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NATIONAL INST. OF HEALTH SEEKS PR TALENT

The National Institutes of Health is looking to create a pool of PR media relations, communications, social media and event promotion talent to be used on an as-needed basis. Headquartered in Bethesda, MD, NIH operates 27 separate institutes and centers located on its 332-acre campus.



National Institutes of Health

NIH is engaged in diverse communications activities that reflect profound shifts in American demographics and a continuously changing communications landscape.

It requires expertise that does not exist in-house to handle the “increasingly prevalent link between health, science and medical communications and the digital world,” according to the RFI.

NIH and its component units may issue task orders in areas such as communications research, news media operations support, crisis management training, audience outreach/promotion, exhibit development and event support.

Interested firms face a July 1 deadline to submit their credentials to the NIH at PICSIH@od.nih.gov.

The communications work may be conducted in Bethesda, Baltimore area, North Carolina or Montana.

[Read the RFI \(PDF\)](#).

DC PA VETERAN BARTLETT JOINS KEKST CNC

Brian Bartlett, who served in George W. Bush’s White House and co-founded the Rational 360 shop, has joined [Kekst CNC](#) to open its Washington office and expand its PA offering.



Brian Bartlett

As partner, he will advise clients on campaigns to influence policy decision-making and shape opinions about issues of public concern.

Bartlett chaired Rational 360’s global corporate affairs practice chair until exiting the firm in May.

He helped launch Rational after working as account supervisor at Ketchum and managing partner at

Surus Strategies. On the political front, he served as advance rep for president Bush and vice president Dick Cheney and worked on Mitt Romney’s two presidential runs, Scott Brown’s bid for Massachusetts’ Senate seat and Bob McDonnell’s race for Virginia’s governorship.

France’s Publicis Groupe owns Kekst CNC, which has PA staffers in London, Brussels, Berlin and Stockholm.

JUSTICE DEPT. PROBES TRUMP’S MEDIA DEAL

Digital World Acquisition Corp., the blank check company that plans to take Donald Trump’s social media platform public, said on June 27 that each of its directors had received subpoenas from federal prosecutors at the Southern District of New York related to the deal.

The Securities and Exchange Commission on June 13 issued subpoenas requesting documents and information regarding DWAC’s due diligence regarding Trump Media & Technology Group and other information covering communications related to the merger.



The Justice Dept and SEC subpoenas “could materially delay, materially impede or prevent the consummation of the business combination,” according to DWAC’s Form 8-K filing.

DWAC also revealed that board member Bruce Garelick, chief strategy officer of Rocket One Capital, resigned effective June 22. The federal grand jury has requested information from DWAC about its communications with Rocket One, an investment firm based in Miami.

TMTG issued its own statement: “We encourage and will cooperate with-oversight that supports the SEC’s important mission of protecting retail investors.”

HAMP RETURNS TO TOYOTA

Julie Hamp, who resigned her position as chief communications officer of Toyota in 2015 after being arrested in Japan on suspicion of drug charges, has returned to the automaker.

Japanese officials said Hamp allegedly had her father mail her more than 50 oxycodone pills to her hotel in Tokyo after she arrived to take the top PR spot at Toyota’s headquarters.

The painkiller is tightly controlled in Japan. The package was labeled as containing a necklace.

That arrest came two weeks after Hamp was named the first woman to lead Toyota’s worldwide communications.

Previously, she headed Toyota’s North America PR operations and served as senior VP-CCO at PepsiCo and VP-communications in Europe for General Motors.

She rebounds to Toyota North America to support CEO Akio Toyoda and advise the company on global media relations, sustainability and governance issues.



Julie Hamp

PR NEEDED FOR PALM BEACH CO. HOUSING

The Palm Beach County Housing Authority is looking for an agency that can provide communications, marketing and media relations services.



PBCHA needs an agency that can develop and implement communications and public relations strategies that increase the public's awareness of its activities and initiatives; enhance its image; and maximize media opportunities.

Scope of the work includes strategic brand development; developing an internal and external communications and messaging campaign plan; developing new logo and branding items; and other marketing and communication services as required. The contract period calls for a two-year commitment with the option of three additional one-year renewals.

Proposals are due by 2:00 p.m. (ET) on Thursday, July 7 and should be mailed to: Palm Beach County Housing Authority; ATTN.: LaQuavial Pace, Procurement Manager; 3432 W 45th Street, West Palm Beach, Florida 33407

Questions should be directed to LaQuavial Pace, contracts and procurement manager, at lp@pbchaf.org, by June 30. [Download the RFP \(PDF\)](#).

INTERPUBLIC TEAMS WITH LEBRON JAMES

Interpublic Group is teaming with The SpringHill Company, the media conglomerate led by LeBron James and business partner Maverick Carter, on IPG x The SpringHill Company, an effort that will focus on connecting SpringHill's community of creators with IPG clients.



LeBron James

The partnership, which was announced during a panel at the Cannes International Festival of Creativity, is the first between SpringHill and a global advertising and marketing holding company.

"IPG's people, clients and communities will all benefit from close collaboration with The SpringHill Company as we look to spark important, and sometimes difficult, conversations," said IPG chief executive officer Philippe Krakowsky.

BERK GOES TO BAT FOR AARON JUDGE

[Berk Communications](#) has added New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge to its line-up of sports clients.

The shop will handle publicity, community relations, partnerships and business ventures for the three-time All Star and Major League Baseball's current home-run leader.



Aaron Judge

Ron Berkowitz and senior VP Melanie (Wadden) Van Dusen will handle Judge. PSI Sports will continue to represent the right fielder on contract negotiations and marketing efforts.

Berk Communications counts National Football League, Caesars Entertainment, Roc Nation, Major League Soccer, Comcast, PUMA, and Alex Rodriguez as clients.

MikeWorldWide CEO Michael Kempner owns a majority stake of Berk Communications.

ACCOUNTS IN TRANSIT

Landor & Fitch signs on with **The Container Store** to lead the brand positioning of the company's acquisition of Closet Works and demonstrate how it fits under The Container Store Custom Closets umbrella. In addition to working on positioning and architecture of the brand, Landor & Fitch will help with building a user-friendly web experience that highlights the company's custom services while balancing form, function, and education. "Through Landor & Fitch's extensive retail and branding expertise, we will be able to usher a new brand into the market," said The Container Store chief marketing officer Melissa Collins.

Allison+Partners is engaged by **GE Appliances** to build affinity for its brands and drive growth in the market through earned media relations strategy, influencer engagement, experiential events and product launches. The firm has also been tabbed by **Wells Enterprises** as public relations agency of record for two of its brands, Blue Bunny (ice cream) and Bomb Pop (ice pops). The agency's scope of work will include experiential activations and influencer marketing



GE APPLIANCES
a Haier company

M&C Saatchi Sport & Entertainment North America is selected as earned media agency of record for footwear and apparel training brand **NOBULL**. The agency will lead storytelling across NOBULL's product portfolio and through its roster of athletes, which includes New England Patriots quarterback Mac Jones and Nathan MacKinnon of the Colorado Avalanche. It will also promote the brand's partnerships, including the PGA TOUR and CrossFit, and be responsible for executive thought leadership and corporate communications.

BMF signs on as global social media and public relations agency of record for **Japan Airlines**. The agency will help JAL grow brand relevance through increased social following, engagement, and reach; improve customer retention; build preference from new customers; share valuable consumer insights in real time; and keep the JAL in the global media conversation. BMF will also spearhead Tokyo-based content ideation and production for the airline.



Newlink picks up **Madrid Tourism Board** in the US and Canada. The agency will spearhead promotional activities, public relations and marketing efforts for the premium, corporate, associative, and incentive travel segments. In 2021, the city received the title of World's Leading Meetings & Conference Destination at the World Travel Awards for the third consecutive year. "The agency's results-driven approach and demonstrated exce

Haberman launches a communications campaign for **Quit Partner**, a free resource for helping Minnesotans quit smoking, chewing and vaping commercial tobacco products. "Keep Quitting" emphasizes relatable moments and situations familiar to people trying to quit. The campaign, which launched June 13 throughout the state, is being promoted through a mix of video, social, digital display, out-of-home and print executions. Haberman and Quit Partner are working with more than 18 community-specific publications to ensure the campaign is reaching those most affected by commercial tobacco-related disparities.

LIVING OUT LOUD CAN BOOST YOUR SUCCESS

As communications and PR professionals, we are acutely aware of our personal and professional images. We understand that it takes only one wrong tweet or bad article to lead to disastrous situations for us individually and for the brands



Curtis Sparrer

we represent.

This self-awareness and concern have forced many of us to toe the line by conforming to industry “non-DEI” etiquette.

What a Heavy Load to Lift, Right?

I understand this burden as a gay owner of a tech PR and communications firm married to a man. Perhaps the most insulting moment came earlier in my career when a client got all Brave New World on me and drunkenly told me that as a gay man, it was my role as a “Beta” to support “Alphas” like him. I should have been sassy and snapped, “I thought we were all Alphas.” Instead, I was complicit by just laughing and letting the client have the last word.

The PR industry welcomes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), but, unfortunately, it does not exist in a vacuum. It connects to everything that matters for some companies, including facets that are not as rainbow friendly. That becomes a bigger deal in tech PR, where certain aspects of PR connect to programmers and developers. The tech scene has an infamous “brogrammer” culture that excludes women, people of color and LGBTQ folk.

Life’s Adversities Do Turn Into Professional Gold

Instead of being full of hate for how I was treated in my youth and as a young professional who was part of the LGBTQ+ community, I decided to turn that mistreatment into goodness. I knew I had to create a technology PR and marketing firm that stood up for marginalized employees internally and for external human rights and social justice initiatives. That resulted in Bospar, a firm that accepts employees from every religion, race, socioeconomic background, and, most shockingly, both Republicans and Democrats.

Lead by Dignified Example—Even Naysayers Will Follow

It is sad but true: individuals and businesses worldwide tend to fear being the “first” to stand up for human rights and social justice causes. Yet when they see others making the changes and financially flourishing, they will stand up proudly and make the necessary changes.

For example, when [Texas](#) enacted its restrictive abortion legislation, Bospar was the first to offer to cover our Texas staff’s relocation expenses of up to \$10,000 if they wanted to move to a state allowing more autonomy over their reproductive health. Salesforce, Citibank, Uber and several other “big brands” followed suit.

When it comes to [LGBTQ+](#) rights, we are just as self-interested. Not only does our muscle memory from PR start with many of us coming out, but we see similarities between queer people who are disrupting the status quo and technology companies disrupting legacy paradigms of doing business the old-fashioned way.

I end with this—a not-so-dirty secret I have learned being in the industry for two decades. No matter how straight or skinny or colorless you try to pass yourself off as, it does not guarantee professional success. Remember, business is still business; many other points are the final deciding factors.

With this in mind, challenge those who try to dictate your professional and personal narrative, in a dignified and compassionate way that leaves them no choice but to embrace your redefined path. Standing up for your beliefs and creating your professional image are not mutually exclusive – think of it as your unique brand that makes you an even stronger communications or PR pro. Speaking from experience, I guarantee this works!

Curtis Sparrer is co-Founder and Principal at [Bospar](#).

NEWS OF FIRMS

BECK Media & Marketing, which focuses on entertainment and tech clients, acquires San Francisco-based media-technology agency **Big Noise PR** and **Beaucoup Media**, which represents music artists, songwriters, labels and publishing houses, as well as other entertainment clients. The combined companies will operate under the BECK Media banner, effective immediately. Big Noise founder Bronagh Hanley will join BECK in an advisory role in addition to pursuing other ventures. Beaucoup founder Amber Williams-Wright, who remains based in Nashville, has joined BECK Media as a vice president, working with BECK Media’s Atlanta office and managing special projects for the agency.

Gravity Global, a B2B and complex markets consultancy, picks up **Mojo Media Labs**, a specialist in account-based marketing. The acquisition is Gravity’s third in the past three months. Mojo CEO and president Nikole Rose will lead the acquired business moving forward, formalizing an arrangement already in place with Mojo CEO Mike Rose, who now serves in a non-executive/advisory capacity. In March, Gravity acquired the B2B practice of 9thWonder and content marketing agency Morsekode.

PRophet, an AI-driven PR pitch platform and **The Harris Poll**, both part of Stagwell, are partnering on an initiative that will give Harris clients access to PRophet’s platform. The joint effort enables Harris Poll clients to test the “mediability” of their research before conducting survey fieldwork. After completing their poll, they can use PRophet’s technology to test its news angle and identify the journalists most likely to cover their story and predict how positively they’d write about it.

Cornerstone Government Affairs opens an office in Frankfort, Kentucky, and adds staffers in its Oklahoma, Maine and Colorado locations. The Frankfort office will initially include Katelyn Bunning, Cornerstone principal and former legislative director to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY); Karen Kelly, former district director to the Dean of the House of Representatives Hal Rogers (R-KY); and Ethan Witt, former assistant vice president of government and community relations for Eastern Kentucky University, with additional support from Cornerstone principal Will Smith.

Summit Strategy Group, a corporate reputation, public affairs and ESG consulting firm, forms a healthcare practice. Headquartered in Dallas, the practice will provide services including stakeholder research, strategic narrative development, issue advocacy and risk management/rapid response to emerging issues. Mark Riordan, who was most recently vice president, stakeholder engagement at Texas Health Resources, will lead the practice.



WPP PUSHES INVESTMENT IN UKRAINE

WPP plans to launch an investment promotion campaign to spur economic development in war-ravaged Ukraine.

The effort, a partnership with Ukraine's government, will include WPP units in Poland, the Czech Republic and Ukraine.



Oleksandr Tkachenko

CEO Mark Read told *O'Dwyer's* that each of WPP's PR firms will take part in the campaign.

He said, "Hill+Knowlton will certainly be heavily involved as they have teams and an office in Ukraine."

Dubbed "Advantage Ukraine," the drive will target business leaders in the region and throughout the world.

The campaign will highlight opportunities in Ukraine's technology, education, agriculture and creative sectors.

Read and Oleksandr Tkachenko, Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, unveiled the investment push at the Cannes festival.

Werner Hoyer, president of the European Investment Bank, estimates Ukraine's reconstruction costs will be in the \$1.1T range.

HSBC'S ROSELLO BANKS ON METLIFE

Chris Rosello, who was executive VP & head of public affairs for London's HSBC, will join MetLife on July 5 as VP and leader of its federal government relations unit.



Chris Rosello

Based in Washington, he will report to Susan Greenwell, senior VP and head of global government relations.

At HSBC since 2017, Rosello led the planning, coordination and execution of the bank's federal, state and regulatory strategy. Earlier, he did a seven-year stint at Wells Fargo as senior VP-federal government relations, where helped

the bank implement Dodd-Frank provisions.

New York Stock Exchange-listed MetLife reported a four percent spurt in first-quarter premiums/fees to \$12.8B. Net income soared to \$606M from \$290M a year ago.

ARES MGMT ACQUIRES SLR CONSULTING

Ares Management Corp. has acquired SLR Consulting, a top environmental, social and governance consultancy, from Charterhouse Capital.

SLR, which is headquartered in Buckinghamshire, UK, has more than 2,300 staffers in more than 100 offices in the US, Canada, Europe, and Asia Pacific regions.

It focuses on the financial services, energy, mining, infrastructure and manufacturing sectors.

Charterhouse took a majority stake in SLR in 2019. It bankrolled an acquisition drive of 15 companies, including Corporate Citizenship and Vectos.

Neil Penhall, SLR CEO, credits Charterhouse for an ambitious expansion plan that positioned SLR to capitalize on the growing demand for a wide range of ESG and sustainability services.

Ares, an alternative investment firm based in Los Angeles, has \$325B in assets under management. It is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

MEDIA MANEUVERS

Netflix looks to be gaining a new ad-supported tier and losing about 300 employees. In a June 23 panel at the Cannes Lions, Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos said the company is speaking with several partners as it looks to introduce ads to the platform. According to a report on Deadline, those potential partners are rumored to include Google, NBCUniversal and Roku. The 300 axed staffers follow 150 who were let go by Netflix in May. The streamer has a global workforce of around 11,000. It has lost nearly 70 percent of its value since it announced that it had lost 200,000 subscribers at the end of the first quarter and expected to shed 2 million more in the second quarter.

The International Fact-Checking Network at Poynter launches a Legal Support Fund that will offer financial assistance to fact-checking organizations that face threats of harassment, intimidation and litigation. The fund is supported by Meta and the Google News Initiative's partnership with IFCN. The fund will be administered by the IFCN. Grantees will be selected by a committee from regional and global organizations with legal, journalism, and freedom of press domain expertise. Committee members will review each application for recognized risk that the case could result in imprisonment, bankruptcy and closure.



Pride Media, which owns *Out, Advocate, Plus* and *Pride.com*, is acquired by production company Equal Entertainment and rebrands as Equal Pride. The company says it will now become "the leading LGBTQ+ owned and certified voice to the LGBTQ+ community." Since 2017, Pride Media was owned by Adam Levine, CEO of Los Angeles-based investment firm Orevea, who acquired it via a management-backed buyout of Here Publishing. Equal Pride will be helmed by Equal Entertainment founder Mark Berryhill, who was also president and senior executive producer at Celebrity Page TV & Network. Celebrity Page, along with the Reelz and *Ovation* cable channels, will be part of Equal Pride.

Higher Ground, the production company founded in 2018 by Barack and Michelle Obama, signs on with Amazon's Audible following its decision not to renew its contract with Spotify. One key reason behind the move may be that Audible offers some of its original material on other platforms, while Higher Ground's content on Spotify was exclusive to the platform. In a June 21 statement, former First Lady Michelle Obama said that the new relationship with Audible will allow Higher Ground to "keep striving to tell compelling, provocative, and soulful stories — while doing everything we can to make sure they reach the folks who need to hear them."

Mark Shields, the political columnist, advisor and commentator who was perhaps best known for his face-offs with David Brooks on the *PBS NewsHour* from 2001 to 2020, passed away on June 18. The pairing with Brooks was the capstone of a career that included stints on the campaign staffs of presidential candidates Edmund Muskie, Morris Udall, Sargent Shriver and Robert F. Kennedy, as well as working as an editorial writer for the *Washington Post* and an on-air contributor to *Inside Washington* and *Capital Gang*.



Mark Shields

WASHINGTON STATE WANTS PSA PARTNER

The Washington State Office of the Attorney General is looking for a firm to handle a multimedia public service announcement campaign regarding the new charity care law.

The measure, which goes into effect July 1, provides access to free or reduced hospital care costs for millions of Washingtonians. The PSAs will educate the public about the law and encourage them to ask about opportunities for financial assistance. The law expands eligibility for financial aid on hospital bills to insured and uninsured people who make up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

The selected partner will be responsible for developing a media campaign from start to finish, including research, strategy, messaging and PSA production/placement.

The PSA effort will begin Sept. 1 and run for the rest of the year. Proposals are due July 8.

[Read the RFP \(PDF\)](#).



BRUNSWICK GROUP ADDS HEALTHCARE VET

Brunswick Group has hired Tanisha Carino, who has more than 20 years of healthcare and life sciences experience, as a partner in its Washington office.



Tanisha Carino

She served as executive VP & chief corporate affairs officer at Alexion Pharmaceuticals, which was an independent *Fortune* 500 biotechnology company focused on rare diseases.

Carino handled global PR, policy and alliance development at Alexion. She also guided the company's communications through its acquisition by AstraZeneca.

Earlier, she was executive director of the Milken Institute's FasterCure operation, VP-US public policy at GlaxoSmithKline and head of life sciences strategic advisory services at Avalere Health.

Most recently, Carino was a visiting fellow at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, working in the area of pandemic preparedness.

FGS GLOBAL WORKS \$10B ZENDESK DEAL

FGS Global represents Zendesk as the San Francisco-based customer engagement software company is acquired by Hellman & Friedman and Permira investment firms in a \$10.2B deal.

Zendesk, in February, rejected a \$17B takeover offer from a group of equity firms that included H&F and Permira.

It called that bid a "non-binding proposal that significantly undervalues the Company."

The company, which is being squeezed by activist firm Jana Partners, views the revised offer as a way to "execute on our long-term strategy with our customers as our top priority," according to Mikkel Svane, Zendesk's founder/chairman/CEO.

The \$77.50 per-share offer represents a 34 percent premium over Zendesk's June 23 closing stock price.

FGS Global's John Christiansen and Zachary Tramonti handle Zendesk.

ON THE MOVE

Merck names **Chirfi Guindo** chief marketing officer of Merck Human Health, effective July 1. Guindo spent more than 25 years at Merck before leaving to become executive vice president and head of global product strategy and commercialization at Biogen in 2017. He has overseen global marketing for Merck's HIV portfolio, and also led Merck's Human Health businesses in Canada, the Netherlands and South Africa. In his new post, Guindo will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of Merck's long-term strategy for the Human Health portfolio spanning oncology, vaccines, pharmaceutical and pipeline products.



Chirfi Guindo

Disney General Entertainment hires former 20th Century Fox and HBO marketing chief **Pamela Levine** as head of marketing for Disney Branded Television and National Geographic Content, effective June 27. Levine was most recently chief marketing officer at BookClub, a social platform for readers and authors. In her new post, she will lead Disney's integrated internal agency across brand and creative marketing, strategy, publicity, media planning, digital/social, events, talent relations and awards.

XPO Logistics, a provider of freight transportation services, names **Karina Frayter** vice president of public relations. Frayter joins the company from Macy's, where she served as senior director of corporate and financial communications. Before that, Frayter was senior managing director and head of media at RF|Binder.

GBH, Boston's public media outlet, hires **Sandra Lopez Burke** as managing director of community and government relations. Lopez Burke comes to GBH from education nonprofit City Year Boston, where she served as executive director, leading all aspects of the organization. In her new position, Lopez Burke will build on GBH's community engagement efforts, creating greater diversity among audiences, thought leaders and supporters, while managing strategic partnerships.



Sandra Lopez Burke

Hill+Knowlton Strategies names **Sean Allen-Moy** as a director and head of media relations in the UK, a newly created position. Allen-Moy was most recently head of media and corpsumer at Tin Man Communications. He has also headed up the corporate/consumer practice at W Communications and worked as a producer at Sky and the BBC. Allen-Moy will be part of H+K London's Innovation + Creative Hub, working on best practices in media relations and providing senior counsel on media strategy across all industry sector practices.

Virgin Orbit, which provides launch services for small satellites, appoints **Stephen Zhang** as its first vice president of investor relations. Zhang was most recently director of investor relations at Raytheon Technologies. He previously held several financial planning and analysis positions at aerospace manufacturer Pratt & Whitney. At Virgin Orbit, Zhang will work as the company's primary liaison to the investor community, while serving as a key advisor to the leadership team.

COMMENTARY



Dan Rather

Former CBS anchor Dan Rather says the US did a “masterful job of preempting Russian propaganda” in the lead-up to the invasion of Ukraine, and it’s now time for all Americans to take the same approach to Republicans who seek to undermine America’s democracy.

“We can shame them, call out their playbook, now let them know that we see what they will attempt to do, and declare their ‘voter fraud’ propaganda

what it is—a farce and a lie. Put all Republican officials on the record,” Rather wrote on his June 18 “Steady” blog.

Rather says the Jan. 6 coup attempt is ongoing. The currents that exploded that day are still with us and represent “a direct threat to the continuation of the US as a democratic republic.”

The committee members “are firefighters battling a blaze of autocracy and unconstitutional depravity sweeping across the country.”

Rather, 90, remains a national treasure.

Outfoxed and cornered... Delaware Superior Court rejects Fox Corp.’s bid to kill the \$1.6B libel suit lodged against it by Dominion voting machine maker.

It ruled that Rupert and Lachlan Murdoch may have acted with “actual malice” by allowing voter fraud claims that they knew were false to be aired on Fox News.

The Court cited reports that Rupert privately said that he knew Donald Trump lost the election.

His *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Post* properties criticized Trump and called for him to accept defeat.

Dominion claimed that Rupert Murdoch “decided to promote former President Trump’s narrative after Trump’s condemnation of Fox damaged its stock and viewership.”

Fox has called Dominion’s claims baseless and lacking even a shred of merit. It also is “proud of” its election coverage.

The \$64K question: will Fox change its tune and seek to settle the suit in the aftermath of the Delaware court ruling?

Or do Rupert and Lachlan go down fighting?

Journalism’s finest moment. Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov raised \$103.5M on June 20 by auctioning off his Nobel Peace Prize medal.

He is donating the proceeds to UNICEF to help children displaced by the invasion of Ukraine.

Muratov has already given his \$500K cash prize for winning the Nobel to UNICEF.

He is the founder of independent Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* and was editor-in-chief when it shut down after the Kremlin cracked down on remaining press freedoms following the invasion of Ukraine.

Muratov’s medal went to an anonymous bidder.

Loving Biden over there but not here. Favorable views of the US and of America’s democracy are on the upswing overseas, according to the Eurasia Group Foundation.

Fifty-five percent of those polled in nine nations hold a favorable view of the US. That was the highest score in the four years of the ESG polling.

Brazil, Nigeria, Poland and India are most bullish on the US. Germany, Egypt, Mexico, Japan and China are less so.

More than half (52 percent) give the Biden administration high marks for its management of the Ukraine crisis. Only 19 percent believe Biden screwed up the response to the invasion.

If Biden decides not to serve another term in DC, there’s a big job in the United Nations awaiting him.

Attorney general Merrick Garland wants snitches... The Justice Dept, which has stepped up enforcement of the Foreign Agency Registration Act, has issued a handy online brochure to help spot unregistered foreign agents.

It sets out four scenarios. One tells of a former big city Congressman who arranges a meeting to discuss agricultural tariffs. At the meeting, he ditches the ag tariff talk for a pitch about “a foreign country’s high-profile and longstanding request to release a prominent dissident, mirroring talking points used by the foreign country’s leaders or spokespeople.”

If that happens to you, the Justice Dept wants you to contact the local FBI office or the FARA unit.

Garland and his crew will follow up with the Congressman.

Florida’s autocratic governor Ron DeSantis says the Congressional hearings into the January 6, 2021 insurrection are nothing more than Democrats and their media allies “beating a dead horse.”

DeSantis is flat-out wrong.

A poll released June 16 by Navigator Research finds broad support for the hearings.

Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of respondents support the hearings. Only 28 percent oppose the probe, while eight percent are unsure.

DeSantis may be trashing the hearings because he feels they are gaining traction with the public.

Sixty-three percent of the Navigator respondents learned “a lot or something” from the hearings. That number breaks down into Democrats (70 percent), Republicans (59 percent) and Independents (52 percent).

The Texas GOP celebrates “Pride Month.” The Lone Star State’s Republican party on June 18 passed a platform that declares homosexuality “an abnormal lifestyle choice.”

It also opposes “any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values.

The GOP also denied a booth to The Log Cabin Republicans of Houston. That group represents local LGBTQ people.

David Palmer, PR director of the Houston Log Cabin chapter, criticized being shut out at the confab. “This is a political organization, not a church group,” he said of the GOP.

The national Log Cabin organization called the booth denial “narrow-minded” and “politically short-sighted.

That narrow-minded charge applies to most GOP policies.

—Kevin McCauley