



Monday, November 18, 2024

**1. Donald Trump nominated Brendan Carr to be FCC chairman.**

**Who is he?** A Republican FCC commissioner who vowed to take on “censorship” by Big Tech companies in Project 2025, a controversial proposal for Trump’s second term.

**In related news:** Pete Hegseth, Trump’s nominee to lead Defense, is facing scrutiny over his tattoos and for paying a woman who accused him of sexual assault. He denies her claim.

**Zooming out:** Beyond the celebrations, Trump’s transition is off to a rocky start.

**2. President Joe Biden approved Ukraine’s use of long-range U.S. weapons in Russia.**

**It’s a reversal:** The U.S. had restricted Kyiv from using these weapons to hit deep inside Russia. It comes in response to North Korean troops joining Russia’s war effort.

**What else to know:** Russia wants the return of its Kursk region — parts of which were taken by Ukraine in a counteroffensive — before peace negotiations. But Ukraine isn’t budging.

**3. The pope called for an investigation into whether genocide is taking place in Gaza.**

**The details:** Pope Francis has criticized Israel’s actions against Palestinians, but this is the first time he has publicly called for such an inquiry, according to excerpts from a new book.

**In related news:** Officials in Lebanon are reviewing a draft of a U.S.-backed cease-fire proposal. Israel continued to strike Beirut and its suburbs this weekend.

**4. Carrots are being recalled over an E. coli outbreak in 18 states.**

**What to know:** One person died and 15 others were hospitalized in cases linked to organic carrots sold by stores such as Wegmans and Trader Joe’s, the CDC said yesterday.

**In other health news:** The first U.S. case of a deadlier strain of the mpox virus was reported in California. An outbreak in central and eastern Africa has killed hundreds.

**5. Spirit Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection.**

**Why?** The low-cost carrier, famous for charging for every perk, has struggled since the pandemic. It had hoped a merger with JetBlue would solve its problems, but that was blocked.

**Have a Spirit flight booked?** In an announcement on its website this morning, the airline said people can use all tickets, credits and loyalty points as normal.

**6. Scientists studied a 35,000-year-old saber-toothed kitten frozen in Siberia.**

**What you’re looking at:** A cub’s mummified body, found in permafrost in 2020. Researchers found bones along with the cub’s frontal remains — still covered in fur.

**The findings:** The kitten had “significant differences” compared to a modern-day lion cub, including its massive neck and unusual muzzle.

**7. Airbnb’s “gladiator experience” at the Colosseum sparked anger in Rome.**

**The idea:** The company is offering a chance for some people to “battle” at the famous arena. It’s a promotion for “Gladiator II” — one of this season’s most anticipated movie releases.

**The problem:** It turns the monument into a “theme park,” one local official said. The blowback is part of a wider struggle in European cities dealing with tourist influxes.



Vocabulary 18/11/24:

1. FCC - Federal Communications Commission (Regulierungsbehörde für u.a. Radio, TV)
- Scrutiny - the careful and detailed examination of something
2. to budge - to change your opinion
4. E. coli - a kind of bacteria causing stomach, bowel and urinary tract infections
- CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
6. kitten - a very young cat
- cub - a young of a particular wild animal, such as a bear or a lion
- muzzle - the mouth and nose of an animal
7. blowback - negative reaction

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