

Subject: records request
Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 11:33:45 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Nerison, Kyler
To: AO Records
Attachments: image001.jpg, MT-AG-22-0522.pdf, Binder1.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

This email contains records responsive to the attached request.

Kyler Nerison
Communications Director
Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice
406-444-2031
Kyler.nerison@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly; Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: RE: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

It'll probably be 10-15 minutes

From: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Austin will be in town, yes. Do you know how long they want to interview him for?

Kelly Mougeot

Executive Assistant

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice



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From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Maybe he could do it after that radio interview?

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2022, at 12:45 PM, Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov> wrote:

Austin will be in town on Monday, right?

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Emilee!

It's Peyton Drew at One America News for the number-one show on the network, 'Real America' with Dan Ball. I was reaching out to see if the AG had availability on Monday between 2:30pmET and 4pmET to discuss the topic below? God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117

<image001.png>

<image008.jpg>

From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply)
<MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page \[lnks.gd\]](#).

<image009.jpg>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | kyler.nerison@mt.gov

Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

HELENA – Attorney General Austin Knudsen continues to lead the fight to protect Montana healthcare workers and their patients and employers from the Biden

administration's COVID-19 vaccination mandate. In a new filing today, Attorney General Knudsen and 15 other attorneys general ask a federal judge to once again block the federal government from enforcing the mandate in their respective states.

The unlawful mandate for facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is "causing havoc in the healthcare labor market" across the nation – especially in rural communities – and does not account for the pandemic's changing circumstances.

"President Biden's scheme to federalize COVID-19 vaccination policy and force it on Americans who have chosen not to get the vaccine has hit the skids. Four separate mandates have either been struck down or are currently blocked by federal courts," Attorney General Knudsen said. **"All that remains is the mandate for healthcare workers, and the emergence of the Omicron variant that is mild and resistant to vaccines has weakened the federal government's position even more. Healthcare systems in rural states like Montana can't afford to lose more workers, or patients will suffer."**

The filing is the latest in the ongoing case against President Biden's vaccine mandate for health care workers. It seeks to stop the federal government from enforcing the mandate in Montana before the February 14 deadline by which workers at covered facilities must have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending or approved application for an exemption.

According to data published by the AARP Public Policy Institute, 41 percent of nursing home and long-term care facilities in Montana are already facing a shortage of nurses and/or aides. Current numbers around the nation represent the worst staffing shortages since the government began collecting data from nursing homes in May 2020. Low staffing levels in nursing homes—particularly among registered nurses—associated with worse outcomes for residents, including more COVID-19 cases, deaths, and a higher likelihood of outbreaks. The mandate will undoubtedly make these problems worse.

"By forcing healthcare workers to choose between their jobs or an experimental vaccine they do not want, CMS is affirmatively pinching an already strained work-force—and particularly so in rural areas within [Montana]," the lawsuit reads.

Recognizing this workforce shortage and the untenable position in which it places covered healthcare facilities, federal guidance permits vaccinated employees *who a*

testing positive for COVID-19 to return to work while prohibiting unvaccinated healthcare employees from working unless they obtain an exemption.

As the milder Omicron variant now accounts for 99.9 percent of COVID-19 cases in country, the Biden administration's rationale for rushing the mandate without the leg required opportunity for the public to comment no longer exists. Additionally, emergi research shows that standard COVID-19 vaccinations provide little protection again: transmission of the Omicron variant, and federal authorities have begun to walk bac prior claims about the efficacy of the vaccines against this now-dominant variant.

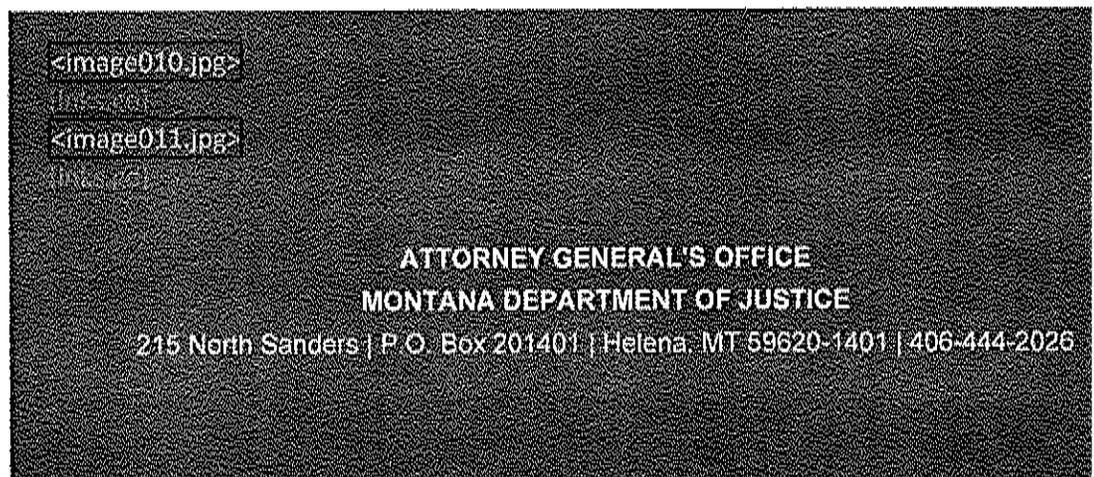
Meanwhile, new guidance from the federal government issued after the U.S. Suprer Court decision imposes a brand-new vaccine mandate on state employees who sur and report whether Medicare and Medicaid facilities are complying with applicabl regulations, including the mandate itself. This constitutes an "independent, substant rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal la yet again.

The CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate also violates the Tenth Amendment, the Spending Clause, the Anti-Commandeering Doctrine, and the Nondelegation Doctri

The case number is 3:21-cv-03970 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District Louisiana. It is being led by Montana, Arizona, and Louisiana. The other states joini are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Sou Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Click [here](#) [Inks.qd] to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



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02/25/2021

This email was sent to Peyton.Drew@oann.com using [SendGrid](#) by [CommunityConnect](#) on behalf of [Montana Attorney General](#)
Ulmer • 215 N. Sanders St. Helena, MT 59601

<image013.jpg>

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: anything to add

DOJ

OAN: Dan Ball W/ AG Knudsen, Tyrannical COVID Mandates

Montana Free Press: Election crimes alleged in Phillips County

Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen's office issued two separate press releases late last week, both containing inaccurate information about alleged election crimes in Phillips County, situated along the Hi-Line, during the 2021 municipal election there.

Last week's releases also attributed the information about the alleged election crimes to the Phillips County Sheriff's Office. Lytle, however, told MTFP on Monday that he has not spoken to Jacobsen or her staff about the situation, but noted that her office left a message with his staff for him on Friday. In response to questions emailed by MTFP Monday about the allegations and the press releases' inaccuracies, Richie Melby, Jacobsen's communications director, wrote, "we published the information based on reports our office received from the Montana Attorney General's Office, and have updated the information based on reports we have received since."

Fairfield Sun Times: Police blotter: Burglary in progress; arrests on warrants; felony assault; looking in mail boxes; gas tank damaged

All three arrests listed below were from the Montana Highway Patrol: Joshua Paul Hurrle, 42, of Butte was booked just after midnight Monday for misdemeanor driving under the influence. Jailed at around 3:30 a.m. Saturday was Johnny Victor Maurice VanMeel, 57, of Butte for the misdemeanor offenses of driving under the influence, no liability insurance in effect, and driving with a suspended or revoked driver's license. Just after 2 .m. Saturday, Jenny Rebecca Ensley, 32, of Butte was jailed for misdemeanor driving under the influence.

Montana State News Bureau: Trial set in climate change lawsuit brought by Montana youths

Atrial date has been set in a lawsuit filed by 16 young Montanans against the state government over concerns of policies they say favor fossil fuels and lead to climate change.

The trial is set for Feb. 6, 2023, in Lewis and Clark County District Court.

E&E News: Mont. kids' climate case may be first to go to trial

The 16 challengers in Held v. State of Montana filed suit in March 2020, calling on the courts to declare the state's energy policies unconstitutional. District Judge Kathy Seeley last August rejected Montana's attempt to stop the case from proceeding to trial.

MTN News: Lawsuit to halt property-tax measure should be dismissed, sponsor argues

A legal attempt to delay signature-gathering for a proposed 2022 constitutional initiative to limit residential property taxes in Montana is based on "unserious arguments" made by "unserious people" and should be dismissed, a supporter of the initiative said in court late last week.

MONTANA

The Western News: Cuffe makes final bid for Helena

He also said he has heard increasingly more concern about illegal border crossings in the West Kootenai area of the county. He is worried that too many federal agents are pulled away from the county to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border, leaving law enforcement here short staffed and stretched thin. At the same time, Cuffe believes that cartels have discovered Lincoln County and identified it as a soft spot for entry.

Having already spoken with state Attorney General Austin Knudsen regarding the issue, he is prepared to raise it at the Legislature's upcoming session.

Lee Newspapers: 2 Phillips County residents charged with falsifying voter registrations

Grace O. Albia and Jannet Benitez Zeta, both Philippine citizens, were cited Jan. 11 and both have pleaded not guilty in Phillips County Justice Court, the county attorney's office stated in a press release. The investigation began after the county clerk and recorder's office asked the sheriff to investigate a pair of potentially invalid voter registrations and ballots submitted in the municipal election, Sheriff Jerry Lytle said in an interview Monday.

Montana Free Press: State unveils broadband access map, solicits grant applications

State officials have published a new interactive map charting broadband availability across the state, presenting data that will be used to guide the distribution of more than a quarter-billion dollars in funding to boost Montana's broadband connectivity in the coming years.

MTN News: State accepting apps to use \$265M for expanding high-speed Internet

Private companies or co-ops with "demonstrated experience" in providing high-speed Internet or other communication services to residential and business customers in Montana will eligible to apply for the awards. The applicants also must finance at least 20 percent of the cost of the project themselves and can partner with local or tribal governments – but the match cannot come from those governments.

KULR8: Montana launches website recruiting health care workers across U.S.

A website summoning qualified health care workers to move to Montana was launched Monday. A release from the governor's office said CareInMontana.com is a health care workforce recruitment program to bring in more health care workers in the state through the Claim Allowance for Relocation Expenses (CARE) program.

KPAX: FWP looks to protect 113,000 acres of timberland in northwest Montana

The first steps on a major project aimed at protecting more than 113,000 acres of timberland in northwest Montana is underway.

Tabish said the 113,000 acres of timberland is a key wildlife habitat and public recreation access spot. He added the easement would make sure the land stays intact for future generations.

NATIONAL

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Stukaloff, Mary
Subject: Directv

<https://nbcmontana.com/news/local/montana-attorney-general-signs-on-to-warning-letter-for-directv>

Here's the statement I sent them yesterday too: DirectTV's announcement to not renew its contract with One America News Network seemed to be on based on a desire to silence a certain viewpoint. It's no secret that the media are overwhelmingly liberal. Attorney General Knudsen believes Montanans deserve a diversity of voices in their news.

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: DRAFT - DirecTV letter

Attorney General Knudsen urges DirecTV to respect diversity of voices and renew OAN contract

HELENA – Attorney General Knudsen joined other attorneys general in urging DirecTV to respect Americans’ viewpoint diversity and renew their contract with One America News Network (OAN). DirecTV’s plan not to renew OAN’s contract appears to be an attempt to silence a certain viewpoint at a time when the media are overwhelmingly liberal.

“You cited a ‘routine internal review’ as the basis for ending your relationship. This is highly troubling and disappointing. Not just because this is an unwise business decision, but because you are masking what is obviously viewpoint discrimination with neutral corporate-speak; your decision was certainly not based on a ‘routine internal review,’” the letter states. **“Rather, your cancelation of OAN comes after a crescendo of powerful leftwing voices demanded that you take action against them...Americans deserve a diversity of voices in their news. I urge you to do the right thing and ensure that they get it.”**

Attorney General Knudsen joined attorneys general from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and West Virginia in signing the letter to DirecTV.

Read the letter here.

###

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:11 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: FW: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

From: Emma Wulfhorst <emwulfhorst@sbgvtv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Cc: Chris Avery <chrisavery@sbgvtv.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Thanks so much! I had a few follow-up questions I was hoping you could answer.

Does the AG's office believe this an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars?

Does the AG feel this is a pressing issue facing Montanans?

Doesn't DirecTV have the right as a business to decide which broadcaster service to negotiate with?

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Emma Wulfhorst <emwulfhorst@sbgvtv.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hey Emma,

You can attribute this to me.

DirecTV's announcement to not renew its contract with One America News Network seemed to be on based on a desire to silence a certain viewpoint. It's no secret that the media are overwhelmingly liberal. Attorney General Knudsen believes Montanans deserve a diversity of voices in their news.

Thanks,
Emilee

From: Emma Wulfhorst <emwulfhorst@sbgvtv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Thank you so much! I'll keep an eye out for it.

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Emma Wulforth <emwulforth@sbgty.com>; Nerison, Kyle <Kyle.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Sinclair. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Working on getting you a statement

From: Emma Wulforth <emwulforth@sbgty.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyle <Kyle.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hey! Just following up on this.

Thanks.

From: Emma Wulforth
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 12:03 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyle <Kyle.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hi all! Hope you had a great weekend.

I was wondering if the AG was free for a quick phone or zoom interview (or if you could provide me with a statement or comment via email)?

I'm looking to discuss the letter AG Knudsen and four other AGs (Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina) signed onto from Texas AG Ken Paxton to the CEO of DirecTV, warning of consequences if the contract between the network and One America News (OAN) is not renewed.

Let me know! Thanks so much for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Emma Wulforth
Multimedia Journalist
KECI | KCFW | KTVM
emwulforth@sbgty.com
Cell: [REDACTED]

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Emilee!

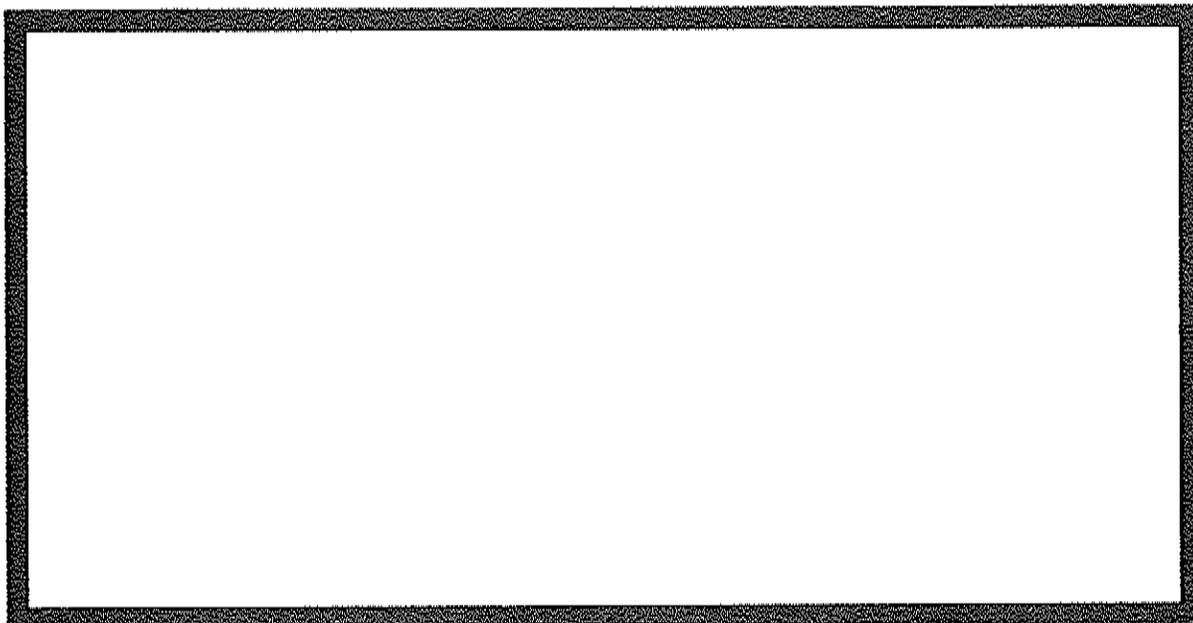
It's Peyton Drew at One America News for the number-one show on the network, 'Real America' with Dan Ball. I was reaching out to see if the AG had availability on Monday between 2:30pmET and 4pmET to discuss the topic below?
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply) <MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page \[lnks.gd\]](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: [Kyler Nerison | 406.840.2222](#)

Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

HELENA – Attorney General Austin Knudsen continues to lead the fight to protect Montana healthcare workers and their patients and employers from the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccination mandate. In a new filing today, Attorney General Knudsen and 15 other attorneys general ask a federal judge to once again block the federal government from enforcing the mandate in their respective states.

The unlawful mandate for facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is "causing havoc in the healthcare labor market" across the nation – especially in rural communities – and does not account for the pandemic's changing circumstances.

“President Biden’s scheme to federalize COVID-19 vaccination policy and force it on Americans who have chosen not to get the vaccine has hit the skids. Four separate mandates have either been struck down or are currently blocked by

federal courts,” Attorney General Knudsen said. **“All that remains is the mandate for healthcare workers, and the emergence of the Omicron variant that is milder and resistant to vaccines has weakened the federal government’s position even more. Healthcare systems in rural states like Montana can’t afford to lose more workers, or patients will suffer.”**

The filing is the latest in the ongoing case against President Biden’s vaccine mandate for health care workers. It seeks to stop the federal government from enforcing the mandate in Montana before the February 14 deadline by which workers at covered facilities must have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending or approved application for an exemption.

According to data published by the AARP Public Policy Institute, 41 percent of nursing home and long-term care facilities in Montana are already facing a shortage of nurses and/or aides. Current numbers around the nation represent the worst staffing shortages since the government began collecting data from nursing homes in May 2020. Low staffing levels in nursing homes—particularly among registered nurses—are associated with worse outcomes for residents, including more COVID-19 cases, deaths, and a higher likelihood of outbreaks. The mandate will undoubtedly make these problems worse.

“By forcing healthcare workers to choose between their jobs or an experimental vaccine they do not want, CMS is affirmatively pinching an already strained workforce—and particularly so in rural areas within [Montana],” the lawsuit reads.

Recognizing this workforce shortage and the untenable position in which it places covered healthcare facilities, federal guidance permits vaccinated employees *who are testing positive for COVID-19* to return to work while prohibiting unvaccinated healthcare employees from working unless they obtain an exemption.

As the milder Omicron variant now accounts for 99.9 percent of COVID-19 cases in the country, the Biden administration’s rationale for rushing the mandate without the legally required opportunity for the public to comment no longer exists. Additionally, emerging research shows that standard COVID-19 vaccinations provide little protection against transmission of the Omicron variant, and federal authorities have begun to walk back prior claims about the efficacy of the vaccines against this now-dominant variant.

Meanwhile, new guidance from the federal government issued after the U.S. Supreme Court decision imposes a brand-new vaccine mandate on state employees who survey and report whether Medicare and Medicaid facilities are complying with applicable regulations, including the mandate itself. This constitutes an “independent, substantive

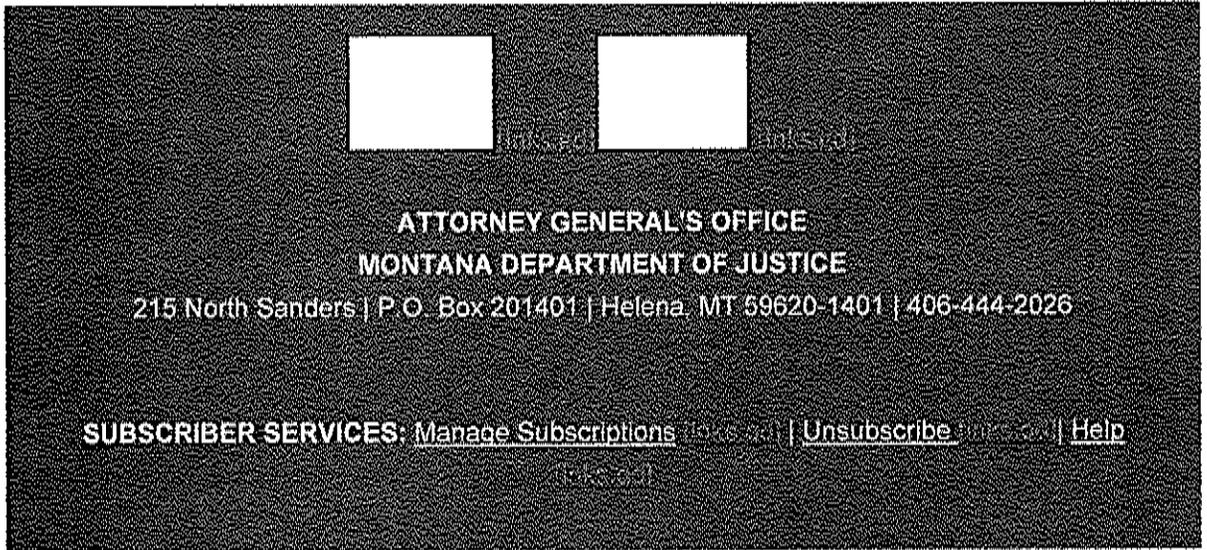
rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal law]” yet again.

The CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate also violates the Tenth Amendment, the Spending Clause, the Anti-Commandeering Doctrine, and the Nondelegation Doctrine.

The case number is 3:21-cv-03970 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. It is being led by Montana, Arizona, and Louisiana. The other states joining are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Click [here](#) [\[lnks.gd\]](#) to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



This email was sent to Peyton Freeberg from the Montana Government Communications Cloud on behalf of Montana Attorney General's Office - 215 N Sanders St - Helena, MT 59601

[\[lnks.gd\]](#)

[\[lnks.gd\]](#)

[\[lnks.gd\]](#)

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:27 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Is it just me or does our sound sound like it's coming thru a radio.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 7, 2022 at 8:20:06 PM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>, "Nerison, Kyler" <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi!

Thanks so much for helping coordinate this interview today. Here is the link, ICYMI: [REAL AMERICA -- Dan Ball W/ AG Knudsen, Tyrannical COVID Mandates, 2/7/22 \(rumble.com\) \[rumble.com\]](https://www.rumble.com/REAL-AMERICA--Dan-Ball-W-AG-Knudsen-Tyrannical-COVID-Mandates-2-7-22)

Thanks again!

When you post to social media, *please* tag the following:

Facebook: One America News Network, Real America with Dan Ball

Instagram: @danpbll and @one_america_news_

Twitter and Gettr: @DanNewsManBall and @OANN

God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:42 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

We're still on. Thanks!

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hello!

I wanted to re-confirm our interview today with the AG around 2:30pmET. We're looking forward to it!
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Saw this as I landed so thought I'd give Kyler a little break. Here's the Skype account: [REDACTED]

Thanks Peyton!

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Cc: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Kyler!

2:30pmET works on Monday. All I need is his Skype username. Thank you – looking forward to it!
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:27 PM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Cc: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Peyton – Emilee's on the road today so I'm covering for her – but absolutely. More toward the 2:30 side would work better but we have some flexibility.

Kyler Nerison

Communications Director
Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice
406-444-2031
Kyler.nerison@mt.gov



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Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Emilee!

It's Peyton Drew at One America News for the number-one show on the network, 'Real America' with Dan Ball. I was reaching out to see if the AG had availability on Monday between 2:30pmET and 4pmET to discuss the topic below?

God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply) <MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | knerison@mtadvocacy.org

Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

HELENA – Attorney General Austin Knudsen continues to lead the fight to protect Montana healthcare workers and their patients and employers from the Biden administration’s COVID-19 vaccination mandate. In a new filing today, Attorney General Knudsen and 15 other attorneys general ask a federal judge to once again block the federal government from enforcing the mandate in their respective states.

The unlawful mandate for facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is “causing havoc in the healthcare labor market” across the nation – especially in rural communities – and does not account for the pandemic’s changing circumstances.

“President Biden’s scheme to federalize COVID-19 vaccination policy and force it on Americans who have chosen not to get the vaccine has hit the skids. Four separate mandates have either been struck down or are currently blocked by federal courts,” Attorney General Knudsen said. **“All that remains is the mandate for healthcare workers, and the emergence of the Omicron variant that is milder and resistant to vaccines has weakened the federal government’s position even**

more. Healthcare systems in rural states like Montana can't afford to lose more workers, or patients will suffer."

The filing is the latest in the ongoing case against President Biden's vaccine mandate for health care workers. It seeks to stop the federal government from enforcing the mandate in Montana before the February 14 deadline by which workers at covered facilities must have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending or approved application for an exemption.

According to data published by the AARP Public Policy Institute, 41 percent of nursing home and long-term care facilities in Montana are already facing a shortage of nurses and/or aides. Current numbers around the nation represent the worst staffing shortages since the government began collecting data from nursing homes in May 2020. Low staffing levels in nursing homes—particularly among registered nurses—are associated with worse outcomes for residents, including more COVID-19 cases, deaths, and a higher likelihood of outbreaks. The mandate will undoubtedly make these problems worse.

"By forcing healthcare workers to choose between their jobs or an experimental vaccine they do not want, CMS is affirmatively pinching an already strained workforce—and particularly so in rural areas within [Montana]," the lawsuit reads.

Recognizing this workforce shortage and the untenable position in which it places covered healthcare facilities, federal guidance permits vaccinated employees *who are testing positive for COVID-19* to return to work while prohibiting unvaccinated healthcare employees from working unless they obtain an exemption.

As the milder Omicron variant now accounts for 99.9 percent of COVID-19 cases in the country, the Biden administration's rationale for rushing the mandate without the legally required opportunity for the public to comment no longer exists. Additionally, emerging research shows that standard COVID-19 vaccinations provide little protection against transmission of the Omicron variant, and federal authorities have begun to walk back prior claims about the efficacy of the vaccines against this now-dominant variant.

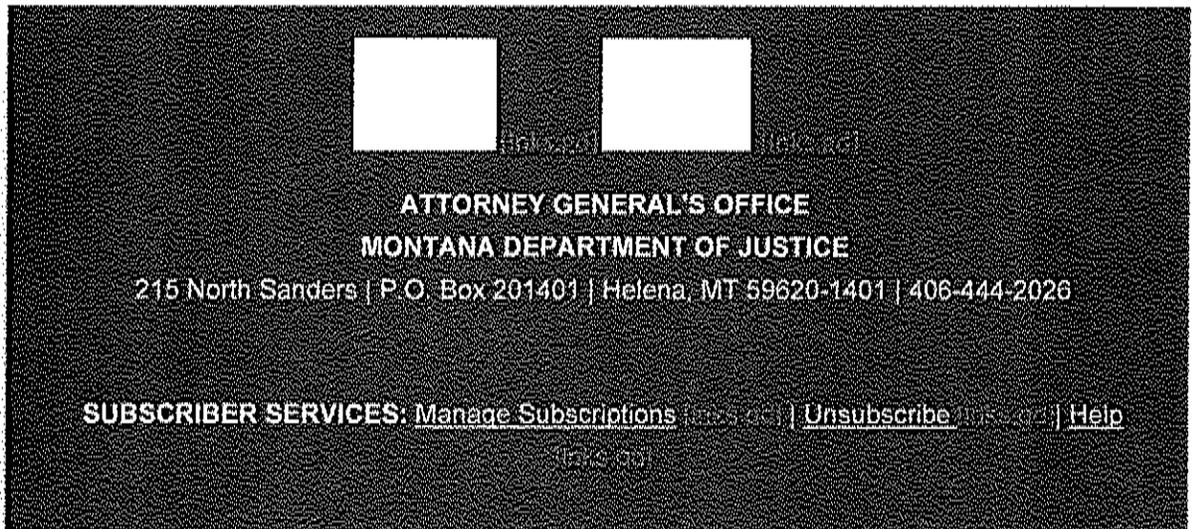
Meanwhile, new guidance from the federal government issued after the U.S. Supreme Court decision imposes a brand-new vaccine mandate on state employees who survey and report whether Medicare and Medicaid facilities are complying with applicable regulations, including the mandate itself. This constitutes an "independent, substantive rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal law]" yet again.

The CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate also violates the Tenth Amendment, the Spending Clause, the Anti-Commandeering Doctrine, and the Nondelegation Doctrine.

The case number is 3:21-cv-03970 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. It is being led by Montana, Arizona, and Louisiana. The other states joining are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Click [here \[lnks.gd\]](#) to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



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This email was sent to Peyton.Drew@oann.com using [Email Delivery Notifications Cloud](#) on behalf of Montana Attorney General's Office - 215 N Sanders St. Helena, MT 59601



Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:03 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly
Cc: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: KGEZ next Friday

TITLE OF EVENT – KGEZ interview

HOST – John Hendricks

DATE – March 25

TIME – call in 9:08, hit time 9:10

LENGTH – Likely 10-12 minutes

FORMAT – Phone call, live

Studio # - 406 -755-5439

NOTES/REMARKS/TALKING POINTS

TBD, but possibly letter to DirecTV regarding OAN

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 11:35 AM
To: colton.giammanco@mt.gov; David Ortley; dia.lang@mt.gov; DOJ Executive Team; Ekola, Buffy; Griffith, Jacob; Lansing, Alwyn; Longfield, Timothy; Pierson, Joshua; Stukaloff, Mary
Subject: News Clips - 8/9/22

DOJ

[Guest column: Working together to fight human trafficking in Montana – Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#)

It's a horrific reality for Montanans to consider, but human trafficking takes place every day in our state. The odds are most of you have seen it but didn't know.

Last month, a man involved in a sex trafficking ring in Billings was sentenced to nearly 27 years after exploiting vulnerable victims for nearly a decade — plying them with drugs and alcohol to create addictions and then forcing them into commercial sex. The operation also led to the tragic death of one of the victims. Four other men were sentenced for their role in this criminal enterprise.

[‘May Violate Multiple State Laws’: Republican AGs Demand BlackRock Answer For Pushing ESG On State Pension Funds – Daily Caller](#)

Missouri Attorney General (AG) Eric Schmidt and 18 other Republican AGs are investigating BlackRock concerning the company's push to place environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) standards on states' pension funds, according to the AGs' letter.

"They're dancing on the precipice of being in breach of their fiduciary obligations...and that's where you'd run into law-breaking in a state like Montana," Montana AG Austin Knudsen told the Daily Caller News Foundation.

[National AG group refuses to disclose info driving GOP allegations of left-wing bias – headtopics.com](#)

Despite Lama's claim that any NAAG member can request information surrounding its fund committees, some Republican attorneys general who are members of the group say their requests for information on the fund committees have been stonewalled. "I've specifically requested some more information from NAAG," Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen told the Washington Free Beacon in March

[Group of 23 states tells U.S. court CDC lacks authority to set transit mask rules | Reuters](#)

A group of 23 state attorneys general led by Florida told a federal court on Monday that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lacks the legal authority to impose a nationwide transportation mask mandate to address COVID-19. The CDC sought "an unprecedented masking mandate regulating every breath of millions of Americans," said the brief in support of the group that sued to overturn the mask mandate. In May, the U.S. Justice Department asked the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a U.S. District Court judge's April order that declared the government mandate requiring masks on airplanes, buses, trains, ride-share vehicles and in transit hubs unlawful.

MONTANA

[Bozeman officer and K-9 play role in drug bust – NBC Montana](#)

Bozeman Police Officer Peterson and K-9 partner Stretch located dangerous drugs during a traffic stop last week. Peterson conducted the traffic stop for a moving violation when Stretch alerted him to the odor of drugs coming from inside the vehicle.

Officers obtained a search warrant and located over 150 suspected fentanyl pills, several thousand dollars in cash and heroin.

[Berkshire Hathaway to buy Montana wind farms – Billings Gazette](#)

Three north-central Montana wind farms are the latest assets sought by Berkshire Hathaway, whose subsidiaries have steadily expanded in-state holdings in recent years.

The three wind farms currently owned by NaturEner are located near Cut Bank and the electricity flows into Canada by way of the Montana-Alberta Tie Line, or MATL. Berkshire Hathaway Energy filed paperwork Aug. 2 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to acquire Glacier Wind Energy I, and II, as well as Rim Rock Wind Energy. The generating assets combined capacity is 399 megawatts. They are among the earliest wind farms built in Montana for energy export.

[Granite Co. activist gets adult-use marijuana sales back on the ballot in November – Montana Free Press](#)

Think of it as weed whiplash.

In November 2020, residents of Granite County voted to legalize adult-use marijuana by a margin of 55-45. According to House Bill 701, the Legislature's subsequent marijuana framework bill, that vote established Granite as a "green" county that permits sales.

Then, in an about-face, Granite County residents voted during primary elections this June to prohibit marijuana sales within county lines by a vote of 53-47.

[Tranel, Zinke, and Lamb spar over abortion, climate and energy – Montana Free Press](#)

The three candidates for Montana's newly created western congressional district squared off in person for the first time at a candidate forum in Missoula Monday, landing glancing blows and setting the stage for a race that will elevate Montana issues to the national stage and localize national political dynamics as the major parties vie for control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

[House candidates face off in Missoula forum – Lee News](#)

Sharp exchanges and one candidate grabbing the microphone from the hand of another marked the first time contenders for Montana's new western U.S. House seat faced off in a forum held in Missoula Monday.

The audience of about 250 at a hotel conference room saw stark differences between Republican Ryan Zinke, former Secretary of the Interior and previous congressman for Montana; Democrat Monica Tranel, a past Olympian and lawyer who worked for the Public Service Commission; and Libertarian John Lamb, a Norris resident who farms and works in construction.

[Montana weighing applications for \\$200M+ in broadband grants – MTN News](#)

State leaders are preparing to make their recommendations on how to distribute more than \$200 million in funding to expand access to high-speed Internet in Montana.

Now, the next question will be whether to tweak the criteria they'll use to award the money.

Montana's ARPA Communications Advisory Commission held a meeting Monday, where they took testimony on the initial rankings of dozens of proposed projects to improve or expand broadband service.

NATIONAL

['Dark Times': Trump Slams FBI Raid at His Mar-a-Lago Home as a Political Assault | Newsmax.com](#)

Former President Donald Trump on Monday said his opponents "desperately don't want me to run for President in 2024" and will "likewise do anything to stop Republicans and Conservatives in the upcoming Midterm Elections." That, he said, is why FBI agents raided his Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday even though he said he had been "working and cooperating with the relevant Government agencies." Trump attorney Christina Bobb confirmed the FBI seized documents from Mar-a-Lago in a statement to CNN. Bobb, a former OAN host, was present for the search at Trump's Palm Beach residence. Trump called the move against a former president "dark times for our nation," and said the action was no different than Watergate and had turned the United States into a "broken third-world country."

[Snapchat introduces its first parental controls | The Seattle Times](#)

Snapchat, the ephemeral messaging app, introduced its first parental controls Tuesday, as social media platforms face increasing scrutiny for exposing young users to potentially harmful content. Snap, Snapchat's parent company, said in a blog post that its new tools would let parents see whom their teenagers were friends with on the app and whom they had communicated with in the previous seven days. Parents will also be able to report accounts that their children are friends with if they violate Snapchat's policies. Parents will not be able to see their children's conversations on the app. To gain access to the controls, people have to create Snapchat accounts and be friends with their children, who have to agree to the controls.

U.S. slams China's 'unacceptable' disruption in countering fentanyl | Reuters

Beijing last week announced the cancelation or suspension of a series of cooperation channels with Washington, including theater-level military talks, and exchanges on climate change, transnational crime, and counternarcotics. Rahul Gupta, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), said he was disappointed by the move in light of the ongoing overdose epidemic driven by fentanyl that has claimed more than 100,000 lives in the United States in the past year.

Biden administration suspends Remain-in-Mexico border policy following court order - CBS News

U.S. border officials on Monday suspended Trump-era rules that required certain migrants to wait for their asylum hearings in Mexico. The suspension followed a federal court order that put an end to a lengthy legal back-and-forth over President Biden's efforts to end the policy. In a statement, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said it had stopped placing migrants in the Migrant Protection Protocols, a policy colloquially known as "Remain-in-Mexico." It also said it would process migrants already enrolled in the program and allow them to continue their asylum cases inside the U.S.

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:52 AM
To: David Ortley; dia.lang@mt.gov; DOJ Executive Team; Ekola, Buffy; Griffith, Jacob; Lansing, Alwyn; Longfield, Timothy; Pierson, Joshua; Stukaloff, Mary
Subject: News Clips - 9/30/22

DOJ

Republican AGs Take Aim at Major Credit Card Providers Over New Gun Store Merchant Code – JD Supra

Two dozen Republican attorneys general (AGs), led by Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti and Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, sent a letter to the CEOs of credit card giants Visa, American Express, and Mastercard, warning them to halt plans that would add a new merchant category code for gun retailers. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) recently voted to create the new merchant category code for gun stores to use when processing credit and debit card transactions. The letter argues the ISO's vote was prompted by years of pressure "from ideologues and accomplished via an application by the union-owned Amalgamated Bank."

Montana AG spreads warning of fentanyl dangers in Billings – KXLF

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen was in Billings on Thursday to spread a warning about the massive increase and dangers of fentanyl in the state.

During an interview on Q2 Montana This Morning, Knudsen said he is meeting with law enforcement and visiting schools across the state trying to educate people about what he described as the "staggering" increase of the lethal drug.

Substance abuse coalition making progress in Billings amid health crisis – KTVQ

Many of Yellowstone County's top officials were in the same room Thursday, continuing work to tackle an issue crucial to Billings and all of Montana: substance abuse.

The numbers are staggering. In an interview with MTN Thursday morning, Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen said meth is still king. The state saw a 100 percent increase in violations from 2014-2018. But the number of fentanyl overdose deaths is also up over 1,000 percent since 2016.

"Already this year we've seized 111,000 dosage units," Knudsen said. "I don't think it's too much to say it's enough to kill every man, woman and child in the state."

By the Numbers: Knudsen lawsuits challenging Biden administration – Montana Free Press

The number of lawsuits challenging Biden administration policies, rules and actions that Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen has participated in, either as a named plaintiff, an amicus curiae, or an intervenor in federal and appellate courts across the country, according to a Montana Free Press review of Knudsen's public statements and federal court records. These include challenging the administration's cancellation of Keystone XL permits, vaccine mandates for health care workers, a bump-stock ban and many more.

Montana Department of Justice reminding survivors of domestic violence that they can register to vote and keep their address confidential – KTVQ (video)

Montana Human Rights Bureau says state DOJ discriminated in hiring process based on political beliefs – MTN News

A Montana Human Rights Bureau report says the Montana Department of Justice engaged in unlawful discrimination in hiring based upon the political beliefs of an applicant. DOJ says they will appeal the decision.

The Montana DOJ told MTN they plan on appealing the decision and point to the fact they asked Haladay to apply for other positions.

"It's a silly complaint. The Agency Legal Services Bureau needed an experienced manager and Pat Risken brought 18 years of managerial experience as a partner at a private law firm. We will appeal," said a DOJ spokesperson. "Andres Haladay was offered the deputy bureau chief position and a staff attorney position but did not accept. After Risken's

retirement, Haladay did not apply for the bureau chief position even after the Department reached out and encouraged him to apply."

Investigation finds DOJ likely discriminated in hiring due to political beliefs – Lee News

The Montana Department of Justice likely discriminated against an applicant for a job in its legal services bureau by denying that person the position due to their political beliefs, a state employment investigator found. A spokesperson for the Department of Justice on Thursday called the complaint "silly" and said the other candidate was chosen for their managerial experience. "We will appeal," spokesperson Emilee Cantrell said of the discrimination finding.

R-Y Timber fire accidental, cause under investigation – Bozeman Daily Chronicle

A fire that started at R-Y Timber in Livingston and injured two employees was accidental, according to the State Fire Marshal's Office. The State Fire Marshal's Office is assisting an investigation into the cause and manner of the Livingston fire. A preliminary investigation has found the fire was accidental, according to a Montana Department of Justice spokesperson.

Gallatin County attorney named in former Broadwater County commissioner's lawsuit over 'malicious prosecution' – Bozeman Chronicle

A former Broadwater County commissioner is suing the state, the Broadwater County attorney and Gallatin County Attorney Marty Lambert. According to the lawsuit, Swanson asked the Montana Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation to investigate the ex-county commissioner in 2015 after accusing her of requesting to be paid a salary higher than what's legally allowed, and for voting on items involving a nonprofit her husband worked for without disclosing a potential conflict of interest. An investigator from the Division of Criminal Investigation was assigned to the case, and filed to press criminal theft charges. A deferred prosecution agreement was hashed out in 2016, which required Obert to repay excess wages.

First responders learn how to deal with job-related stress and trauma – KRTV

On Thursday, September 29, 2022, the non-profit agency T-6 provided training and education to law enforcement officers and other first-responders. The training in East Helena was offered to police, deputies, firefighters, EMTs, and others in cooperation with the Montana Highway Patrol. The agency is also working to create a peer-support network.

Nonprofit offers free mental health and resiliency training for first responders – Montana Right Now

T-6 is a non-profit organization that focuses on mental health and officer resiliency in the first responder and military communities. It was developed to help law enforcement officers and first responders dealing with mental health or the stressors of the job. Helena, September 29-October 1, hosted by the Montana Highway Patrol

MONTANA

Cascade County sheriff breaks up federal investigation at gun show – Lee News

Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter on Saturday broke up an investigation carried out in apparent coordination between federal and Canadian authorities at a Great Falls gun show, saying those agencies had not contacted his office beforehand. Although state law does not require federal investigators to obtain approval from local law enforcement to conduct operations, the agents left the fairgrounds "reluctantly" and without issue. Slaughter has positioned himself as a "constitutional sheriff," which theorizes sheriffs are the ultimate authority in their county — above local, state and federal officials — raising questions in this incident about possible friction between layers of law enforcement.

Missoula should be targeted with any power brownouts, says Republican PSC member – Lee News

If there were to be brownouts for NorthWestern Energy customers, let them be in Missoula, a conservative Montana Public Service Commissioner declared this week in a rambling speech that seemed to startle his peers as he declared, among other things, that it was time for Montana's Republican officeholders to flex their political power. To be clear, NorthWestern Energy has never publicly suggested that brownouts were imminent, or informed regulators that it couldn't meet demand. But, Randy Pinnocci told fellow commissioners during a Tuesday meeting that the utility had confided in him that it was twice on the verge of brownouts in the last year.

Substance abuse coalition developing mobile crisis response team – Billings Gazette

A coalition of Billings community leaders said Thursday it is developing a mobile crisis response team to partner with police and others in situations where arrest and incarceration may not be the best alternative.

The coalition, Substance Abuse Connect (SAC), includes leaders from schools, health care, law enforcement, city and county government, treatment programs and others.

NATIONAL

Biden administration scales back student debt relief for millions amid legal concerns - POLITICO

The Biden administration is scaling back its debt relief program for millions of Americans over concerns about legal challenges from the student loan industry as well as a new lawsuit from Republican-led states. In a reversal, the Education Department said on Thursday it would no longer allow borrowers who have federal student loans that are owned by private entities to qualify for the relief program. The administration had previously said those borrowers would have a path to receive up to \$10,000 or \$20,000 of loan forgiveness. The policy change comes as the Biden administration this week faces its first major legal challenges to the loan forgiveness program, which Republicans have railed against as an illegal use of executive power that is too costly for taxpayers.

Outsourced censorship: Feds used private entity to target millions of social posts in 2020 | Just The News

A consortium of four private groups worked with the departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and State to censor massive numbers of social media posts they considered misinformation during the 2020 election, and its members then got rewarded with millions of federal dollars from the Biden administration afterwards, according to interviews and documents obtained by Just the News. The Election Integrity Partnership is back in action again for the 2022 midterm elections, raising concerns among civil libertarians that a chilling new form of public-private partnership to evade the First Amendment's prohibition of government censorship may be expanding.

Brands blast Twitter for ads next to child pornography accounts | Reuters

Some major advertisers including Dyson, Mazda, Forbes and PBS Kids have suspended their marketing campaigns or removed their ads from parts of Twitter because their promotions appeared alongside tweets soliciting child pornography, the companies told Reuters. DIRECTV and Thoughtworks also told Reuters late on Wednesday they have paused their advertising on Twitter. Brands ranging from Walt Disney Co (DIS.N), NBCUniversal (CMCSA.O) and Coca-Cola Co (KO.N) to a children's hospital were among more than 30 advertisers that appeared on the profile pages of Twitter accounts peddling links to the exploitative material, according to a Reuters review of accounts identified in new research about child sex abuse online from cybersecurity group Ghost Data.

Federal Court: Critical Race Theory is a 'Resource' To 'Transform' Judiciary (freebeacon.com)

The federal district court of Rhode Island is slated to host a panel on critical race theory as a "resource" to "transform" the judiciary, the latest sign that a once-obscure legal theory has become mainstream among judges and lawyers. The panel, "Critical Race Theory: What It Is And What It Is Not," will take place in October during the court's 2022 conference, "Racial and Social Justice in the Federal Courts." Featuring three law professors, the session will "help us understand and transform the relationship between race and power through our work as attorneys and judges," according to the conference agenda. There do not appear to be any dissenting voices on the panel. All three scholars—Devon W. Carbado of UCLA School of Law, Osamudia James of UNC School of Law, and Angela Onwuachi-Willig, the dean of Boston University School of Law—are outspoken proponents of critical race theory, which claims, among other things, that ostensibly neutral laws perpetuate white supremacy.

[The FBI is 'Revoking' Conservative Agents' Security Clearances, GOP Lawmakers Allege | The Daily Caller](#)

The FBI is revoking the security clearances of conservative agents and retaliating against suspected whistleblowers, three House Republicans alleged in a Thursday letter. Republicans in both chambers of Congress have alleged widespread politicized misconduct in the FBI, most notably by a Washington, D.C., agent who investigated Hunter Biden. That agent, Timothy Thibault, resigned in August rather than face an internal review. Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has said that whistleblowers have approached his office to report internal misconduct in the bureau's investigations into former President Donald Trump. The FBI is cracking down on suspected whistleblowers in response, Republican Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio, Darrell Issa of California, and Mike Johnson of Louisiana alleged in a letter to FBI Executive Assistant Director Jennifer Leigh Moore.

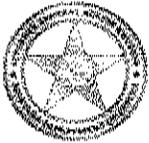
Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 10:05 AM
To: David Ortley; DOJ Executive Team; Ekola, Buffy; Griffith, Jacob; Lansing, Alwyn; Longfield, Timothy; Pierson, Joshua; Stukaloff, Mary
Subject: News Clips - 4/1/22

DOJ

BLM Issues Proposed Grazing Decision for Allotments in Phillips County (HILine Today)

On Wednesday, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a proposed decision on a bison grazing proposal involving seven allotments in Phillips County held by American Prairie. Several State officials, including Attorney General Austin Knudsen and Governor Greg Gianforte, have been critical of the proposal, voicing concerns about cattle being displaced.

Montana meth dealer sentenced to 4 years in prison (KPAX)

A Clyde Park man was sentenced on Thursday to four years in prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release for dealing methamphetamine, according to U.S. Attorney Leif M. Johnson. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer S. Clark prosecuted the case, which was investigated by the Missouri River Drug Task Force and the Montana Highway Patrol.

An IR View: Welcoming refugees, fentanyl overdoses, pop-up exhibits (Helena IR)

Preliminary data from the state medical examiner shows that 21 people in Montana died from overdoses in 2021, up from the single digits from 2017 through 2020. Sheriff Leo Dutton said in February that there were four fentanyl-related deaths in Lewis and Clark County in the prior month alone. According to Attorney General Austin Knudsen, fentanyl is the biggest threat to the state in terms of public health and violent crime. He expects to continue seeing larger seizures and more overdoses and is encouraging parents and guardians to make sure their children know how dangerous the drug can be.

BLM gives initial approval to American Prairie bison grazing plan (MTN News)

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has given initial approval to a proposal to graze bison in north-central Montana. It's the latest step in a process that started five years ago – and it's likely not the end. American Prairie – a nonprofit formerly called American Prairie Reserve – proposed bison grazing on 63,065 acres of BLM land in Phillips County, south of Malta. The BLM's proposed decision, issued Wednesday, would allow bison, behind fences, on six of the seven areas the organization proposed.

MONTANA

Montana's voting rights under attack, panel tells League of Women Voters (Lee News)

During a League of Women Voters of the Helena Area webinar on Montana's Constitution hitting the half-century mark, speakers warned listeners that the state's voting rights are under attack and if legal challenges to bills passed by the 2021 Legislature fail, it could pack a wallop at the polls. The League held a webinar Tuesday, "Montana's Constitution at 50: Voting Rights Experts on Protecting Montanans' Right to Vote," which featured Jeremy Johnson, a Carroll College associate political science professor; Alex Rate, legal director with ACLU Montana; attorney Mike Meloy; and Keaton Sunchild, political director of Western Native Voice.

Two men caught in pedo sting plead guilty (Lee News)

Two Billings men caught in a pedophile sting last autumn pleaded guilty to child sex abuse charges this week. Abraham Francis Leroy Montez and Danny Allen Haydal admitted to counts of sexual abuse of children in Yellowstone County District Court on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. They are the first guilty pleas of nine men charged in early November with responding to ads promoting sex with children.

BLM seeks to better define genetic diversity in Pryor Mountain wild horses (Lee News)

In the wake of a 2018 lawsuit, the Bureau of Land Management is proposing changes to how it defines genetic diversity in the Pryor Mountain wild horse herd.

Some of the herd have hereditary ties to Spanish breeds brought to North America in the 1500s. How to preserve that lineage, while also reducing the number of horses to meet management goals, has caused problems between the agency and horse advocates.

Early kindergarten on the upswing (Montana Free Press)

On March 15, state lawmakers in a joint meeting of two legislative committees briefly discussed significant growth in the number of students under the age of 5 who have been admitted to Montana's kindergarten classrooms in recent years. The meeting's chair, Rep. David Bedey, R-Hamilton, requested that the Montana Office of Public Instruction investigate further to determine whether those students are eligible for the state funding that districts are receiving for their instruction.

Biden announces plan to lower gas prices. Montana's delegation responds (NBC Montana)

Current gas prices in Montana are sitting at just over \$4.09 a gallon, according to AAA.

That's about 3% less than the national average of about \$4.23, but Montanans are still feeling that burden at the pump.

NATIONAL

Fentanyl seizures in the US jump dramatically (Newsy)

Illegally-made fentanyl mostly comes from Mexico. Drug cartels put fentanyl in counterfeit pills, often passing them off as Adderall, hydrocodone or Percocet. Even in small amounts, it can be deadly.

'Unprecedented': Conservative Lawyers Condemn Coordinated Effort To Discredit Clarence Thomas (Daily Caller)

Conservative attorneys slammed Democratic lawmakers' attempts to pressure Justice Clarence Thomas into recusing himself from certain cases over his wife's political activism.

Democrats in Congress sent a letter to the Supreme Court urging Thomas to recuse himself from cases involving Jan. 6 and efforts to overturn the 2020 election after The Washington Post published texts from Thomas' wife, Virginia "Ginni" Thomas. She reportedly accused Democrats of attempting a "heist" and said "Do not concede" in messages to former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows in the days after the 2020 election.

Republican Senators Demand Answers About DirectTV's Attempt To Cancel Right-Leaning News Network OAN (The Federalist)

A pair of top Senate Republicans are demanding answers from AT&T after a subsidiary of the telecom giant announced plans to drop One America News Network (OAN) from its satellite service by April.

"We write to you with grave concern for the future of journalism and political discourse in America," wrote Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Chuck Grassley of Iowa earlier this month. The pair of GOP lawmakers outlined potential personal interests in the decision from one member of AT&T's board of directors. He also holds a financial stake in Dominion Voting Systems, which is suing OAN for its coverage of the 2020 election:

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:18 AM
To: DOJ Executive Team
Subject: News Clips - 3/15/22

DOJ

NBC Montana: Montana attorney general signs on to warning letter for DirecTV

Thursday, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton -- along with Montana's AG Austin Knudsen and the AGs of Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina -- sent a letter to DirecTV CEO Bill Morrow.

In an email, a spokesperson for Knudsen's office said, "DirecTV's announcement to not renew its contract with One America News Network seemed to be based on a desire to silence a certain viewpoint. It's no secret that the media are overwhelmingly liberal. Attorney General Knudsen believes Montanans deserve a diversity of voices in their news."

Helena IR: Over a dozen file for county offices, Gallagher bows from reelection

Charles Lane, Kevin Downs and Daniel Guzynski all filed for election to the county attorney office now held by Gallagher. He did not seek reelection this term after serving in the position for nearly 20 years. Lane and Downs are both deputy county attorneys for Lewis and Clark County and Guzynski is chief of the Montana Attorney General Office's Prosecution Services Bureau.

"If elected again, I'd take the oath at the age of 69 and I just don't want to commit to staying on the job until I'm 73," Gallagher said Monday in an email. "I know all the candidates and work with them about every day. I don't plan to endorse anyone as I think any of them could do the job."

MONTANA

Lee News: Period to file for office closes in Montana, with numerous races going unopposed

The period for candidates to get their name on the ballot closed Monday evening, setting the scene for this year's midterm elections.

For the first time in nearly three decades, Montanans will be picking representatives for two spots in the U.S. House. That came after the 2020 U.S. census determined the state had grown enough in population to regain the seat lost in the 1990s. The newly drawn western district will feature busy primaries with nine candidates: five Republicans and three Democrats, as well as a Libertarian.

Billings Gazette: Public Service Commission races heat up early

A barnburner of a Republican primary has taken shape in the few days that Montana's secretary of state was able to certify candidates for the Montana Public Service Commission.

District 5 and District 1, which include much of the Hi-Line and northeast Montana, were in limbo as a lawsuit over the unconstitutional population differences in the PSC districts played out. A federal court decided the matter last week with a new map that brought the districts into compliance with the one-person, one-vote rule of the 14th Amendment.

Montana Free Press: Congressional races up and running

Candidates running for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives have officially filed their requisite paperwork as of 5 p.m. Monday, bringing the tally of active candidates up to nine Republicans, six Democrats, four Libertarians and one Independent.

The contenders are almost equally divided between Montana's two congressional districts. Incumbent Republican Rep. Matt Rosendale, from Glendive, is running in the eastern district, which includes Lewis and Clark, Park and Yellowstone counties. He faces challenges from Republicans Kyle Austin, James Boyette and Charles A. Walking Child. The eastern district's Democratic candidates are Penny Ronning, Mark Sweeney and Skylar Williams. Gary Buchanan is the sole Independent candidate in the eastern district. The Libertarian candidates are Sam Rankin, Roger Roots and Samuel Thomas.

Montana Free Press: [Who's running for the Montana Legislature this year](#)

The biennial scramble for control of the Montana Legislature got its official start Monday with the state's candidate filing deadline.

In total, 283 Montanans, 84 of them incumbents seeking re-election to their current seats, are angling for a chance to represent constituents as citizen legislators.

"Our message is winning. We've seen over the past year that Montana is better under Republican leadership, stronger under Republican leadership," said Montana GOP Communications Director Alden Tonkay. "We're very confident in our message and our candidates."

MTN News: [Montana candidate filing closes, top election races set](#)

The candidate filing deadline for Montana's 2022 elections has passed, and we're now getting a full, official picture of who's running.

The two-month window for candidates to file with the Montana Secretary of State's Office closed at 5 p.m. on Monday. They reported 40 people filed on the last day. At the final count, 287 people filed to run for the Montana Legislature, with another 46 in the other state races on the ballot.

KULR8: [Montana's unemployment rate lowest ever in Jan. 2022](#)

Montana's unemployment rate reached a record low of 2.7% in January 2022, the governor announced.

A release from Gov. Greg Gianforte's office said the unemployment rate shrunk .2% from December 2021's adjusted rate. Montana ranks the fifth lowest unemployment rate in the country.

KPAX: [Car thefts rising in Billings; police struggle to keep up](#)

The issue isn't new — Billings ranked 15th in the nation for auto theft rate in 2017, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and rose to 8th in 2020.

The difference now is because of the rise in more high-profile crimes in the city, prosecuting those criminals, let alone recovering your car, is getting harder and harder.

NBC Montana: [Lawmakers sue CDC over airline mask mandates](#)

A group of 16 U.S. lawmakers is suing the CDC over airline mask mandates.

Among them is Montana's lone U.S. House Rep. Matt Rosendale.

The group filed suit on Monday to block the mask requirement for commercial airline travel.

Last week, the Transportation Security Administration extended masks on commercial flights until April 18.

NATIONAL

[U.S. should review drugmakers' opioid settlement tax breaks -House panel | Reuters](#)

The U.S. Justice and Treasury Departments should review the tax deductions four drugmakers made related to their \$26 billion opioid settlement, the U.S. House Oversight and Reform Committee said in a statement on Monday. The lawmakers, in a letter dated March 10, asked the departments to examine the tax breaks taken by Cardinal Health Inc., McKesson Corp., AmerisourceBergen Corp and Johnson & Johnson.

[OAN sues DirecTV, AT&T for dropping its pro-Trump propaganda channel \(msnbc.com\)](#)

One America News, the conspiratorial TV network for conservatives, filed a lawsuit last week against DirecTV and AT&T over the companies' decision this year to drop the network from their cable packages. The lawsuit seeks \$1 billion in damages from DirecTV and its majority owner, AT&T. Lawyers for OAN said the two media companies used "unchecked influence and power" to "unlawfully destroy an independent, family-run business and impede the right of American television viewers to watch the news media channels and programs of their choice."

[Mexicans surged as illegal immigration on border rose in February - Washington Times](#)

The number of illegal immigrants nabbed at the southern border rose in February as single adult Mexicans poured into the country at their highest rate in years, according to new Homeland Security data released Tuesday. All told, Customs

and Border Protection tallied 164,973 encounters with unauthorized migrants last month, up about 7% compared to January. Of those nabbed, 71,210 were Mexican. That's up more than 40% compared to just a couple of months ago.

Saudi Arabia Considers Accepting Yuan Instead of Dollars for Chinese Oil Sales - WSJ

Saudi Arabia is in active talks with Beijing to price some of its oil sales to China in yuan, people familiar with the matter said, a move that would dent the U.S. dollar's dominance of the global petroleum market and mark another shift by the world's top crude exporter toward Asia. The talks with China over yuan-priced oil contracts have been off and on for six years but have accelerated this year as the Saudis have grown increasingly unhappy with decades-old U.S. security commitments to defend the kingdom, the people said.

White House drafts TikTok stars to blame Putin for rising gas prices | Fox Business

The Biden administration tapped teenage TikTok influencers last week to coordinate messaging on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and blame Vladimir Putin for rising gas prices, according to a recording of a call between White House officials and the social media stars. Days later, Ellie Zeiler, an 18-year-old with more than 10 million followers on TikTok, posted a video in which she aimed to answer the question, "Why is gas so expensive?" Zeiler was one of 30 TikTok stars to attend a March 10 Zoom meeting with White House officials and National Security Council staffers, the Washington Post reported last week. She posted her video Sunday.

Lyft follows Uber in adding temporary gas surcharge for riders (cnbc.com)

Lyft is adding a temporary surcharge on its rides to help drivers deal with surging gas prices, the company said Monday. Lyft said the fees will go to drivers, who are in charge of filling up their own tanks. The company did not provide further details on how much more riders can expect to pay. But rideshare drivers have become upset with the rising gas prices, which take away from their earnings. Some have called on Uber and Lyft to ease the burden, while others have threatened to quit.

Manchin Won't Support Raskin for the Federal Reserve - The New York Times (nytimes.com)

Senator Joe Manchin III, a key centrist Democrat, announced on Monday that he would not support Sarah Bloom Raskin for a top position on the Federal Reserve, potentially dooming her chances for confirmation as Republicans show little appetite for placing a supporter of stricter bank regulation into the powerful role. Without Republican support in the evenly divided Senate, Democrats need all 50 senators who caucus with their party to vote in favor of Ms. Raskin for her to become the Federal Reserve's vice chair for supervision. Republicans have so far stonewalled her nomination in committee, raising concerns about her position on climate regulation and her work in the private sector.

Half of Americans Doubt Biden Will Run in 2024, WSJ Poll Shows - WSJ

President Biden enters this year's midterm elections with roughly half of Americans doubting he will seek re-election in 2024, with some citing the toll of the office on the country's oldest president as the nation is facing a pandemic, high inflation and Russia's war with Ukraine. A new Wall Street Journal poll found that 52% of Americans don't think Mr. Biden will run for re-election in two years, while 29% do expect him to pursue a second term. Nineteen percent are undecided about his future. Among Democrats, 41% said they think Mr. Biden will run again, while 32% said they didn't think he would. The poll found 26% of those Democrats unsure.

State Department agrees to supply Hunter Biden emails to New York Times | Washington Examiner

A lawyer for the New York Times said Friday the newspaper reached an agreement with the State Department to supply correspondence mentioning Hunter Biden and others tied to his business dealings. A Friday court filing announced the development, part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit seeking the records. David McCraw, who is representing the New York Times, informed the judge that the State Department said it started identifying records as part of the request and agreed to hand over the first batch of records April 28.

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:55 AM
To: DOJ Executive Team
Subject: News Clips - 3/16/22

DOJ

NBC Montana: Man convicted in deputy's murder to face prison time

The Attorney General's Office says the Montana Department of Justice successfully argued to send Barrus to prison rather than the state hospital.

"I'm proud that our DOJ prosecutors helped hold this dangerous criminal accountable for his actions and put him in prison where he belongs. Throughout this trial our team has been committed to finding justice for Broadwater County Deputy Mason Moore, his family, and all victims involved. I'm glad the court agreed with us and made the right decision today," Attorney General Austin Knudsen said in a statement.

MTN News: Helena judge rules on Barrus mental state

A state district judge has ruled the defense for Lloyd Barrus, the man convicted in the 2017 killing of Broadwater County Deputy Mason Moore, did not meet the burden for him to be ruled "guilty but mentally ill."

"I'm proud that our DOJ prosecutors helped hold this dangerous criminal accountable for his actions and put him in prison where he belongs. Throughout this trial, our team has been committed to finding justice for Broadwater County Deputy Mason Moore, his family, and all victims involved. I'm glad the court agreed with us and made the right decision today," said Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen in a statement.

Lee News: Updated: Barrus bound for prison in Broadwater County deputy's slaying

Aman convicted in the shooting death of Broadwater County Deputy Mason Moore in 2017 will be sentenced to the Montana State Prison instead of spending more time at the Montana State Hospital.

That's the bottom line of a judge's ruling, finding Tuesday that Lloyd Barrus was paranoid in the days leading up to the crimes but could understand the criminality or wrongfulness of his actions.

KULR8: MHP honors Trooper Wade Palmer on 3 year shooting anniversary

It's been three years since Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Wade Palmer was ambushed and shot multiple times. In the late hours of March 15th 2019, MHP Trooper Palmer was trying to chase down a homicide suspect when the ambush happened.

KGVO: MHP Honors Heroic Trooper on Third Anniversary of Tragic Shooting

It was early in the morning 3 years ago when the world got flipped upside down for Montana Highway Patrol trooper Wade Palmer. After checking on a vehicle on Evaro Hill, Trooper Palmer was ambushed by a gunman who shot Palmer multiple times in the head, neck, and face. Though his injuries were severe, Trooper Palmer managed to survive.

Helena IR: DOJ names new state fire marshal, chief medical officer

Dirk Johnson has been appointed to be the state fire marshal and Dr. Walter Kemp is the state's new chief medical examiner, according to a Tuesday press release from the state Department of Justice.

"I'm proud to promote two experienced employees to head two very important offices at the Montana Department of Justice," Attorney General Austin Knudsen said in the release. "I'm confident that they will continue to embody our commitment to public safety in their new roles."

Miles City Star: Knudsen joins other attorneys general to demand OAN be kept on DirecTV

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen has joined with five other attorneys general to warn DirecTV: Keep One America News Network or suffer the blowback of Donald Trump supporters and other conservatives who will likely drop the service because of its decision to drop the far-right network sometime next month.

Montana Standard: 'We're ready to roll:' Butte's gearing up for St. Patrick's Day

He will have extra crews working on St. Urho's Day on Wednesday, March 16. There will also be additional help from the Montana Highway Patrol, with an additional traffic enforcement unit on the streets and on the nearby interstate.

KXLF: Butte police expect big crowd for St. Patrick's Day parade

The Montana Highway Patrol will be on the lookout for intoxicated drivers. They will also assist Butte police with walking patrols through Uptown in groups of seven to eight officers. Police find these walking patrols can quickly defuse a tense situation.

Bozeman Daily Chronicle: Local and state law enforcement warn of housing rental scams

State Attorney General Austin Knudsen recently sent out an email warning of an uptick in different kinds of scams across the state, including rental scams, pet scams and ammunition and firearm scams.

"Always be on high alert for scammers trying to rip you off through deceptive websites and marketing practices," Knudsen stated in the email. "Always remember that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Trust your gut."

MONTANA

Lee News: Jim Brown, head of PSC, running for state Supreme Court

Jim Brown, the president of the Montana Public Service Commission, has entered the race for a seat on the Montana Supreme Court.

Brown's campaign is against Justice Ingrid Gustafson's bid for re-election and challenger Mike McMahon, a district court judge in Lewis and Clark County.

"The reason I'm running for this position is because folks from Montana reached out to me in the last several weeks after seeing who had filed for the Supreme Court and asked me to consider running," Brown said Tuesday. That included, Brown said, his clients, colleagues, friends, district court judges and trade associations.

Montana Free Press: Seven Republicans, two Democrats running for two Public Service Commission seats

Seven Republicans and two Democrats have filed to campaign for the two seats coming open on Montana's Public Service Commission, the five-member body that regulates investor-owned utility companies with captive customer bases.

Two Republicans, K. Webb Galbreath of Browning and Arlo Christianson of Great Falls, filed to run against District 1 incumbent commissioner Randy Pinocci, a Republican from Sun River whose district spans 22 counties. Republicans Derek Skees, Joe Dooling, Ann Bukacek and Dean Crabb, and Democrats Kevin Hamm and John Repke are running in District 5, which includes Lewis and Clark, Flathead, Lake and Teton counties.

The Western News: Libby seeks 3% tax on recreational marijuana

Libby city councilors last week formally petitioned the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners to pursue an additional 3% local tax on recreational marijuana sales.

The unanimous March 7 vote to send the request followed muted debate among city councilors. County commissioners now must decide whether to put the extra tax before voters in an upcoming election.

KULR8: MMIP Advocate is recognized as one of USA Today's Women of the Year

Today Cheryl Horn -- aunt of Selena not afraid is being recognized by USA Today as one of their women of the year. An advocate for missing and murdered indigenous women -- Cheryl says, "it's not about her, but for those lost voices that need to be heard.

It started in 2018 when her niece -- Tristan Grey -- was killed in a hit and run -- and no one was ever charged with the crime.

KULR8: Conservation advocates sue governor's office, DOA for failure to provide public records

According to a release from both of the organizations, they requested several documents in November 2021 of discussions between Gov. Gianforte and Hecla Mining Corporation. Additionally, the organizations requested records of "the Gianforte Administration's influence over the enforcement of the 'Bad Actor' case filed against Hecla and Baker in 2018, which was dismissed last summer."

NATIONAL

[Apprehensions at southern border rose to 165,000 in February, mostly single adults | Washington Examiner](#)

The number of migrants stopped by authorities at the southern border increased from January to February despite the slowdown in arrivals that historically unfolds in the winter months, according to government data released Tuesday. Last month, U.S. border officials working along the southern border encountered illegal immigrants 164,973 times, a 7% increase from 153,941 the previous month, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The February figure is more than four times the 36,687 seen in February 2020, prior to the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

[Wholesale prices soar 10% in February, highest level on record | Fox Business](#)

Wholesale prices accelerated again in February as strong consumer demand and pandemic-related supply chain snarls continued to fuel the highest inflation in decades. The Labor Department said Tuesday that its producer price index, which measures inflation at the wholesale level before it reaches consumers, surged 10% in February from the year-ago period. On a monthly basis, prices grew by 0.8% – a slight slowdown from January, when the gauge spiked by 1.2%.

[Senate passes bill that would make Daylight Saving Time permanent - CNNPolitics](#)

The Senate on Tuesday passed a measure that would make Daylight Saving Time permanent across the United States. The Sunshine Protection Act passed the chamber by unanimous consent. The bill would still need to pass the House and be signed by President Joe Biden to become law. If the measure clears Congress and is signed into law, it would mean no more falling back every year in the fall. CNN has reached out to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office for comment on when or if the House will take up the bill and did not immediately receive a response.

[Senate votes to nix mask mandate for public transportation | TheHill](#)

Senators voted 57-40 on the resolution, which would reduce Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements that most people wear masks on public transportation, including trains, airplanes and buses. The bill was introduced by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), and Democratic Sens. Michael Bennet (Colo.), Kyrsten Sinema (Ariz.), Jon Tester (Mont.), Mark Kelly (Ariz.), Joe Manchin (W.Va.), Catherine Cortez Masto (Nev.), Jacky Rosen (Nev.) and Maggie Hassan (N.H.) each voted for it. Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) was the only GOP senator to vote against the resolution.

[Georgia lawmakers follow Florida to advance Republican-backed bill to police elections | Reuters](#)

Republican lawmakers in Georgia on Tuesday advanced a bill expanding law enforcement's power to investigate election fraud, adding to the push by U.S. conservatives for more restrictive voting laws after former President Donald Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was rigged. Georgia's new measure would grant the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) statutory authority, and subpoena power, to investigate election fraud. Under current law, claims of voting irregularities are initially investigated by the state elections board or the secretary of state's office.

[Another Poll Finds Americans Don't Want Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity In The Classroom For K-3 Graders | The Daily Wire](#)

Polling conducted by POLITICO and Morning Consult found that 37% of Americans strongly support bans like Florida's highly controversial HB 1557, which states that "classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards." Of Americans polled, 13% said they somewhat support, 11% said they somewhat oppose, 23% said they strongly oppose, and 15% said they don't have an opinion.

[Afghan refugees in US to receive temporary protected status - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)

Afghan refugees in the United States will be allowed to stay for at least 18 months under temporary protected status, the government said Wednesday, a move that will help some of the thousands who arrived following the chaotic

American withdrawal from their country.

The Afghans must already be in the U.S. and pass a background check to qualify for the program, which is intended to help thousands who were evacuated to the U.S. under a short-term status known as humanitarian parole as their country fell to the Taliban.

'The Public Was Misled': Audit Finds New York Undercounted Nursing Home Deaths, Cuomo Tried To Cover Up | The Daily Caller

The New York State Department of Health undercounted the number of COVID-19 related nursing home deaths by more than 4,000 while Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo was in office, according to an audit released Tuesday. State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli released the audit, which showed nursing home deaths were undercounted between April of 2020 and February of 2021 by 4,071. A total of 13,147 deaths occurred during that time but just 9,076 were reported.

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:34 AM
To: DOJ Executive Team
Subject: News Clips 2/8/22

DOJ

OAN: Dan Bell W/ AG Knudsen, Tyrannical COVID Mandates

Montana Free Press: Election crimes alleged in Phillips County

Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen's office issued two separate press releases late last week, both containing inaccurate information about alleged election crimes in Phillips County, situated along the Hi-Line, during the 2021 municipal election there.

Last week's releases also attributed the information about the alleged election crimes to the Phillips County Sheriff's Office. Lytle, however, told MTFP on Monday that he has not spoken to Jacobsen or her staff about the situation, but noted that her office left a message with his staff for him on Friday. In response to questions emailed by MTFP Monday about the allegations and the press releases' inaccuracies, Richie Melby, Jacobsen's communications director, wrote, "we published the information based on reports our office received from the Montana Attorney General's Office, and have updated the information based on reports we have received since."

Fairfield Sun Times: Police blotter: Burglary in progress; arrests on warrants; felony assault; looking in mail boxes; gas tank damaged

All three arrests listed below were from the Montana Highway Patrol: Joshua Paul Hurre, 42, of Butte was booked just after midnight Monday for misdemeanor driving under the influence. Jailed at around 3:30 a.m. Saturday was Johnny Victor Maurice VanMeel, 57, of Butte for the misdemeanor offenses of driving under the influence, no liability insurance in effect, and driving with a suspended or revoked driver's license. Just after 2 .m. Saturday, Jenny Rebecca Ensley, 32, of Butte was jailed for misdemeanor driving under the influence.

Montana State News Bureau: Trial set in climate change lawsuit brought by Montana youths

Atrial date has been set in a lawsuit filed by 16 young Montanans against the state government over concerns of policies they say favor fossil fuels and lead to climate change.

The trial is set for Feb. 6, 2023, in Lewis and Clark County District Court.

E&E News: Mont. kids' climate case may be first to go to trial

The 16 challengers in Held v. State of Montana filed suit in March 2020, calling on the courts to declare the state's energy policies unconstitutional. District Judge Kathy Seeley last August rejected Montana's attempt to stop the case from proceeding to trial.

MTN News: Lawsuit to halt property-tax measure should be dismissed, sponsor argues

A legal attempt to delay signature-gathering for a proposed 2022 constitutional initiative to limit residential property taxes in Montana is based on "unserious arguments" made by "unserious people" and should be dismissed, a supporter of the initiative said in court late last week.

MONTANA

The Western News: Cuffe makes final bid for Helena

He also said he has heard increasingly more concern about illegal border crossings in the West Kootenai area of the county. He is worried that too many federal agents are pulled away from the county to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border, leaving law enforcement here short staffed and stretched thin. At the same time, Cuffe believes that cartels have discovered Lincoln County and identified it as a soft spot for entry.

Having already spoken with state Attorney General Austin Knudsen regarding the issue, he is prepared to raise it at the Legislature's upcoming session.

Lee Newspapers: 2 Phillips County residents charged with falsifying voter registrations

Grace O. Albia and Jannet Benitez Zeta, both Philippine citizens, were cited Jan. 11 and both have pleaded not guilty in Phillips County Justice Court, the county attorney's office stated in a press release. The investigation began after the county clerk and recorder's office asked the sheriff to investigate a pair of potentially invalid voter registrations and ballots submitted in the municipal election, Sheriff Jerry Lytle said in an interview Monday.

Montana Free Press: State unveils broadband access map, solicits grant applications

State officials have published a new interactive map charting broadband availability across the state, presenting data that will be used to guide the distribution of more than a quarter-billion dollars in funding to boost Montana's broadband connectivity in the coming years.

MTN News: State accepting apps to use \$266M for expanding high-speed internet

Private companies or co-ops with "demonstrated experience" in providing high-speed Internet or other communication services to residential and business customers in Montana will be eligible to apply for the awards. The applicants also must finance at least 20 percent of the cost of the project themselves and can partner with local or tribal governments – but the match cannot come from those governments.

KULR8: Montana launches website recruiting health care workers across U.S.

A website summoning qualified health care workers to move to Montana was launched Monday. A release from the governor's office said CareInMontana.com is a health care workforce recruitment program to bring in more health care workers in the state through the Claim Allowance for Relocation Expenses (CARE) program.

KPAX: FWP looks to protect 113,000 acres of timberland in northwest Montana

The first steps on a major project aimed at protecting more than 113,000 acres of timberland in northwest Montana is underway.

Tabish said the 113,000 acres of timberland is a key wildlife habitat and public recreation access spot. He added the easement would make sure the land stays intact for future generations.

NATIONAL

Daily Wire: Abbott Vows To Fight National Guard Vaccine Mandate

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott filed a preliminary injunction on Tuesday to urge the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas to protect the state's National Guard members from the Biden Administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandate. The motion argues that President Joe Biden's unconstitutional overreach seeks to undermine Abbott's chain of command, blur the lines of accountability, and endanger millions of Texans.

Washington Examiner: Rising crime wave threatens Democrats' hold on power in Congress

Rising crime in the months leading up to the November midterm elections, combined with President Joe Biden's low marks on public safety by voters, are threatening Democrats' efforts to maintain their congressional majorities. The murder rate in the United States rose 30% between 2019 and 2020, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A Pew Research Center analysis of the data said the jump was the largest single-year increase since at least 1905.

Fox News: Most homicide victims in many US cities are Black, key data shows

At least 16 U.S. cities witnessed record-high homicide rates in 2021, while New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, saw notable homicide spikes. Who were the victims in these American cities? New data provided by Freedom of Information Act requests and analyzed by Fox News shows Black males were overwhelmingly the No. 1 demographic killed in most cities. In Chicago, which tallied the most homicides since 1996, 648 of the city's 797 homicide victims were Black.

POLITICO: Government commission: Synthetic drug trafficking a 'national security' emergency

A government commission tasked with developing solutions to the U.S. synthetic opioid crisis called Tuesday for urgent action after warning that spiraling overdose deaths threaten U.S. "national security and economic well-being." The Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking's report includes 76 recommendations that provide the Biden administration a blueprint to reduce the supply of illicit synthetic opioids produced and exported by Mexican drug cartels using Chinese-manufactured raw materials.

ABC News: Overdose deaths cost US \$1 trillion annually, bipartisan report finds

The drug overdose epidemic in the United States, now primarily driven by synthetic opioids like ultra-deadly fentanyl, costs the nation roughly \$1 trillion a year, according to a new bipartisan congressional report released Tuesday. A White House Council of Economic Advisers assessment pegged the cost of the opioid crisis at \$700 billion three years ago. The new report derives the new \$1 trillion estimate based on the increase in overdose deaths seen since 2018.

CNN: Here's one reason people hate this economy, despite low unemployment: A return of the misery index

This is the best labor market most workers have ever experienced in their lives. So why are so many Americans feeling gloomy about the state of the US economy? The simple answer is inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, which is showing the fastest rate of price increases in nearly 40 years. To see how much economic pain that is causing, it's useful to look at another economic measure from that earlier era -- the misery index.

MarketWatch: The most small businesses since 1974 are raising prices due to inflation, NFIB says

The number of small businesses that raising prices on customers in January rose to a 48-year high, reflecting higher costs of labor and materials amid the biggest surge in U.S. inflation since the early 1980s. The National Federation of Independent Business said a net 61% of small businesses increased prices at the beginning of the new year. That's the highest percentage since 1974. The NFIB's small business optimism index, meanwhile, slipped 1.8 percentage points in January to 97.1 — an 11-month low.

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly; Nerison, Kyler
Subject: OAN Monday interview

Sorry this formatting is probably all wrong, but here's the info I have for Monday with OAN.

TITLE OF EVENT – OAN interview with Dan Ball on 'Real America'

OUTLET - One America News Network

DATE – February 7 at 12:30 MT

FORMAT – Skype

NOTES/REMARKS/TALKING POINTS

Topic is Friday filing in CMS vaccine mandate lawsuit.

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:38 PM
To: Emma Wulfhorst
Cc: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Answers in red below.

From: Emma Wulfhorst <emwulfhorst@sbgvtv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Cc: Chris Avery <chrisavery@sbgvtv.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Thanks so much! I had a few follow-up questions I was hoping you could answer.

Does the AG's office believe this an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars?

There was no cost

Does the AG feel this is a pressing issue facing Montanans?

Standing up to leftwing cancel culture and viewpoint discrimination, yes

Doesn't DirecTV have the right as a business to decide which broadcaster service to negotiate with?

The letter says nothing to the contrary

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Emma Wulfhorst <emwulfhorst@sbgvtv.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hey Emma,

You can attribute this to me.

DirectTV's announcement to not renew its contract with One America News Network seemed to be on based on a desire to silence a certain viewpoint. It's no secret that the media are overwhelmingly liberal. Attorney General Knudsen believes Montanans deserve a diversity of voices in their news.

Thanks,
Emilee

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Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Thank you so much! I'll keep an eye out for it.

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To: Emma Wulforst <emwulforst@sbgty.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Sinclair. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Working on getting you a statement

From: Emma Wulforst <emwulforst@sbgty.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hey! Just following up on this.

Thanks.

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To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hi all! Hope you had a great weekend.

I was wondering if the AG was free for a quick phone or zoom interview (or if you could provide me with a statement or comment via email)?

I'm looking to discuss the letter AG Knudsen and four other AGs (Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina) signed onto from Texas AG Ken Paxton to the CEO of DirectTV, warning of consequences if the contract between the network and One America News (OAN) is not renewed.

Let me know! Thanks so much for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Emma Wulforst
Multimedia Journalist

KECI | KCFW | KTVM
emwulfhorst@sbgstv.com
Cell: [REDACTED]

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: RE:

I just added that bullet about how many made per day and the \$\$ based on her questions. Also, this might be good info:
<https://robocallindex.com/history/time/montana>

From: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 3:13 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject:

- Joined with 49 other states in Anti-Robocall Litigation Task Force to cut down on illegal robocalls
- A lot of these scams are traced to call centers in countries like India and the Philippines, which means we need our federal government to work with and put pressure on the Indian government to crack down on them
- There are literally office buildings in foreign country housing call centers where people go to work every day, and clock in and out. They look like companies that could provide legitimate customer service or tech support, but they are dedicated to scamming Americans – stealing meaning from us. And they target seniors.
- This task force is taking aim at “gateway carriers” that serve as the interface between foreign call centers and American carriers like Verizon and AT&T
- The call centers use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), a technology that allows you to make voice calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular phone line
- Gateway carriers charge a small fee per call, so they make money by skirting the rules and allowing in calls even if they are likely illegal or fraudulent
- Gateway providers that bring foreign traffic into the U.S. telephone network have a responsibility to ensure the traffic is legal, but these providers are not taking sufficient action to stop robocall traffic. In many cases, they appear to be intentionally turning a blind eye in return for steady revenue.
 - To give an example, in a matter of months, one company called TollFreeDeals transmitted 143 million calls from a single India-based entity -- 20% of them were Social Security Number frauds and 35% were loan approval scams, and the rest were a mix of tech support, income tax fraud, and others.
 - We’re going after companies like this that appear to be bad actors
- We’ve sent 20 civil investigative demands to 20 gateway providers and other entities that are allegedly responsible for a majority of foreign robocall traffic
- According to the National Consumer Law Center and Electronic Privacy Information Center, over 33 million scam robocalls are made to Americans every day. An estimated \$29.8 billion dollars was stolen through scam calls in 2021.

- Common types of scams:
 - extort victims with penalty for fake income tax fraud;
 - get them to transfer money for safekeeping because of compromised Social Security Number;
 - help with tech support; they’ll tell you something is wrong with your computer and get you give information to get control of it

- make victims pay a fee for clearing some hurdle in the way of pre-approved loans
- Tips to avoid scams and unwanted calls:
 - Be wary of callers who specifically ask you to pay by gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. For example, the Internal Revenue Service does not accept iTunes gift cards.
 - Look out for prerecorded calls from imposters posing as government agencies. Typically, the Social Security Administration does not make phone calls to individuals.
 - If you suspect fraudulent activity, immediately hang-up and do not provide any personal information.
 - File a Do Not Call or Text complaint here: <https://www.donotcall.gov/report.html>
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Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:38 PM
To: Emma Wulfhorst
Cc: Nerison, Kyler
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Answers in red below.

From: Emma Wulfhorst <emwulfhorst@sbgvtv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Cc: Chris Avery <chrisavery@sbgvtv.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Thanks so much! I had a few follow-up questions I was hoping you could answer.

Does the AG's office believe this an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars?

There was no cost

Does the AG feel this is a pressing issue facing Montanans?

Standing up to leftwing cancel culture and viewpoint discrimination, yes

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Let me know! Thanks so much for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Emma Wulfhorst
Multimedia Journalist

KECI | KCFW | KTVM
emwulffhorst@sbgty.com
Cell: (██████████)

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:42 AM
To: Peyton Drew; Nerison, Kyler
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

We're still on. Thanks!

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hello!

I wanted to re-confirm our interview today with the AG around 2:30pmET. We're looking forward to it! God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: (260) 385-3973 | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Saw this as I landed so thought I'd give Kyler a little break. Here's the Skype account: live:.cid.30cbafd6c1ce77c

Thanks Peyton!

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>

Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 3:24 PM

To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>

Cc: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Kyler!

2:30pmET works on Monday. All I need is his Skype username. Thank you – looking forward to it!
God bless,

Peyton Drew

Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant

'Real America' With Dan Bali

One America News Network

Cell: (260) 385-3973 | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:27 PM

To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>

Cc: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Peyton – Emilee’s on the road today so I’m covering for her – but absolutely. More toward the 2:30 side would work better but we have some flexibility.

Kyler Nerison

Communications Director

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-2031

Kyler.nerison@mt.gov



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email contains information from the Montana Attorney General's Office which may be confidential and/or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not disclose, copy, distribute or use the contents of this information. Please notify me by return email and delete the information you received in error immediately. Thank you.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Emilee!

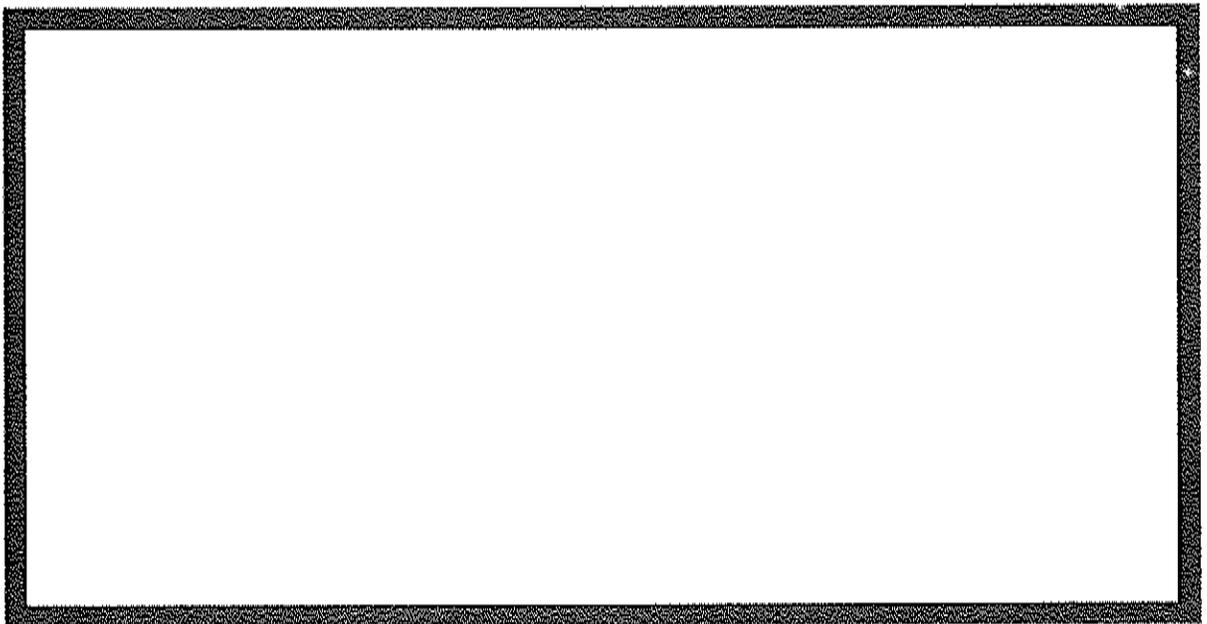
It's Peyton Drew at One America News for the number-one show on the network, 'Real America' with Dan Ball. I was reaching out to see if the AG had availability on Monday between 2:30pmET and 4pmET to discuss the topic below?
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply) <MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page \[lnks.gd\]](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | kyler@americanoversight.org

Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

HELENA – Attorney General Austin Knudsen continues to lead the fight to protect Montana healthcare workers and their patients and employers from the Biden administration’s COVID-19 vaccination mandate. In a new filing today, Attorney General Knudsen and 15 other attorneys general ask a federal judge to once again block the federal government from enforcing the mandate in their respective states.

The unlawful mandate for facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is “causing havoc in the healthcare labor market” across the nation – especially in rural communities – and does not account for the pandemic’s changing circumstances.

“President Biden’s scheme to federalize COVID-19 vaccination policy and force it on Americans who have chosen not to get the vaccine has hit the skids. Four separate mandates have either been struck down or are currently blocked by federal courts,” Attorney General Knudsen said. **“All that remains is the mandate for healthcare workers, and the emergence of the Omicron variant that is milder and resistant to vaccines has weakened the federal government’s position even**

more. Healthcare systems in rural states like Montana can't afford to lose more workers, or patients will suffer."

The filing is the latest in the ongoing case against President Biden's vaccine mandate for health care workers. It seeks to stop the federal government from enforcing the mandate in Montana before the February 14 deadline by which workers at covered facilities must have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending or approved application for an exemption.

According to data published by the AARP Public Policy Institute, 41 percent of nursing home and long-term care facilities in Montana are already facing a shortage of nurses and/or aides. Current numbers around the nation represent the worst staffing shortages since the government began collecting data from nursing homes in May 2020. Low staffing levels in nursing homes—particularly among registered nurses—are associated with worse outcomes for residents, including more COVID-19 cases, deaths, and a higher likelihood of outbreaks. The mandate will undoubtedly make these problems worse.

"By forcing healthcare workers to choose between their jobs or an experimental vaccine they do not want, CMS is affirmatively pinching an already strained workforce—and particularly so in rural areas within [Montana]," the lawsuit reads.

Recognizing this workforce shortage and the untenable position in which it places covered healthcare facilities, federal guidance permits vaccinated employees *who are testing positive for COVID-19* to return to work while prohibiting unvaccinated healthcare employees from working unless they obtain an exemption.

As the milder Omicron variant now accounts for 99.9 percent of COVID-19 cases in the country, the Biden administration's rationale for rushing the mandate without the legally required opportunity for the public to comment no longer exists. Additionally, emerging research shows that standard COVID-19 vaccinations provide little protection against transmission of the Omicron variant, and federal authorities have begun to walk back prior claims about the efficacy of the vaccines against this now-dominant variant.

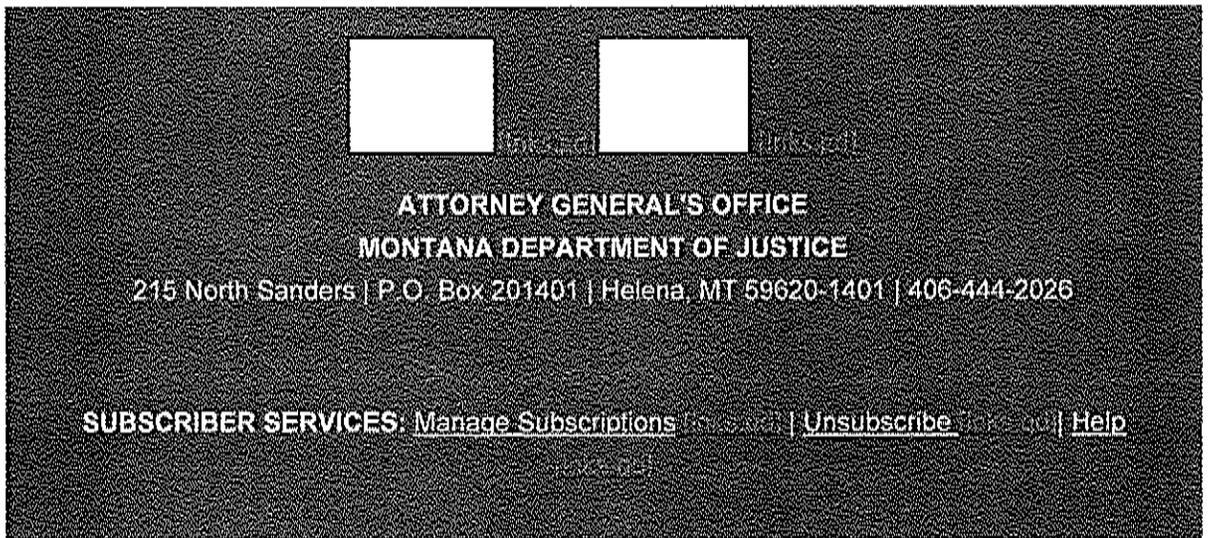
Meanwhile, new guidance from the federal government issued after the U.S. Supreme Court decision imposes a brand-new vaccine mandate on state employees who survey and report whether Medicare and Medicaid facilities are complying with applicable regulations, including the mandate itself. This constitutes an "independent, substantive rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal law]" yet again.

The CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate also violates the Tenth Amendment, the Spending Clause, the Anti-Commandeering Doctrine, and the Nondelegation Doctrine.

The case number is 3:21-cv-03970 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. It is being led by Montana, Arizona, and Louisiana. The other states joining are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Click [here](#) [\[lnks.gd\]](#) to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



This email was sent to Peyton.Drew@oann.com about Confidentiality, Commandeering, Clause on behalf of: Montana Attorney General's Office - 215 N Sanders St - Helena, MT 59601



[\[lnks.gd\]](#)
[\[lnks.gd\]](#)
[\[lnks.gd\]](#)

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: Re: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Maybe he could do it after that radio interview?

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2022, at 12:45 PM, Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov> wrote:

Austin will be in town on Monday, right?

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

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<image001.png>

<image008.jpg>

From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply)
<MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>

Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page \[Inks.qd\]](#)

<image009.jpg>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | kyler.nerison@montana.gov

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mandate in Montana before the February 14 deadline by which workers at covered facilities must have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending or approved application for an exemption.

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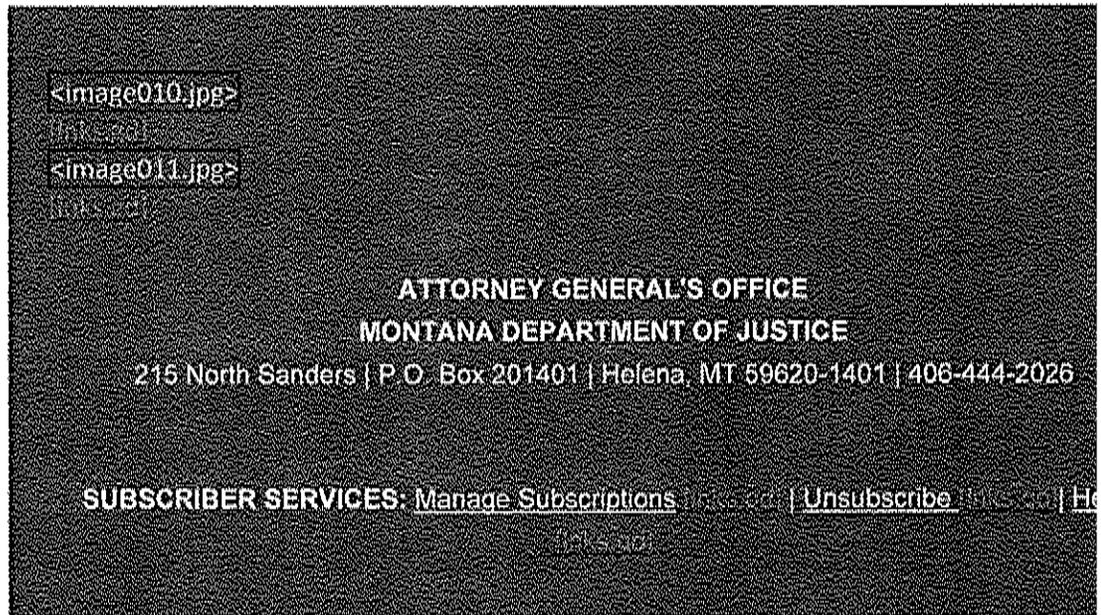
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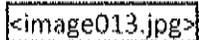
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Click [here \[lnks.qd\]](#) to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



This email was sent to Peyton.Drew@montana.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of Montana Attorney General's Office, 215 N Sanders St., Helena, MT 59601.



Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee

DOJ – feel free to discard if you already have another one

[Group of 23 states tells U.S. court CDC lacks authority to set transit mask rules | Reuters](#)

A group of 23 state attorneys general led by Florida told a federal court on Monday that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lacks the legal authority to impose a nationwide transportation mask mandate to address COVID-19. The CDC sought "an unprecedented masking mandate regulating every breath of millions of Americans," said the brief in support of the group that sued to overturn the mask mandate. In May, the U.S. Justice Department asked the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a U.S. District Court judge's April order that declared the government mandate requiring masks on airplanes, buses, trains, ride-share vehicles and in transit hubs unlawful.

NATIONAL

['Dark Times': Trump Slams FBI Raid at His Mar-a-Lago Home as a Political Assault | Newsmax.com](#)

Former President Donald Trump on Monday said his opponents "desperately don't want me to run for President in 2024" and will "likewise do anything to stop Republicans and Conservatives in the upcoming Midterm Elections." That, he said, is why FBI agents raided his Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Florida, on Monday even though he said he had been "working and cooperating with the relevant Government agencies." Trump attorney Christina Bobb confirmed the FBI seized documents from Mar-a-Lago in a statement to CNN. Bobb, a former OAN host, was present for the search at Trump's Palm Beach residence. Trump called the move against a former president "dark times for our nation," and said the action was no different than Watergate and had turned the United States into a "broken third-world country."

[Snapchat introduces its first parental controls | The Seattle Times](#)

Snapchat, the ephemeral messaging app, introduced its first parental controls Tuesday, as social media platforms face increasing scrutiny for exposing young users to potentially harmful content. Snap, Snapchat's parent company, said in a blog post that its new tools would let parents see whom their teenagers were friends with on the app and whom they had communicated with in the previous seven days. Parents will also be able to report accounts that their children are friends with if they violate Snapchat's policies. Parents will not be able to see their children's conversations on the app. To gain access to the controls, people have to create Snapchat accounts and be friends with their children, who have to agree to the controls.

[U.S. slams China's 'unacceptable' disruption in countering fentanyl | Reuters](#)

Beijing last week announced the cancelation or suspension of a series of cooperation channels with Washington, including theater-level military talks, and exchanges on climate change, transnational crime, and counternarcotics. Rahul Gupta, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), said he was disappointed by the move in light of the ongoing overdose epidemic driven by fentanyl that has claimed more than 100,000 lives in the United States in the past year.

[Biden administration suspends Remain-in-Mexico border policy following court order - CBS News](#)

U.S. border officials on Monday suspended Trump-era rules that required certain migrants to wait for their asylum hearings in Mexico. The suspension followed a federal court order that put an end to a lengthy legal back-and-forth over President Biden's efforts to end the policy. In a statement, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said it had stopped placing migrants in the Migrant Protection Protocols, a policy colloquially known as "Remain-in-Mexico." It also said it would process migrants already enrolled in the program and allow them to continue their asylum cases inside the U.S.

Nerison, Kyler

Subject: AT&T NextGen 911 Presentation
Location: Montana Law Enforcement Academy, 2260 Sierra Rd E, Helena, MT 59602
Start: Fri 12/16/2022 11:00 AM
End: Fri 12/16/2022 12:30 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Meeting organizer
Organizer: Nerison, Kyler

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 11:23 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: Fwd: LINC Grant applications for review
Attachments: image001.jpg; CSKT Resolution 22-023.pdf; CSKT LINC Application.pdf; Blackfeet LINC Resolution.pdf; Blackfeet Community College LINC Grant.pdf; Ft. Belknap 210-2021_001 LINC Resolution.pdf; Ft. Belknap LINC Application.pdf; MIPTF_Agenda_Mar_2022.pdf; Ft. Peck LINC Resolution.pdf; FT. Peck LINC application.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Doane, Alan" <Alan.Doane@mt.gov>
Date: March 8, 2022 at 11:15:42 AM MST
To: "Nerison, Kyler" <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: LINC Grant applications for review

Kyler-

All 4 grant applications received were approved in full amount , \$6250, by unanimous consent. The \$6250 was the \$50,000 approved by the legislature divided by the 8 possible tribal applicants.

From: Toole, Dana <DToole@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Toole, Dana <DToole@mt.gov>
Subject: LINC Grant applications for review

Hello MMIPTF,

We are looking forward to our meeting this week on Wednesday March 2 at 3:00
For your convenience I have attached the agenda. The zoom link to the meeting is on the agenda.

Also attached are the four LINC grant applications DOJ received in December 2021.
Please take time before the meeting to review each of the four applications.
There are two documents for each applicant - a tribal council resolution, and the LINC grant application.

- Blackfeet Nation - Blackfeet Community College
- CSKT – Flathead Tribal Police
- Ft. Belknap Indian Community Council
- Ft. Peck Tribes Assiniboine Sioux – Tribal Security Program

These are non-competitive grants, so TF members do not need to choose which LINC programs to fund.
We will need a vote on the record to accept these four proposals.

I am working with the DOJ fiscal department to learn how to proceed with the remaining \$25,000 of grant funds which remain as not all 8 tribes applied for the funding. There are some state regulations that apply to the remaining funds which I will be able to provide additional information about in the next couple of days.

If you have not already responded, please let me know if you are able or not able to attend the meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Dana Toole, LCSW
Special Services Bureau Chief
Montana Department of Justice
DToole@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-1525
Cell: [REDACTED]

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:31 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: RE: ?

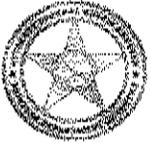
DirectTV's announcement to not renew its contract with One America News Network seemed to be on based on a desire to silence a certain viewpoint. It's no secret that the media are overwhelmingly liberal. Attorney General Knudsen believes Montanans deserve a diversity of voices in their news.

Thoughts

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: ?

It's no secret that the vast majority of the media is liberal. Attorney General Knudsen believes Montanans prefer more diverse viewpoints to be reflected in the media – not just news from the liberal point of view.

Emilee Cantrell
Press Secretary
Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice
406-444-5779
Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

From: Emma Wulforth <emwulforth@sbgvtv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Cc: Chris Avery <chrisavery@sbgvtv.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Thanks so much! I had a few follow-up questions I was hoping you could answer.

Does the AG's office believe this an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars?

There was no cost

Does the AG feel this is a pressing issue facing Montanans?

Standing up to leftwing cancel culture and viewpoint discrimination, yes

Doesn't DirecTV have the right as a business to decide which broadcaster service to negotiate with?

The letter says nothing to the contrary

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Emma Wulforth <emwulforth@sbgvtv.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hey Emma,

You can attribute this to me.

DirecTV's announcement to not renew its contract with One America News Network seemed to be based on a desire to silence a certain viewpoint. It's no secret that the media are overwhelmingly liberal. Attorney General Knudsen believes Montanans deserve a diversity of voices in their news.

Thanks,
Emilee

From: Emma Wulforth <emwulforth@sbgstv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyle <Kyle.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Thank you so much! I'll keep an eye out for it.

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Emma Wulforth <emwulforth@sbgstv.com>; Nerison, Kyle <Kyle.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXT] RE: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Sinclair. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Working on getting you a statement

From: Emma Wulforth <emwulforth@sbgstv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyle <Kyle.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hey! Just following up on this.

Thanks.

From: Emma Wulforth
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 12:03 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyle <Kyle.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: NBC Montana - Interview/Comment Request

Hi all! Hope you had a great weekend.

I was wondering if the AG was free for a quick phone or zoom interview (or if you could provide me with a statement or comment via email)?

I'm looking to discuss the letter AG Knudsen and four other AGs (Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina) signed onto from Texas AG Ken Paxton to the CEO of DirecTV, warning of consequences if the contract between the network and One America News (OAN) is not renewed.

Let me know! Thanks so much for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Emma Wulforth
Multimedia Journalist
KECI | KCFW | KTVM
emwulforth@sbgstv.com
Cell: [REDACTED]

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Peyton.Drew@oann.com
Cc: Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Peyton – Emilee’s on the road today so I’m covering for her – but absolutely. More toward the 2:30 side would work better but we have some flexibility.

Kyler Nerison

Communications Director

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-2031

Kyler.nerison@mt.gov



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Begin forwarded message:

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Emilee!

It's Peyton Drew at One America News for the number-one show on the network, 'Real America' with Dan Ball. I was reaching out to see if the AG had availability on Monday between 2:30pmET and 4pmET to discuss the topic below?
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network

Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply) <MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page \[Inks.gd\]](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | kyler.nerison@mt.gov

Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

HELENA – Attorney General Austin Knudsen continues to lead the fight to protect Montana healthcare workers and their patients and employers from the Biden administration’s COVID-19 vaccination mandate. In a new filing today, Attorney General Knudsen and 15 other attorneys general ask a federal judge to once again block the federal government from enforcing the mandate in their respective states.

The unlawful mandate for facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is “causing havoc in the healthcare labor market” across the nation – especially in rural communities – and does not account for the pandemic’s changing circumstances.

“President Biden’s scheme to federalize COVID-19 vaccination policy and force it on Americans who have chosen not to get the vaccine has hit the skids. Four separate mandates have either been struck down or are currently blocked by federal courts,” Attorney General Knudsen said. **“All that remains is the mandate for healthcare workers, and the emergence of the Omicron variant that is milder and resistant to vaccines has weakened the federal government’s position even more. Healthcare systems in rural states like Montana can’t afford to lose more workers, or patients will suffer.”**

The filing is the latest in the ongoing case against President Biden’s vaccine mandate for health care workers. It seeks to stop the federal government from enforcing the mandate in Montana before the February 14 deadline by which workers at covered facilities must have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending or approved application for an exemption.

According to data published by the AARP Public Policy Institute, 41 percent of nursing home and long-term care facilities in Montana are already facing a shortage of nurses and/or aides. Current numbers around the nation represent the worst staffing shortages since the government began collecting data from nursing homes in May 2020. Low staffing levels in nursing homes—particularly among registered nurses—are associated with worse outcomes for residents, including more COVID-19 cases, deaths, and a higher likelihood of outbreaks. The mandate will undoubtedly make these problems worse.

“By forcing healthcare workers to choose between their jobs or an experimental vaccine they do not want, CMS is affirmatively pinching an already strained workforce—and particularly so in rural areas within [Montana],” the lawsuit reads.

Recognizing this workforce shortage and the untenable position in which it places covered healthcare facilities, federal guidance permits vaccinated employees *who are testing positive for COVID-19* to return to work while prohibiting unvaccinated healthcare employees from working unless they obtain an exemption.

As the milder Omicron variant now accounts for 99.9 percent of COVID-19 cases in the country, the Biden administration’s rationale for rushing the mandate without the legally required opportunity for the public to comment no longer exists. Additionally, emerging research shows that standard COVID-19 vaccinations provide little protection against transmission of the Omicron variant, and federal authorities have begun to walk back prior claims about the efficacy of the vaccines against this now-dominant variant.

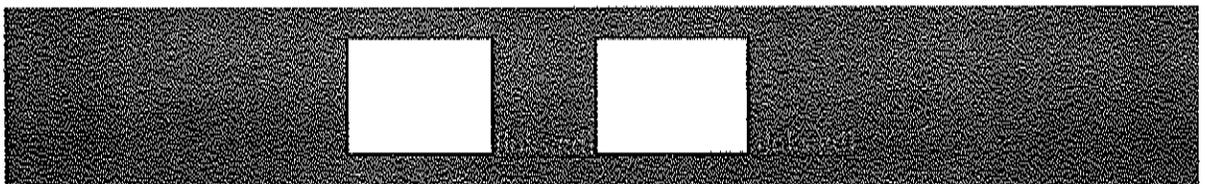
Meanwhile, new guidance from the federal government issued after the U.S. Supreme Court decision imposes a brand-new vaccine mandate on state employees who survey and report whether Medicare and Medicaid facilities are complying with applicable regulations, including the mandate itself. This constitutes an “independent, substantive rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal law]” yet again.

The CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate also violates the Tenth Amendment, the Spending Clause, the Anti-Commandeering Doctrine, and the Nondelegation Doctrine.

The case number is 3:21-cv-03970 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. It is being led by Montana, Arizona, and Louisiana. The other states joining are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Click [here](#) [lnks.gd] to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
215 North Sanders | P.O. Box 201401 | Helena, MT 59620-1401 | 406-444-2026

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■

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee; Mougeot, Kelly
Subject: Re: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Austin will be in town on Monday, right?

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Emilee!

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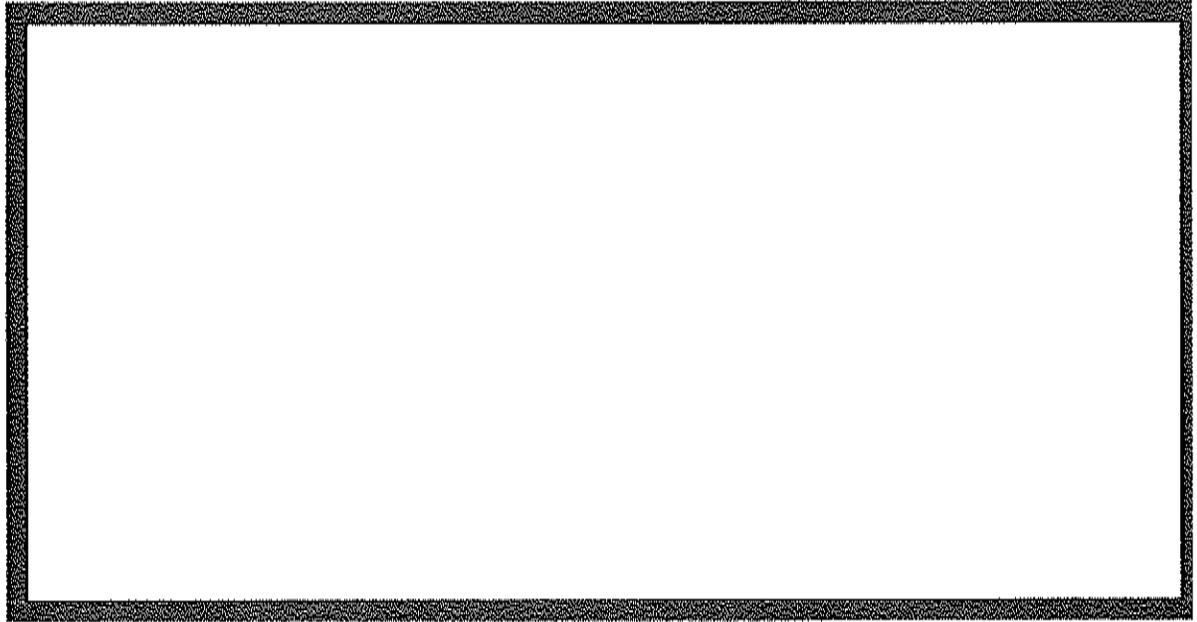
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: (██████████) | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply) <MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | knerison@americanoversight.org

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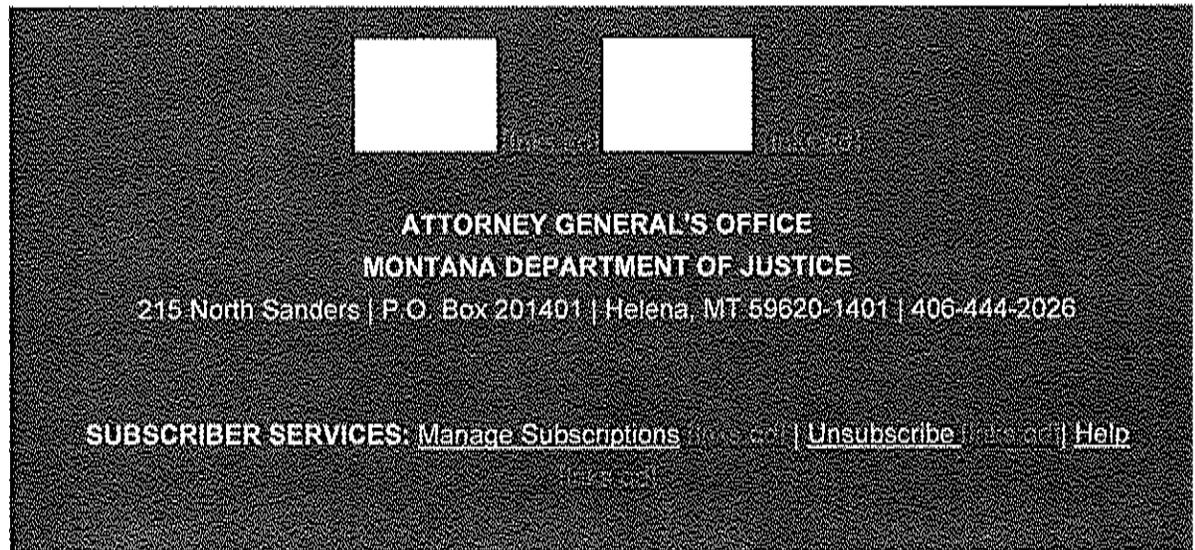
rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal law]" yet again.

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Click [here \[lnks.qd\]](#) to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



The email was sent to Payton Brown@americanoversight.com using CloudInkberry Communications, CloudInkberry on behalf of Montana Attorney General's Office - 215 N Sanders St - Helena, MT 59601



Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:26 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: RE: DRAFT - DirecTV letter

Shortened a little

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: DRAFT - DirecTV letter

Attorney General Knudsen urges DirecTV to respect diversity of voices

HELENA – Attorney General Knudsen joined other attorneys general in urging DirecTV to encourage, not restrict, viewpoint diversity in the media, and renew their contract with One America News Network (OAN).

“You cited a ‘routine internal review’ as the basis for ending your relationship. This is highly troubling and disappointing. Not just because this is an unwise business decision, but because you are masking what is obviously viewpoint discrimination with neutral corporate-speak; your decision was certainly not based on a ‘routine internal review,’” the letter states. **“Rather, your cancellation of OAN comes after a crescendo of powerful leftwing voices demanded that you take action against them...Americans deserve a diversity of voices in their news. I urge you to do the right thing and ensure that they get it.”**

Attorney General Knudsen joined attorneys general from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and West Virginia in signing the letter to DirecTV.

Read the letter here.

###

Emilee Cantrell

Press Secretary

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-5779

Emilee.cantrell@mt.gov



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Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 3:13 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee

- Joined with 49 other states in Anti-Robocall Litigation Task Force to cut down on illegal robocalls
- A lot of these scams are traced to call centers in countries like India and the Philippines, which means we need our federal government to work with and put pressure on the Indian government to crack down on them
- There are literally office buildings in foreign country housing call centers where people go to work every day, and clock in and out. They look like companies that could provide legitimate customer service or tech support, but they are dedicated to scamming Americans – stealing meaning from us. And they target seniors.
- This task force is taking aim at “gateway carriers” that serve as the interface between foreign call centers and American carriers like Verizon and AT&T

- The call centers use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), a technology that allows you to make voice calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular phone line
- Gateway carriers charge a small fee per call, so they make money by skirting the rules and allowing in calls even if they are likely illegal or fraudulent
- Gateway providers that bring foreign traffic into the U.S. telephone network have a responsibility to ensure the traffic is legal, but these providers are not taking sufficient action to stop robocall traffic. In many cases, they appear to be intentionally turning a blind eye in return for steady revenue.
 - To give an example, in a matter of months, one company called TollFreeDeals transmitted 143 million calls from a single India-based entity -- 20% of them were Social Security Number frauds and 35% were loan approval scams, and the rest were a mix of tech support, income tax fraud, and others.
 - We’re going after companies like this that appear to be bad actors
- We’ve sent 20 civil investigative demands to 20 gateway providers and other entities that are allegedly responsible for a majority of foreign robocall traffic

- Common types of scams:
 - extort victims with penalty for fake income tax fraud;
 - get them to transfer money for safekeeping because of compromised Social Security Number;
 - help with tech support; they’ll tell you something is wrong with your computer and get you give information to get control of it
 - make victims pay a fee for clearing some hurdle in the way of pre-approved loans

- Tips to avoid scams and unwanted calls:
 - Be wary of callers who specifically ask you to pay by gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. For example, the Internal Revenue Service does not accept iTunes gift cards.
 - Look out for prerecorded calls from imposters posing as government agencies. Typically, the Social Security Administration does not make phone calls to individuals.
 - If you suspect fraudulent activity, immediately hang-up and do not provide any personal information.
 - File a Do Not Call or Text complaint here: <https://www.donotcall.gov/report.html>
 - Be wary of callers who specifically ask you to pay by gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. For example, the Internal Revenue Service does not accept iTunes gift cards.

- Look out for prerecorded calls from imposters posing as government agencies. Typically, the Social Security Administration does not make phone calls to individuals.
- If you suspect fraudulent activity, immediately hang-up and do not provide any personal information.
- File a Do Not Call or Text complaint here: <https://www.donotcall.gov/report.html>

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:16 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee

[U.S. should review drugmakers' opioid settlement tax breaks -House panel | Reuters](#)

The U.S. Justice and Treasury Departments should review the tax deductions four drugmakers made related to their \$26 billion opioid settlement, the U.S. House Oversight and Reform Committee said in a statement on Monday. The lawmakers, in a letter dated March 10, asked the departments to examine the tax breaks taken by Cardinal Health Inc., McKesson Corp., AmerisourceBergen Corp and Johnson & Johnson.

[OAN sues DirecTV, AT&T for dropping its pro-Trump propaganda channel \(msnbc.com\)](#)

One America News, the conspiratorial TV network for conservatives, filed a lawsuit last week against DirecTV and AT&T over the companies' decision this year to drop the network from their cable packages. The lawsuit seeks \$1 billion in damages from DirecTV and its majority owner, AT&T. Lawyers for OAN said the two media companies used "unchecked influence and power" to "unlawfully destroy an independent, family-run business and impede the right of American television viewers to watch the news media channels and programs of their choice."

[Mexicans surged as illegal immigration on border rose in February - Washington Times](#)

The number of illegal immigrants nabbed at the southern border rose in February as single adult Mexicans poured into the country at their highest rate in years, according to new Homeland Security data released Tuesday. All told, Customs and Border Protection tallied 164,973 encounters with unauthorized migrants last month, up about 7% compared to January. Of those nabbed, 71,210 were Mexican. That's up more than 40% compared to just a couple of months ago.

[Saudi Arabia Considers Accepting Yuan Instead of Dollars for Chinese Oil Sales - WSJ](#)

Saudi Arabia is in active talks with Beijing to price some of its oil sales to China in yuan, people familiar with the matter said, a move that would dent the U.S. dollar's dominance of the global petroleum market and mark another shift by the world's top crude exporter toward Asia. The talks with China over yuan-priced oil contracts have been off and on for six years but have accelerated this year as the Saudis have grown increasingly unhappy with decades-old U.S. security commitments to defend the kingdom, the people said.

[White House drafts TikTok stars to blame Putin for rising gas prices | Fox Business](#)

The Biden administration tapped teenage TikTok influencers last week to coordinate messaging on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and blame Vladimir Putin for rising gas prices, according to a recording of a call between White House officials and the social media stars. Days later, Ellie Zeiler, an 18-year-old with more than 10 million followers on TikTok, posted a video in which she aimed to answer the question, "Why is gas so expensive?" Zeiler was one of 30 TikTok stars to attend a March 10 Zoom meeting with White House officials and National Security Council staffers, the Washington Post reported last week. She posted her video Sunday.

[Lyft follows Uber in adding temporary gas surcharge for riders \(cnbc.com\)](#)

Lyft is adding a temporary surcharge on its rides to help drivers deal with surging gas prices, the company said Monday. Lyft said the fees will go to drivers, who are in charge of filling up their own tanks. The company did not provide further details on how much more riders can expect to pay. But rideshare drivers have become upset with the rising gas prices, which take away from their earnings. Some have called on Uber and Lyft to ease the burden, while others have threatened to quit.

[Manchin Won't Support Raskin for the Federal Reserve - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Senator Joe Manchin III, a key centrist Democrat, announced on Monday that he would not support Sarah Bloom Raskin for a top position on the Federal Reserve, potentially dooming her chances for confirmation as Republicans show little appetite for placing a supporter of stricter bank regulation into the powerful role. Without Republican support in the evenly divided Senate, Democrats need all 50 senators who caucus with their party to vote in favor of Ms. Raskin for her to become the Federal Reserve's vice chair for supervision. Republicans have so far stonewalled her nomination in committee, raising concerns about her position on climate regulation and her work in the private sector.

[Half of Americans Doubt Biden Will Run in 2024, WSJ Poll Shows - WSJ](#)

President Biden enters this year's midterm elections with roughly half of Americans doubting he will seek re-election in 2024, with some citing the toll of the office on the country's oldest president as the nation is facing a pandemic, high inflation and Russia's war with Ukraine. A new Wall Street Journal poll found that 52% of Americans don't think Mr. Biden will run for re-election in two years, while 29% do expect him to pursue a second term. Nineteen percent are undecided about his future. Among Democrats, 41% said they think Mr. Biden will run again, while 32% said they didn't think he would. The poll found 26% of those Democrats unsure.

[State Department agrees to supply Hunter Biden emails to New York Times | Washington Examiner](#)

A lawyer for the New York Times said Friday said the newspaper reached an agreement with the State Department to supply correspondence mentioning Hunter Biden and others tied to his business dealings. A Friday court filing announced the development, part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit seeking the records. David McCraw, who is representing the New York Times, informed the judge that the State Department said it started identifying records as part of the request and agreed to hand over the first batch of records April 28.

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:36 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee

[Biden administration scales back student debt relief for millions amid legal concerns - POLITICO](#)

The Biden administration is scaling back its debt relief program for millions of Americans over concerns about legal challenges from the student loan industry as well as a new lawsuit from Republican-led states. In a reversal, the Education Department said on Thursday it would no longer allow borrowers who have federal student loans that are owned by private entities to qualify for the relief program. The administration had previously said those borrowers would have a path to receive up to \$10,000 or \$20,000 of loan forgiveness. The policy change comes as the Biden administration this week faces its first major legal challenges to the loan forgiveness program, which Republicans have railed against as an illegal use of executive power that is too costly for taxpayers.

[Outsourced censorship: Feds used private entity to target millions of social posts in 2020 | Just The News](#)

A consortium of four private groups worked with the departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and State to censor massive numbers of social media posts they considered misinformation during the 2020 election, and its members then got rewarded with millions of federal dollars from the Biden administration afterwards, according to interviews and documents obtained by Just the News. The Election Integrity Partnership is back in action again for the 2022 midterm elections, raising concerns among civil libertarians that a chilling new form of public-private partnership to evade the First Amendment's prohibition of government censorship may be expanding.

[Brands blast Twitter for ads next to child pornography accounts | Reuters](#)

Some major advertisers including Dyson, Mazda, Forbes and PBS Kids have suspended their marketing campaigns or removed their ads from parts of Twitter because their promotions appeared alongside tweets soliciting child pornography, the companies told Reuters. DIRECTV and Thoughtworks also told Reuters late on Wednesday they have paused their advertising on Twitter. Brands ranging from Walt Disney Co (DIS.N), NBCUniversal (CMCSA.O) and Coca-Cola Co (KO.N) to a children's hospital were among more than 30 advertisers that appeared on the profile pages of Twitter accounts peddling links to the exploitative material, according to a Reuters review of accounts identified in new research about child sex abuse online from cybersecurity group Ghost Data.

[Federal Court: Critical Race Theory Is a 'Resource' To 'Transform' Judiciary \(freebeacon.com\)](#)

The federal district court of Rhode Island is slated to host a panel on critical race theory as a "resource" to "transform" the judiciary, the latest sign that a once-obscure legal theory has become mainstream among judges and lawyers. The panel, "Critical Race Theory: What It Is And What It Is Not," will take place in October during the court's 2022 conference, "Racial and Social Justice in the Federal Courts." Featuring three law professors, the session will "help us understand and transform the relationship between race and power through our work as attorneys and judges," according to the conference agenda. There do not appear to be any dissenting voices on the panel. All three scholars—Devon W. Carbado of UCLA School of Law, Osamudia James of UNC School of Law, and Angela Onwuachi-Willig, the dean of Boston University School of Law—are outspoken proponents of critical race theory, which claims, among other things, that ostensibly neutral laws perpetuate white supremacy.

[The FBI Is 'Revoking' Conservative Agents' Security Clearances, GOP Lawmakers Allege | The Daily Caller](#)

The FBI is revoking the security clearances of conservative agents and retaliating against suspected whistleblowers, three House Republicans alleged in a Thursday letter. Republicans in both chambers of Congress have alleged widespread politicized misconduct in the FBI, most notably by a Washington, D.C., agent who investigated Hunter Biden. That agent, Timothy Thibault, resigned in August rather than face an internal review. Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the

ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has said that whistleblowers have approached his office to report internal misconduct in the bureau's investigations into former President Donald Trump. The FBI is cracking down on suspected whistleblowers in response, Republican Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio, Darrell Issa of California, and Mike Johnson of Louisiana alleged in a letter to FBI Executive Assistant Director Jennifer Leigh Moore.

Nerison, Kyler

From: Selph, Will
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Aaron Reitz
Cc: Dewhirst, David
Subject: RE: REVISED Letter to DirecTV re OAN

What's the reason behind the change?

Will Selph

Chief of Staff

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice



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From: Aaron Reitz <Aaron.Reitz@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Murrill, Elizabeth <MurrillE@ag.louisiana.gov>; StilesB@ag.louisiana.gov; justin.matheny@ago.ms.gov; michelle.williams@ago.ms.gov; John.Coghlan@ago.ms.gov; scott.stewart@ago.ms.gov; John.Sauer@ago.mo.gov; Selph, Will <William.Selph@mt.gov>; Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov>; Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>; Knudsen, Austin <Austin.Knudsen@mt.gov>; benjamin.flowers@ohioattorneygeneral.gov; Brenda.rinehart@ohioattorneygeneral.gov; Tim.Downing@oag.ok.gov; Mansinghani, Mithun <mithun.mansinghani@oag.ok.gov>; Jason.murray@oag.ok.gov; ThomasHydrick@scag.gov; rcook@scag.gov; mgates@scag.gov; jyoung@scag.gov; Smith, Emory <ESmith@scag.gov>; thomas.t.lampman@wvago.gov; Michael.R.Williams@wvago.gov; Terri.r.varney@wvago.gov; lindsay.s.see@wvago.gov
Cc: Brent Webster <Brent.Webster@oag.texas.gov>; Grant Dorfman <Grant.Dorfman@oag.texas.gov>; Michelle Ghetti <Michelle.Ghetti@oag.texas.gov>; Kimberly Hubbard <Kimberly.Hubbard@oag.texas.gov>; Alejandro Garcia <Alejandro.Garcia@oag.texas.gov>; Austin Kinghorn <Austin.Kinghorn@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REVISED Letter to DirecTV re OAN
Importance: High

Friends,

Please see attached letter. We changed one sentence at the bottom of the first page and wanted to get your approval before launching.

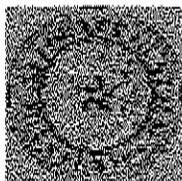
Original: Those values appear to have changed dramatically in late 2020 when longtime Democrat William Earl Kennard became the Chairman of AT&T's Board of Directors.

New: Those values appear to have changed dramatically in late 2020 when the legacy media decided Joe Biden was the next president.

By 5pm central today, reply to me directly and let me know that you're still okay with this letter going out.

Thank you for your patience and prompt attention to this.

Best,



Aaron F. Reitz
Deputy Attorney General for Legal Strategy
Office of the Attorney General of Texas
Desk: 512-936-1989
Cell: [REDACTED]

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

At least the shirt didn't look purple this time.

From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:27 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Is it just me or does our sound sound like it's coming thru a radio.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 7, 2022 at 8:20:06 PM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>, "Nerison, Kyler" <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi!

Thanks so much for helping coordinate this interview today. Here is the link, ICYMI: [REAL AMERICA -- Dan Ball W/ AG Knudsen, Tyrannical COVID Mandates, 2/7/22 \(rumble.com\)](https://www.rumble.com/REAL-AMERICA--Dan-Ball-W/-AG-Knudsen-Tyrannical-COVID-Mandates-2/7/22) [rumble.com]

Thanks again!

When you post to social media, *please* tag the following:

Facebook: One America News Network, Real America with Dan Ball

Instagram: @danpbali and @one_america_news_

Twitter and Gettr: @DanNewsManBall and @OANN

God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network

Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:42 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

We're still on. Thanks!

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hello!

I wanted to re-confirm our interview today with the AG around 2:30pmET. We're looking forward to it!
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Saw this as I landed so thought I'd give Kyler a little break. Here's the Skype account: [REDACTED]

Thanks Peyton!

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Cc: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Kyler!

2:30pmET works on Monday. All I need is his Skype username. Thank you – looking forward to it!
God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] Office: 858-270-6900 x117



From: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:27 PM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Cc: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Peyton – Emilee's on the road today so I'm covering for her – but absolutely. More toward the 2:30 side would work better but we have some flexibility.

Nerison, Kyler

From: Selph, Will
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler
Cc: Dewhirst, David
Subject: FW: REVISED Letter to DirecTV re OAN
Attachments: Letter to DirecTV re. OAN from TX, et al. (03.10.2022).pdf

Importance: High

Will Selph

Chief of Staff

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice



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From: Aaron Reitz <Aaron.Reitz@oag.texas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Murrill, Elizabeth <MurrillE@ag.louisiana.gov>; StilesB@ag.louisiana.gov; justin.matheny@ago.ms.gov; michelle.williams@ago.ms.gov; John.Coghlan@ago.ms.gov; scott.stewart@ago.ms.gov; John.Sauer@ago.mo.gov; Selph, Will <William.Selph@mt.gov>; Dewhirst, David <David.Dewhirst@mt.gov>; Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>; Knudsen, Austin <Austin.Knudsen@mt.gov>; benjamin.flowers@ohioattorneygeneral.gov; Brenda.rinehart@ohioattorneygeneral.gov; Tim.Downing@oag.ok.gov; Mansinghani, Mithun <mithun.mansinghani@oag.ok.gov>; Jason.murray@oag.ok.gov; ThomasHydrick@scag.gov; rcook@scag.gov; mgates@scag.gov; jyoung@scag.gov; Smith, Emory <ESmith@scag.gov>; thomas.t.lampman@wvago.gov; Michael.R.Williams@wvago.gov; Terri.r.varney@wvago.gov; lindsay.s.see@wvago.gov
Cc: Brent Webster <Brent.Webster@oag.texas.gov>; Grant Dorfman <Grant.Dorfman@oag.texas.gov>; Michelle Ghetti <Michelle.Ghetti@oag.texas.gov>; Kimberly Hubbard <Kimberly.Hubbard@oag.texas.gov>; Alejandro Garcia <Alejandro.Garcia@oag.texas.gov>; Austin Kinghorn <Austin.Kinghorn@oag.texas.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REVISED Letter to DirecTV re OAN
Importance: High

Friends,

Please see attached letter. We changed one sentence at the bottom of the first page and wanted to get your approval before launching.

Original: Those values appear to have changed dramatically in late 2020 when longtime Democrat William Earl Kennard became the Chairman of AT&T's Board of Directors.

New: Those values appear to have changed dramatically in late 2020 when the legacy media decided Joe Biden was the next president.

By 5pm central today, reply to me directly and let me know that you're still okay with this letter going out.

Thank you for your patience and prompt attention to this.

Best,



Aaron F. Reitz
Deputy Attorney General for Legal Strategy
Office of the Attorney General of Texas
Desk: 512-936-1989
Cell: [REDACTED]



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

Bill Morrow
CEO, DirecTV, LLC
2260 East Imperial Hwy
LA 5/12th Fl. W/S 1248
El Segundo, CA 90245
Sent via email

March 10, 2022

Dear Mr. Morrow:

DirecTV recently announced its plan not to renew its contract with One America News Network when it expires this April. You cited a “routine internal review” as the basis for ending your relationship.

This is highly troubling and disappointing. Not just because this is an unwise business decision, but because you are masking what is obviously viewpoint discrimination with neutral corporate-speak; your decision was certainly not based on a “routine internal review.”

Rather, your cancellation of OAN comes after a crescendo of powerful leftwing voices demanded that you take action against them. A recent press release from Media Matters gets to the heart of the yearlong coordinated attack against OAN:

Since February 2021, Media Matters has been campaigning to get OAN’s current cable providers to drop the channel and to prevent prospective providers from picking up the channel. Previously documented OAN’s noxious coverage includes a deadly TV campaign against COVID-19 vaccines, hateful anti-LGBTQ content, and a network-wide assault on elections meant to hype bogus claims of fraud and overturn the 2020 results.

Obviously, these inflammatory accusations against OAN are ridiculous. And even if they weren’t—that is, even if OAN were more accurately construed as simply representing a different perspective from the legacy media’s liberal orthodoxies—that’s precisely what your majority owner AT&T wanted when it signed OAN: viewpoint diversity. Those values appear to have changed dramatically in late 2020 when the legacy media decided Joe Biden was the next president.

My fellow attorneys general and I strongly recommend that you reconsider your present course and renew your contract with OAN in April. Your failure to do so will not only cause you to lose millions of dollars in business, but also drive many millions of Americans to simply cancel your services outright, as President Trump and other leading figures have already called for.

Americans deserve a diversity of voices in their news. I urge you to do the right thing and ensure that they get it.

For Liberty and Justice,



Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas



Jeff Landry
Attorney General of Louisiana



Lynn Fitch
Attorney General of Mississippi



Eric Schmitt
Attorney General of Missouri



Austin Knudsen
Attorney General of Montana



Dave Yost
Attorney General of Ohio



John O'Connor
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Alan Wilson
Attorney General of South Carolina



Patrick Morrisey
Attorney General of West Virginia

cc:

Board Members of DirecTV, LLC:

Steve McGaw
Thaddeus Arroyo
David Trujillo
John Flynn

CEO of AT&T, Inc.:

John T. Stankey *via email*

Board Members of AT&T, Inc.:

William E. Kennard
Samuel A. Di Piazza, Jr.
Scott T. Ford
Glenn H. Hutchins
Debra L. Lee
Stephen J. Luczo
Michael B. McCallister
Beth E. Mooney
Matthew K. Rose
Cynthia B. Taylor
Luis A. Ubinas
Geoffrey Y. Yang

Nerison, Kyler

Subject: OAN interview with Dan Ball on 'Real America'
Location: Skype

Start: Mon 2/7/2022 12:30 PM
End: Mon 2/7/2022 1:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Mougéot, Kelly
Required Attendees: Knudsen, Austin; Nerison, Kyler; Cantrell, Emilee

TITLE OF EVENT – OAN interview with Dan Ball on 'Real America'
OUTLET - One America News Network
DATE – February 7 at 12:30 MT
FORMAT – Skype

NOTES/REMARKS/TALKING POINTS

Topic is Friday filing in CMS vaccine mandate lawsuit.

Kyler Nerison

Communications Director

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice

406-444-2031

Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov



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Begin forwarded message:

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Hi Emilee!

It's Peyton Drew at One America News for the number-one show on the network, 'Real America' with Dan Ball. I was reaching out to see if the AG had availability on Monday between 2:30pmET and 4pmET to discuss the topic below?

God bless,

Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] Office: 858-270-6900 x117

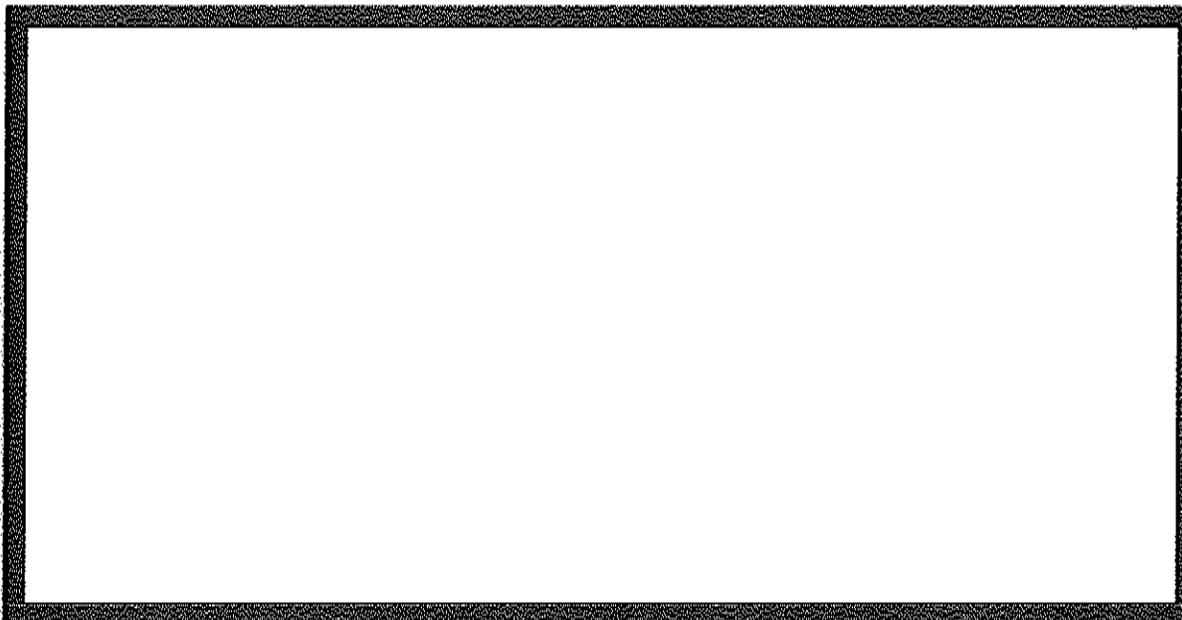


From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply) <MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM

To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>

Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page \[lnks.gd\]](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | kyler.nerison@mt.gov

Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

HELENA – Attorney General Austin Knudsen continues to lead the fight to protect Montana healthcare workers and their patients and employers from the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccination mandate. In a new filing today, Attorney General Knudsen and 15 other attorneys general ask a federal judge to once again block the federal government from enforcing the mandate in their respective states.

The unlawful mandate for facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is “causing havoc in the healthcare

labor market” across the nation – especially in rural communities – and does not account for the pandemic’s changing circumstances.

“President Biden’s scheme to federalize COVID-19 vaccination policy and force it on Americans who have chosen not to get the vaccine has hit the skids. Four separate mandates have either been struck down or are currently blocked by federal courts,” Attorney General Knudsen said. **“All that remains is the mandate for healthcare workers, and the emergence of the Omicron variant that is milder and resistant to vaccines has weakened the federal government’s position even more. Healthcare systems in rural states like Montana can’t afford to lose more workers, or patients will suffer.”**

The filing is the latest in the ongoing case against President Biden’s vaccine mandate for health care workers. It seeks to stop the federal government from enforcing the mandate in Montana before the February 14 deadline by which workers at covered facilities must have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a pending or approved application for an exemption.

According to data published by the AARP Public Policy Institute, 41 percent of nursing home and long-term care facilities in Montana are already facing a shortage of nurses and/or aides. Current numbers around the nation represent the worst staffing shortages since the government began collecting data from nursing homes in May 2020. Low staffing levels in nursing homes—particularly among registered nurses—are associated with worse outcomes for residents, including more COVID-19 cases, deaths, and a higher likelihood of outbreaks. The mandate will undoubtedly make these problems worse.

“By forcing healthcare workers to choose between their jobs or an experimental vaccine they do not want, CMS is affirmatively pinching an already strained workforce—and particularly so in rural areas within [Montana],” the lawsuit reads.

Recognizing this workforce shortage and the untenable position in which it places covered healthcare facilities, federal guidance permits vaccinated employees *who are testing positive for COVID-19* to return to work while prohibiting unvaccinated healthcare employees from working unless they obtain an exemption.

As the milder Omicron variant now accounts for 99.9 percent of COVID-19 cases in the country, the Biden administration’s rationale for rushing the mandate without the legally required opportunity for the public to comment no longer exists. Additionally, emerging research shows that standard COVID-19 vaccinations provide little protection against

transmission of the Omicron variant, and federal authorities have begun to walk back prior claims about the efficacy of the vaccines against this now-dominant variant.

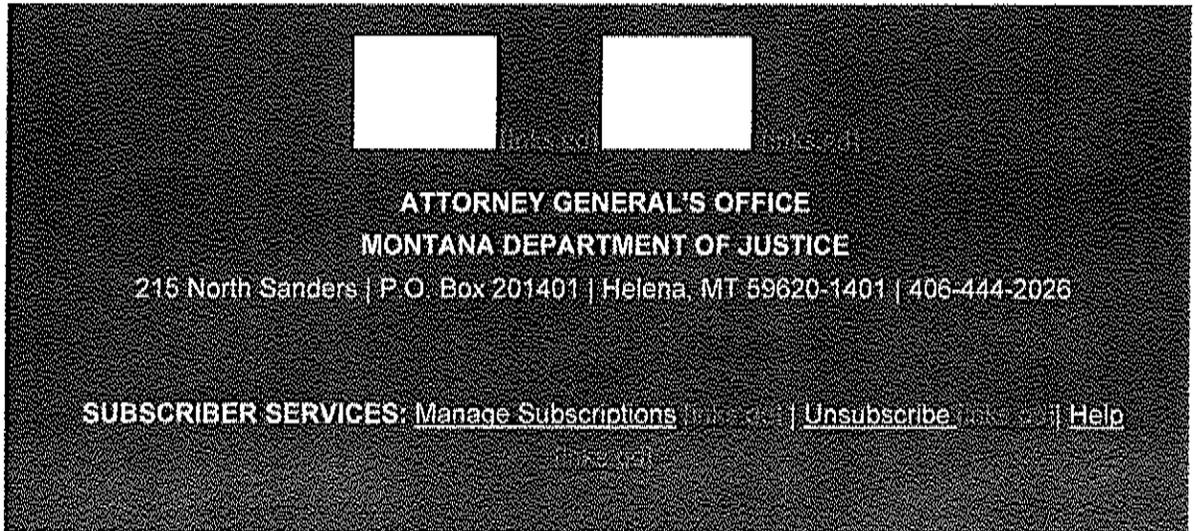
Meanwhile, new guidance from the federal government issued after the U.S. Supreme Court decision imposes a brand-new vaccine mandate on state employees who survey and report whether Medicare and Medicaid facilities are complying with applicable regulations, including the mandate itself. This constitutes an "independent, substantive rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal law]" yet again.

The CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate also violates the Tenth Amendment, the Spending Clause, the Anti-Commandeering Doctrine, and the Nondelegation Doctrine.

The case number is 3:21-cv-03970 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. It is being led by Montana, Arizona, and Louisiana. The other states joining are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Click [here \[lnks.gd\]](#) to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



This email was sent to Peyton.Drew@oann.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of Montana Attorney General's Office - 215 N Sanders St - Helena, MT 59601



Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly; Cantrell, Emilee
Subject: RE: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

It'll probably be 10-15 minutes

From: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>; Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Austin will be in town, yes. Do you know how long they want to interview him for?

Kelly Mougeot

Executive Assistant

Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice



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From: Cantrell, Emilee <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Cc: Mougeot, Kelly <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Maybe he could do it after that radio interview?

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2022, at 12:45 PM, Nerison, Kyler <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov> wrote:

Austin will be in town on Monday, right?

From: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Date: February 4, 2022 at 11:33:52 AM MST
To: "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

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Peyton Drew
Talent Booker | Producer | Executive Assistant
'Real America' With Dan Ball
One America News Network
Cell: [REDACTED] | Office: 858-270-6900 x117

<image001.png>

<image008.jpg>

From: Montana Attorney General's Office (no reply)
<MTAG@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Peyton Drew <Peyton.Drew@oann.com>
Subject: Attorney General Knudsen leading fight to block CMS mandate before new deadline

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page \(links.qdt\)](#)

<image009.jpg>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2022

CONTACT: Kyler Nerison | kyler.nerison@mt.gov

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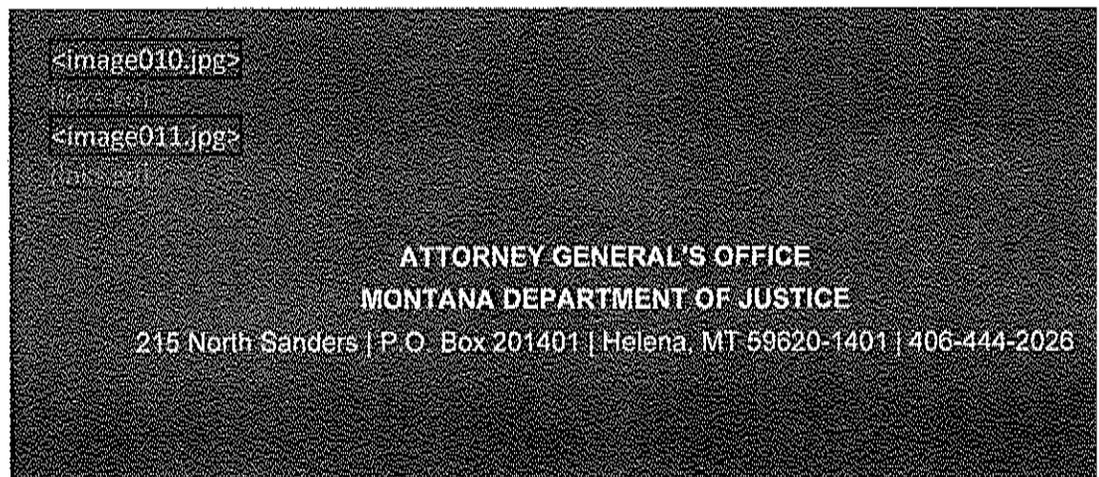
Meanwhile, new guidance from the federal government issued after the U.S. Suprer Court decision imposes a brand-new vaccine mandate on state employees who sun and report whether Medicare and Medicaid facilities are complying with applicable regulations, including the mandate itself. This constitutes an "independent, substant rule, and yet CMS failed utterly to comply with the procedures required by [federal la yet again.

The CMS COVID-19 vaccine mandate also violates the Tenth Amendment, the Spending Clause, the Anti-Commandeering Doctrine, and the Nondelegation Doctri

The case number is 3:21-cv-03970 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District Louisiana. It is being led by Montana, Arizona, and Louisiana. The other states joint are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Sou Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Click [here](#) [lnks.qd] to read the full amended complaint.

-END-



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This email was sent to Peyton.Drew@oann.com using Cloud Identity Management's Email on behalf of Montana Attorney General's Office, 215 N. Sanders St., Helena, MT 59601

<image013.jpg>

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Nelson, Jay
Subject: Fwd: KGEZ interview (Hit time (9:08am))

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mougeot, Kelly" <KMougeot@mt.gov>
Date: March 24, 2022 at 10:40:51 AM MDT
To: "Knudsen, Austin" <Austin.Knudsen@mt.gov>, "Cantrell, Emilee" <Emilee.Cantrell@mt.gov>, "Nerison, Kyler" <Kyler.Nerison@mt.gov>
Subject: **Canceled: KGEZ interview (Hit time (9:08am))**

TITLE OF EVENT – KGEZ interview

HOST – John Hendricks

DATE – March 25

TIME – call in 9:08, hit time 9:10

LENGTH – Likely 10-12 minutes

FORMAT – Phone call, live

Studio # - 406 -755-5439

NOTES/REMARKS/TALKING POINTS

TBD, but possibly letter to DirecTV regarding OAN

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 10:45 AM
To: DOJ Attorney General
Subject: Accepted: OANN Tipping point

Nerison, Kyler

From: Nerison, Kyler
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 3:26 PM
To: DOJ Attorney General
Subject: Declined (Away):OAN Real America Interview (HIT TIME: 12:30 pm)

I will be out of the office and with limited connectivity until Thursday, June 10. Responses will be delayed. For anything that requires immediate attention, please email emilee.cantrell@mt.gov. Thank you.

Nerison, Kyler

From: Cantrell, Emilee
Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Mougeot, Kelly; Nerison, Kyler
Subject: OAN Monday interview

Sorry this formatting is probably all wrong, but here's the info I have for Monday with OAN.

TITLE OF EVENT – OAN interview with Dan Ball on 'Real America'

OUTLET - One America News Network

DATE – February 7 at 12:30 MT

FORMAT – Skype

NOTES/REMARKS/TALKING POINTS

Topic is Friday filing in CMS vaccine mandate lawsuit.