

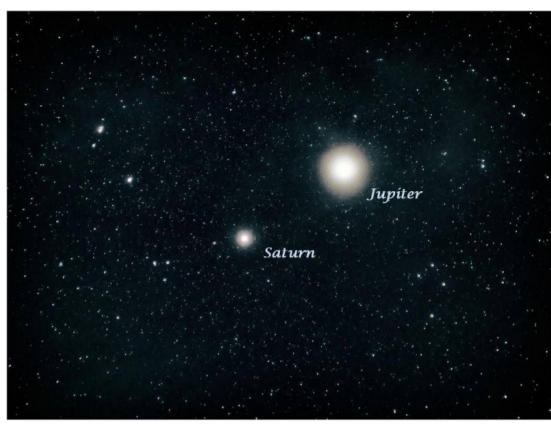


READY NATION: POLICY



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October 23, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Lucy in the Sky with Triangles

Closeup of Jupiter and Saturn, via [Dr.Ski](#).

Last night Saturn, Jupiter, and the moon formed a triangle (or a “conjunction”) in the sky. The three orbs are each some of the most visible in the sky and together can often even be seen despite the light pollution of cities. While it’s too late to see last night’s conjunction in person, this December will see the closest conjunction since 1623.

Here on Earth, we’re constantly watching the triad of House Speaker Pelosi, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, and Senate Majority Leader McConnell for conjunctions that could spell out a successful COVID-19 relief package. Each continued their regular orbit this week, with the Speaker and the Secretary suggesting that they are optimistic a relief package is nearly complete while Senate Majority Leader McConnell puts a smaller legislative effort to the floor that then doesn’t pass. None of them have committed to any votes on a mutually agreed-upon package prior to the election.

In a less heavens-oriented description of the potential package, one Senate GOP aide familiar with the negotiations said ‘There are not 13 votes for this pile of crap Mnuchin is capitulating on.’ ([Washington Post](#))

Well, then.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

CDC Developing Web Portal to Share COVID-19 Travel Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is developing a web portal called Travel Planner as a centralized communication platform for COVID-19 restrictions and policies in a state, local, tribal, or territorial (SLTT) jurisdiction for travelers to review. The information will allow travelers to make more informed decisions about the communities they’re passing through or at their final destinations.

CDC is soliciting the help of SLTT jurisdictions to provide content for the new web portal. To upload information to the Travel Planner, jurisdictions must have a CDC SAMS (Secure Access Management Services) account. Jurisdictions should email travelplanner@cdc.gov to request a SAMS account if they don’t already have one and request access to the COVID-19 Travel Planner web portal. Entering jurisdictional travel information is expected to take less than 15 minutes.

New DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking

This week the Department of Homeland Security announced the opening of the DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking, an integrated law enforcement operations center supporting federal criminal investigations, victim assistance efforts, intelligence analysis, and outreach and training activities.

The center’s mission is oriented around the “4 Ps”: prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership. Led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), it will be staffed with law enforcement officials from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and across DHS, as well as subject matter experts and support staff from 16 DHS components.

The center is already active and [more information is available here](#).

New Bill Would Codify States' Ability to Use Federally Funded National Guard for Cybersecurity

Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced [S. 4833](#) this week, a bill to amend Title 32 to authorize cybersecurity operations and missions to protect critical infrastructure by the National Guard as part of training and other duties. This can include missions or operations undertaken at the request of the state’s governor to protect critical infrastructure.

The bill was read and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. NEMA DC office staff will continue to monitor its progress closely.

HHS ASPR Provides Update on Cloth Mask Delivery for Schools

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education held a call this week to provide an update on the Administration’s school mask initiative. Currently 100 of 125 million cloth masks have been delivered as part of the initiative, which aims to support the safe reopening of schools.

In September by HHS’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the initiative is on track to distribute 125 million cloth masks to states and U.S. territories for distribution to schools by November 2020. These masks support students, teachers, and staff in public and private schools, with an emphasis on low-income or other high-needs students and schools providing in-person instruction.

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

- Just Security: [An Age of Actorless Threats: Rethinking National Security in Light of COVID and Climate](#)
- NPR: [Living in Harm’s Way: Why Most Flood Risk is Not Disclosed](#)
- Washington Post: [D.C. Already Got \\$90 Million Back from FEMA for Fighting COVID-19. Its Neighbors are Far Behind](#)
- Yahoo News: [As Wildfires Explode in the West, Forest Service Can’t Afford Prevention Efforts](#)

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