



Monday, Apr. 22, 2024

1. The House passed bills to send help to Ukraine and Israel.

The details: The \$95 billion package moved forward Saturday despite a threat to oust House Speaker Mike Johnson if he advanced Ukraine aid.

What now? The Senate will consider the package this week. Ukraine has urged Congress to act fast ahead of an expected Russian offensive.

In related news: The House also passed a bill that could ban TikTok.

2. Opening statements in Donald Trump's criminal trial in New York begin today.

What to expect: A prosecutor and a defense attorney will lay out their arguments in Trump's trial for allegedly falsifying business records to help cover up an alleged affair.

What else to know: The former president has become angrier and more isolated in his posts on his company's social network, Truth Social, according to a new Post analysis.

3. The Supreme Court will weigh bans on unhoused people sleeping outdoors.

What to know: Justices will hear arguments today about whether governments can enforce laws against people sleeping outside when they have nowhere else to go.

The bigger picture: This is the most significant case to come before the court in decades on homelessness, which is reaching record levels. A decision is expected in late June.

4. Israel's military intelligence chief resigned today over the Oct. 7 Hamas attack.

The details: Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva is the first general of the Israel Defense Forces staff to offer to leave his position over the failures that led to the attack and the war in Gaza.

In the U.S.: President Biden condemned antisemitism on college campuses yesterday after more than 100 people were arrested protesting the Israel-Gaza war at Columbia University.

5. California has so much solar power it's throwing it away.

Why? The state has enough solar panels to provide over a quarter of its electricity. But on sunny days when there's less demand, electricity prices go negative.

What's being done: California cut back incentives for rooftop solar last year, and slowed the pace of installing panels. But that may slow down the state's move to renewable energy.

6. Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp are pushing a new AI chatbot.

What to know: Meta is adding Meta AI to its apps, it announced last week. You may have seen its logo — a thin ring that's mostly blue — in the past few days.

What can it do? It's mainly a conversational chat window where you can ask questions and generate AI images.

7. Trillions of cicadas are about emerge in the Midwest and the South.

What's happening? Two different broods of these extremely loud bugs are set to crawl out of the ground together for the first time since 1803.

This is unusual: Scientists hope to learn from the rare double-whammy. Some are examining a parasitic fungus that attacks cicadas, turning them into "flying saltshakers of death."



Vocabulary 22/04/24:

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| 1. | to oust - | to force someone to leave a position |
| | bill - | a formal statement of a planned new law (Gesetzesvorlage) |
| | adage - | a wise saying |
| 2. | prosecutor - | a legal official who accuses someone of committing a crime |
| | scrutiny - | careful and detailed examination |
| 3. | to weigh - | here: to carefully consider |
| 4. | intelligence - | here: secret information about the governments of other states
(Nachrichtengewinnung) |
| 6. | Meta - | parent company of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, etc |
| | AI - | Artificial Intelligence |
| | chatbot - | a computer programme designed to have a conversation with a
Human being |
| 7. | cicada - | Heuschrecke |
| | brood - | a group of young cicadas all born at the same time |
| | double-whammy - | a situation when two unpleasant things happen at the same time |

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