Trump presses Justice Dept. to act against foes

President, lagging in polls, calls Democrats criminals

CITIZEN-BLOWS BARR ON LACK OF PROBE RESULTS

BY ANNIE GEIGER, MATTHEW ZAKRZEWSKI, KARIN DURHAM AND ASHLEY PARKER

President Trump publicly pressed the Justice Department on Friday to move against progressives’ political allies and complained that Attorney General William P. Barr is not doing enough to deliver results of a probe into how the Obama administration investigated possible collusion between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign.

The delayed report is “a disgrace,” Barr said, and Trump 2020 Demo-
crats said Thursday that the inquiry, if not properly conducted, will be closed and the president will face serious legal consequences.

President Trump, who has been accused of trying to interfere with special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into possible Russian interference in the 2016 election and other matters, said Friday that he was “very concerned” about the report of possible criminal activity.

“In the virus’s code, a hidden link

BY SARA KAPLAN, DENNIS BUTLER, JULIET KLEINER, CHAD MOONEY AND LEON TELLER

POSTVILLE, IOWA — It wasn’t until their colleague began to disappear that workers at Agri-Stat, Iowa and Illinois-based food inspection firm, were notified there was a killer in their midst.

The site’s manager, who had recently begun his job, said in a statement that he had noticed a “disturbing smell” in the building and was concerned about the worker. He said he immediately contacted the police, who arrived on the scene and confirmed that what appeared to be a body was inside.

The man had apparently been killed by a co-worker who had been under investigation for possible workplace violence.

The investigation continues, and there is no immediate threat to others.

Racial divide in violent crime is widest in years

BY JOHN R. BABBIT AND JENNIFER BOYNE

Police found a body in the South Minneapolis area of Minneapolis on Wednesday, July 21. The victim was a 24-year-old man who had been shot multiple times. The killing is the latest in an ongoing series of violent crimes in the city.

In St. Louis, violent crime in black-majority areas surged above average after stay-at-home orders lifted

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch / Associated Press

In St. Louis, violent crime in black-majority areas surged above average after stay-at-home orders lifted

BY JESSICA PARLON, JENNIFER LEHMAN AND JAKE MCKEOWN

Five years ago, Donald Trump promised to protect more than 150 acres of rolling woodland in an exclusive suburb of New York City, which he had named his luxury homes and rural tranquility.

As the nation’s largest private landowners and neighbors to some of the most exclusive homes and communities, they are well aware of the risks and benefits of these properties.

Trump property’s tax break under inquiry

BY JORDAN PARSONS, JONATHAN COHN and DAVID A. FISHER

The Trump Organization, under scrutiny for possible tax avoidance, is being investigated by federal and state authorities.

Firm seeks elite veterans to guard polls in Minnesota

BY JOSHUA PARSLOW

A private security company is recruiting former U.S. military special operations personnel to guard polling sites in Minnesota on Election Day, an effort the chairman of the company said is intended to prevent left-wing attacks on polling places.

The company, which employs former military personnel as contract employees, said in a statement that it was partnering with local election officials to provide security.

IN SUNDAYS POST

Lemons into limoncello

To make it through the other side of the pandemic, restaurants are pivoting, reinventing on the menu. Food critic Tom Sietsema reviews three local leaders on their endurance tips. Magazine

Crash course: How recreational vehicles become mainstream, a boot camp teaches first-timers how to drive — and live in — them. Travel, EL5

IN THE WORLD

Nobel Peace Prize

The award honors the “use of the UN World Programmes and its decades-long battle against global hunger.” A55

REAL ESTATE

From urban to bucolic

With remote work comes more space. A city dweller finds sanctuary in a pastoral town.
A secret coronavirus outbreak exposed by genetic science

The Agri Star plant in Postville, Iowa. ABOVE LEFT: Transistor chips, loaded with coronavirus samples, at the Babson Cancer Research Institute in La Crosse, Wis. ABOVE RIGHT: Pacal Kekuiny tested key mutations in sub-strains of the virus, charting his findings on a cork board in his office. He linked an outbreak to the Agri Star plant.

TOP: The Agri Star plant in Postville, Iowa. ABOVE LEFT: Transistor chips, loaded with coronavirus samples, at the Babson Cancer Research Institute in La Crosse, Wis. ABOVE RIGHT: Pacal Kekuiny tested key mutations in sub-strains of the virus, charting his findings on a cork board in his office. He linked an outbreak to the Agri Star plant.

A mistake in the code

The converse is far simpler than a binging cell — it’s rather more a prison escape. How that code can be pruned is the crux of the whole problem.

Kekuiny’s work could have a major impact on the fight against COVID-19. The virus mutates rapidly, and scientists are racing to keep up with its evolution. The more we understand about the virus’s genetic code, the better equipped we will be to fight it.
A tale of two sub-strains
Two sub-lineages of the coronavirus, La Crosse in Wisconsin and Potulac in Iowa, showed distinctive replication strategies. A reader analysis: As part of the same major lineage.

The two substrains differ in important ways. La Crosse, Wis.; Potulac, Iowa.

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La Crosse, Wis.; Potulac, Iowa.

By the time the viruses arrived in the Midwest, they had acquired additional key mutations that turned general population copies into the strains that thrive in each specific sub-strain.
handed a health risk like this — no one had — and the govern- ment provided little help. The Leagues’ lawsuit against the CDC’s release guidance for at-home testing in September was denied in federal court on May 30. The Iowa Department health officials have contacted him about tracking new cases or tracing their contacts, knowing Guinto to cobble together a spreadsheet of sick workers or her own. When she walked out- side the plant, she said, it seemed as though the rest of the town wasn’t taking any precautions at all.

"Nobody was really able to guide us on how we should maneuver through this," she said.

It wasn’t until May 3, more than seven weeks after the first Postville case was diagnosed, and 13 days after Guinto re- quested help, that a state testing site broke finally came to the plant. Over 400 workers were tested for current and past infec- tions. 

Iowa did not make the results of that event public, and Guinto re- quested the state provide an update on the results or the status of the company in its report.

The state’s policy, administered by the Department of Public Health deputy director Lisa KieENER, at a May 27 news conference, is to only disclose outbreaks in work- places like meatpacking plants if 15 percent of unvaccinated ones are positive, and then only if specifically asked by a member of the media. A nursing home is con- sidered to have an outbreak once three people test positive.

Looking at the Postville data — and those very few May 18 yellow dots filled by three dis- tinctive outliers — it became clear to him what happened. The sub- strate started with a single case. But in the crowded conditions of the most processing plants, that one case could’ve exploded.

“Single viral introductions led to uncontrolled spread within the facility,” Kenny wrote in a study on the website Medrxiv, where scientists post "preprint" research that has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal. "This work showed the infectious damage resulting from widespread de- velopment of this disease from a single-incubation-point source over a large indoor environment.

"Multiple lines of evidence show that our Postville job site at the epicenter of this outbreak, Kenny said. The fact that patients from across Postville’s diverse communities were infected with the same sub- strain — despite being, shopping and worshipping in different places — suggest that they contracted the virus while they were sharing the plant, the site.

Another was that Kenny found a husband and wife with "very genetically distinct" virus strains in the Postville sub-strain. Usually carries its unique set of plenti- cally identical versions of the virus. But there had been multiple infections separately — most likely at the plant, where they both worked.

"I think we really need to jump back to the outbreak assessment and look at the actual outbreak. It’s all about the infection. It’s not about the symptoms. It’s about the spread of the virus," Kenny said.

Area health nurses have not underlined any peer review, the Post said.

"Several independent re- searchers to assess his findings, all agreed that Kenny had found evidence of a cluster of closely related cases, though we couldn’t confirm that broader and more representative sampling would bolster his conclusions.

"I think it’s a mark point," Kenny said. "That the chain of genetically linked virus, not all the people who were infected first were connected to April, that the link can definitely show how the virus got into the plant and exactly which individuals became infected. These details are what we don’t know.

"An exploration of genetically linked cases is exactly what sci- entists would expect from the common-source outbreak, said, "Our findings at the local level are consistent with what we saw at the national level in Boston."

What he has worked to expand the genomic epidemiology investiga- tions through a collaborative network of researchers and the new outbreak, he said, that was the first and the only one, "to see a group of people affected by the same virus, who were infected within a year.

"We had a profile of local health departments, in- cluding, he said, that in the state of New York, the government response, Kenny took the results to the local health departments, in- cluding, in another country, genomic epidemiology has helped identify speed- line transmission of so far, at this point, the only epidemic makes it easier to spread out.

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