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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

IN THE NEWS

U.S. Charges Hamas Leaders in Oct. 7 Massacre in Israel and Other Terrorist Attacks

[Reuters](#) (09/03, Lynch, Goudswaard) reported that the United States has filed criminal charges against top leaders of Hamas for their involvement in the October 7th attack on Israel. The charges allege that Yahya Sinwar, Khaled Meshaal, Ali Baraka, and three deceased Hamas leaders orchestrated the attack that killed over 1,200 people, including 40 Americans. "As outlined in our complaint, those defendants -- armed with weapons, political support, and funding from the Government of Iran, and support from Hezbollah - have led Hamas's efforts to destroy the State of Israel and murder civilians in support of that aim," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. The [Associated Press](#) (09/03, Tucker) reported that national security spokesman John Kirby said the recent "executions" of six hostages, including one American, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, by Hamas underscore "the sense of urgency" in the talks. "We are investigating Hersh's murder, and each and every one of the brutal murders of Americans, as acts of terrorism," Garland said in the statement. "We will continue to support the whole of government effort to bring the Americans still being held hostage home." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (09/03, Jones, Said) assessed that Hamas's threat to execute more hostages if Israel attempts further rescues is a risky strategy. While it aims to pressure Israel for a ceasefire, it could weaken the group's bargaining position by sacrificing a crucial asset. The article explained that executing hostages could backfire, hardening Israeli sentiment against a ceasefire and bolstering those who demand Hamas's destruction. It also diminishes Hamas's leverage in securing the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. [Telegraph](#) (09/04, Coen) noted that in a press release, Director Wray said the FBI has been working to identify and charge those responsible for the "heinous crimes" committed on Oct 7. "The FBI has and will continue to relentlessly investigate these attacks on civilians, including Americans. Hamas is a Foreign Terrorist Organisation with a long history of violence, and the group's actions have resulted in increased terrorism threats in the US and against American interests throughout the world", he said. The [press release](#) also quoted FBI Special Agent in Charge Sanjay Virmani: "Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel was a violent massacre in the long history of Hamas's brutal terrorist reign. The FBI Washington Field Office is determined to continue its work to dismantle Hamas and hold its senior leaders responsible for their conspiracy to plan and perpetrate these heinous acts of terror, including the murder and kidnapping of American citizens." Additional reporting on the story was provided by the [New York Times](#) (09/03, Goldman, Bergman, Thrush), [Washington Post](#) (09/03, Barrett, Stein), [Fox News](#) (09/03, Betz), [CNN](#) (09/03, Rabinowitz, Lybrand, Perez), [ABC News](#) (09/03, Thomas, Mallin), [NBC News](#) (09/03, Stelloh, Dilanian), [CBS News](#) (09/03, Legare, Triay, Sganga), [Washington Examiner](#) (09/03, Knox), [USA Today](#) (09/03, Jansen), [BBC](#) (09/03, Matza), [New York Post](#) (09/03, Reilly), [The Hill](#) (09/03, Nazzaro), [Forbes](#) (09/03, Bohannon), [Newsweek](#) (09/03, Jackson, Venegas), [National Review](#) (09/03, Lynch), [The Daily Beast](#) (09/03, McDougall), [Independent](#) (09/03, Marcus), [Bloomberg](#) (09/03, Strohm), [The Guardian](#) (09/03, Staff Writer), [NPR](#) (09/03, Lucas), [Axios](#) (09/03, Falconer), [AFP](#) (09/03, Staff Writer), the [Times of Israel](#) (09/03, Magid), and the [Jerusalem Post](#) (09/04, Frantzman).

Former Aide to Two New York Governors Is Charged With Being an Agent of the Chinese Government

The [Associated Press](#) (09/03, Izaguirre) reported that Linda Sun, a former aide to New York Governors Kathy Hochul and Andrew Cuomo, has been charged with acting as an illegal agent for the Chinese government. Prosecutors alleged that Sun used her position to advance China's agenda in exchange for millions of dollars in financial benefits, including assistance for her husband's business ventures in China. The article explained that Sun and her husband, Chris Hu, pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, money laundering, and visa fraud. The article noted that the FBI searched the couple's multimillion home in Manhasset in late July but declined to release details at the time. The [press release](#) quoted FBI Acting Assistant Director Christie M. Curtis: "As alleged in the indictment, Linda Sun, a former New York State government employee, acted as an undisclosed agent of the Chinese government while her husband, Christopher Hu, facilitated the transfer of millions of dollars in kickbacks for personal gain. Sun wielded her position of influence among executives to covertly promote PRC and CCP agendas, directly threatening our country's national security. The FBI is committed to protecting the American people from any threat actors who seek to influence officials at the

direction of foreign entities." Additional reporting on the story was provided by [Reuters](#) (09/03, Cohen), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (09/03, Fanelli), the [New York Times](#) (09/03, Meko, Rashbaum), [Washington Post](#) (09/03, Barrett), [Fox News](#) (09/03, Hagstrom, Spunt), [CNN](#) (09/03, Pazmino, Morales), [NBC News](#) (09/03, Dienst), [ABC News](#) (09/03, Katersky), [CBS News](#) (09/03, Gramer, Zanger), [CNBC](#) (09/03, Mangan), the [Washington Examiner](#) (09/03, O'Keefe), [Politico](#) (09/03, Beeferman), [BBC](#) (09/03, Cabral), the [New York Post](#) (09/03, Campanile, Golden) (2), [Washington Times](#) (09/03, Gertz), [UPI](#) (09/03, Benson), [The Guardian](#) (09/03, Staff Writer), [The Daily Beast](#) (09/03, Ladden-Hall, Lavine), [Bloomberg](#) (09/03, Williams), [New York Magazine](#) (09/03, Prater), [SCMP](#) (09/04, Delaney), [Gothamist](#) (09/03, Campbell), [Forbes](#) (09/03, Roush), [The Hill](#) (09/03, Irwin), [New York Daily News](#) (09/03, Annese, Sommerfeldt), and [National Review](#) (09/03, Quinn).

Trump to Plead Not Guilty to Charges in Revised U.S. Indictment

[Reuters](#) (09/03, Staff Writer) reported that former U.S. President Donald Trump, in a court filing, stated his intention to plead not guilty to revised criminal charges accusing him of attempting to overturn the 2020 election results. According to the article, the revised indictment, obtained by Special Counsel Jack Smith, maintains the same four charges from the previous indictment, including attempting to defraud the United States, obstruct congressional certification of the election, and deprive voters of their right to a fair vote. The new indictment dropped and reframed certain allegations after the U.S. Supreme Court determined that Trump has broad immunity from criminal prosecution over official actions he took as president. The article noted that while Trump waived his right to appear in court for this plea, a court appearance for Trump's lawyers and prosecutors is scheduled for Thursday to determine the next steps following a Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [Fox News](#) (09/03, Vacchiano, Spunt, Betz), [CNN](#) (09/03, Sneed, Polantz), [NBC News](#) (09/03, Barnes, Gregorian), [CNBC](#) (09/03, Breuninger), the [Washington Examiner](#) (09/03, Knox), the [Daily Mail](#) (09/03, Earle), [The Hill](#) (09/03, Beitsch), [Spectrum News](#) (09/03, Tasolides), [The Epoch Times](#) (09/03, Phillips), and [UPI](#) (09/03, Walsh).

Federal Judge Rejects Donald Trump's Request to Intervene in Wake of Hush Money Conviction

The [Associated Press](#) (09/03, Sisak) reported that U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein rejected Donald Trump's request to move his New York hush money criminal case to federal court, blocking Trump's attempt to overturn his conviction following a Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity. According to the article, Judge Hellerstein stated that the hush money payments central to the case were personal actions, not official acts covered by the Supreme Court ruling and that Trump's legal team had not demonstrated sufficient grounds for changing jurisdiction. The article noted that while Trump's lawyers plan to appeal the decision, Judge Juan M. Merchan, who presided over the state trial, is expected to rule soon on delaying Trump's sentencing, currently scheduled for September 18th, and on Trump's request to overturn the conviction based on the Supreme Court ruling. Additional reporting on the story was provided by [NBC News](#) (09/03, Rubin, Reiss, et al.), [New York Times](#) (09/03, McKinley), [USA Today](#) (09/03, Bagchi), [Fox News](#) (09/03, Casiano), [CNN](#) (09/03, Scannell), [The Hill](#) (09/03, Lee), [Politico](#) (09/03, Orden), [Axios](#) (09/03, Childers), [The Guardian](#) (09/03, Luscombe), [Bloomberg](#) (09/03, Hurtado, Larson), [Law & Crime](#) (09/03, Kalmbacher), and the [Washington Examiner](#) (09/03, Deese).

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COUNTERTERRORISM

FBI Now Leading Investigation Into Series of Bomb Threats in North Dakota

[KFGO-FM](#) (09/03, Janke) reported that the FBI has taken over the investigation into six bomb threats that occurred in Fargo last week. The threats, none of which were deemed credible, targeted Fargo South High School (on two occasions), a Walmart on 52nd Avenue S., and three other businesses. The article noted that the Fargo police said the FBI is taking over the investigation due to the origins of the threats, but did not elaborate further.

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COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Trial Begins in Florida for Activists Accused of Helping Russia Sow Political Division, Chaos

The [Associated Press](#) (09/03, Anderson) reported that the trial of four activists associated with the African People's Socialist Party and Uhuru Movement began in Florida, with the defendants facing accusations of acting as illegal

Russian agents to incite political unrest and interfere in U.S. elections. According to the article, prosecutors alleged that the group, under the direction of the Russian government, organized protests and engaged in activities, including opposition to U.S. policy in Ukraine, to create division within the United States. The article noted that defense attorneys argued that the group's actions while aligning with those of a Russian organization, were consistent with their long-standing advocacy for Black empowerment and opposition to colonialism, dating back to the organization's founding in 1972. A 2023 [press release](#) announcing the charges quoted Acting Assistant Director Kurt Ronnow of the FBI's Counterintelligence Division: "Today's announcement paints a harrowing picture of Russian government actions and the lengths to which the FSB will go to interfere with our elections, sow discord in our nation and ultimately recruit U.S. citizens to their efforts. All Americans should be deeply concerned by the tactics employed by the FSB and remain vigilant to any attempt to undermine our democracy. The FBI remains committed to confronting this egregious behavior and ultimately disrupting our adversaries and those who act on their behalf." The [New York Times](#) (09/03, Mazzei) also reported on the story.

China-Linked 'Spamouflage' Network Mimics Americans Online to Sway U.S. Political Debate

The [Associated Press](#) (09/03, Klepper) reported that a recent investigation by Graphika, a firm specializing in tracking online networks, has revealed a Chinese disinformation group known as "Spamouflage" is creating fake social media profiles to manipulate American political discourse. These profiles, often posing as Americans, spread divisive content on platforms like X and TikTok, aiming to sow discord among U.S. voters. According to the article, intelligence and national security officials have said that Russia, China, and Iran have all mounted online influence operations targeting U.S. voters ahead of the November election. Russia remains the top threat, intelligence officials say, even as Iran has become more aggressive in recent months, covertly supporting U.S. protests against the war in Gaza and attempting to hack into the email systems of the two presidential candidates. The article noted that China, however, has taken a more cautious, nuanced approach. Beijing sees little advantage in supporting one presidential candidate over the other, intelligence analysts say. Instead, China's disinformation efforts focus on campaign issues particularly important to Beijing — such as American policy toward Taiwan — while seeking to undermine confidence in elections, voting, and the U.S. in general. "One of the world's largest covert online influence operations — an operation run by Chinese state actors — has become more aggressive in its efforts to infiltrate and to sway U.S. political conversations ahead of the election," said Jack Stubbs, Graphika's chief intelligence officer. The article does not contain a direct FBI mention.

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Continued Reporting: Trump Assassination Attempt

Donald Trump Stokes 'Inside Job' Conspiracy Theory Of Assassination Attempt

The [Huffington Post](#) (09/03, Dicker) reported that Donald Trump ran with a podcast host's unfounded speculation of an "inside job" behind the attempt on his life recently, saying, "You do have to wonder." According to the article, former Fox News personality Monica Crowley, who worked for the Treasury Department during Trump's administration, stoked the conspiracy chatter by accusing officials of "slow-walking" the investigation. "Does it look increasingly to you like this was a suspicious, maybe even inside job?" she asked the Republican nominee. The article stated that Trump suggested without proof that Democrats are paying for the legal fees of the father of the dead gunman Thomas Crooks. While the FBI unlocked Crooks' phone fairly easily after his July 13 assassination attempt, Trump claimed the FBI couldn't open the apps and that was "suspicious." That piled on to conservatives' dubious speculation about Crooks' contacts before July 13. The article mentioned that Trump also said Director Wray's early disclosure that the agency wasn't sure if Trump had been hit by shrapnel or a bullet was perhaps a sign of something afoot.

Investigators Vet New Tips After \$25,000 Reward Offered for Texas Mom Accused of Murdering 6-Year-Old Son

[CBS News](#) (09/03, Vandergriff) reported that investigators are going through new tips in the hopes of finding the Everman mother charged with capital murder in the disappearance of her six-year-old son. The FBI announced a \$25,000 reward for information leading to Cindy Rodriguez Singh's arrest and conviction just five days ago. The agency confirmed Tuesday it has received tips since then and will be vetting each one carefully for any information that could lead to Singh's location. Everman Police Chief Craig Spencer joined federal and local investigators last week to announce the reward. The article noted that the FBI has translated the wanted posters for Singh into

Spanish and Hindu and sent them around the world. Investigators hope the reward will convince someone to turn her in. [People](#) (09/03, Palmer) also reported on the story.

Former Arkansas Judge Convicted of Making False Statements to FBI

[KATV \(ABC-7\)](#) (09/03, Solomon) reported that Thomas David Carruth, 64, of Clarendon, Arkansas has been convicted of one count of making false statements on Friday. The former Monroe County district court judge presided over criminal and civil matters during his time in office. In April 2022, Carruth solicited sex from the girlfriend of a defendant in a criminal case pending under him. From findings by the jury, determined that Carruth lied to authorities about the accident when he was questioned by the FBI. The article added that Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Nicole M. Argentieri, head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, Acting Assistant Director James Barnacle Jr. of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, and Special Agent in Charge Alicia D. Corder of the FBI Little Rock Field Office made the announcement. [USA TODAY](#) (09/03, Loria) also reported on the story.

FBI Warns Internet Scams Increasingly Aimed at College Students

[WKYC \(NBC-3\)](#) (09/03, Kyle) reported that federal agencies are warning college students that new online scams are popping up. The article quoted Special Agent Patrick Koeth of FBI Cleveland, who said, "Whether it be a scam where they're trying to get your kids' money or their personal identifying information, there's all these different schemes depending on what age group you fall under. I think it's just a lack of experience and almost that feeling of invincibility. You might be applying for a summer job, or a job while you are in school and not realizing that's actually a fake job application. And they're just trying to get that information that you would normally turn over as part of you being hired for a job. "Hey, what's your bank account so we can direct deposit money to you? What's your birthday?" All this type of information which you would normally give not realizing that you are actually being scammed."

Colorado Judge Sentences Man to Four Life Sentences After Quadruple Homicide Conviction

[CBS News](#) (09/03, McRae) reported that a judge sentenced Joseph Castorena to four consecutive life sentences in prison after his conviction for a quadruple homicide. Castorena was convicted of shooting and killing the four victims at a house in the early morning hours of Oct. 30, 2022. Castorena was arrested in Mexico in December 2022 in the north-central Mexican state of Aguascalientes after he left the country. The article stated that the victims were Kenneth Eugene Green Luque, 21; Rudolfo Salgado Perez, 59; Jesus Serrano, 51; and Maria Anita Serrano, 22. Two of the victims had filed restraining orders against Castorena just six days before they were killed. Prosecutors said three of the four victims were relatives of Castorena's ex-girlfriend. According to investigators, Castorena broke into her home and waited inside with a gun until the family returned home. His ex-girlfriend and her two children were not harmed. Castorena's brother and a cousin were arrested in the Denver area following the shooting. Both were facing a charge of accessory to first-degree murder after the fact after they allegedly helped Castorena with his escape following the crime. The article noted that the Aurora Police Department's Fugitive Unit worked with the FBI, other federal agencies and Mexican authorities to eventually track him down in Mexico and extradite him back to Colorado.

California Woman Indicted for Fraudulent Investment Scheme

[Reuters](#) (09/03, Jones) reported that a California woman is facing criminal charges and a complaint from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission after she allegedly stole millions through a Ponzi scheme that preyed on investors in a fake litigation fund for personal injury attorneys. Maria Dickerson, 47, a Sacramento resident who also went by Dulce Pino and other names, was charged in a federal indictment, unsealed in California federal court on Tuesday with 32 counts of wire fraud, securities fraud and money laundering. The article stated that prosecutors said she conned investors out of more than \$10 million that they were told would be used for loans to attorneys in exchange for a cut of settlements and judgments. In reality no loans were made, and the money was instead spent on real estate, luxury cars, gambling and Ponzi-style payments to other investors, the indictment said. A DOJ [press release](#) noted that this case is the product of an investigation by the FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation, with assistance from the Alabama Securities Commission.

FBI Investigating Officer Shooting Of South Dakota Man

The [Dakota Scout](#) (09/03, Goss) reported that the FBI is investigating the July shooting death of a 61-year-old man near his apartment in Wagner. Charles "Chuck" World Turner was shot and killed by a Yankton Sioux Tribal (YST) police officer on July 9. According to the article, World Turner was walking towards a YST lawman with at least one knife. The officer responded by shooting World Turner multiple times, killing him. The confrontation happened

near World Turner's home, in south Wagner. Wagner, the largest city by population in Charles Mix County, is a part of the Yankton Sioux Reservation. The article quoted a spokeswoman for the FBI's Minneapolis field office, who said, "We are aware of the situation and investigating, as the investigation is ongoing, I have no further information to share at this time."

FBI Investigating Financial Firm in Indiana

[WRTV \(ABC-6\)](#) (09/03, Kenney) reported that the FBI is conducting a criminal investigation into Drive Planning LLC, a financial firm with offices in Indiana, Florida, and Georgia. According to the article, the SEC has a civil lawsuit against the Georgia-based financial company and its CEO for allegedly running a \$300 million Ponzi scheme. Tuesday, the FBI's Atlanta office announced on social media it is conducting its own investigation into Drive Planning LLC. The article quoted the FBI, which said, "FBI Atlanta is seeking investors in Drive Planning LLC based in Alpharetta, the FBI currently has an investigation underway." The FBI is asking potential victims to fill out a form on their website.

FBI, State and Local Police Renew Push to Solve 1981 New York Cold Case

[News 12 Westchester](#) (09/03, Gomez) reported that members of the FBI were recently seen with local and state law enforcement during renewed efforts to solve an Orange County cold case from 43 years ago. The article stated that officials say they were handing out flyers asking drivers for information about the 1981 murder of 20-year-old Dawn Marino, from Unionville. Marino was last seen in Pine Island after a night out at several bars with friends. She vanished while waiting outside Rinky Dinks on Route 1 for a ride from a friend. Her body was found six years later by a hunter in a nearby cistern on Halloween.

Accused Pedophile Allegedly Filmed Kids at Disney World to Create AI Child Abuse Images

The [New York Post](#) (09/03, Crane) reported that an alleged pedophile has been accused of using a GoPro to film kids at Disney World so he could create thousands of artificial intelligence child abuse images to spread on the dark web. Justin Ryan Culmo allegedly admitted to recording his underage victims at the Orlando, Fla., theme park and at least one middle school in recent years. The article noted that Culmo allegedly used the AI model Stable Diffusion to turn the footage into realistic images depicting child abuse, and then fired them off online under the screen names "Avalanche" and "TheRealAvalanche." He was eventually tracked down after investigators identified one of his alleged victims and managed to trace the manipulated images back to him, the FBI said. The article mentioned that when he was nabbed, law enforcement found a trove of child abuse images on his devices and five spy cameras in a locked drawer in his desk, the report said. The suspect, who was busted late last year, has been indicted on a slew of child exploitation crimes, including abusing his two daughters, secretly recording minors and distributing child sexual abuse imagery online.

Book: Inside the Bitter Personal Battle Between Top FBI and DOJ Officials Over Mar-A-Lago

[NBC News](#) (09/03, Rohde) reported that in his four years as president and three years as ex-president, Donald Trump has successfully used conspiracy theories, co-option, and threats to bend DOJ and FBI officials to his will. Trump supporters say he has been victimized by both agencies. The article is adapted from the book "Where Tyranny Begins: The Justice Department, the FBI, and the War on Democracy," by NBC News' national security editor David Rohde. The article stated that one former senior DOJ official said that Trump's goal regarding the DOJ and FBI has been clear during and after his presidency. According to the article, Trump supporters denied this and said the former president has been unfairly charged by DOJ and FBI officials in the classified documents case and in the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. Current and former DOJ and FBI officials dismissed those claims. They said Trump has been treated fairly by the DOJ and FBI and, if anything, received more deference than other defendants. Experts said that Trump, to a greater extent than any other president in U.S. history, has successfully discredited the DOJ and FBI in the eyes of large groups of American voters. In an age of hyperpartisanship, it has proved impossible for the country's most powerful federal law enforcement agencies to criminally investigate Trump or Joe Biden — and maintain broad public support.

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CYBER DIVISION

Cryptocurrency Industry Faces 'Difficult to Detect' North Korean Social Engineering Scams, FBI Says

The [Record](#) (09/03, Warminsky) reported that the FBI is adding "highly tailored, difficult-to-detect social engineering campaigns" to the list of scams and hacks that North Korea aims at decentralized finance (DeFi)

operations and similar businesses. According to the article, in an alert issued Tuesday, the bureau says that despite the “sophisticated technical acumen” of such companies, they can fall victim to the social engineering schemes, which involve “complex and elaborate” operations to gather information about employees and build rapport with them. Ultimately, the goal is to “deploy malware and steal company cryptocurrency,” the FBI says. The article quoted the alert, which said, “Teams of North Korean malicious cyber actors identify specific DeFi or cryptocurrency-related businesses to target and attempt to socially engineer dozens of these companies’ employees to gain unauthorized access to the company’s network, before initiating contact, the actors scout prospective victims by reviewing social media activity, particularly on professional networking or employment-related platforms.” The article noted that the FBI offers a laundry list of indicators that something might be up, including requests to use non-standard software for basic tasks when the company already uses a similar product. The Bureau says that companies that handle cryptocurrency exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and similar financial products are of particular interest. The article mentioned that western authorities have blamed the North Korean regime for a steady stream of related scams, including attempts to gain employment for fake IT workers, drain funds from play-to-earn games, hack commonly used apps and hide malicious code in repositories used by software developers. Other accusations point to ransomware and money laundering. The article continued to quote the FBI, which said, “For companies active in or associated with the cryptocurrency sector, the FBI emphasizes North Korea employs sophisticated tactics to steal cryptocurrency funds and is a persistent threat to organizations with access to large quantities of cryptocurrency-related assets or products.” [Bitcoin Magazine](#) (09/03, Hoffman), [DL News](#) (09/03, Gilbert), [Cointelegraph](#) (09/03, Wright), [Crypto News](#) (09/03, Shittu), [Bleeping Computer](#) (09/03, Gatlan), [Crypto Slate](#) (09/03, Matos), [Bitcoinist](#) (09/03, Marquez), and the [Crypto Times](#) (09/03, Bhavsar) also reported on the story.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Man Extradited Back to U.S. In Killing of 31-Year-Old Girlfriend, Who Was Found Dead at Boston Airport

[USA TODAY](#) (09/03, Snider) reported that a man who fled the U.S. after being charged in connection with the death of his girlfriend, whose body was found in her car at Boston Logan International Airport in November 2023, is in custody after being extradited from Kenya. Kevin Kangethe, 41, of Lowell, Massachusetts, was arraigned Tuesday morning in Suffolk Superior Court on the charge of first-degree murder. The article noted that prosecutors had charged Kangethe with murder in the death of Margaret Mbitu, 31, who was found stabbed to death in a vehicle in the airport parking lot on Nov. 1, 2023. Her family had reported her missing two days earlier, police said. The article mentioned that police said the vehicle belonged to Kangethe and said surveillance footage showed his vehicle entering the airport parking garage on Oct. 31, 2023, and, subsequently, Kangethe walking out of the garage and entering the airport terminal area, according to the FBI, court records show. Kangethe then boarded a flight to Nairobi, Kenya; he had purchased a one-way ticket, the FBI says. The FBI sought a federal arrest warrant on Nov. 3, 2023, charging him with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. The article added that the FBI worked with Kenyan officials to arrest and extradite Kangethe. Kenyan authorities arrested him on Jan. 29, 2024. But he escaped custody a few days later during a visit by his attorney. Kangethe was re-arrested a week later and held in custody until his extradition, the Boston division of the FBI said Monday. According to the article, FBI special agents and a Massachusetts State trooper assigned to FBI Boston’s Violent Crimes Task Force, escorted Kangethe from Nairobi and arrived at Logan International Airport on a flight Saturday night. The Massachusetts State Police took him into custody. The DOJ had been working with Kenyan officials on Kangethe’s extradition since he was re-arrested.

Human Remains Trafficked to New York as Art Have Been Returned to Pacific Island of Vanuatu by the FBI

[ART News](#) (09/03, Nelson) reported that after an eight-year investigation by the FBI, human remains that were trafficked to New York as art have finally been repatriated on the Pacific island of Vanuatu. The Vanuatu Cultural Center, the island’s national museum, received a crate last week—escorted by U.S. intelligence and security agents—containing the skull of a man from an Indigenous Malakula hill tribe. The article stated that four more crates containing human relics were returned to the island by the FBI during a ceremony in its capital city, Port Vila, on Thursday. They included a pair of human skulls molded with mud and three large effigies known as rambaramps. Each effigy contained a man’s skull that was painted with scenes depicting the final stages of his life. The remains were seized by the FBI in 2016 from the estate of a dead collector who lived in New York. They had acquired around 200 sacred items from Indigenous cultures around the world. It’s thought that the relics from Vanuatu were

stolen from a sacred man's village house. The article quoted Chris McKeough, who works for the FBI's art crime team, "New York is the art capital of the world, and because of that, is the art crime capital of the world, we don't know who looted them or took them out of the country, but there is a market in the world for human remains, they are trafficked unfortunately and they are collected." McKeough added that the size and weight of the Vanuatu effigies posed the greatest logistical challenge the FBI's crime team has ever faced. The largest is almost 12 foot long and weighs in at 700 pounds. "They are extremely fragile, probably the most fragile objects that we have ever come across," he said.

Tonga Leader Says Police Provide 'Freedom From Fear', Support Democracy

[Reuters](#) (09/03, Needham) reported that Tonga's Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni underscored the role of police to provide "freedom from fear" in democracies in a speech to Pacific Islands police chiefs on Tuesday, noting the rising global focus on the region by major powers. A top U.S. counter-narcotics official will travel on Wednesday to Tonga, where the first U.S.- Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police dialogue will be held on the sidelines of the regional police body's annual conference. The article stated that U.S. Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Todd Robinson, will travel to Tonga on Wednesday, U.S. officials said. Robinson is a key figure in the U.S. response to its fentanyl crisis, and said in congressional testimony last year the synthetic drug is trafficked through Mexico using diverted precursor chemicals sourced from China. The article mentioned that two Chinese nationals, suspected of involvement in a fentanyl supply syndicate were expelled by Fiji and arrested by the FBI in Hawaii last year. The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said in Vanuatu last week, after meeting Pacific Island leaders, that Washington will work with the region to rein in drug trafficking by criminal networks using it as a way station for narcotics exports to the United States.

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CAPITOL VIOLENCE NEWS

Florida Man Who Sprayed Mace at Cops on Jan. 6 Gets Prison Time

[Law & Crime](#) (09/03, Kandel) reported that Bryan Roger Bishop, a 52-year-old Florida resident, received a 45-month prison sentence for assaulting police officers with a chemical irritant during the January 6th Capitol riot. According to the article, Bishop's charges stem from his actions where he sprayed an orange chemical irritant at officers, temporarily blinding one and causing burning sensations to another. The article noted that when the FBI arrested Bishop and his wife, Tonya Bishop, at Marathon City Marina in the Florida Keys on Aug. 8, 2023, he stated that his arrest was "a bit overdramatic." Bishop added, "They came in with a tactical team and drones and all kinds of s—."

New Jersey Man Who Wore Company Jacket Inside Capitol on Jan. 6 Pleads Guilty

[NJ.com](#) (09/03, Shea) reported that Robert Coppotelli, a resident of Toms River, New Jersey, pleaded guilty to two charges related to his unlawful presence inside the U.S. Capitol on January 6. According to the article, authorities tracked down Coppotelli as a Jan. 6 protester by the jacket he wore in the Capitol, which read, "Coppotelli Heavy Equipment Sales & Services, Inc.," which the FBI found was in New Jersey and had a 732 telephone number. The FBI also spoke to a person who knew Coppotelli, who identified him as the person in footage from Jan. 6, the FBI said in court documents. The article noted that Coppotelli entered the Capitol from the Senate side, spent a short time inside, and exited through a broken window to avoid police barricades.

Indiana Mother Faces Felony Charges After Storming U.S. Capitol With Her Son on Jan. 6

[WLKY \(CBS-32\)](#) (09/03, Powell) reported that an Indiana woman, identified as Addie Vo, is facing four federal charges for storming the U.S. Capitol on January 6th with her son, Anthony. According to the article, the FBI used photos and videos shared by Anthony that showed the mother and son inside and near the Capitol building during the riot. The article noted that surveillance footage captured Addie Vo entering the Capitol at the Upper West Terrace before meeting up with her son in the Rotunda; Anthony has already been sentenced for his involvement.

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OTHER FBI NEWS

Raskin Launches Probe Into Closed DOJ Investigation of Trump-Egypt Ties

The [Hill](#) (09/03, Beitsch) reported that House Democrats have launched a probe into former President Trump's alleged acceptance of \$10 million from the Egyptian government during his 2016 presidential campaign, as well as

whether allies quashed a subsequent investigation into the matter. The article stated that Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, sent a letter following reporting from The Washington Post that found the Egyptian government withdrew \$10 million in funds shortly after Trump made a last-minute injection of the same amount of his funds to his campaign in the last few days of the 2016 election. The article mentioned that soon after the DOJ began an investigation into whether Trump may have accepted the funds in violation of laws prohibiting foreign campaign contributions, the probe ground to a halt amid concerns from then-Attorney General William Barr. According to the article, Raskin wrote that the article "renewed suspicion that you collected a \$10 million cash bribe from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. This detailed news report has also triggered serious speculation that your handpicked political appointees at the DOJ, including Attorney General William Barr, subsequently blocked efforts by career prosecutors and agents of the FBI to investigate the political and financial corruption that has been described." The article added that the DOJ began to investigate the matter after learning of a withdrawal from an organization with ties to the Egyptian intelligence service five days ahead of Trump's 2017 inauguration. Barr had asked a Trump-appointed U.S. attorney to review classified intelligence collected on the matter, determining there was insufficient evidence to pursue the case. That conclusion followed months of internal disagreement and an apparent ask by Barr for Director Wray to supervise agents "hell bent" on tracking down Trump records. Raskin is now seeking some of the records investigators likely sought, asking Trump to turn over documentation about the source of his campaign loan and whether it was repaid. He also asks Trump point-blank if he "directly or indirectly received money from the Egyptian President or government." The [Washington Post](#) (09/03, Leonnig, Davis), [CNBC](#) (09/03, Breuninger), [Washington Times](#) (09/03, Miller), and [MSNBC](#) (09/03, Benen) also reported on the story.

Continued Reporting: Oprah Winfrey Will Interview Director Wray for ABC Special on Artificial Intelligence

[ars Technica](#) (09/03, Edwards) reported that on Thursday, ABC announced an upcoming TV special titled, "AI and the Future of Us: An Oprah Winfrey Special." The one-hour show, set to air on September 12, aims to explore AI's impact on daily life and will feature interviews with figures in the tech industry, like OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Bill Gates. The article noted that guests include Tristan Harris and Aza Raskin from the Center for Humane Technology, who aim to highlight "emerging risks posed by powerful and superintelligent AI," an existential risk topic that has its own critics, and Director Wray will reveal "the terrifying ways criminals and foreign adversaries are using AI," while author Marilynne Robinson will reflect on "AI's threat to human values."

Lawsuit Probes Whether Joe Biden Got FBI Warning of Security Risk of Hunter's Foreign Business

The [New York Post](#) (09/03, Devine) reported that on the eve of Hunter Biden's tax trial in California, the Heritage Foundation's Oversight Project has sued the FBI, CIA and five other federal agencies for records revealing whether Joe Biden or any of his family members ever received a defensive briefing on the First Son's business dealings. According to the article, the Heritage records requests "go to the heart of whether President Biden or his family were, at a minimum, made aware of the potential Kompromat that could have been developed against the then-Vice President and future President of the United States as a result of his son's foreign business dealings," says the lawsuit, filed Tuesday in the Washington DC District Court. A defensive briefing is a security heads-up given to government officials and other exposed individuals at risk of becoming targets of foreign intelligence services. The article mentioned that the lawsuit also seeks any records that would show Biden family members were given defensive briefings related to Hunter's so-called "sugar brother," Hollywood lawyer Kevin Morris, who lent him over \$6 million to pay his IRS debts and fund his lifestyle. Morris was named by two IRS whistleblowers as allegedly having been deemed by the CIA as off-limits to tax investigators probing Hunter's activities. The lawsuit points out that, "Federal law enforcement and the Intelligence Community have offered defensive briefings to high-ranking U.S. government officials for far fewer entanglements with foreign entities." Other defendants named in the lawsuit include the DOJ, Department of Homeland Security, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the State Department.

Clearview AI, Controversial Facial Recognition Firm, Fined \$33 Million For 'Illegal Database'

[Forbes](#) (09/03, Hart) reported that controversial U.S. facial recognition company Clearview AI, reportedly embraced U.S. government and law enforcement agencies, has been fined more than \$30 million by the Netherlands' data protection watchdog on Tuesday for building "an illegal database" containing billions of faces taken from social media and the internet. The article stated that the Dutch watchdog said it had fined Clearview \$33.7 million for "automatically" harvesting billions of photos of people from the internet, which it "then converts...into a unique biometric code per face." Clearview uses this "illegal" database to sell facial recognition services to intelligence and investigative services such as law enforcement, who can then use Clearview to identify people in images, the

watchdog said. According to the article, Clearview was founded in 2017 with the backing of investors like PayPal and Palantir billionaire Peter Thiel. It quietly built up its database of faces from images available on websites like Instagram, Facebook, Venmo and YouTube and developed facial recognition software it said can identify people with a very high degree of accuracy. It was reportedly embraced by law enforcement and Clearview sold its services to hundreds of agencies, ranging from local constabularies to sprawling government agencies like the FBI and U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

Nearly 50 Years After Being Found Dead in a Pennsylvania Cave, 'Pinnacle Man' Is Identified

The [Associated Press](#) (09/03, Shipkowski) reported that the body of a man found frozen in a small Pennsylvania cave nearly 50 years ago has finally been identified. The remains of Nicolas Paul Grubb, 27, of Fort Washington, were discovered in January 1977 by two hikers who had ducked inside the cave to escape some inclement weather. Grubb has long been known as the "Pinnacle Man," a reference to the Appalachian mountain peak near where his body was found. According to the article, an autopsy at the time found no signs of foul play and determined that he died from a drug overdose. Authorities, though, could not identify Grubb's body from his appearance, belongings, clothing or dental information. Fingerprints were collected during his autopsy but somehow were misplaced, according to the Berks County Coroner's Office. Detectives from the state police and investigators with the coroner's office had periodically revisited the case over the past 15 years and Grubb's body was exhumed in August 2019 after dental records linked him to two missing person cases in Florida and Illinois. The article added that DNA samples did not match in either case, but a break came last month in when a Pennsylvania state trooper found Grubb's missing fingerprints. Within an hour of submitting the card to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, an FBI fingerprint expert matched them to Grubb. A relative of Grubb was notified of the discovery and family members asked the coroner's office to place his remains in a family plot.

Opinion: The FBI Leads the Way on Jawboning Governance

An opinion piece by [Lawfare](#) (09/03, Perault) stated that the FBI leads the world in jawboning governance. While law enforcement agencies may not be known for transparency or self-governance, the FBI now stands alone among federal agencies in publicly communicating self-imposed rules on its communications with tech platforms. According to the author, in guidance posted on the FBI's website on Aug. 1, the Bureau outlined its approach to communicating with social media platforms about content they host. In doing so, it became the first federal agency to publish clear, public standards for jawboning. The author stated that the FBI's leadership on this issue establishes a principled foundation for resuming information sharing with tech companies and provides some level of public transparency about its practices. If they are well-designed and well-governed, information-sharing programs have the potential to reduce harmful content and conduct; the resumption of the FBI's program already has disrupted Russian propaganda operations. Some gaps still remain, and the Bureau could fill those over time. The author added that the focus should not be on these gaps but, instead, on the FBI's leadership in taking a step forward on this issue. Other agencies should follow the FBI's lead, giving guidance to their employees, tech platforms, and the public about the norms that govern government-platform communication.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russia Carried Out One of the Deadliest Strikes of the War

[New York Times](#), [Politico](#), [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#)

Members of Turkish National Youth Organization in Custody After Assault on U.S. Marines

[CNN](#), [ABC News](#), [NBC News](#), [Washington Post](#)

U.S. Effort to Broker Mideast Cease-Fire Gets a New Sense of Urgency

[Wall Street Journal](#), [Politico](#), [Associated Press](#), [NBC News](#)

U.S. Captures ISIS Leader in Syria Who Helped Fighters Escape, CENTCOM Says

[Axios](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Washington Times](#), [New York Post](#)

Lebanon's Former Central-Bank Chief Arrested on Embezzlement Charges

[Washington Post](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Reuters](#)

Dozens Die in Congo Jailbreak Attempt After Stampede and Gunfire

[New York Times](#), [Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#), [CNN](#)

Ugandan Opposition Leader Bobi Wine Shot in Leg in Clash With Police

[New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#), [BBC](#), [Reuters](#)

As Mexican Protesters Block Congress Over Judicial Overhaul, Lawmakers Head to Vote in Nearby Gym

[Associated Press](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Reuters](#), [Aljazeera](#)

Haitian Leader Calls for More Foreign Aid in Battle With Gangs

[Wall Street Journal](#)

South Korean Teenagers Detained Over Deepfake Sexual Images

[New York Times](#)

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OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Trump Ordered to Stop Using Isaac Hayes Song at Rallies

[Associated Press](#), [New York Times](#), [Courthouse News Service](#), [Hollywood Reporter](#), [Newsweek](#), [CNN](#)

U.S. Man Sentenced for 12,000 Harassing Calls to Lawmakers

[NBC News](#), [Associated Press](#), [Washington Post](#), [BBC](#), [Roll Call](#)

Kamala Harris to Propose Up to \$50,000 Tax Deduction for New Small Businesses

[Reuters](#), [CNBC](#), [Politico](#), [Washington Post](#), [Forbes](#)

Republican-Led U.S. States Sue Over New Biden Student Debt Relief Plan

[Reuters](#), [Washington Post](#), [The Hill](#), [CNN](#), [Fox News](#)

Nvidia Gets DOJ Subpoena in Escalating Antitrust Probe

[Bloomberg](#), [Reuters](#), [Business Insider](#), [Forbes](#), [The Verge](#)

Trump Aides Evacuated Offices After Prank Sparked Bugging Fears

[New York Times](#)

White House Asks Agencies to Step up Internet Routing Security Efforts

[Reuters](#)

Chicago Man Charged in Fatal Shootings of Four Sleeping Train Passengers

[New York Times](#)

Plea Deal Resolves Remaining Charges in Killings of Albuquerque Muslim Men

[New York Times](#)

How Immigration Remade the U.S. Labor Force

[Wall Street Journal](#)

Four Las Vegas Teens Plead Guilty in Classmate's Deadly Beating as Part of Plea Deal

[Associated Press](#)

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BIG PICTURE

New York Times

- Aide to Hochul is Facing Charges of Helping China
- Russia Missiles Leave 50 Dead At Cadet Venue
- Netanyahu's Hard Line Extends to Political Opponents at Home
- Extreme Weather Is Increasing Risk of Collapse for U.S. Bridges
- Bumpy Road to Trump's Alliance With Kennedy
- Immigration Debate Descends on an Ohio Town

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

White House

President Biden

- 10:00 AM: In-Town Pool Call Time
- 11:45 AM: The President receives the President's Daily Brief
- 12:45 PM: The President and The Vice President have lunch
- 1:30 PM: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

Vice President Harris

- 12:45 PM: The President and The Vice President have lunch.

US Senate

- No events scheduled.

US House of Representatives

- Hearing: Assessing the Federal Governments Response to the 2023 Maui Wildfires– 10:00 AM – Host: Committee on Oversight and Accountability

Cabinet Members

- **Secretary of State Blinken** attends meetings and briefings at the Department of State.
- **Secretary of Education Cardona** will continue the 2024 Back-to-School Bus Tour alongside White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Mandy Cohen with stops in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.
- Secretary of Education Cardona Director Tanden, and Director Cohen will kick off the day in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where they will participate in an academic recovery roundtable discussion. They will also be joined by community partners, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly, and U.S. Representative Gwen Moore.
- Secretary of Education Cardona will travel to Chicago, Illinois, where he will visit an adult learning center for students with disabilities that focuses on job readiness and support for post-secondary education. He will then do a brief drop by with Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson at a Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) enrollment clinic.
- Secretary of Education Cardona will join U.S. Representative Frank Mrvan in Valparaiso, Indiana, where they will visit a community college to discuss the importance of high-quality career and technical education.

Visitors

- No events scheduled.

General Events

- CSIS: Bolstering Data Center Growth, Resilience, and Security – Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: CSIS, 10:00 AM. The CSIS Strategic Technologies Program is pleased to host the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to discuss challenges and

opportunities to bolster data center growth, resilience, and security. Speakers will explore how the increasing digitalization of the economy, the need for computing power and data storage, and the emergence of artificial intelligence are calling for an unprecedented demand for data centers in the United States.

- CSIS: Houthi Aggression and a Roadmap for Peace in Yemen— Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: CSIS, 10:00 AM. Houthi attacks on international shipping, which the group connects to the Israel-Hamas war, has drawn renewed attention to Yemen's longstanding political and humanitarian crisis. Please join Maged Al-Madhaji, chair and co-founder of the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies in conversation with Dr. Jon Alterman, director of the CSIS Middle East Program. They will discuss the Houthis' strategy attacking shipping, military responses, and a way forward to end the war in Yemen.
- CARNEGIE: Forecasting the Future for U.S.-Taiwan Economic Cooperation – Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: Online event, 9:00 AM. New administrations in Taiwan and the United States offer an opportunity to broaden economic and technological cooperation. Washington and Taipei have struggled to agree on and sign a bilateral trade agreement, but they pursued market opening and an array of technology-related collaboration initiatives. In a virtual event on September 4, experts will cover how the U.S. and Taiwan can expand cooperation between governments, firms, and innovators.
- AEI: AEI Election Watch 2024: Down the Homestretch – Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: AEI, 12:00 PM. With the conventions concluded and Labor Day in the rearview mirror, the 2024 general election campaign is in full swing. Kamala Harris has erased Donald Trump's polling lead as the Democrats' historic candidate swap renewed enthusiasm among their base. Can Trump solidify his standing in the Rust Belt? Did the Harris campaign receive a convention bump? Can she make a late push for the Sunbelt states? AEI's Election Watch team convenes to review August's Democratic National Convention and preview the last months of the presidential campaign.
- AEI: The American Dream Lecture Series: Walter Russell Mead on American Foreign Policy in the Next Presidency— Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: AEI, 5:00 PM. As we approach the 2024 presidential election, foreign policy concerns loom large. China continues to strengthen its military and challenge American influence around the globe. A regional war threatens to break out in the Middle East. Russia shows no sign of relenting in its invasion of Ukraine. How would a returning President Donald Trump or an ascendant President Kamala Harris confront these threats? Should we expect major foreign policy changes from either of the major parties? And what impending crises are on the horizon? Join us for another installment of the American Dream Lecture Series as the Hudson Institute's Walter Russell Mead discusses the foreign policy challenges facing our next president, followed by a conversation with AEI's Kori Schake.
- Aspen Institute: Seizing the Moment on Worker Rights: A Toolkit for Organizers and Practitioners – Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: Online event, 2:00 PM. In the "Toolkit: An Organizer's Guide to Executive Action," Mary Beth Maxwell, executive director of Workshop, demystifies and democratizes the policy-making process by sharing lessons learned during her time in federal government. Toolkit offers a blueprint for advocates inside and outside on how they can collaborate to build an economy that works for all and, in the process, rebuild a healthy democracy. This webinar, happening September 4, from 2 to 3:15 p.m. EDT — co-hosted by the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program and Workshop — will feature a panel of experienced public servants and organizers. Speakers will dive into the lessons and stories from Toolkit and provide guidance to advocates and organizers striving to advance worker rights.
- Atlantic Council: Forging the 5G future: Strategic imperatives for the US and its allies – Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: Atlantic Council, 10:00 AM. The Atlantic Council's Global China Hub is thrilled to host the virtual launch of a new report, "Forging the 5G future: Strategic imperatives for the US and its allies" on Wednesday, September 4th at 10:00 a.m. ET. As China rapidly emerges as the global leader in 5G tech, it is critical for the United States to regain its historical technological edge in the critical communications field. The stakes are high, as nations that lead in 5G development and deployment will shape global standards, secure strategic advantages, and potentially influence the global digital landscape for decades.

- AFCEA: US Intelligence: An Introduction 2024 – Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: Online Event, 9:00 AM. U.S. Intelligence: An Introduction, provides a broad overview of the roles, functions, activities and current issues facing the U.S. intelligence community (IC). This course is specifically designed to provide government, military, academic and contractor professionals working with the IC a firm basis for understanding the community's roles, needs and culture. This course places special emphasis on the ongoing changes in intelligence, the issues that these changes raise, the changes that have been implemented since 2001 and how they are progressing. The two-day course is comprised of the following core modules with associated learning objectives, each of which helps meet the needs noted above: Legal Basis and Budgeting, Structure and Missions, National Security Threats in the 21st Century, Collection, Covert Action, Intelligence Analysis, Congress and the Intelligence Community, Cyber: An Introduction.
- INSA: Coffee & Conversation: Insights From CIA on Cloud & Data – Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Location: Online Event, 9:45 AM. Join us for a virtual Coffee & Conversation with Larry Taxon, Chief of CLOUDworks, Directorate of Digital Innovation (DDI), CIA, Chris Bennight, Technical Director, Agency Data Office, CIA, and moderator Bishop Garrison, Vice President for Policy, INSA, on Wednesday, September 4, from 9:00-9:45 am ET. This is the second episode of the Emerging Tech/Innovation Ecosystem series, sponsored by Salesforce.

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