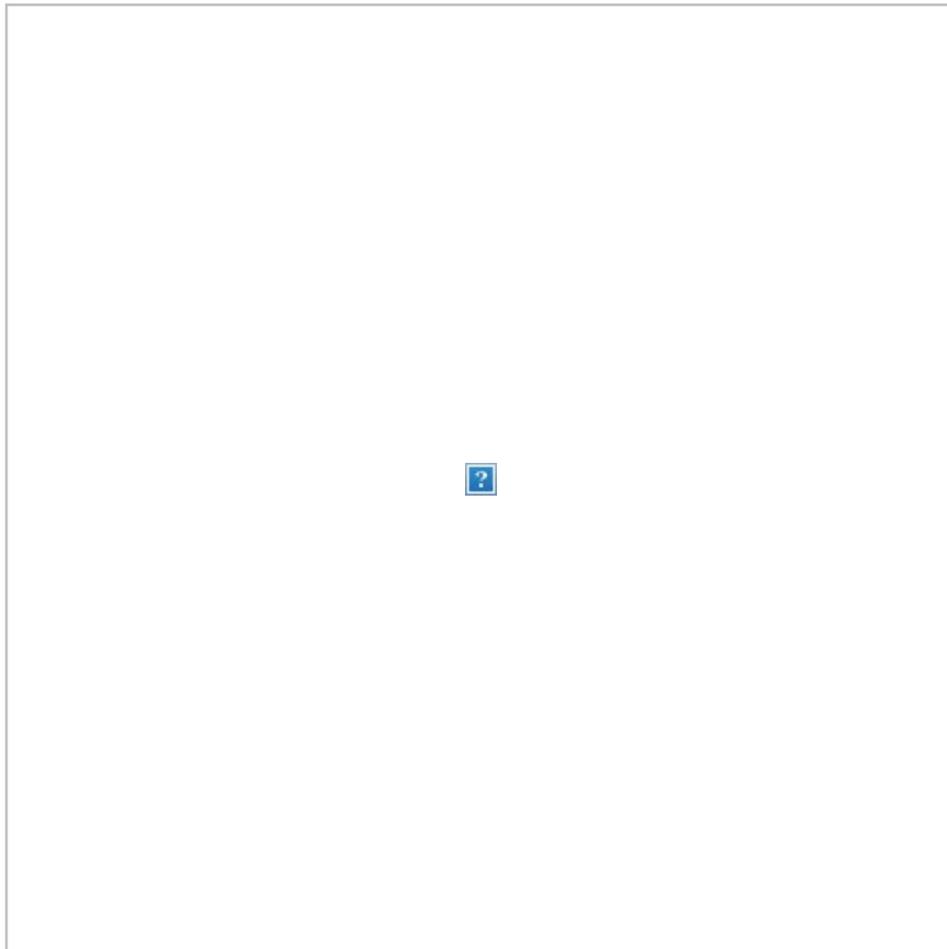
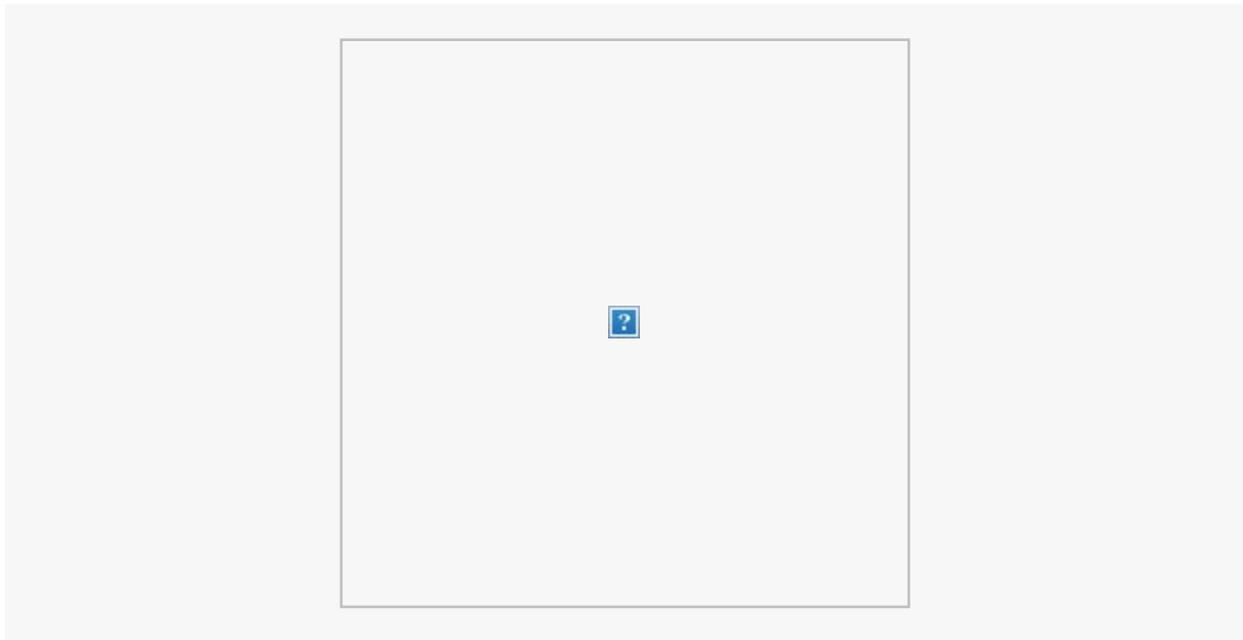


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April 5, 2024

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

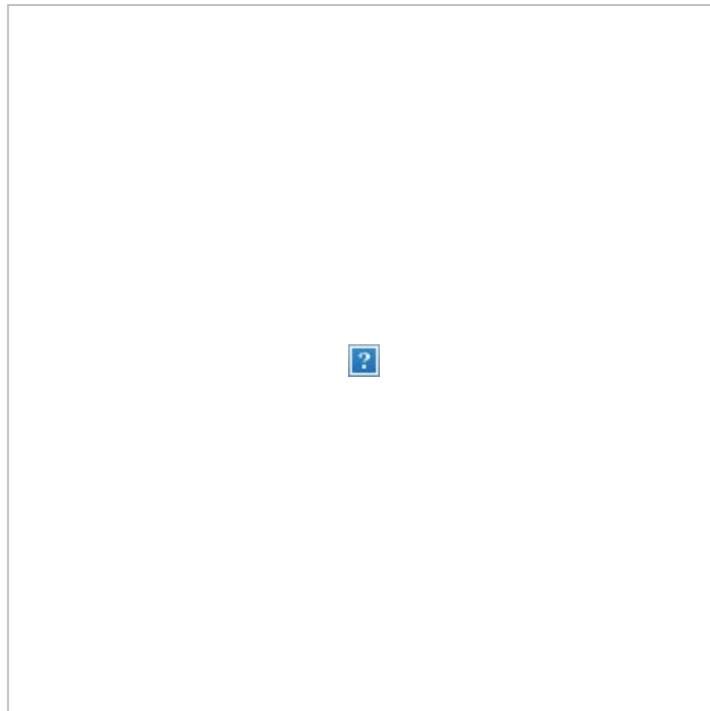
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Notable Headlines

- [Who were the World Central Kitchen aid workers killed in Gaza by Israel?](#)
- [Israeli cabinet approves reopening northern Gaza border crossing for first time since October 7, says official](#)
- [Lawmakers gather information after Texas bird flu case](#)
- [RFK Jr. disavows fundraising email boosting 'J6 activists'](#)
- [Trump used to brag about his support for Israel. Now his criticisms are growing sharper](#)

Worth reading: [Military personnel swear allegiance to the Constitution and serve the American people, not one leader or party](#)

View From The Hill



Members of Congress continued with the second week of their spring recess, but the Hill is poised to return to a buzz of activity next week, when the House intends to [send](#) its articles of impeachment against Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas to the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is [expected](#) to quickly move to dismiss the articles.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) is facing fresh headwinds from within his own party, as Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) [continues](#) to threaten action on her Motion to Vacate if the Speaker decides to move Ukraine aid next week without allowing Members to offer amendments on the Floor or in the Rules Committee. Johnson has not determined the exact plan for considering aid to Ukraine, though ideas to craft support in the form of a loan has been gaining traction within the GOP. The House is also expected to consider an extension of federal surveillance authorities, or FISA, when the chamber reconvenes.

The House Republican Steering Committee, the entity which determines GOP Members' committee assignments, is [expected](#) to meet on April 9th to select the next Chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. With current Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-TX) stepping down early from the role, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) is the overwhelming favorite to succeed her atop the spending panel. He is running against Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL) for the position. Retiring Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) is then expected to be named the new, temporary chairman of the House Rules Committee, should Cole successfully vacate his current role there for the Appropriations gavel.

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-NM), ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, [announced](#) a cancer diagnosis this week, while Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) [underwent](#) surgery to remove a blood clot in her leg and was diagnosed with May-Thurner Syndrome.

Aerospace & Defense

[Alaska Air says Boeing paid \\$160 million in compensation after MAX 9 grounding \(Reuters\)](#)

Boeing is handing out some compensation due to the grounding of their 737 MAX 9 jets as a result of the cabin panel blowout in January. Alaska Air Group said Boeing had paid about "\$160 million to the airline in the first quarter as initial compensation to address the hit from the grounding." The payment from Boeing is equivalent to the lost profits Alaska Air experienced in the first quarter. They are also expecting additional compensation. Alaska Air felt the biggest impact due to the grounding and delayed 737 MAX production due to FAA quality control metrics. The CEO does not expect to get all of the "47 planned deliveries" from Boeing over the next two years. Boeing's chief rival Airbus is sold out of single-aisle jets for the rest of the decade.

[Airbus delivered 142 airplanes in the first quarter -sources](#)

[NATO allies aim to send more air defense aid to Ukraine but make no concrete pledges \(Reuters\)](#)

Last week the Ukrainian defense minister made a plea to NATO allies to send more air defenses as they continue to experience attacks from Russia. Allies have agreed to "scour their arsenals" for more defense systems, but no concrete promises were made. The NATO Secretary General said that nations understand the urgency but did not offer a specific aid target. As NATO celebrated its 75th birthday the war in Ukraine was a sobering

reminder that there are battles in the future still to fight. Recently, a Russian drone attack struck residential structures in Ukraine killing several and cutting power for hundreds of thousands. Russia has been able to absorb losses on the battlefield due to their recruitment, but are lacking in munitions to execute a successful major offensive.

Budget & Economy

[The good, bad, and ugly of Big Tech's first quarter \(Yahoo Finance\)](#)

The tech industry had a rollercoaster of a first quarter. Nvidia's stock price soared, Google had a botched launch of its Gemini image generator, and Apple started an antitrust battle with the Department of Justice. There were also some surprises with "Meta announcing its first dividend payments and a larger stock buyback program and Apple, according to Bloomberg, decided to kill its long-gestating car program." Even surrounding all the conversation around electric vehicles, their sales took a big hit. And regulatory agencies both in the United States and in Europe began 'sniffing' around companies' AI investments. Not to mention the Congressional action taken in the US House of Representatives to ban Tik Tok or force a sale to US investors. While the fate of Tik Tok in the Senate is still unclear, it was a big step for lawmakers in the House to approve a ban of a social media platform with wide bipartisan support.

[When will rates go down? The answer rests on conflicting economic data](#)

[Biden says the US economy is the world's best. Trump calls it a 'cesspool.' Data is clear. \(CNBC\)](#)

While inflation remains high, President Biden is trying to convince Americans the US economy is healthy and is in better shape than most other nations across the globe. Former President Trump is singing the song of economic collapse saying "our supply chain is broke, stores are not stocked, and deliveries are not coming." While inflation has remained high it has fallen from its 2022 numbers and the economy in 2023 did grow 2.5% US GDP growth was significantly higher than other advanced economies like Canada and Germany who had 1.1% and negative 0.3% GDP growth respectively. But, no matter what the numbers may say, when it comes to politics perception is reality. If the American people don't see lower prices at the gas pump or at the grocery store it will be hard to convince them the economy is in a good place.

Advanced Technologies

[Amazon: Tech giant cuts hundreds of jobs in cloud computing unit \(BBC\)](#)

Amazon Web Services has been growing and now "represents 14% of Amazon's total revenue." However, several hundred individuals will be without work. Amazon has been shifting their strategy now entering the brick and mortar operations with 'Amazon Fresh.' Earliest this week it was announced that they would be removing the self-checkout system from all stores. Individuals who are losing their jobs come from sales, marketing, global

services, and the physical stores technology team. An AWS spokesperson said the decision was made to “optimize resources” and that the company will be finding internal opportunities for those whose roles were affected.

[NYC’s AI chatbot was caught telling businesses to break the law. The city isn’t taking it down](#)

[Patent data shows Ogden rise in tech \(Axios\)](#)

An unlikely city and state are on the tech rise. Ogden, Utah, a city about 10 miles east of the Great Salt Lake and 40 miles North of Salt Lake City had the “biggest decadelong growth in patents granted” which topped Salt Lake and the Provo metro areas. In 2022 Ogden was granted 199 utility patents or 30.5 per 100,000 residents. Those numbers are up more than 34% in 2012. This 10-year growth means that Ogden is one of the fastest-growing tech centers in the nation. The patents coming out of Ogden were dominated by medical technology. It is interesting to note that computer technology was not the focus of any of the top 10 cities in patents gained. As money comes in through legislation like the CHIPS Act and through private investment, you can expect more unlikely tech centers to pop up across the nation.

Military Installations & Communities

[Air Force proposes bypassing Governors in 7 states to move guard units into Space Force \(Military.com\)](#)

Air Force officials have submitted a legislative proposal to Congress that would sidestep governors in seven states and move Air National Guard units with space missions into the Space Force. This proposal has angered National Guard supporters. The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) said in a statement that, “Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall seeks to bypass the long-standing requirement in federal law for the Pentagon to obtain a governor’s consent before transferring a National Guard unit to another branch of the military.” The legislation will need approval from Congress and it is not apparent at this point how lawmakers feel on the proposal. States that would be impacted by this proposal are Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, New York, and Ohio.

[Former Air National Guardsman Facing Child Porn Charges May Have Defected to Russian Military](#)

[Houthis may be running low on their weapon stocks as attacks on ships slow. US Commander says \(Military.com\)](#)

The top US Air Force Commander for the Middle East said the pace of attacks from Houthi rebels has slowed and a working theory is that “they are running through their supplies of drone swarms and anti-ship ballistic missiles.” The persistent attacks have affected their

behavior as the pace of operations is slower than it has been. The rebels have been conducting “near daily attacks” on commercial and military ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. As a result the US and allies have had to increase their ship presence in the area. It is hard to know how much of the Houthis’ stockpile has deteriorated because there were no detailed intelligence assessments before attacks began.

Homeland Security

[DHS attempts to stop a steady stream of guns from America to Haiti \(NBC\)](#)

Haiti is struggling with an illegal flow of high-powered weapons. While one might expect it to come from another Latin American country, the source is much closer to home. A UN report identified Florida as the principal source of firearms and munitions largely smuggled into Haiti. Armed groups and gangs are drowning Port-au-Prince with gunfire from “sniper rifles, machine guns, and other potent weapons.” Officials in Miami say these weapons are being hidden in various ways from inside electronic equipment to frozen food items. They reported on “some guns that were found hidden in wooden pallets disguised as humanitarian aid.” Smugglers are likely using a loophole that allows cargo with a handwritten manifest worth less than \$2,500 to avoid inspections.

[Outgoing DHS lawyer calls to up security ahead of ‘next Jan. 6’](#)

[House Republicans to probe Homeland Security’s 200,000 botched immigration court cases \(National Review\)](#)

Two weeks ago it was reported that immigration judges dismissed deportation cases for 200,000 migrants because the Department of Homeland Security failed to file the required paperwork before their court dates. Now, Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee have opened an investigation “into DHS’ mishandling of the immigration court system, which has resulted in many botched deportation cases since 2021.” Republicans are claiming the Biden administration is responsible for ‘failure to prosecute.’ In a letter the committee wrote there “were 15,546 dismissals for failure to prosecute and the administration only refiled charges in 25.4% of the 200,000 unresolved cases, allowing about 150,000 illegal immigrants to remain in the country.” This probe does not come at a great time for DHS as one of their top lawyers just left for the law firm, Nixon Peabody, and DHS Secretary Mayorkas has his impeachment trial in the Senate next week.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[CSX adds freight route to transport cargo to New York with Port of Baltimore closed \(CBS\)](#)

The Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse last week continues to have an impact on transportation. CSX is now adding a new freight route to transport cargo to New York while activity at the Port of Baltimore remains limited. The route will assist in managing the traffic flow that would typically go through the Port of Baltimore and transport freight between

New York and Baltimore. There is no current timeline for when freight operations will resume in Baltimore so CSX is taking steps to ensure “they are meeting their customers’ transportation needs during this challenging period.” A temporary passage was cleared this week and will allow commercial and essential ships to use the Patapsco River.

[\\$900,000,000 to improve LA transportation infrastructure](#)

[Maniv announces third early-stage venture fund of \\$140M to accelerate the decarbonization and digitization of global transportation \(Yahoo Finance\)](#)

Maniv, the global venture capital firm based in Tel Aviv and New York City, announced the closing of its \$140 million fund. Maniv was one of the “first institutional investors to articulate a global, early-stage investment strategy focused on the intersection between mobility, transportation, and energy. The goal of this third fund was to invest in companies that are working to either digitize transportation’s value chains or decarbonize transportation. An example of a company who is working to achieve these goals is Celadine. They are based in Chicago and work to “extend the lifespan and efficiency of proton-exchange membranes to make green hydrogen production financially viable.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[‘Unable to find talent’: New non-profit offering free training to get more people into biotech jobs \(Boston 25 News\)](#)

MassBio has undertaken a new non-profit called Bioversity. This will be a new training program to help individuals find work in biotech. The goal of Bioversity is to utilize their workforce training center to help “connect underrepresented populations from the Boston community and place them into life sciences careers.” Students will attend classes for 8 weeks and will receive a stipend to offset their costs while attending the program. Students are taught by professionals in the biotech space like Ronny Priefer who is a professor from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The program is welcomed news for local employers who have been trying to fill positions, “as well as for people of color who have been trying to break into this industry.” The program is also increasing awareness of the biotech industry especially for those who already have an interest in science.

[HHS looks to create ‘one-stop shop’ for healthcare cybersecurity](#)

[Hennepin Healthcare workers crushed by cost of gunfire: “It’s a public health emergency ciris” \(CBS\)](#)

When covid stifled the healthcare industry it took a toll on healthcare workers. But it now appears gun violence is the new public health crisis as defined by some in the healthcare space. In 2023 Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis treated more than 1,500 shooting victims, which averages out to four a day. Fortunately, 85% of those victims are now

survivors. Much like covid, the “severity of gun shots range from non-lethal, glancing wounds to multiple gunshot wounds to the head and chest.” Healthcare providers see themselves needing more “emotional time to recover and a feeling of lack of safety for their own children.” Hennepin Healthcare does what they can for families of victims with a critical incident support team. They “provide immediate emotional support after a traumatic experience and hold drop-in support hours after a stressful event.”

Climate & Development

[Federal court strikes down Biden’s climate rule for states \(Fox\)](#)

The Biden administration put out a climate rule that required states to track and set reduction goals for greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles on highways. However, for the state of Kentucky and the 21 other states who challenged the regulation they got a major victory from Judge Benjamin Beaton of the US District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. He ordered the Federal Highway Administration to stand down on the rules. The FHA said they are reviewing the court’s decision and determining their next steps. The Attorney General of Kentucky said “like all Americans, Kentuckians love our trucks, cars, and vans. With this victory in court, we’re slamming the breaks on the Biden administration’s politics that make no sense in the commonwealth.”

[Mexico’s likely next president is a scientist. Politics has her mostly quiet on climate threats](#)

[California leads the nation in emissions of a climate super-pollutant, study finds \(Inside Climate News\)](#)

According to a study from the Communications Earth & Environment the state of California emits more sulfuryl fluoride than the rest of the lower 48 states combined. Sulfuryl fluoride is a potent greenhouse gas and toxic pesticide. It is primarily used as a fumigant for homes and other buildings infested with drywood termites. The pesticide is also highly toxic. The gas “targets the nervous system and can cause severe irritation of the nose, eyes, throat and respiratory system, leading to shortness of breath, weakness, nausea, seizures and death.” The study reported that California releases approximately 260 metric tons of sulfuryl fluoride each year.

Next Week’s Hearings

Armed Service Committee:

House: None listed

Senate: 4/9, 9:30 AM-DOD FY25 Budget

Appropriations Committee:

House: 4/10, 10:00 AM-DHS FY25 Budget Request

Senate: 4/9, 10:00 AM-Air and Space Force FY25 Budget; 4/9, 2:30 PM-US Agency for International Development FY25 Budget; 4/10, 10:00 AM-US Forest Service FY25 Budget; 4/10, 2:30 PM-DHS Fy25 Budget

Homeland Security Committee:

House: 4/5, 9:30 AM-Field Hearing: Port Safety, Security, and Infrastructure Investment

Senate: 4/10, 10:00 AM-Business Meeting; 4/10, 3:00 PM-Improving Export Controls Enforcement



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