

Hampton Health District

- (Headquarters Location)
Clinics, Environmental
Health & Vital Records
3130 Victoria Boulevard
Hampton, VA 23661
Phone: (757) 727-1172

LaSalle WIC Center

- 1320 LaSalle Avenue
Hampton, VA 23669
Phone: (757) 727-1140

Wilsendale WIC Center

- 1206 North King Street
Hampton, VA 23669
Phone: (757) 224-5007



Hampton and Peninsula

HEALTH DISTRICTS

Virginia Department of Health

Hampton & Peninsula Health Districts

Serving Hampton, James City County, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, York County

Peninsula Health District

- (Headquarters Location)
- 416 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23601
Phone: (757) 594-7300

WIC Department

- 1033 28th St.
Newport News, VA 23607
Phone: (757) 247-8079

WIC Department

- 606 Denbigh Blvd. Ste. 304
Newport News, VA 23608
Phone: (757) 886-2810

WIC, Environmental Health & Vital Records

- 5300 Palmer Lane
WIC-1st Floor
EH & Vital Records-2nd Floor
Williamsburg, VA 23188
WIC Phone: (757) 253-4741
EH Phone: (757) 603-4277
Vital Records: (757) 253-4740

MEMORANDUM

To: HPHD Partners

From: Dr. Natasha Dwamena, MD, MPH, FACOG, Director

RE: Incident at the Peninsula Health Center

Date: March 10, 2023

Thank you for your outpouring of support as we recover and adjust to the incident that occurred yesterday, March 9, 2023, at the Peninsula Health Center (PHC) located at 416 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard in Newport News. In particular, thank you to the City of Newport News and Riverside Regional Medical Center (RRMC) staff that promptly, professionally, and effectively responded to the incident. Also, thank you to the Hampton and Newport News Community Services Board for making services available to staff impacted by this incident.

To summarize briefly, at 3:20 p.m., a motor vehicle ran into the front of the PHC. The driver of the vehicle and one employee were severely injured and are receiving care at RRMC. The building was evacuated, and City of Newport News Fire and Police responded to the incident and evaluated the scene. In addition, City of Newport News Engineering Department and facilities staff also responded to the incident and after further evaluating the building, some employees were authorized to return for personal effects. At approximately 7:00 p.m. the vehicle was removed from the building and City of Newport News staff and contractors secured the area that was damaged.

The building is now closed and will remain closed until it is determined that it can be inhabited safely, both structurally and from an air quality perspective. All other Hampton & Peninsula Health District (HPHD) facilities remain open. HPHD executive staff are finalizing a continuity of operations plan to ensure that services provided at the PHC will be available if it is closed for a significant period of time. Additional information will be provided to our partners as it is available.

From: The Roosevelt Group <Jvogl@rooseveltdc.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 8:00 AM
To: Schott, Heather
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief



Executive Insight Brief

March 10, 2023

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Approps - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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Worth reading: [The U.S. is Not Yet Ready for the Era of 'Great Power' Conflict With China and Russia](#)

Aerospace & Defense

[Australia to Buy U.S. Nuclear-Powered Submarines in Naval Expansion \(WSJ\)](#)

The U.S. will speed up Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines by arranging for Canberra's first few subs to be built in the U.S., according to people familiar with the still-confidential plan. The arrangement is part of a multifaceted plan to be announced Monday in San Diego at a meeting attended by President Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The plan to sell up to five U.S. Virginia-class submarines to Australia is intended as a stopgap to provide the country with nuclear-powered subs by the mid-2030s. Submarine production would later shift to Britain and Australia, which would produce a sub with a new design that would incorporate American technology, the people said. Other facets of the plan call for the U.S. to step up its port visits to Australia in coming years and to establish the capability to rotate American attack subs through Perth, Australia, by 2027. All three countries would invest heavily in upgrading the defense industrial base, and Australia might even make a contribution to expanding U.S. capacity to construct submarines. The alliance is called Aukus, an acronym for Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. In addition to collaborating on nuclear-submarine technology, the countries intend to cooperate on artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, hypersonic missiles and undersea technologies, among other areas, the people said. The submarine will be the centerpiece of the Monday meeting. U.S. officials argue that the Aukus deal will result in more-capable Australia and British submarines and, thus, help preserve the Western lead over China in undersea military technology. They add that it will strengthen the alliance between the three countries as the Pentagon undertakes a major defense transformation to deal with China's growing military strength.

[Boeing and Airbus join forces in bid for £1bn UK helicopter contract](#)

[China-Russia Ties Will Deepen Despite Pressure, U.S. Assesses \(Bloomberg\)](#)

Russia is likely to downgrade its ambitions in Ukraine for the time being to hanging onto territory seized after the start of its invasion, even as it enjoys deepening economic and defense support from China, US intelligence chiefs told a Senate committee. President Vladimir Putin would need to find outside suppliers of ammunition and impose a mandatory national mobilization if Russia is to advance in its year-old invasion, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told the Senate Intelligence Committee Wednesday in presenting the annual assessment of worldwide threats. "We do not foresee the Russian military

recovering enough this year to make major territorial gains,” Haines said. “Putin is likely better understanding the limits of what his military is capable of achieving and appears to be focused on more limited military objectives for now.” That assessment was part of a broader outline of the threats the US faces as spelled out in a report released as the hearing began. Although Russia got attention, China was the main focus, called out for its control of global supply chains, its dominance of critical minerals and its control over the video-sharing app TikTok, which Republican Senator Marco Rubio of Florida described as “one of the most valuable surveillance tools on the planet.” The report predicted China will keep up its defense and economic cooperation with Russia despite international condemnation of the Ukraine invasion and pressure from the US and its Western allies. At the same time, it found China is advancing its nuclear-weapons capability and building out its ability to destroy enemy satellites as part of a broader push to strengthen its military.

[China’s military budget outpaces other spending in shift to security](#)

[Military Contractors Square Off Over F-35 Jet Engine Program \(WSJ\)](#)

One of the biggest lobbying clashes in recent years is heating up again: the fight to fund an alternate engine to power the Pentagon’s F-35 jet fighter. More than a decade ago, engine-maker Pratt & Whitney and its allies in Congress won out over General Electric Co. to be the exclusive supplier for the next-generation fighter. Now GE is once again lobbying Congress to provide billions of dollars to fund an alternative engine it would build, citing what it calls the flaws in Pratt’s engine. GE’s campaign is a challenge to a fellow defense giant, Raytheon Technologies Corp., which owns Pratt. Raytheon says developing a new engine could cost a total of \$6 billion, a price tag that swells to \$40 billion when calculated to include maintenance. Upgrading the Pratt engine would cost about \$2.5 billion, according to the company. The dispute is shaping up to be one of the biggest lobbying contests in Washington this year, when little aside from defense spending bills is expected to move through a bitterly divided Congress. It is also drawing criticism from groups that want to reel in government spending. Proponents of the engine alternative say it is needed to keep pace with a rising China and that putting a new generation of engines onto the F-35 would ultimately be more cost effective than upgrading the existing model to address concerns about thrust and efficiency. The GE-Raytheon duel could also serve as a test for conservatives, including Ohio’s GOP Sen. J.D. Vance and Rep. Warren Davidson, who have demanded that Republicans cut government spending, but who represent areas with voters who work at GE production facilities. GE is reorganizing into a stand-alone aerospace company, and analysts expect it to expand its defense business to reduce reliance on engines for commercial jetliners. Raytheon and Pratt & Whitney say the funding would be a waste of taxpayer money.

Budget & Appropriations

[Biden calls for trillions in tax hikes and new domestic spending \(Washington Post\)](#)

President Biden on Thursday unveiled a 2024 budget proposal that revived his calls for massive new social spending and tax hikes on the rich, foreshadowing his presidential campaign and challenging Republicans ahead of a looming fiscal showdown. The president's budget calls for paring back the deficit over the next decade while also spending more than \$2 trillion on dozens of new domestic policy initiatives, paid for by more than \$4.5 trillion in new revenue, primarily through hefty tax hikes on high earners and large corporations and by reining in federal spending on prescription drugs. The blueprint envisions a much more expansive role for the federal government overall, aiming for close to \$10 trillion in annual spending by 2033 — up from roughly \$6.3 trillion currently, and about \$6.9 trillion in the next fiscal year. The budget, which Biden touted during a speech on Thursday in Philadelphia, will not pass through a Republican-controlled House, as GOP lawmakers already declared it a non-starter. The 182-page document also reveals the numerous challenges the administration faces in crafting federal economic policy that aligns with its political objectives — projecting an increase in the deficit for next year, relatively sluggish economic growth and a federal debt that even the administration says will eclipse \$40 trillion a decade from now. White House Office of Management Director Shalanda Young and Cecilia Rouse, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters on Thursday that the plan aims to build on the successes of the first two years of the Biden administration. As the White House released the budget, House Republican leaders condemned the Biden plan as “reckless” and argued that the nation faces a crisis driven by higher levels of government spending, not inadequate tax collection. Biden's budget calls for reducing the deficit by \$2.9 trillion over the next 10 years, achieved almost entirely through unprecedented tax hikes on affluent investors, billionaires, companies' stock buybacks, those earning more than \$400,000 per year and large corporations. The plan would partially reverse the 2017 Trump tax cuts, raising the corporate tax rate from 21 percent to 28 percent. It also would raise the minimum tax paid by billionaires to 25 percent, restore the top marginal tax rate to 39.6 percent for those earning more than \$400,000 per year and raise the capital gains tax rate to 39.6 percent for those earning more than \$1 million.

[The Program's You'd Have to Cut to Balance the Budget](#)

[Eyeing China, Pentagon asks Congress to boost funds for Pacific forces \(Politico\)](#)

The Pentagon is asking Congress to significantly increase funding for the U.S. military's presence in the Pacific, signaling the Biden administration's increasing sense of urgency toward countering China's aggressive behavior in the region. Alongside President Joe Biden's budget request for next year, the Pentagon will submit a new \$15.3 billion plan to fund Pacific forces, according to an unclassified version of the report obtained by POLITICO. That's more than twice what DoD asked for last year, \$6.1 billion, and a significant boost from what Congress authorized, \$11.5 billion. The money will go toward buying missile defense systems, radars and space sensors, as well as increasing exercises and training. The report dated Thursday is a congressionally mandated independent assessment of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's needs, and calls for \$15.3 billion in fiscal 2024, with another \$71.8 billion spread out over the next four years. The report warns of China's rapid military buildup, and the increasing pressure on countries in the region to bend to its will. It follows a concerted push by the Pentagon in recent weeks to expand American military influence in the region, including a flurry of new deals with regional partners. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recently traveled to Manila to announce an agreement with the Philippines giving the U.S. increased access to bases there, and the Marine Corps in January activated a new base on Guam. The biggest slice of the request, \$10.8 billion, would fund the Guam Defense System, replacing a Federal Aviation Administration radar in Hawaii, space tracking and sensors, missiles and other classified space and cyber programs. The request also calls for \$35 million to improve logistics, maintenance, and pre-position fuel, munitions and material. The report also prioritizes innovation, experimentation and training that would include \$1.1 billion for new technology such as artificial intelligence.

[Record US Defense Budget is Emerging Immune from Congress Cuts](#)

[Biden Seeks Extension of Trump Tax Cuts for Most Households \(WSJ\)](#)

President Biden largely wants to extend Trump-era tax cuts for households making under \$400,000 a year beyond their scheduled expiration after 2025, the White House said in a budget statement Thursday. Mr. Biden's budget calls for extending those tax cuts "in a fiscally responsible manner" by using new tax increases on wealthy people and large corporations to offset the budget-deficit increases that extended tax cuts would create. The cuts expanded the standard deduction and lowered tax rates for all income groups and will lapse after 2025 unless Congress acts. The budget provides the White House's clearest statement yet on one of the largest fiscal choices facing the country in the coming years, and one that will be a major part of next year's presidential campaign. But Mr. Biden's budget doesn't outline a detailed plan for extending the tax cuts and doesn't include those costs. The White House position essentially means that while the president is claiming that his budget reduces deficits by nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade, he is also proposing more than \$1.5 trillion in additional tax cuts that aren't included in that number. Covering

the revenue shortfall created by extending the tax cuts could require the president to shrink his deficit-reduction target or propose additional tax increases on top of the trillions of dollars of tax increases he is already seeking and struggling to advance through Congress. The administration is likely to use its stance on the 2017 tax law to draw a contrast with Republicans, who say those tax cuts were a success and should be extended without offsetting tax increases. The quandary facing lawmakers in the coming years stems from the way the 2017 tax cuts were written by then-President Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress. To make the law fit within budget rules that let them pass the tax cuts without any Democrat votes, they chose to schedule the individual tax cuts to expire after 2025.

Advanced Technologies

[Chinese AI groups use cloud services to evade US chip export controls \(Financial Times\)](#)

Chinese artificial intelligence groups are skirting export controls to access high-end US chips through intermediaries, revealing potential loopholes in Washington's blockade of cutting-edge technology to the country. AI surveillance groups targeted by US sanctions have found ways to obtain restricted technology by using cloud providers and rental arrangements with third parties, as well as purchasing the chips through subsidiary companies in China. iFlytek, a state-backed voice recognition company blacklisted by Washington in 2019, has been renting access to Nvidia's A100 chips, which are critical in the race to develop groundbreaking AI applications and services, according to two staffers with direct knowledge of the matter. Facial recognition group SenseTime, sanctioned at the same time as iFlytek, has used intermediaries to purchase banned components from the US, according to three senior employees familiar with the situation. Privately controlled cloud computing companies also provide access to high-end US chips. AI-Galaxy, a Shanghai-based cloud computing company founded by former employees from Nvidia and AliCloud, charges \$10 for one-hour access to eight of its A100 Nvidia chips. The ability of Chinese AI groups to continue accessing Nvidia's crucial high-end chips and other cutting-edge technology underlines the challenge the US faces in enforcing its trade restrictions against Chinese companies. Last October, Washington imposed unilateral export controls that barred US companies from selling advanced chip making equipment and high-end semiconductors including the A100 to Chinese groups, widening its trade restrictions from just specific blacklisted companies.

[America's \\$52 Billion Plan to Make Chips at Home Faces a Labor Shortage](#)

[War in space: U.S. officials debating rules for a conflict in orbit \(Washington Post\)](#)

Ukraine's use of commercial satellites to help repel the Russian invasion has bolstered the U.S. Space Force's interest in exploiting the capabilities of the private sector to develop new technologies for fighting a war in space. But the possible reliance on private companies, and the revolution in technology that has made satellites smaller and more powerful, is forcing the Defense Department to wrestle with difficult questions about what to do if those privately owned satellites are targeted by an adversary. White House and Pentagon officials have been trying to determine what the policy should be since a top Russian official said in October that Russia could target the growing fleet of commercial satellites if they are used to help Ukraine. Konstantin Vorontsov, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for nonproliferation and arms, called the growth of privately operated satellites "an extremely dangerous trend that goes beyond the harmless use of outer-space technologies and has become apparent during the latest developments in Ukraine." In response, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre reiterated earlier comments from her counterpart at the Pentagon that "any attack on U.S. infrastructure will be met with a response, as you've heard from my colleague, in a time and manner of our choosing." But what that response will be is unknown, as officials from a number of agencies try to lay out a policy framework on how to react if a commercial company is targeted. In a recent interview, Gen. David Thompson, the Space Force's vice chief of operations, said that while expanding the partnership with the commercial space industry is one of his top priorities, it has also led to a host of unanswered questions. The Pentagon has long relied on the private sector, he said. But the proliferation of small satellites has created a more resilient system that has provided real-time imagery of the Ukraine battlefield from space, allowing nations to track troop movements, assess damage and share intelligence. Communication systems, such as SpaceX's Starlink constellation, have kept the internet up and running at a time when Ukraine's infrastructure has been decimated.

[TikTok Faces More Scrutiny in New Senate Bill](#)

[Shield AI, Boeing ink agreement to push AI, autonomous development \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

Defense technology startup Shield AI and contracting giant Boeing announced a new partnership today to investigate how to speed up delivering artificial intelligence and autonomous capabilities to warfighters. The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding during the Air Force Association Warfare Symposium this week in which Shield AI and Boeing's experimental Phantom Works division will "explore strategic collaboration in the areas of autonomous capabilities and artificial intelligence on current and future defense programs," according to a Boeing press release. Shield AI will provide its Hivemind AI pilot system, which has already flown aircraft and can "enable swarms of drones and aircraft to operate autonomously without GPS, communications or a human

pilot in the cockpit,” the release says. Since its founding in 2015, Shield AI itself has acquired a number of companies focused on artificial intelligence and uncrewed aircraft. In 2021, it bought Heron Systems — the company whose AI defeated a human F-16 pilot in DARPA’s Alpha Dogfight trials — and Martin UAV, which makes the V-Bat drone. Boeing, meanwhile, brings decades of defense production experience, not to mention government relationships, to the partnership, which is part of its broader push — along with its competitors — into next-generation autonomous platforms.

Military Installations & Communities

[Biggest Military Pay Raise in Decades Proposed by White House \(Military.com\)](#)

Service members would see the largest military pay raise in more than 20 years under the budget proposal unveiled by President Joe Biden on Thursday. The proposal for a 5.2% bump in basic military pay is part of the administration's overall request for \$842 billion in Pentagon funding for fiscal 2024, which would be the largest Defense Department budget ever and a \$26 billion increase over what Congress approved for the department this year. By law, the annual military pay raise is tied to what's called the Employment Cost Index and would take effect at the rate called for in the index Jan. 1 regardless of any presidential or congressional action. Congress typically endorses the raise proposed by the president. The 5.2% raise proposed by Biden is the rate consistent with the index. It would be the largest raise since a 6.9% increase in 2002. By comparison, this year's raise, which was the largest in a decade, was 4.6%. But critics have argued the Employment Cost Index lags behind inflation, which has slowed in recent months to about 6% but hit a peak of 9% over the summer. That, as well as what critics say are out-of-date calculations for benefits such as the Basic Allowance for Housing, has led troops to struggle in recent years to afford food, housing and other necessities. Congress created a Basic Needs Allowance in 2021 to help low-income troops struggling with food insecurity, but critics argue that too has so far fallen short of its promise. The release of the president's budget, essentially a wish list of the administration's policy priorities, kicks off what is expected to be a contentious debate on Capitol Hill over funding the federal government. Congress has ultimate say in funding levels and often deviates from the administration's blueprint; the last two years, lawmakers have infused billions more into the Pentagon than the administration requested.

[VA \\$325 Billion Budget Proposal Includes Funding for Toxic Exposure Benefits, Medical Facilities Construction](#)

[Army unveils rebranding campaign amid recruiting challenges \(The Hill\)](#)

The U.S. Army on Wednesday unveiled a rebranded campaign to bolster recruiting efforts as the military struggles to meet personnel goals, particularly among younger generations of Americans. The Army's latest recruitment campaign brand has a focused interest in attracting the next generation of Americans to the branch based on the argument that an Army career leads to self-discovery and limitless possibilities. The new campaign includes a tweaked logo design — the same gold five-star symbol, but without the box that the logo previously included, to suggest the sky is the limit — along with a return of the Army catchphrase “Be All You Can Be,” with a fresh look. The Army is also now airing a commercial that promotes the idea of exploration and limitless discovery while tapping into the message of serving the nation and the U.S. Constitution. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth said that, amid economic, political and social challenges in the U.S., the rebrand “illustrates how service in the Army is grounded in passion and purpose.” The Army, along with other branches, has struggled for years to meet recruiting goals. Last year, it was 15,000 recruits short of a recruiting goal of 60,000 people. The military is struggling to compete in a strong civilian job market and among younger Americans who are less interested. At the same time, many youth are also not qualified for service because of obesity, mental health challenges and prior misconduct.

[Would \\$650,000 Buy a House in San Diego? One Couple Tested Their Budget](#)

[US Army is moving to get tanks to Ukraine 'as quickly as possible' \(Defense News\)](#)

The U.S. Army is already executing a plan to send M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, the Army's acquisition chief said Wednesday. The Pentagon announced early this year it would send General Dynamics Land Systems-made Abrams tanks to Ukraine. Since then, Defense Department officials have said they were weighing a variety of options, including building new tanks or drawing existing older tanks from U.S. inventory. But speaking at a webcast hosted by Defense News, Doug Bush said Wednesday the Army already has a plan. “We're executing it,” he said. “We just can't talk about the details.” Late last month, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said the Army would not be able to get tanks to Ukraine for at least months and quite possibly not before the end of this year. “There are longer timelines involved, but I think there are options that are less than two years, less than a year-and-a-half,” she said. Sending tanks to Ukraine is not a simple process, Bush said. “It's not just sending a tank,” he said. “A tank by itself is not a military capability, you have to send the whole package. That includes ammunition, vehicles to maintain it, fuel, you have to do the training on the system so that it can be sustained in combat.” Making the effort more complex, “we have to prepare equipment to go in a way that doesn't impact readiness of U.S. Army units and it doesn't affect deliveries of equipment to other allies, who are also working to fulfill their order for M1 Abrams tanks,” Bush said. The Pentagon is

not yet ready to announce a timeline for delivering Abrams to Ukraine, he added, and likely will never announce an “exact” schedule. “We don’t want to give the Russians certainty about when something’s going to arrive, but efforts are underway to do it as quickly as possible,” Bush said.

Homeland Security

[China ranks atop worldwide threats, US intelligence chiefs tell lawmakers \(The Hill\)](#)

China’s power and ambitions for influence are bleeding into nearly every threat that U.S. intelligence agencies are tracking, and the Chinese Communist Party remains America’s top concern, the five directors of the most senior intelligence agencies told lawmakers on Wednesday. Leaders of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the CIA, FBI, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency presented an annual summary of global risks to Americans. “In brief, the CCP represents both the leading and most consequential threat to US national security and leadership globally,” said Avril Haines, director of ODNI, in her opening statement to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. “And its intelligence-specific ambitions and capabilities make it, for us, our most serious and consequential intelligence rival.” Haines’ remarks are part of an intelligence community annual Worldwide Threat Assessment. The presentation of it allows the select group of Democrat and Republican lawmakers in the Senate and House to raise questions and concerns over assessments and priorities on work that is largely conducted in secret. Chinese President Xi Jinping lashed out at the U.S. in a major speech to lawmakers on Monday, accusing Washington of trying to contain Beijing. But the U.S. intelligence community says Xi is actually intent on managing mounting pressures. “Despite this more public and directly critical rhetoric, however, we assess that Beijing still believes it benefits most by preventing a spiraling of tensions and by preserving stability in its relationship with the United States,” Haines said.

[FBI chief says TikTok 'screams' of US national security concerns](#)

[Senators Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Tackle National Security Threats from Foreign Tech \(Senator Warner\)](#)

Today, U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner (D-VA), Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and John Thune (R-SD), ranking member of the Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Communications, Media and Broadband, led a group of 12 bipartisan senators to introduce the Restricting the Emergence of Security Threats that Risk

Information and Communications Technology (RESTRICT) Act, legislation that will comprehensively address the ongoing threat posed by technology from foreign adversaries by better empowering the Department of Commerce to review, prevent, and mitigate information communications and technology transactions that pose undue risk to our national security. “Today, the threat that everyone is talking about is TikTok, and how it could enable surveillance by the Chinese Communist Party, or facilitate the spread of malign influence campaigns in the U.S. Before TikTok, however, it was Huawei and ZTE, which threatened our nation’s telecommunications networks. And before that, it was Russia’s Kaspersky Lab, which threatened the security of government and corporate devices,” said Sen. Warner. “We need a comprehensive, risk-based approach that proactively tackles sources of potentially dangerous technology before they gain a foothold in America, so we aren’t playing Whac-A-Mole and scrambling to catch up once they’re already ubiquitous.” “Congress needs to stop taking a piecemeal approach when it comes to technology from adversarial nations that pose national security risks,” said Sen. Thune. “Our country needs a process in place to address these risks, which is why I’m pleased to work with Senator Warner to establish a holistic, methodical approach to address the threats posed by technology platforms – like TikTok – from foreign adversaries. This bipartisan legislation would take a necessary step to ensure consumers’ information and our communications technology infrastructure is secure.” The RESTRICT Act establishes a risk-based process, tailored to the rapidly changing technology and threat environment, by directing the Department of Commerce to identify and mitigate foreign threats to information and communications technology products and services.

[Attack on Four Americans in Matamoros Investigated as Advocates Say They Fear for Safety of Black Migrants](#)

[Cyber command chief: Election interference is not going away \(The Hill\)](#)

U.S. Cyber Command Director Gen. Paul Nakasone said on Tuesday that election interference from nation-state threat actors is still an ongoing issue that the U.S. must continue to address. Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Nakasone said that election meddling is essentially here to stay, especially as adversaries of the U.S. like China, Russia, Iran and North Korea continue to enhance their cyber capabilities. “This is something we will deal with for as long as I can look at the future,” Nakasone told Senate lawmakers. Nakasone added that influence operations and disinformation campaigns launched by adversaries are “much more prevalent these days” than attempts to hack into election systems. The general later mentioned that China has become “a very capable force” and “a very formidable foe” in cyberspace. Last month, an FBI cyber official warned state officials that Chinese hackers pose a “growing threat” and that their attempt to target political parties prior to the 2022 midterm election shows there will be “significant Chinese cyber activity ... in the coming year,” CNN first reported. A week before the 2022 midterms,

Jen Easterly, head of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), said she was concerned about the rise of disinformation campaigns originating from Russia, China and Iran ahead of the election.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Delaware joins 12 other states in Equity in Infrastructure project \(Transportation Today\)](#)

Delaware officials announced last week that the state would join 12 other states as part of the Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP) to create opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs). Nicole Majeski, Delaware's Secretary of Transportation, joined Carlos Monje, Undersecretary of Transportation for Policy, and officials from the Department of Transportation from four other states to join the project they said would build generational wealth and reduce the racial wealth gap by creating more economic opportunities. The states signed a pledge to increase the number, size, and percentage of HUBs becoming prime contractors or participating as larger participants in infrastructure investments by December 2025. HUBs include firms designated as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises, and Small Business Enterprises. "As we continue the work to ensure that state government is inclusive, diverse and representative of all Delawareans, we are also committed to doing the same with our business community who provide services for all our state agencies," said Delaware's Gov. John Carney. EIP was co-founded in 2021 by Phillip Washington, Denver International Airport CEO, and John Porcari, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation, in anticipation of the \$1.2 trillion investment into infrastructure as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and President Joe Biden's Justice40 Initiative to provide increased funding to underserved and disadvantaged communities. "I am proud Delaware is one of 13 states to have signed this pledge. This furthers DelDOT's commitment to equity in transportation by expanding opportunities for HUBs across our state," Majeski said. "Over the course of this year, we are implementing new training opportunities, streamlining our process, and creating specific contracts tailored towards advancing HUBs."

[Biden wants more money for the FAA after air travel disruptions](#)

[Freight Groups Push for Repeal of 12% Excise Tax \(Transport Topics\)](#)

Freight stakeholders renewed calls for the repeal of a World War I-era tax on the purchase of new trucks. American Trucking Associations, along with American Truck Dealers and

the Zero Emission Transportation Association, are urging lawmakers to consider legislation that would undo the long-standing 12% federal excise tax. According to industry estimates, the federal excise tax has the potential for adding about \$50,000 to the price of new, low- or zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles. Since the start of the 118th Congress, transportation policymakers have yet to introduce a bill on the matter. “As the heavy-duty vehicle industry looks to modernize fleets and meet more stringent fuel economy standards, the federal tax structure needs to evolve to reflect the rapidly changing infrastructure and heavy-duty vehicle markets,” the groups wrote congressional leaders on Feb. 22. “The federal excise tax on heavy-duty trucks is an outdated revenue source that disproportionately burdens small businesses and dampens demand for emerging technologies like electric vehicles. We urge you to repeal the [federal excise tax] for heavy-duty vehicles and equipment to deploy clean trucks and modernize the truck fleet.” “If Congress is serious about safety, the environment and jobs, then repealing the [federal excise tax] should be front-burner,” ATA President Chris Spear emphasized in a statement accompanying the group’s letter to Senate Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.).

[USDOT’s Federal Railroad Administration Announces a Supplemental Safety Assessment of Norfolk Southern Railway’s Operations](#)

[Norfolk Southern Cut Safety Spending Before Ohio Crash, Analysis Shows \(Barron's\)](#)

Norfolk Southern, which had two derailments a month apart in Ohio, has cut its spending on train inspection, repair, and maintenance more aggressively than other large railroads, a Barron’s analysis shows. Atlanta-based Norfolk Southern (ticker: NSC) cut its per-mile spending on train inspections by an average of 8% a year from 2017 to 2021, according to the analysis of industry filings. The freight rail’s per-mile spending on repairing and maintaining freight cars and locomotives fell 7% and 5% a year, respectively. No cuts of such size were made at the other big U.S. railroads: Union Pacific UNP, CSX, and the BNSF network owned by Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway. “Your line of inquiry raises good questions,” says Grady Cothen Jr., who oversaw safety regulation at the Federal Railroad Administration for 19 years before his 2010 retirement. In June, he presented Congress with research that found increases in derailments per mile traveled at Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific in the prior five years. Norfolk Southern didn’t specifically address safety spending questions raised by the analysis, but noted that it invests about \$1 billion a year on maintaining its infrastructure. “The safety of our employees and the communities in which we operate is our No. 1 priority,” the company said. “We diligently monitor our trains and infrastructure to identify potential hazards.” Norfolk Southern said that in 2022, derailments fell to their lowest level in a decade. The railroad said its total

number of accidents dropped 32% on its main rail lines since 2019. Union Pacific, for its part, said it has seen a double-digit percentage drop in its derailment counts over the past 10 years.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[Opioids were the most common cause of fatal poisoning of young children, a study finds \(NBC News\)](#)

Opioids were the most common substance contributing to the poisoning deaths of children ages 5 and younger, according to a new study. The research, published Wednesday in the journal *Pediatrics*, found that opioids accounted for more than 47% of the poisoning deaths among children in that age group between 2005 and 2018 — 346 of 731 total deaths reported to the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention. Meanwhile, over-the-counter pain, cold and allergy medications contributed to a little less than 15% of the deaths. The sobering findings underscore the extent of the opioid epidemic's impact on children, according to Dr. Christopher Gaw, the study's lead author. "Opioids are implicated in so many deaths, and there are hundreds or thousands of potentially dangerous substances for children in our environment, but we're really seeing that one stand out," said Gaw, a pediatric emergency medicine fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The study did not offer a breakdown between opioids children were exposed to in the form of prescription drugs versus illegal drugs like heroin. Overall, fatal poisonings among children have decreased since the 1970 passage of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act, which requires child-resistant packaging on potentially hazardous substances such as aspirin or mouthwash. But opioids accounted for a growing share of the substances responsible for poisonings between 2005 and 2018: Whereas 24% of the various substances that killed children in 2005 were opioids, they made up 52% in 2018.

[Why Does Insulin Cost So Much? Big Pharma Isn't the Only Player Driving Prices](#)

[Diabetes drug proves beneficial in preventing long COVID in clinical trials \(The Hill\)](#)

COVID-19 patients who took the diabetes drug metformin for two weeks after a diagnosis were less likely to develop long COVID-19 symptoms, according to results from a clinical trial. The trial enrolled about a thousand participants who were symptomatic with a COVID-19 infection for less than a week. Participants were randomly selected to receive a placebo

or one of three drugs: metformin, ivermectin or fluvoxamine. About 6 percent of people who took metformin later developed long COVID-19, as determined by a medical diagnosis. In the placebo group, 10.6 percent of participants developed long COVID-19. This meant that overall people who took metformin were 42 percent less likely to develop long COVID-19 compared to people who got the placebo. The authors also note that the beneficial effect is potentially stronger for people who started taking metformin less than four days from symptom onset compared to people who started the medication four or more days after their first symptoms. Metformin may help prevent long COVID-19 by reducing inflammation and oxidative stress or by suppressing production of the virus, according to laboratory studies. The participants who received the two other drugs, ivermectin and fluvoxamine, did not see any benefits in terms of preventing long COVID-19. A limitation of this trial is that it only included people who were ages 30 to 85 and who were overweight or obese. In addition, a larger clinical trial would be needed to gather more evidence on whether the benefits of taking the drug are consistent.

[House committee latest to launch investigation into PBMs](#)

[Growth of AI in mental health raises fears of its ability to run wild \(Axios\)](#)

The rise of AI in mental health care has providers and researchers increasingly concerned over whether glitchy algorithms, privacy gaps and other perils could outweigh the technology's promise and lead to dangerous patient outcomes. As the Pew Research Center recently found, there's widespread skepticism over whether using AI to diagnose and treat conditions will complicate a worsening mental health crisis. As the Pew Research Center recently found, there's widespread skepticism over whether using AI to diagnose and treat conditions will complicate a worsening mental health crisis. Mental health apps are also proliferating so quickly that regulators are hard-pressed to keep up. The American Psychiatric Association estimates there are more than 10,000 mental health apps circulating on app stores. Nearly all are unapproved. AI-enabled chatbots like Wysa and FDA-approved apps are helping ease a shortage of mental health and substance use counselors. The technology is being deployed to analyze patient conversations and sift through text messages to make recommendations based on what we tell doctors. It's also predicting opioid addiction risk, detecting mental health disorders like depression and could soon design drugs to treat opioid use disorder. The fear is now concentrated around whether the technology is beginning to cross a line and make clinical decisions, and what the Food and Drug Administration is doing to prevent safety risks to patients. KoKo, a mental health nonprofit, recently used ChatGPT as a mental health counselor for about 4,000 people who weren't aware the answers were generated by AI, sparking criticism from ethicists. Other people are turning to ChatGPT as a personal therapist despite warnings from the platform saying it's not intended to be used for treatment.

Climate & Development

[EPA rolls out 'strongest limits ever' on toxic wastewater from coal-fired power plants \(CNN\)](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday proposed a new rule for regulating wastewater from coal-fired power plants that are stronger than previous rules in the Obama and Trump administrations. “Coal-fired power plants discharge wastewater that can contain toxic metals and other pollutants that contaminate our vital water sources,” EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan told reporters Tuesday. “I’m proud to share the agency is proposing the strongest limits ever on wastewater discharges from coal-fired power plants.” The wastewater proposal follows an announcement in January that the EPA plans to stop six coal-fired power plants from continuing to dump coal ash – a toxic byproduct of coal-fired electricity – into unlined ponds, which can leach into groundwater and nearby waterways. Wednesday’s proposed rule would regulate three types of wastewater generated at coal fired power plants. It also addresses wastewater stored in coal ash ponds. Regan said the EPA estimates the strengthened rule would reduce this toxic pollution by over 580 million pounds per year. The proposed rule would largely not impact coal-fired power plants that already plan to stop burning the fuel by 2032, Assistant Administrator for the EPA’s Office of Water Radhika Fox said – since those plants would be able to comply with the rule “without significant investment.” It is one of several major new or strengthened regulations the Biden administration has rolled out regarding coal power, and it is preparing to release its widely anticipated rule regulating greenhouse gas emissions at coal and natural gas-fired power plants.

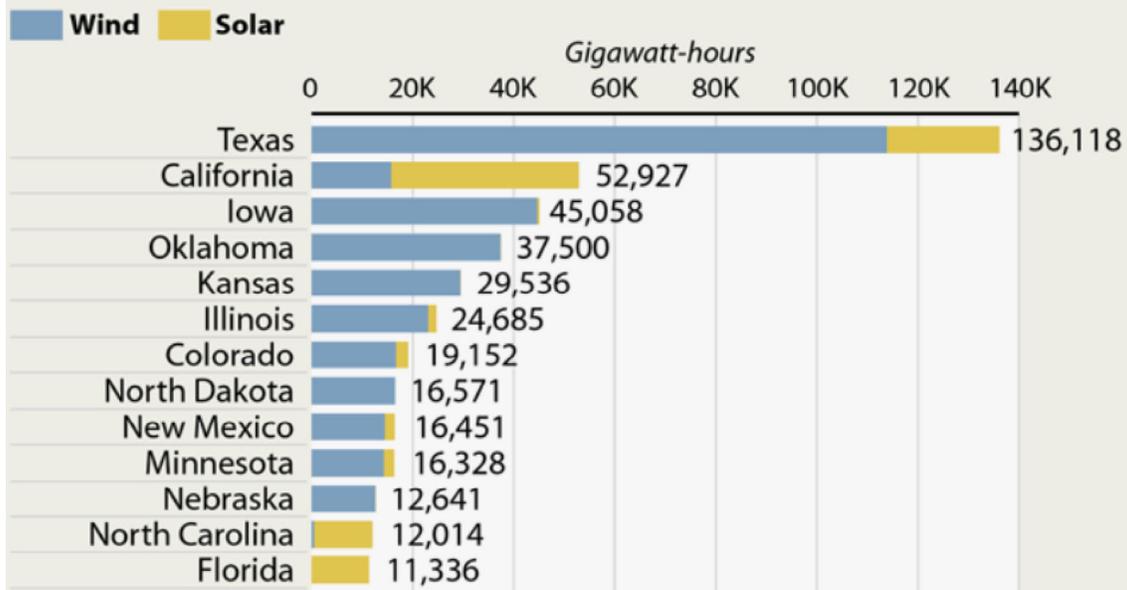
[One State Generates Much, Much More Renewable Energy Than Any Other—and It’s Not California](#)

State Wind and Solar Leaders

Texas generated more electricity from wind and utility-scale solar than any other state, largely due to dominance in wind.

U.S. WIND AND SOLAR ELECTRICITY GENERATION

In gigawatt-hours, ranked by combined totals, 2022



[U.S. and Europe Angle for New Deal to Resolve Climate Spat \(NYT\)](#)

American and European officials meeting in Washington this week are trying to agree on the outlines of a limited trade deal that would allow European companies to qualify for some of the benefits of the Biden administration's new climate legislation, in a bid to assuage a major source of tension between the allies. The governments hope to announce their intention to begin negotiations over an agreement focusing on the critical minerals that go into electric vehicle batteries as soon as Friday, when President Biden is set to meet with Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, at the White House. American officials have also been carrying out similar conversations with the governments of Japan and the United Kingdom to see if some type of limited new agreement could be struck that would also offer Japanese and British companies certain benefits under the law. At the center of the debate is the Inflation Reduction Act, a \$370 billion bill that President Biden signed last year to try to mitigate climate change by transforming U.S. power generation and the car industry. The bill offers generous tax credits to American consumers to purchase new and used electric vehicles, but it imposes tough restrictions on the types of vehicles that can benefit from these rules, in ways that disadvantage foreign carmakers.

[Once Hailed as a Solution to the Global Plastics Scourge, PureCycle May Be Teetering](#)

[Farmers call for climate action in farm bill at Washington rally \(Reuters\)](#)

Hundreds of farmers and climate activists rallied in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday to call for significant climate provisions in the farm spending bill Congress hopes to pass this year. Agriculture contributes about 9% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions according to the Environmental Protection Agency, mostly from fertilizer application and livestock. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made climate a priority under the Biden administration and has spent more than \$3 billion on grants for projects implementing and quantifying the benefits of climate-friendly farming practices. The effort underway in Washington to write the next farm bill, which is passed every five years and funds commodity, nutrition, and farm spending programs, could test the Biden administration's effort to reach net zero agriculture emissions by 2050. Some Senate Democrats want to expand conservation and climate funding in the bill, but Republicans on the House Agriculture Committee have criticized USDA's climate spending and want to trim the bill's half a billion dollar price tag. At Tuesday's rally, the mostly small-scale farmers in attendance spoke about the need to prioritize funding for climate-friendly farming practices to ensure soil health and water conservation as they increasingly feel the effects of a warming climate. Sedrick Rowe, a first-generation organic peanut farmer in Albany, Georgia, told Reuters that he and nearby farmers have shifted their planting schedules earlier as the spring and summer months have gotten warmer. "Every farmer, from organic to conventional, is experiencing this," he said. Speakers also called for the farm bill to incorporate protections for farm workers, who face significantly higher risk of heat-related illness and death than workers in other sectors.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Service Committees

House: None Listed

Senate:

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, 3:00 PM EST: ["To Receive Testimony on Military and Civilian Personnel Programs in the Department of Defense in Review of the Defense](#)

[Authorization Request for FY24 and the Future Years"](#)

Appropriations Committees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

Homeland Security Committees

House: None Listed

Senate:

Thursday, March 6, 2023, 10:00 AM EST: Full committee hearing: ["In Need of a Checkup: Examining the Cybersecurity Risks to the Healthcare Sector"](#)

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