2020, 315 in 2021 and 86 in October 2022.

Mike Braun says Democrats trying to appropriate money to tear down border wall, calls it 'craziness'

FOX News [11/16/2021 12:53 PM, Staff, 11051K] reports that Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind., said Tuesday on "Fox & Friends" that Democrats want to appropriate money to tear down the border wall installed under the Trump administration. SEN. MIKE BRAUN: This is a man-made crisis by a one-man wrecking ball named Joe Biden because he did it, it was Trump, and we're not going to keep those policies in place. We were down there at the border in March and saw all the atrocities, including the smugglers heckling at us, and that was at about 75,000 illegal crossings, it's now about triple that. This is a disaster and in this spending bill, listen to this. There's not only no money there for the wall or for the security that the Border Patrol wants, but they want to appropriate money to start tearing it down. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[TX] Border Patrol rescues 5-year-old girl abandoned on border island

Telemundo 48 El Paso [11/16/2021 5:58 PM, Staff, 10K] reports agents assigned to the Eagle Pass Station rescued a 5-year-old girl after she was dropped off on a small island on November 13. According to authorities, agents encountered a group of migrants who entered the United States illegally near Eagle Pass, Texas. An adult woman in the group informed agents that her youngest daughter was left on an island in the Rio Grande between the United States and Mexico. Agents notified the Eagle Pass Station River Unit, which immediately responded to the area and located a total of 10 undocumented migrants on the island, including the youngest. The family members, both of Venezuelan nationality, immediately gathered at the scene. "Human traffickers are cold and calculated, often separating families for their own convenience or to achieve compliance," said Acting Chief Patrol Agent for Del Rio Sector Robert Danley. "Fortunately, our officers acted quickly and were able to locate the girl and reunite her with her mother without incident," he concluded.

[ND] Audit: North Dakota firm was properly awarded wall contract

The AP [11/16/2021 5:00 PM, James MacPherson] reports the Defense Department's internal watchdog said its investigation into a \$400 million border wall contract found it was properly awarded to a North Dakota firm whose owner used multiple appearances on Fox News to push for the job. The Pentagon's inspector general on Monday released results of the audit, requested last year by House Homeland Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, a Mississippi Democrat. "We reviewed Fisher Sand and Gravel's proposal, compared it to the solicitation, and agreed with (the Corps') assessment that it was the LPTA (Lowest Price Technically Acceptable) and was properly awarded the contract," the audit said. The inspector general's report said Corps officials testified that "there was no undue influence," and that none of the documents reviewed by investigators "provided evidence that there was undue influence from the White House or members of Congress" that affected the award of the contract to Fisher Sand and Gravel. The report, however, noted investigators weren't able to get answers from some Corps employees

because they were instructed by administration lawyers “to not answer our specific questions about communications between the White House and senior (Corps) officials.”

Transportation Security Administration

[WI] Air travel in Wisconsin returning to pre-pandemic levels

The AP [11/16/2021 10:43 AM, Staff, 706K] reports that Wisconsin airports are returning to pre-pandemic traffic levels as the busy holiday season gets underway. Dane County Regional Airport has seen traffic increase every month this year since the COVID-19 vaccine became widely available, officials said. According to Milwaukee County’s Mitchell International Airport marketing coordinator Christie Green, the number of flights during Thanksgiving week is expected to be up 50% compared to last year, but down about 7% compared to the same week in 2019. Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport director Marty Piette says the size of the airport means even on a busy day, travelers are unlikely to wait long at TSA checkpoints. “We are in constant communication with our TSA stakeholders just to keep apprised of the situation,” he said. “But from a staffing standpoint, we’re going to be OK here.” Still, airport officials are encouraging travelers to arrive early - at least two hours in Milwaukee and 90 minutes in Madison. The federal Transportation Security Administration isn’t expecting any major disruptions for holiday travel. The Thanksgiving holiday coincides with the start of a vaccine requirement for federal airport security officers. TSA workers must be vaccinated by Nov. 22 unless the Biden administration honors a request from the American Federation of Government Employees asking to delay the deadline, Wisconsin Public Radio reported. In a letter to White House officials, the union cites a confusing “double standard” because federal contractors are not required to be vaccinated until early next year.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Infrastructure bill unleashes funding to address risky dams

The AP [11/16/2021 2:57 PM, David A. Lieb] reports states will soon be flooded with federal money to address a pent-up need to repair, improve or remove thousands of aging dams across the U.S., including some that could inundate towns or neighborhoods if they fail. The roughly \$3 billion for dam-related projects pales in comparison to the tens of billions of dollars going to roads, rails and high-speed internet in the \$1 trillion infrastructure plan signed Monday by President Joe Biden. But it’s a lot more than dam projects had been getting. Over the past decade, the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided more than \$400 million for projects involving dams, mostly to repair damage from natural disasters. But until just a few years ago, there was no national program focused solely on improving the thousands of dams overseen by state and local entities. FEMA’s Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program has divvied up \$31.6 million among 36 participating states from 2019-2021. That amount, appropriated by Congress, was barely one-fifth of what had been authorized under a 2016 federal law. The infrastructure bill provides more than 18 times that amount, pumping \$585 million into the program for hazardous dams, including \$75 million set aside for their removal. Because of administrative requirements, FEMA said the new money likely won’t start flowing to states before the 2023 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, 2022. Previous grants often have been enough only to cover engineering or planning expenses. “This funding will allow for significant increases in the number and amount of actual dam rehabilitation and removal projects which the current funding levels have not allowed,” said David Maurstad, FEMA’s deputy associate administrator for insurance and mitigation. Repairing and modernizing all 14,343 high-hazard dams that aren’t owned by the federal government could cost more than \$20 billion, according to an estimate by the dam safety association. The infrastructure legislation also includes \$148 million for FEMA to distribute to state dam safety offices — a significant increase over the \$6 million to \$7 million annually that has been divided among states. The new money could help states hire more staff or consultants to assess the safety of dams and develop emergency action plans. Every state except Alabama has a dam safety program, but many are underfunded and understaffed, creating a backlog of work.

[CO] Kruger Rock wildfire in Colorado poses "immediate and imminent danger," threatening homes and businesses

CBS News [11/16/2021 5:20 PM, Tori B. Powell, 2907K] reports mandatory evacuation orders have been issued for some Colorado residents and businesses as firefighters respond to the Kruger Rock Fire, which ignited Tuesday morning in Estes Park. Officials believe the 100-acre flame was ignited by an issue with power lines, CBS Denver reported. In a series of emergency messages, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office warned residents in the area that the fire poses "immediate and imminent danger." The fast-spreading fire is just 90 minutes away from Denver and is located at the eastern entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. The flame was reported just before 7 a.m. local time and none of it is contained at this point. The sheriff's office said structures in the area are threatened, but no damage has been reported as of Tuesday morning. Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith told CBS Denver there is concern the flames will reach U.S. Highway 36, which has since been closed from the eastern part of Estes Park to the western edge of Lyons.

[WY] Wind-stoked wildfire causes death in Wyoming, evacuations

The AP [11/16/2021 6:05 PM, Staff] reports wildfires pushed by strong winds forced the evacuation of homes in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado and led to a death in Wyoming, officials said Tuesday. Downed power lines caused a fire near the northern Wyoming community of Clark on Monday night that burned at least two homes and seven outbuildings, said Jerry Parker, the Park County Fire District administrator. Wind gusts topped 100 mph (161 kph) in the area Monday night. In south-central Montana, a fire reported at about 11:30 p.m. Monday led the Stillwater County Sheriff's Office to order evacuations southwest of the town of Absarokee, including an area between the communities of Ingersoll and Roscoe. Thirty-five evacuation notices were issued and deputies also went door-to-door, but it's not clear how many people left their residences, the sheriff's office said. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The fire had burned an estimated 6 square miles (16 square kilometers) in timber and rough terrain by Tuesday afternoon. Rain fell on the area Tuesday morning, but the wind increased the fire activity in the afternoon, said Tammie Mullikin, a spokesperson for the Stillwater County Sheriff's Office. In north-central Colorado, a fire southeast of Estes Park forced evacuations in a forested region of Larimer County while sending plumes of smoke toward the eastern plains. The fire was first reported about 7 a.m. in rugged terrain and triggered evacuations in the Hermit Park and Little Valley areas near Estes Park and, later, southward to the Boulder County line and east of U.S. Highway 36 between Estes Park and Lyons. The blaze grew to 115 acres (47 hectares), the Larimer County Sheriff's Office said. The cause of the fire was unknown.

[WA] Hundreds Rescued After Mudslides and Floods Pummel British Columbia

The New York Times [11/16/2021 12:14 AM, Christine Hauser, Ian Austen, Eduardo Medina, and Jesus Jiménez, 2730K] reports that hundreds of people were rescued from highways in British Columbia on Monday, officials said, after torrential rain set off mudslides that trapped people in their cars and prompted evacuations. Officials said that about 275 people who had been stuck on Highway 7 near the town of Agassiz, a small community east of Vancouver, since Sunday evening had been rescued. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported that the helicopter rescue operation had ended by nightfall. Jordan Turner, British Columbia's communications director for emergency management, said by telephone late Monday night that approximately 150 more people had been saved from other stretches of highway in the area. He said that crews had whisked drivers away by helicopter and cleared debris from the road. "There are no longer any people or vehicles stranded between slides at this point in time," he said. Mike Farnworth, British Columbia's minister of public safety, told reporters on Monday afternoon that about 80 to 100 vehicles had become trapped on Highway 7. Rescues were underway in Agassiz and the nearby district of Hope, he added. "We've heard from people who are concerned about their loved ones being in their vehicles and trapped on these slides," he said. "We hear you, and we know it's difficult. But help is on the way." As of Monday afternoon, there had been no confirmed reports of fatalities from any accidents related to the severe weather, Mr. Farnworth said. The weather system was caused by an atmospheric river, part of a convergence of storms that was so vast that it swept from California into Washington and southern British Columbia. The Hill [11/16/2021 10:40 AM, Joseph Guzman, 2054K] reports that heavy

rains and powerful winds brought on by an atmospheric river caused severe flooding and mudslides in parts of Washington state and Canada Monday, prompting evacuations and rescues in several communities. Several flood warnings were issued by the National Weather Service in western Washington and rivers began to swell Monday following days of rainfall, according to The Associated Press. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) issued a severe weather emergency proclamation for 14 western Washington counties to direct state resources to do “everything reasonably possible” to help those negatively affected by the weather, as some areas logged up to 6 inches of rain over the past several days. Wind gusts reached upwards of 60 miles per hour in some areas, with the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport clocking winds at 58 mph. Flooding and mudslides forced the closure of the I-5 in both directions in Whatcom County, which sits along the Canadian border. Southbound lanes in some areas began reopening early Tuesday, according to local King 5. Residents of Hamilton, a town northeast of Seattle, and Mount Vernon were advised to evacuate the area Sunday. Whatcom County officials said about 500 people were displaced in the north and northeast areas of the county due to flooding and hundreds were moved to shelter locations. Emergency officials in the county were conducting search and rescue missions Monday night. At one point Monday more than 158,000 people were without power in the region, according to The Associated Press. By Tuesday morning about 50,000 were without electricity.

Reported similarly:

Alabama Public Radio [11/16/2021 11:46 AM, Joe Hernandez, 1K]

[PR] An arrest warrant, a fugitive CEO: Puerto Rico’s effort to privatize its electrical grid is off to a rocky start

The Washington Post [11/16/2021 6:00 AM, Arelis R. Hernández and Douglas MacMillan, 12515K] reports a phalanx of armed deputies wearing bulletproof vests descended on the corporate offices of the company hired to fix Puerto Rico’s antiquated power grid. They were looking for Luma Energy chief executive Wayne Stensby, who had been labeled a fugitive by local lawmakers for refusing demands to turn over documents related to the company. The deputies didn’t find Stensby, and the warrant that had been issued for his arrest was suspended after he handed over a memory drive with thousands of documents that leaders of the territory’s House of Representatives are reviewing as part of a probe into Luma’s use of public money. But the drama that unfolded last week was the latest chapter in the almost-biblical saga of the island’s efforts to fix its failing infrastructure as its more than 3 million residents face increasing extreme-weather events. “It’s a story that goes back forever, involves thousands of players, involving many sins and many calls to ‘come to Jesus,’” said Tom Sanzillo, director of financial analysis for the nonprofit Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, which has studied the island’s power grid. The hiring of Luma last year marked a new beginning for the island: a 16-year, \$1.5 billion experiment with privatization. Luma, a venture created by two energy companies — Alberta, Canada-based ATCO and Houston-based Quanta Services — was contracted to distribute electricity to 1.5 million customers and make badly needed upgrades to the power grid. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has allocated nearly \$10 billion in taxpayer funds for the effort. The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), the state-run utility provider, now only manages the generation of electricity. But in the five months it has been in charge, problems have worsened, by many measures, including numerous sustained power outages and rate increases that have infuriated customers and lawmakers.

Secret Service

[NH] Former bank manager used dead customers’ identities to defraud employer

Union Leader [11/16/2021 4:48 PM, Shawne Wickham, 29K, Positive, Secondary] reports a former Salem bank manager has been sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison for stealing more than \$560,000 from his bank using the accounts and identities of dead customers. Kazi Pervez, 42, of Methuen, Mass., was convicted of bank fraud, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney’s office, which prosecuted the case. Pervez, who pleaded guilty last March, was also ordered to forfeit \$454,730 for restitution. According to court documents, Pervez was working at a branch of Santander Bank in Salem in 2016 and 2017 when he devised a scheme to defraud the bank. Pervez opened bank accounts or

directed other bank employees to do so, using the identities and personal information of deceased customers, authorities said. He then withdrew funds from the accounts that exceeded the balance of those accounts and “used his authority as branch manager to authorize the overdraft from the account,” court documents said. Pervez also identified inactive accounts of dead customers and transferred more than \$450,000 to accounts at other banks, or used the funds to pay his bills, authorities said. John Farley, acting U.S. Attorney, called what Pervez did a “significant breach of trust.” The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service.

[MA] Massachusetts Man Sentenced to Over One Year in Prison for Bank Fraud

The [United States Department of Justice](#) [11/16/2021 3:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary] reports Kazi Pervez, 42, of Methuen, Massachusetts was sentenced to 12 months and 1 day in federal prison for bank fraud, Acting United States Attorney John J. Farley announced today. According to court documents and statements made in court, Pervez was a branch manager for a bank in Salem, New Hampshire. From at least April of 2016 until September of 2017, Pervez used his position as branch manager to steal or attempt to steal more than \$560,000 from the bank. For example, Pervez opened or instructed bank employees to open accounts in the name of deceased bank customers. Pervez then withdrew funds from the accounts that exceeded the balance of the accounts and used his authority as branch manager to authorize the overdrafts from the account. Pervez also identified inactive bank accounts of deceased bank customers and transferred money out of those accounts to other accounts that he controlled. Pervez previously pleaded guilty on March 29, 2021. In addition to his sentence, Pervez was ordered to forfeit \$454,730.26, which will be used for restitution. “The US Secret Service is committed to investigating complex fraud schemes especially those that involve the exploitation of elderly and deceased victims.” stated Timothy Benitez, Resident Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service's New Hampshire Office. This matter was investigated by the United States Secret Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Matthew T. Hunter and John Kennedy and former Assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold Huftalen. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Rabuck assisted with the forfeiture aspects of the case.

[RI] Rhode Island man pleads guilty to child pornography charges

The [AP](#) [11/16/2021 8:46 AM, Staff, 2730K] reports that a Rhode Island man who was twice arrested on child pornography charges, the second time while he was waiting trial following his first arrest, has pleaded guilty, federal prosecutors said. Jacob S. Munroe, 23, faces up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced in February, according to a statement Monday from the U.S. attorney's office in Rhode Island. Munroe, who lives in the Pascoag village of Burrillville, was first arrested in June 2019 when illicit images were found on his cellphone after Homeland Security agents found that child pornography posted to an Internet messaging and networking application was tied to Munroe's IP address, authorities said. In an unrelated investigation, while awaiting trial on charges related to first arrest, Munroe was arrested by Rhode Island State Police in November 2020 when it was determined that he downloaded images depicting child pornography. He pleaded guilty Monday to distribution of child pornography and possession of child pornography, prosecutors said.

[DE] Biden Delaware trips cost taxpayers about \$3M in Secret Service alone

The [New York Post](#) [11/16/2021 7:31 PM, Steven Nelson, 6459K, Neutral, Secondary] reports Americans may be grappling with how to put food on the table amid a sharp rise in the cost of everyday goods — but you'd never know it from the tab President Biden has racked up on their dime. Biden's choice of regular weekend and a few midweek trips home to Delaware have cost nearly \$3 million in security alone, Secret Service expense records shared with The Post show. Biden's security detail spent \$1.96 million on 16 trips to his Delaware homes this year, the records indicate. Another nine trips aren't yet counted and likely push the total to \$3 million. Those 25 trips have been racked up in just 43 weeks in office. And the true price tag to taxpayers is higher because the Pentagon hasn't released costs for Air Force One and Marine One helicopter trips. “Most Americans know that Biden is being hidden because he isn't fit for office,” a former Trump White House official taunted. “What they may not realize is that they're paying insane amounts of money for him to be tucked into bed in Delaware every weekend.” The documented expenses

mostly cover hotels and rental cars for Secret Service agents, as well as airfare and train tickets for them to reach Delaware.

[NC] Second person accused in murder of 15-year-old in shooting near Southside Park in Charlotte

WBTV News [11/16/2021 6:05 PM, Staff, 56K, Positive, Secondary] reports a second person has been accused in the murder of a 15-year-old who was shot to death in south Charlotte in October. Detectives have now charged 19-year-old Taizojh Deaveon Smith for the murder of 15-year-old Daliamontray Decarlo Strothers Jr. Detectives had already previously charged 18-year-old Dametrius Hilliard in the murder. According to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, officers responded to a shooting in the area of Griffith Street and Fairwood Avenue, which is near Southside Park, at 11:58 p.m. on Oct. 12. When they arrived, they found the victim, who was taken to Atrium Main with life-threatening injuries. As a result of continued investigation, detectives identified Smith as the suspect in this case, and warrants were issued for his arrest. On Nov. 16, Smith was located and arrested in Statesville by CMPD with assistance from the U.S. Secret Service, Statesville Police Department, and N.C. Highway Patrol. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[AL] In Alabama, Training for Cyber Crime and Competing in War Games

The Wall Street Journal [11/16/2021 5:30 AM, James Rundle, Neutral, Primary] reports around 300 police and National Guard officers from all corners of the U.S. filtered into a drab, white building off Interstate 65 in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. They were there to learn about ransomware from each other, and the U.S. Secret Service. This October day would not be a rehashing of cybersecurity nostrums. Instead, Aaron Sparling, an investigator of 17 years at the Portland Police Bureau in Oregon, was going for something more visceral. In a contained system, he proceeded to set off one of the most destructive malware variants in recent memory for students at the Secret Service's National Computer Forensics Institute. "Essentially, what I did was I took a virtual machine and detonated the WannaCry virus," he said, referring to the ransomware that ripped through public and private organizations in 2017 and counted over 200,000 victims in 150 countries, including FedEx Corp. and Britain's National Health Service by the time it was done. Hands-on experience with a live virus showed students just how the malware goes to work in real time, as instructors coached them in ways to cut detection and response times from hours to minutes, Mr. Sparling said. "I think they had a lot of fun with that," he said. The weeklong event included sessions on incident response and practical education. The following week the Secret Service hosted a war game, in which teams from law-enforcement agencies competed in responding to a ransomware attack on critical infrastructure—the nightmare scenario for U.S. officials, who have called ransomware a national-security threat.

[OH] South Bloomfield Police Warn on Counterfeit Bills

The Scioto Post [11/16/2021 7:00 AM, Jeremy Newman, Neutral, Secondary] reports that, in October, they posted a story on counterfeit bills being passed in Pickaway and Ross county now they seem to have hit South Bloomfield also. South Bloomfield reported today that they have found some fake money in their town also The money looks real but has some telltale signs if inspected with words that say, "Copy Money" but other than that a quick glance and it could be taken as real. If you own a local business please share the post with others it is unsure if there are other denominations out there.

[TX] McLennan County law enforcement recovers \$75,000 in stolen property

The Waco Tribune Herald [11/16/2021 7:18 PM, Amaris E. Rodriguez, 46K, Positive, Secondary] reports items stolen from a man's store the day after he died were among almost \$75,000 in stolen property area law enforcement officials recently recovered, including high-priced guitars, firearms, fishing rods, electronics and more, McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara said Tuesday. The sheriff's office, a U.S. Marshals Service task force, and Waco, Bruceville-Eddy, Lacy Lakeview and Bellmead police departments were involved in arrests of three people involved in the thefts, McNamara said. Officials arrested Tony Glenn Fisher and Destiny Renee McCollum on Nov. 8 at a residence in the 1600 block of San Jacinto Street in Bellmead. Isaiah Garvin was arrested Nov. 4. McNamara said all three were

involved in burglaries, but McCollum was arrested on one charge, possession of a controlled substance. Her specific involvement is unclear. "It was a combined effort, a combined investigation of all of these agencies that brought together these three creeps that you see on the board," McNamara said. He said Garvin called the family of a man he knew who died Oct. 31 to offer his condolences. The day after the man's death, Garvin robbed his store, McNamara said. On the day of his arrest, Fisher also had "a large quantity of counterfeit cash," McNamara said. None of his charges appear to involve counterfeit cash. He previously has been charged for counterfeiting money, McNamara said.

[SD] Fake \$100 bills circulating in Lead

The [Black Hills Pioneer](#) [11/16/2021 1:00 PM, Wendy Pitlick, Neutral, Secondary] reports three counterfeit \$100 bills have circulated around the Lead area over the last two weeks, Lead Police Chief John Wainman said Monday. During the regular city commission meeting, Wainman reported that area banks alerted him to the fake bills. "They look pretty real and they feel real," Wainman said. "They're pretty authentic. They're better than most forgeries." One telltale sign of the counterfeit bills are the tiny words "Movie Money" at the top of the bills. But if a cashier or someone doing business does not know to inspect the bill, it could slip by undetected. Wainman said businesses or individuals who receive \$100 bills should check them with a marker or inspect them closely for anything that could be suspicious. Anyone who detects these bills is encouraged to contact the Lead Police Department, 584-1615.

Coast Guard

Coast Guard prioritizing climate change resiliency, workforce in infrastructure investments

The [Federal News Network](#) [11/16/2021 6:20 PM, David Thornton, 76K] reports the U.S. Coast Guard has received nearly \$2 billion in shore infrastructure appropriations since 2018. Vice Adm. Paul Thomas, deputy commandant for Mission Support at the Coast Guard, told the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation subcommittee that the service is investing much of those funds into resiliency and its workforce. But the General Accountability Office is worried that it isn't enough. "Our work identified that almost half of the Coast Guard's shore infrastructure is beyond its service life, resulting in costly recapitalization construction and maintenance project backlogs, and as of 2019, these backlogs totaled more than \$2.6 billion," Heather MacLeod, acting director for Homeland Security and Justice at GAO, said during the Nov. 16 hearing. "In fact, in 2018, the Coast Guard estimated that it would take almost 400 years to address the \$1.77 billion backlog of major projects reported for that year. Also, it's likely that the estimated costs to address the backlog are understated. This is particularly concerning not only because of the amount of time needed to address the backlog, but because of other potential impacts. For example, we have identified that deferring maintenance can lead to higher costs in the long run, while also risking posing risks to safety, security, readiness, staffing, resources and mission execution." Added on top of that is the cost of responding to the effects of climate change as the Coast Guard invests in its facilities. MacLeod said that cost needs to be incorporated into all of the Coast Guard's projects. Thomas said the process of folding those costs into the backlog is underway – though still in its infancy – as part of a greater climate change vulnerability assessment.

[MI] 11-year-old sole survivor of plane crash saved by father's last 'bear hug'

[ABC News](#) [11/16/2021 7:41 AM, Mina Kaji and Bill Hutchinson, 23K] reports that the 11-year-old sole survivor of a plane crash was saved by her father's last hug, her mother believes. "Her last memory is her dad just grabbed her and held her really, really tight," Christie Perdue told ABC News transportation correspondent Gio Benitez about her daughter, Laney. Perdue explained that Laney suffered injuries only on one side of her body, and the other side was protected by one of her father's "big, bear hugs." She also shared that Laney is now recovering at the children's hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "She has five broken bones all over the place, but she is amazing and she's inspiring." The commuter plane carrying Laney, her father and three others crashed Saturday at the Welke Airport on Beaver Island in the far northern part of Lake Michigan. The Island Airways aircraft was attempting to land at the Welke Airport after departing from Charlevoix, Michigan, about 32 miles away, according to a statement from the

Federal Aviation Administration. A helicopter crew from the Coast Guard Great Lakes was training in the area at the time and responded to an emergency call from the island. They flew Laney, who was critically injured, and a male adult, who initially survived the crash, to McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Coast Guard officials said. The male victim was later pronounced dead at the hospital. The helicopter crew performed chest compressions on Laney en route to the children's hospital, the Coast Guard Great Lakes said in a tweet.

[WA] Coast Guard rescues 10, including baby, from raging Washington floodwaters

The Hill [11/16/2021 3:45 PM, Joseph Guzman, 2054K] reports new video shows the moments Coast Guard crew members rescued 10 people from the severe flooding that slammed the Pacific Northwest Monday. The video tweeted by the Coast Guard Pacific Northwest shows several instances of crews hoisting adults and children stranded on roofs into a helicopter as floodwaters raged around them. The Coast Guard said six adults and four children, including one baby, were rescued in Forks, Wash., during the operation Monday. Crews were unable to get to the stranded residents by boat due to "excessive currents," and had to access them by air, according to KGW8. No one was injured in the rescue. The rescue was one of many in the region as an atmospheric river unleashed heavy rainfall over western Washington and parts of Canada. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) issued a severe weather emergency proclamation for 14 western Washington counties to direct state resources to do "everything reasonably possible" to help those negatively affected by the weather, as some areas logged up to 6 inches of rain over the past several days. Whatcom County officials said about 500 people were displaced in the north and northeast areas of the county due to flooding and hundreds were moved to shelter locations. Emergency officials in the county were conducting search and rescue missions Monday night. At one point Monday nearly 160,000 people were without power in the region. By Tuesday afternoon, just under 50,000 were still without electricity, according to poweroutage.us.

Reported similarly:

USA Today [11/16/2021 8:00 AM, Staff, 7620K] Video: [HERE](#)

[CA] Lifeguards pull 3 Mexican citizens from ocean after report of large-scale crossing attempt

The San Diego Union Tribune [11/16/2021 9:17 PM, Karen Kucher, Alex Riggins, 353K] reports San Diego lifeguards pulled three people from the ocean Monday night after it was reported that dozens of people were attempting to swim from Mexico into the United States, authorities said. Tijuana officials reported the crossing attempt about 9:30 p.m., telling officials in San Diego there was "some sort of commotion down by the marine boundary line," Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex Gray, public affairs specialist with the Coast Guard, said late Monday. According to the Border Patrol, the agency "received a report that dozens of people were attempting to illegally swim across the international boundary ... near Border Field State Park." Agents responded to the area — where dense fog was covering much of the coast — and immediately requested help from the Coast Guard and San Diego Fire-Rescue Department firefighters and lifeguards. Rick Romero, a San Diego lifeguard lieutenant, said the three people pulled from the water were uninjured. Border Patrol agents then took custody of the trio, which consisted of a man, a woman and an unaccompanied juvenile boy who were all Mexican citizens, according to the agency.

CISA/Cybersecurity

FBI left out of the loop in cyberattack reporting bill

Politico [11/16/2021 11:55 AM, Betsy Woodruff Swan and Eric Geller, 2024K] reports that the FBI could be sidelined in new cybersecurity legislation, a top Bureau official told lawmakers Tuesday. And, in the view of America's most powerful law enforcement agency, that would be a big problem. In testimony to Congress, Bryan Vorndran, the assistant director of the FBI's Cyber Division, said that the Biden administration is "troubled" by legislation proposed by the Senate and House Homeland Security committees requiring a wide range of companies to report intrusions to the Department of Homeland

Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency but not simultaneously to the FBI. "Current incident reporting legislation being considered fails to recognize the critical expertise and role that DOJ, including the FBI, play when it comes to cyber incident reporting," Vorndran said in a statement for the record provided to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. "Cyber is the team sport, and the Department of Justice and the FBI are a key player," Vorndran continued. "It is time for legislation to reflect this reality." The Biden administration's stance throws a last-minute wrench into a yearslong effort to require key companies to disclose cyberattacks. The House's annual must-pass defense bill includes language requiring critical infrastructure operators and federal contractors to alert CISA if they are hacked. Similar language is likely to make it into the Senate's version of the bill. The provision — the result of weeks of negotiations between the leaders of the Senate homeland security and intelligence panels — would represent the most sweeping cyber regulation ever imposed on the private sector.

Reported similarly:

[Washington Times](#) [11/15/2021 7:00 PM, Ryan Lovelace, 389K]

Oversight finds 'small lapses' in security led to Colonial Pipeline, JBS hacks

[The Hill](#) [11/16/2021 2:45 PM, Maggie Miller, 2054K] reports a series of "small lapses" in cybersecurity led to several recent successful ransomware attacks, the House Oversight and Reform Committee concluded in a staff memo released Tuesday. "Ransomware attackers took advantage of relatively minor security lapses, such as a single user account controlled by a weak password, to launch enormously costly attacks," the memo reads. "Even large organizations with seemingly robust security systems fell victim to simple initial attacks, highlighting the need to increase security education and take other security measures prior to an attack." Beyond the security lapses, the committee also concluded that the companies impacted by ransomware attacks did not have clear points of contact with the federal government, hampering response efforts, and that they faced a huge amount of pressure to pay the attackers. The memo was published ahead of a hearing on ransomware attacks held by the Oversight and Reform panel on Tuesday, which featured National Cyber Director Chris Inglis and top officials from the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) giving testimony. "From an FBI perspective, we have not seen a decrease in ransomware attacks in the past couple of months originating from Russia," testified Bryan Vorndran, the assistant director of the FBI's Cyber Division. "We do have incomplete data, in a best case scenario, we only see about 20 percent of the intrusions in the country, no different than our partners at CISA, but the FBI has remained focused on investigating cyber criminals in and around Russia." "We will continue to pressure the Russians, but they must understand they must do their part," Inglis testified Tuesday.

G-7 Conducts Cyber-Security Exercise as Financial Threats Climb

[Bloomberg](#) [11/16/2021 10:12 AM, Christopher Condon, 227K] reports that Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and counterparts from other leading economic powers conducted a "cyber exercise" Tuesday to showcase the importance of international cooperation amid escalating threats to the financial system. The exercise included finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of Seven nations. It "covered how G-7 members will seek to cooperate in the hypothetical event of a significant, cross-border incident affecting the financial sector," the Treasury said in a statement Tuesday. Policy makers and regulators in the U.S. and other countries have pointed to cyber threats from criminal and state actors as an increasing threat to financial stability. The G-7 last year laid out a multi-year testing program to improve the ability of government and private-sector actors to respond to cyber attacks. In an April interview with CBS's "60 Minutes" program, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said he worried about potential scenarios in which a large payments system or financial institution might be crippled by a cyber attack. "There's a lot of effort going in to deal with those threats," he said at the time. "That's a big part of the threat picture in today's world." During Tuesday's session, Yellen "reaffirmed Treasury's commitment to counter the threats posed by ransomware and other malicious cyber activity across the financial services sector and economy," the statement said. A Treasury spokesperson didn't immediately respond to a request for more details about the exercise.

Data Breach Rule for Health Apps Leaves Developers in the Dark

Bloomberg [11/16/2021 5:36 AM, Christopher Brown, 19K] reports makers of health apps are scrambling to understand the extent of their legal liability after a divided Federal Trade Commission announced they're now required to inform users about data and privacy breaches—and if they have used their customers' health data without authorization. The commission approved 3-2 a policy statement that the makers of health apps, including apps on smartphones and fitness devices, must comply with the FTC Health Breach Notification Rule. The rule had previously applied to a much narrower set of health-information software, primarily apps used to collect and store health records from doctors and other health-care providers. Supporters say it's a welcome attempt to extend privacy protections to health data being gathered and stored by a new generation of health and fitness apps that hadn't been imagined when the breach notification rule was issued in 2009. These apps gather such information as menstrual cycles, fitness and sleep patterns, and blood-glucose levels. But app developers say the September statement leaves them in the dark about crucial questions, including which apps and app makers are included under the rule, and how big the fines could be for violations, especially in cases where an app maker has been sharing users' health information without authorization.

Terrorism Investigations

[TX] Grandmother reports 'locked and loaded' school board comment to FBI as domestic terror threat

FOX News [11/16/2021 8:35 PM, Tyler O'Neil, 11051K] reports a Fort Worth grandmother reached out to the Dallas office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to report what she described as a "terrorist threat" at a school board meeting last week. A local father who supports critical race theory had addressed anti-CRT protesters during a school board meeting and said, "I got over 1,000 soldiers ready to go," before adding, "locked and loaded." "I filed a report with the FBI office in Fort Worth," Ladonna Meyers, a grandmother of two who was at the school board meeting on Nov. 9, told Fox News in an interview Tuesday. "It's their job to check in on terrorism, and this was a terrorist threat." In the Fort Worth Independent School District board meeting on Nov. 9, Malikk Austin turned to address the parents who had spoken up about critical race theory. "For those who got an issue with this critical race theory equity, this is something I fight for, for my children," Austin, who is African American, began. "How dare you come out here and talk about the things that my daddy and my grandparents went through? The lynching, the oppression, Jim Crow — and my kids are still being afflicted by this." "We are not our ancestors," Austin added. "I got over 1,000 soldiers ready to go." After Austin's one minute to speak had run out, officers came and escorted him out of the room. During this time, he shouted, "I'll bring my soldiers with me next time... locked and loaded."

National Security News

[United Kingdom] British police declared Liverpool taxi explosion a 'terrorist incident,' but admit the motive remains unknown

The Washington Post [11/16/2021 2:48 PM, Karla Adam and Ellen Francis, 12515K] reports that British authorities are scrambling to understand the motives of the suspected bomber in a Liverpool taxi explosion who died in the blast, but that hasn't stopped them from quickly declaring the incident a terrorist attack. On Sunday, a taxi exploded outside of Liverpool Women's Hospital, and the following day, police designated it a terrorist incident even while acknowledging that "The motivation for this incident is yet to be understood." Police have not pointed to a target for the attack or confirmed details reported in local media about the suspect's background - but said it was declared a terrorist incident "Given all the circumstances." British police have broad discretion in what they label a "Terrorist incident," as long as it's consistent with the definition of terrorism in the Terrorism Act 2000, which includes the use or threat of serious violence "For the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause." Analysts said that in this case, the decision to label it as terrorism may be related to the use of an improvised explosive device in the attack, as well as other reasons not declared publicly. According to guidance on

the Crown Prosecution Service website, when explosives are used or threatened to be used, "It is not necessary to prove that the action is designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, as is the case with other terrorist offences." Analysts say, by designating the attack as terrorism, the local police force will have access to national resources, including intelligence services, specialist forensic officers and translation help.

[Iran] Video shows Iran helicopter's "unsafe" maneuver near U.S. warship

CBS News [11/16/2021 8:10 AM, Staff, 2907K] reports that the Pentagon on Monday accused Iran of "Unsafe and unprofessional" conduct by a naval helicopter that it said flew within about 25 yards of a U.S. Navy ship and circled it three times in the Gulf of Oman. Video published by Iranian media appeared to show the helicopter flying low and coming close to the USS Essex, an amphibious assault ship. Video circulating on Iranian Telegram channels today of an #Iran military helicopter getting close to what looks like the USS Essex. Would note this comes after US reported the USS Essex had an "Unsafe & unprofessional interaction" with multiple Iranian drones earlier this month. Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said the Iranian helicopter circled the USS Essex three times and at one point flew as low as 10 feet off the surface of the water. He said the incident on Nov. 11 had no effect on the Essex's operations. "Without getting into specifics, the crew of the Essex took the appropriate force protection measures they felt that they needed to, and they acted in accordance with international law," Kirby said. CBS News national security correspondent David Martin reports that previously, defense officials had said the encounter was not considered "unsafe and unprofessional" because the Iranian helicopter was not armed.

[Afghanistan] Taliban Warn of Mass Refugee Exodus if U.S. Keeps Funds Frozen

Bloomberg [11/17/2021 3:36 AM, Eltaf Najafizada, 8629K] reports the Taliban's top diplomat warned of an Afghan refugee exodus if the U.S. continues to block the release of some \$9 billion of the country's assets. "We are concerned that if the current situation prevails, the Afghan government and people will face problems and will become a cause for mass migration in the region and world," Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban's acting foreign minister, said in an open letter to the U.S. Congress. It will also exacerbate the humanitarian crisis, he said. The statement comes shortly before the United Nations Security Council holds a meeting to address the Afghan crisis. The country's economy is reeling as the Taliban struggles to stabilize Afghanistan's finances, with the World Food Program saying more than half of the population faces acute food insecurity. Muttaqi also said that Afghanistan is now secure under the Taliban leadership, posing no threat to the world and willing to engage in positive cooperation. He urged the U.S. to invest in the manufacturing, agriculture and mining sectors of the country. The U.S. had blocked the assets on concerns about the militant group's continued links with terrorism, human rights abuses and failure to build an inclusive government.

[Belarus] Group behind cyberattacks on multiple governments linked to Belarus

The Hill [11/16/2021 12:15 PM, Maggie Miller, 2054K] reports that hacking and disinformation groups believed to be behind attacks on governmental agencies in countries including Germany in recent months were linked by cybersecurity researchers on Tuesday to the Belarusian government. Researchers for cybersecurity company Mandiant made the attribution as part of a new report, assessing with "high confidence" that the activity of what has been labeled the "Ghostwriter" information campaign was "aligned with Belarusian government interests." A cyber espionage group, which Mandiant labeled "UNC1151," was also linked to the Belarusian government. Mandiant in April had reported that UNC1151 was helping conduct Ghostwriter influence operations. Targets of UNC1151 have included government and private sector groups in Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine and Germany, with UNC1151 going after Belarusian journalists, dissidents and media entities with a focus on stealing confidential information. Mandiant noted that while UNC1151 has targeted former Soviet nations, it had not gone after any state entities in either Russia or Belarus. The Ghostwriter campaign was previously linked by officials to the Russian government, including the European Union, which formally called out Russia for the attacks on members of Parliament, government officials and others in EU member states. The Associated Press reported in September that the German government was formally blaming Russia's GRU intelligence service for targeting German lawmakers ahead of the country's elections. Mandiant researchers on

Tuesday stressed that while “we cannot rule out Russian contributions ... at this time, we have not uncovered direct evidence of such contributions.”

[China] Biden, Xi Open to Nuclear-Arms Talks

The Wall Street Journal [11/16/2021 4:36 PM, Alex Leary, Lingling Wei and Michael R. Gordon] reports President Biden and President Xi Jinping of China have agreed to explore talks on arms control, a top White House official said, a day after the two used a virtual meeting to emphasize the need to avoid conflict on regional security and economic matters. “The two leaders agreed that we would look to begin to carry forward discussions on strategic stability,” White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Tuesday. Mr. Sullivan made clear the discussion was tentative. “It is now incumbent on us to think about the most productive way to carry it forward from here,” he said in response to a question about China’s growing military prowess during an event at the Brookings Institution think tank. Nuclear-arms talks, should they materialize, would be one of the few concrete outcomes from Monday night’s meeting, which ran more than three hours and saw Messrs. Biden and Xi holding firm to their positions on a range of issues, including Taiwan. The overall benefit of the meeting, experts said, was keeping lines of communication open. “This high-level meeting at a minimum paves the way for more intensive technical discussions about economic and geopolitical issues in which there remains a possibly unbridgeable gulf between the two sides,” said Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University. Reuters [11/16/2021 5:43 PM, David Brunnstrom, Michael Martina and Tom Daly, 5304K] reports Sullivan did not elaborate on what form the discussions on strategic stability could take, but went on to say: “That is not the same as what we have in the Russian context with the formal strategic stability dialogue. That is far more mature, has a much deeper history to it. There’s less maturity to that in the U.S.-China relationship, but the two leaders did discuss these issues and it is now incumbent on us to think about the most productive way to carry it forward.” Washington has repeatedly urged China to join it and Russia in a new arms control treaty. Beijing says the arsenals of the other two countries dwarf its own. It says it is ready to conduct bilateral dialogues on strategic security “on the basis of equality and mutual respect.”

[China] U.S.-China engagement to intensify - U.S. national security adviser

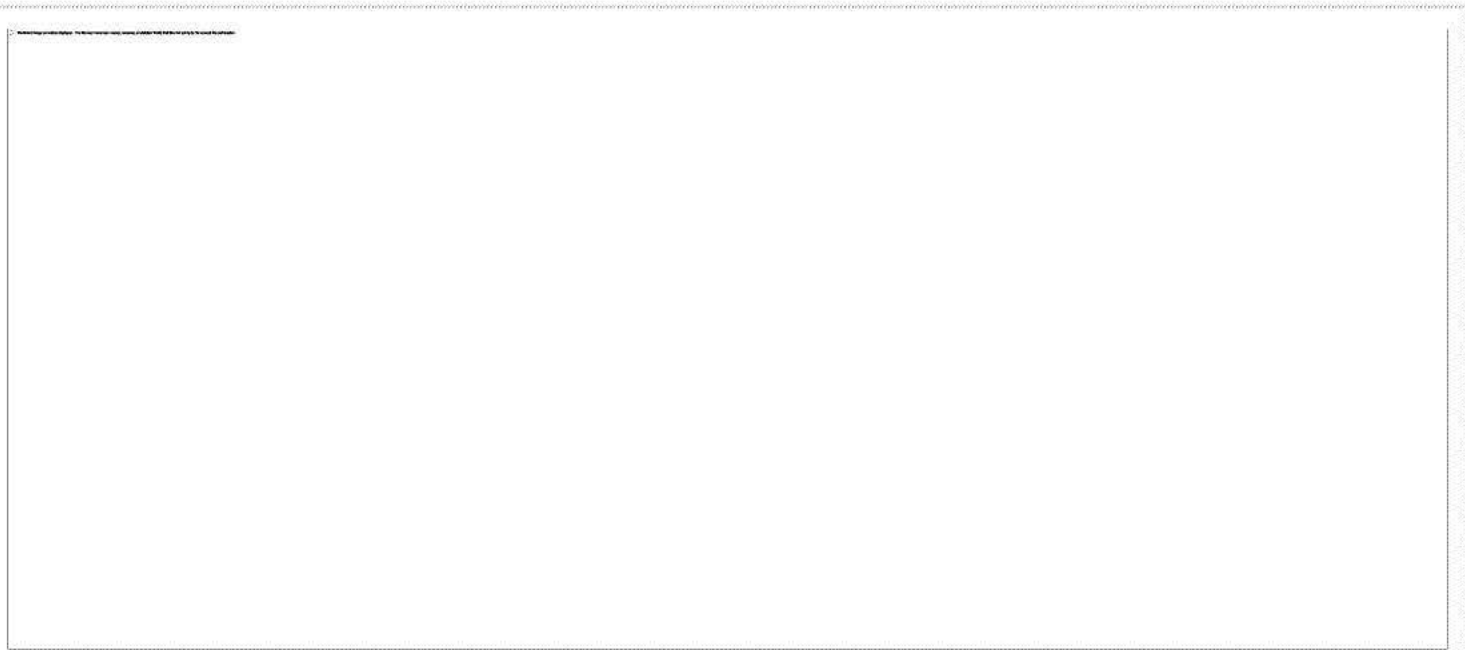
Reuters [11/16/2021 10:57 AM, Staff, 5304K] reports that U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday that U.S. engagement with China will intensify at multiple levels to ensure that competition between the two powers does not veer into conflict. Speaking hours after a virtual summit between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, Sullivan said the two leaders had agreed that “we would look to begin to carry forward discussion on strategic stability” - a reference to U.S. concerns about China’s nuclear and missile buildup. “President Biden did raise with President Xi the need for a strategic stability set of conversations...that that needs to be guided by the leaders and led by senior empowered teams on both sides that cut across security, technology and diplomacy,” Sullivan said in a Brookings Institution webinar. “You will see at multiple levels an intensification of the engagement to ensure that there are guardrails around this competition so that it doesn’t veer off into conflict.” Biden and Xi talked for about three and a half hours in their virtual meeting, but appeared to do little to narrow differences between the superpowers which have raised fears of an eventual conflict between them. The United States had envisioned the meeting, the leaders’ most in-depth exchange since Biden took office in January, as a way to put stability in a relationship increasingly troubled over a litany of issues, including what Washington sees as Beijing’s aggressive actions toward self-ruled Taiwan. In the meeting Biden pressed his Chinese counterpart on human rights and Xi warned that China would respond to provocations on Taiwan.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

Message

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: 9/29/2021 2:10:21 PM
To: YUM STATION COMMAND GML (b) (7)(E) YUM EXEC STAFF GML
cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(E)
Subject: FW: CBP Daily News Brief: September 29, 2021

Good Morning!



TOP NEWS | BORDER SECURITY (ALONG U.S. BORDERS) | BORDER SECURITY (PORTS OF ENTRY) | BORDER WALL | TRAVEL | TRADE | WORKFORCE | OPIOID | OPINION | IMMIGRATION | OF INTEREST |

September 29, 2021

Executive Summary

CNN reported that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday announced a new lawsuit against the Biden administration over its so-called catch and release immigration policy. DHS, CBP and ICE are among the defendants named in the complaint. Tuesday's lawsuit claims that -- under "catch and release" -- migrants who are "illegally released" by the Biden administration are "arriving or will arrive in Florida, harming the State's quasi-sovereign interests and forcing it to incur millions of dollars in expenses."

Meanwhile, the Houston Chronicle reported that more than 240 migrants arrested under Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's border security initiative are set to be released from state-run lockups after local prosecutors, overwhelmed by an influx of detained migrants, failed to bring charges as they sat in cells for weeks, an apparent violation of state law. Texas National Guard troops and state police have been mobilized by the hundreds to help round up and jail migrants caught crossing the border under Abbott's plan, known as Operation Lone Star.

In other news, the Associated Press reported that Mexican officials opened a mammoth reception center outside a soccer stadium near the Guatemala border Tuesday to ease a backlog in Mexico's asylum system and the resulting frustrations that drove thousands of applicants to head toward the U.S. The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance targeted those who had already made initial applications for protected status in Mexico but had waited months for an initial interview. Through August, Mexico had received nearly 80,000 asylum applications.

Top News

[A.1] DeSantis announces lawsuit against Biden administration over immigration policy

September 28, 2021 (CNN.com International - Paul LeBlanc) Reach: 27.7m

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday announced a new lawsuit against the Biden administration over its so-called catch and release immigration policy. DHS, CBP and ICE are among the defendants named in the complaint. Tuesday's lawsuit, filed by Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody in Pensacola, Florida, federal court, claims that -- under "catch and release" -- migrants who are "illegally released" by the Biden administration are "arriving or will arrive in Florida, harming the State's quasi-sovereign interests and forcing it to incur millions of dollars in expenses." As a result, the lawsuit in part seeks to deem unlawful both the release of undocumented immigrants subject to mandatory detention and the paroling of undocumented immigrants "without engaging in case-by-case adjudication or abiding by the other limits on that authority." The complaint also challenges what it characterizes as a failure "to serve charging documents or initiate removal proceedings" against "plainly inadmissible" undocumented immigrants being released into the U.S.

[A.2] Judge orders release of 240 migrants jailed under Abbott's border plan

September 28, 2021 (Houston Chronicle - Jasper Scherer) Reach: 2.7m

More than 240 migrants arrested under Gov. Greg Abbott's border security initiative are set to be released from state-run lockups after local prosecutors, overwhelmed by an influx of detained migrants, failed to bring charges as they sat in cells for weeks, an apparent violation of state law. Texas National Guard troops and state police have been mobilized by the hundreds to help round up and jail migrants caught crossing the border under Abbott's plan, known as Operation Lone Star. The plan broadly expands the state's role in immigration enforcement, which is typically left to the federal government, though Abbott has argued his new approach is necessary to handle a steep increase in border crossings since President Biden took office.

[A.3] Mexico tries to ease asylum backlog in face of frustrations

September 28, 2021 (The Associated Press - Unknown) Reach: 10.4m

Trying to ease a backlog in Mexico's asylum system and the resulting frustrations that drove thousands of applicants to head toward the U.S., Mexican officials opened a mammoth reception center outside a soccer stadium near the Guatemala border Tuesday. The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, with the help of the National Guard and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, targeted those who had already made initial applications for protected status in Mexico but had waited months for an initial interview. The site could handle as many as 2,000 people daily, said Alma Delia Cruz Márquez, the commission's local delegate. Previously, huge crowds had packed the streets around the commission's downtown offices in Tapachula jostling for position. The

commission receives 75% of all the applications for protective status through its offices in the southern state of Chiapas, Cruz said. Through August, Mexico had received nearly 80,000 asylum applications.

NEWS INDEX

Border Security (Along U.S. Borders)

[B.1] Arizona border flares up as new illegal immigration hot spot

September 28, 2021 (The Washington Times - Powered by Dow Jones - Stephen Dinan) Reach: 3.2m

Some 3,400 migrants — most of them Brazilian, Venezuelan or Cuban — were mired in Border Patrol holding facilities in Yuma, Arizona, over the weekend, according to the sheriff, who said he has never seen such unruliness.

[B.2] Texas Border Patrol agents discover stash houses packed with nearly 100 illegal immigrants

September 28, 2021 (Fox News - Bradford Betz) Reach: 58.8m

Border Patrol agents in Texas discovered two stash houses just a stone's throw from the U.S.-Mexico border packed with nearly 100 illegal immigrants.

[B.3] USBP agents arrest two migrants with fake documents

September 28, 2021 (Laredo Morning Times - César Rodriguez) Reach: 132k

Two migrants on board a commercial bus have been arrested for using fake documents to go through a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint, authorities said.

[B.4] Lost Mexican boy reunited with family in Rio Grande Valley

September 28, 2021 (BorderReport - Sandra Sanchez) Reach: 128k

U.S. Border Patrol agents helped a lost 7-year-old boy to reunite with his mother and three siblings after they crossed the Rio Grande on Monday near Mission, Texas.

[B.5] Upton Backs Resolution Calling For Border Enforcement

September 28, 2021 (97.5 Y-Country) Reach: 628

Congressman Fred Upton has co-sponsored a resolution calling on the Biden administration to fully enforce the nation's immigration laws and support border patrol officers amid a humanitarian crisis at the southern border.

[B.6] Calexico HSI part of widespread human smuggling investigation

September 29, 2021 (Imperial Valley Press Online) Reach: 119k

Homeland Security Investigations agents based in Calexico were part of an extensive interagency operation the resulted in the sentencing Tuesday in Texas of a Bangladeshi national to 46 months in prison for his role in a scheme to smuggle undocumented individuals from Mexico into the United States.

[B.7] Teen accused of harboring migrants in south Laredo stash house

September 28, 2021 (Laredo Morning Times - Cesar Rodriguez) Reach: 12.2k

Federal authorities have identified a teenager accused of harboring more than 50 migrants at a south Laredo stash house. The teen was charged with conceal or harbor, attempt to conceal or harbor and conspiracy to conceal or harbor the migrants.

Border Security (Ports of Entry)

[C.1] U.S. bars flight from landing with Americans from Kabul - activists

September 29, 2021 (Reuters) Reach: 45.2m

DHS on Tuesday denied U.S. landing rights for a charter plane carrying more than 100 Americans and U.S. green card holders evacuated from Afghanistan, organizers of the flight said.

Border Wall

[D.1] Mysterious 'no trespassing' sign at Butterfly Center is fake, border authorities confirm

September 28, 2021 (BorderReport - Sandra Sanchez) Reach: 128k

A "No Trespassing" sign that was put up on a border levee on National Butterfly Center land is not official and is under investigation, a U.S. Border Patrol agent told Border Report late Tuesday.

Travel

[E.1] Feds aim to reduce lines of planes waiting to take off

September 28, 2021 (Associated Press) Reach: 28.5m

Federal officials plan to roll out software at 27 large U.S. airports that they hope will eliminate long lines of planes waiting to take off while also slightly reducing fuel consumption.

[E.2] 'Give us a date': International travelers want to know what 'early November' means for US border reopening

September 28, 2021 (USA Today Online - Dawn Gilbertson)

"Early November." That's as specific as the White House was last week when it announced plans to broadly reopen U.S. borders to vaccinated international visitors. It's been a week since then and no date has been specified.

[E.3] US to allow visa-free travel for visitors from Croatia

September 28, 2021 (Associated Press)

The U.S. government said Tuesday that Croatia would soon join the countries whose people can visit without a visa in a sign of closer economic and security ties.

Trade

[F.1] China says it hopes U.S. can view bilateral trade properly

September 29, 2021 (Reuters) Reach: 45.2m

China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday it hoped the United States could view bilateral trade properly after the U.S. commerce secretary accused Beijing of preventing its domestic airlines from buying Boeing aircraft.

[F.2] Scoop: Chinese tech firm sidesteps sanctions

September 28, 2021 (Axios - Lachlan Markay) Reach: 6.4m

A tweak to U.S. export restrictions is letting a prominent Chinese tech company sidestep measures designed to punish the firm over its alleged involvement in the repression of Muslims within the country, records show.

[F.3] U.S. News: Summit Aims to Ease U.S.-EU Tensions --- Meeting in Pittsburgh will cover technology, trade and ...

September 28, 2021 (The Wall Street Journal - Powered by Dow Jones - Josh Zumbrun) Reach: 37.8m

A high-level trade and technology meeting set for Pittsburgh today is aimed at smoothing over squabbles between the U.S. and European Union, even as policy disagreements over China threaten to further strain relations.

[F.4] USTR says Tai, Dombrovskis discussed challenges from China, non-market economies

September 28, 2021 (Reuters) Reach: 45.2m

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and her European Union counterpart discussed common challenges posed by non-market economies, including China, during a meeting in Washington on Tuesday, Tai's office said in a statement.

[F.5] Sweden Fears Joe Biden's Trade Policy to EU Is 'Very Similar to Trump'

September 28, 2021 (Newsweek - Brendan Cole) Reach: 24.6m

A Swedish cabinet minister has compared President Biden's rhetoric with that of his predecessor Donald Trump as he became the latest European politician to express concerns about ties between the EU and the United States.

[F.6] U.S. goods trade deficit widens; inventories increase

September 28, 2021 (Reuters - Unknown) Reach: 258k

Expectations for slower GDP growth were reinforced by a separate report from the Commerce Department on Tuesday showing the goods trade deficit rose 0.9% to \$87.6 billion in August as businesses imported more products to replenish inventories.

[F.7] EU ready to look at North American-style metals arrangement with U.S., trade chief says

September 28, 2021 (Reuters - Unknown) Reach: 976k

The European Union is ready to look at solutions to its steel and aluminum trade dispute with the United States that incorporate elements of import monitoring and safeguard pacts that Washington struck with Canada and Mexico in 2019, the EU's trade chief said on Tuesday.

[G.1] Report: Border Patrol Agents Targeted By Biden May Face Suspension

September 28, 2021 (The Daily Wire - Tim Pearce) Reach: 5.9m

Six CBP agents under investigation for allegedly whipping and charging illegal migrants are reportedly likely to face punishment.

[G.2] Del Rio community largely supports Border Patrol, despite recent criticism

September 29, 2021 (Fox News Video) Reach: 9.1m

[Video] Locals in Del Rio, Texas, are largely supportive of Border Patrol they told Fox News, despite recent criticism Border Patrol has received.

[G.3] Border Patrol Agents Told to Get Vaccinated by November or Face Being Fired

September 29, 2021 (The Epoch Times) Reach: 10.8m

Border Patrol agents have been notified by the Biden administration that they must be fully vaccinated by Nov. 22 or face termination.

[G.4] Biden Says Border Agents Will Be Held Accountable For Misconduct. A Critic Has Doubts

September 28, 2021 (National Public Radio - Miguel Macías) Reach: 46.1m

Andrea Guerrero, executive director of Alliance San Diego, a social justice nonprofit that provides immigrant services, is skeptical that border agents will be held accountable for recent actions.

[G.5] Brandon Judd slams Biden admin's incentives for illegal immigrants: 'Very little rhyme or reason'

September 28, 2021 (Fox News - Fox News) Reach: 58.8m

Border Patrol union representative Brandon Judd warned against offering incentives for illegal immigrants, saying doing so undermines the rule of law and is the "wrong message to send."

Opioid

[H.1] Parents who lost children to fentanyl poisoning sound alarm about counterfeit pills coming across border

September 28, 2021 (Fox News - Joshua Q. Nelson) Reach: 58.8m

Two parents who lost children to fentanyl poisoning reacted to the DEA issuing a public safety alert after law enforcement officials announced they have seized more than 9.5 million counterfeit pills this year. According to a California drug task force, between 8-10% of these drugs are being seized at the southern border.

Opinion

[I.1] Trump's tariffs have become Biden's tariffs

September 29, 2021 (The Dallas Morning News) Reach: 7.4m

In this opinion piece, the editorial board of the Dallas Morning News wrote that "eight months into his presidency, [President] Biden hasn't lifted a single tariff — not even those imposed against our allies in the European steel and aluminum industry."

[I.2] Del Rio: 'It's like it never happened.'

September 28, 2021 (Politico - BRAKKTON BOOKER) Reach: 20.4m

In this opinion piece, Brakkton Booker wrote that "The makeshift encampment in Del Rio, Texas, may be gone, but the Biden backlash from the Haitian migrant crisis engulfing his administration is far from over."

[I.3] ICE arrests in Washington tell stories of suffering that goes unseen

September 28, 2021 (The Seattle Times - Angelina Snodgrass Godoy) Reach: 6.1m

In this opinion piece, Angelina Snodgrass Godoy wrote that "Due to lower numbers of migrants, border enforcement practices in Washington state largely escape scrutiny. But the same abuses happen here."

[I.4] Biden continues the pattern of shunning Haitians in need

September 28, 2021 (Los Angeles Times - Powered by Dow Jones - DeWayne Wickham) Reach: 27.7m

In this opinion piece, DeWayne Wickham wrote that President Biden's "invoking of Title 42 of the federal Public Health Services Act that may well be the legacy of his treatment of the Haitians who try to enter the U.S. on his watch."

Immigration

[J.1] Biden caught between allies and critics on border policy

September 29, 2021 (Associated Press) Reach: 28.5m

Just 35% of Americans approve of Biden's handling of immigration, down from 43% in April, when it was already one of Biden's worst issues, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Immigration is a relative low point for Biden within his own party with just 60% of Democrats saying they approve.

[J.2] Immigration protesters hold up giant foil blanket at DHS secretary's home accusing Biden of upholding Trump ...

September 28, 2021 (Independent Online - Powered by Dow Jones) Reach: 48.2m

Activists unfurled a gigantic foil blanket outside the home of the DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas as part of a protest against President Biden's immigration policies. Demonstrators from Never Again Action, a Jewish-led migrant rights campaign, accused Mr. Biden and Secretary Mayorkas of continuing former President Trump's "racist" deportation of migrants.

[J.3] Protesters call for end to Title 42 mass deportations

September 28, 2021 (The Arizona Republic - Powered by Dow Jones - Salma Reyes) Reach: 4.8m

Human rights activists gathered in front of the ICE Field Office in Phoenix on Thursday calling on the president to retire the use of Title 42 to deport migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

[J.4] 'Injustice has us here': In Nogales, faith leaders, migrant families call for an end to pandemic-era protocol, Title 42

September 28, 2021 (Arizona Public Media - Alisa Reznick) Reach: 107k

Migrants and advocates on both sides of the border held up homemade banners with messages in Spanish and English asking President Biden to restore asylum during a recent Saturday. Another sign depicted a family staring up at the border wall.

[J.5] Haitian migrants arrive in Cuba in attempts to reach the U.S.

September 28, 2021 (CE Latin America Migration - Powered by Dow Jones - Cyber Cuba) Reach: 2.0m

The Cuban government said Tuesday that Haitian migrants had arrived in provinces in central and eastern Cuba in attempts to reach U.S. territory.

[J.6] Philly Haitians, members of City Council slam Biden's border policies

September 28, 2021 (WHYY-AM) Reach: 1.4m

More than 50 people protested outside of Philadelphia City Hall on Tuesday, decrying the treatment of Haitians at the U.S. southern border under the administration of President Biden.

[J.7] Migrants returned to Mexico describe horror of kidnappings, torture, rape

September 28, 2021 (NBCNEWS.com - Noticias Telemundo Investiga) Reach: 41.0m

When migrants arrive in Mexican cities near the border, they're the targets of a vicious criminal business that kidnaps them and can torture them for weeks, extorting thousands of dollars of ransom from their relatives over the phone. Those who are kidnapped know that if they don't pay, the outstanding balances can end in death.

[J.8] Conservative watchdog pressures Biden admin for answers on trafficking of unaccompanied minors

September 28, 2021 (Fox News - Caitlin McFall) Reach: 58.8m

The conservative legal watchdog, America First Legal, is pushing the Biden administration for answers on reports that unaccompanied minors have been released from federal custody into the hands of traffickers.

[J.9] Exclusive: U.S. border authorities warn of food insecurity in Haiti, as Mayorkas defends deportations

September 28, 2021 (Yahoo! News - Caitlin Dickson) Reach: 29.8m

While the Biden administration has defended its decision to deport thousands to Haiti in recent days, internal government documents obtained by Yahoo News suggest U.S. immigration authorities are closely monitoring the bleak conditions to which Haitians expelled from the U.S. are being forced to return.

[J.10] Hundreds of migrants in southern Mexico scramble for asylum applications

September 28, 2021 (Reuters - Unknown) Reach: 177k

Around 1,000 migrants flocked to a sports stadium in southern Mexico on Tuesday to claim appointments for requesting asylum in the country as the national refugee agency grapples with surging demand that has overwhelmed capacity.

[J.11] Florida bars state agencies from assisting with Biden immigration policies

September 28, 2021 (The Hill - By Rebecca Beitsch and Olafimihan Oshin) Reach: 764k

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday sought to bar state agencies from assisting the Biden administration with its immigration efforts, including the transportation of migrants.

Of Interest

[L.1] US deports convicted Russian hacker amid cyber tensions with Moscow

September 28, 2021 (CNN.com International - Sean Lyngaas) Reach: 27.7m

U.S. officials have deported a key player in the Russian cybercriminal world who was sentenced to nine years in US prison in 2020 for his alleged role in a scheme that defrauded Americans of millions of dollars, according to ICE.

[L.2] CBP turned away asylum seekers, claiming they didn't have room for them. It often wasn't true.

September 28, 2021 (El Paso Matters - Robert Moore) Reach: 16.6k

The justification to turn away asylum seekers was that port facilities were over their capacity for processing asylum claims, including detention space. Records obtained by El Paso Matters, along with a watchdog report and evidence presented in the lawsuit challenging metering, show that the capacity excuse often was untruthful.

[L.3] Customs and Border Protection Signs Major Contract With Amazon-Owned Encrypted Chat App Wickr

September 28, 2021 (Gizmodo) Reach: 10.7m

CBP is deploying the Amazon-owned encrypted chat app Wickr across "all components" of its operations, Motherboard reported on Tuesday, citing procurement documents from the agency.