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O'Dwyer's

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NASSAU CO. SEEKS ECODEV PR

The Nassau County Industrial Development Agency is gathering the qualifications of PR, marketing, advertising and media buying firms interested in promoting the Long Island locale as a good place to keep and create jobs.



The Agency intends to award economic development communications projects on as-needed basis.

The goal of the RFQ is to establish a roster of “responsive and responsible firms” to provide the required services.

There is no assurance that selected firms will be assigned any work.

Qualifications are due July 11. Send the statement to: Nassau County Industrial Development Agency; One West Street, 4th Floor; Mineola, NY 11501; Attn: Executive Director/Administrative Director.

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

BALLARD BAGS \$900K LIBERIA PACT

Ballard Partners has signed Liberia to help that African nation communicate with US government officials, businesses and NGOs.

The one-year agreement, which went into effect June 24, calls for a monthly fee of \$75K to be paid in quarterly installments of \$225K. It automatically renews for successive one-year periods.

Joel Maybury, US deputy chief of mission in Liberia, railed against the rampant corruption in the country during a June 23 speech at the Center for Security Studies and Development.

He cited a report by the Center for Transparency and Accountability that showed that 90 percent of Liberians rate the level of corruption in the country as high and two-thirds of them lack faith in the government’s effort to fight corruption.

Maybury called for “a more robust oversight of all levels of government to uphold standards of accountability as defined under Liberian law and that when corruption is uncovered, the responsible parties should be prosecuted.”

Brian Ballard, who was Donald Trump’s top fundraiser in Florida, heads his firm’s four-member Liberian team.



RIVERON ACQUIRES CLERMONT PARTNERS

Riveron has acquired Clermont Partners, a 35-member ESG communications and investor relations shop based in Chicago.

Clermont co-founders Beth Saunders and Victoria Sivrais will co-lead the newly created ESG communications practice at Riveron, a business advisory firm.

Prior to launching Clermont in 2015, Saunders served as Americas chair of [FTI Consulting’s strategic communications unit](#).



Sivrais was deputy lead of the capital markets practice of FTI’s stratcom practice.

Riveron, which is headquartered in Dallas, specializes in accounting, finance, technology, and operations and helps clients elevate performance and expand possibilities across the transaction and business lifecycle.

Riveron CEO Julie Howard said ESG strategy is a top of mind issue for many businesses as stakeholders demand more transparency.

“The addition of the talented Clermont team will be a powerful accelerant as we help our clients navigate a heightened regulatory environment and investor, employee, and customer scrutiny on social and environmental issues,” added Howard.

Clermont also has an office in Washington, DC.

PEREGRINE ADDS BCW’S KISSANE

Peregrine Communications Group has hired Mary Beth Kissane to head client services in the US.

She joins the asset management specialist from [BCW Global](#), where she was executive VP/managing director.

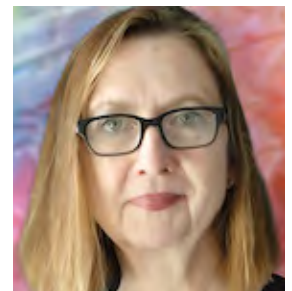
During her more than 30-year career, Kissane worked at Walek/[Peppercomm](#), Hill+Knowlton, Gorgeson and Abernathy Macgregor.

She also chaired the advocacy committee of the National Investor Relations Institute.

Kissane has counseled Blackstone, Bank of America, Tudor Investment Corporation, Citadel, New York Life Insurance and the Rockefeller Group.

She has handled activism, defense, crisis situations, issues management and policy matters.

Anthony Payne, Peregrine CEO, called Kissane one of the sharpest and most experienced operators in our business.



Mary Beth Kissane

FGS GLOBAL TOPS CHAMBERS RANKINGS

[FGS Global](#) stands alone in the top tier of nationwide PR & communications firms in the US in this year's [rankings from Chambers](#).



The firm, which resulted from the recent merger of Finsbury Glover Hering and Sard Verbinnen, was the only one to place in Band 1 of the rankings, which evaluate firms based on technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial astuteness, diligence and commitment. Sard Verbinnen also ranked in Band 1 last year, while Finsbury Glover Hering was in Band 2.

Brunswick Group and Trident BMG, which placed in Band 1 last year, were in Band 2 this year, along with [The Levinson Group](#), which moved up from Band 3 in 2021. This year's Band 3 included [Reevevemark](#), Risa Heller Communications and [Edelman](#), with Band 4 made up of Abernathy MacGregor, [FTI Consulting](#), [Infinite Global](#), [Kekst CNC](#) and Poston Communications.

FGS Global's Jeff McAndrews and Paul Holmes placed in Band 1 of Chambers' individual rankings. Band 1 also included Ellen Davis of August Strategic Communications, Molly Levinson of The Levinson Group, Risa Heller of Risa Heller Communications and Ellen Moskowitz of Brunswick Group.

KEKST STARS IN HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTER

[Kekst CNC](#) represented Crestview Partners in the \$750M sale of ICM Partners to Creative Artists Agency. The deal, which closed June 28 following a Justice Dept antitrust review, consolidates the Hollywood talent agency landscape.



The deal positions CAA to "deliver extraordinary opportunities for many of the world's preeminent artists, athletes, thought leaders, brands and organizations in entertainment, sports and culture," according to a statement from co-chairmen Kevin Huvane, Bryan Lourd and Richard Lovett.

The combined company will have 3,200 employees in 25 countries. Some 425 ICM staffers will join CAA with 105 expected to be laid off, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Kekst CNC vice chairman/partner Jeffrey Taufield and partner Daniel Yunger handled the deal.

Publicis Groupe owns Kekst CNC.

APCO HIRES TRANSPORTATION DEPT. VET

APCO Worldwide hires J. Todd Inman, former chief of staff to the U.S. Department of Transportation, as a senior director in the office of the executive chairman. Most recently, Inman worked as the Florida secretary of management services, where he oversaw a \$1 billion budget. While at the DOT, he coauthored the department's "Return to Normal" Operations, which addressed the pandemic and facilitated the delivery of medications and commodities.



J. Todd Inman

"Todd has carried out impactful and successful operations with excellent leadership," said APCO Worldwide founder and executive chairman Margery Kraus.

NEWS OF FIRMS

[FrazierHeiby](#) rebrands as [Slide Nine Agency](#). The Columbus, OH-based communications and marketing agency, founded in 1983, was acquired in January 2020 by agency president and CEO Lauren Parker, chief operating officer Ann Mulvany and chief experience officer Whitney Somerville. Its offerings include branding and positioning, public relations/earned media, executive thought leadership, social media, and crisis and reputation management. Parker says the new name is a reference to the ninth slide of one of the firm's winning client proposals, which outlined "our client experience model, specifically how we embrace trust, transparency and tenacity. That concept so perfectly encapsulated what we wanted to convey to the world, it's now our moniker."



[Gotham Research Group](#) joins forces with Ballast Research, Hamilton Place Strategies, Flag Media Analytics and alva, a stakeholder intelligence platform, as part of a combination that offers what they say is an industry-leading stakeholder management solution. The addition is being made with the support of Falfurrias Capital Partners, which announced its majority investments in Ballast Research, HPS and alva in summer 2021. Gotham specializes in custom research designed to inform branding/positioning initiatives, advertising campaigns, policy issue campaigns, crisis communications, and digital strategy.

[WPP](#) agrees to acquire the business of [Bower House Digital](#), a marketing technology services agency located in Australia. The agency will join Ogilvy's global network. Founded in 2017 by Bryan Dobson and Meg Quinn, it employs approximately 80 people across Australia and the Asia Pacific region. "Bower House Digital's knowledge in marketing technology will further strengthen our digital expertise in Australia and New Zealand," said WPP president, Australia and New Zealand Rose Herceg.

[PAN Communications](#) launches a content hub that will provide information to support the marketing efforts of businesses. The hub consists of four proprietary guides that cover building thought leadership programs, how to make customer advocacy a top priority, putting together a successful lead generation strategy and using data insights and strategy to clarify brand message and positioning.



[Piranha](#) acquires [Manhattan Made Marketing](#). The combined agencies will operate under the Piranha name. Manhattan Made Marketing founder and CEO Bogdan Dzyurak joins Piranha and will lead its digital practice. Piranha will remain headquartered in Brooklyn, NY, with offices in Denver, Miami and Barcelona. "We can fully align creative and digital capabilities with this move," said Piranha managing partner Sean Ananou.

[Dezenhall Resources](#) CEO Eric Dezenhall has released an updated version of his crisis management guidebook, [Glass Jaw: A Manifesto for Defending Fragile Reputations in an Age of Instant Scandal](#). The new version of the book covers topics that include: how to navigate the "woke" climate in the age of cancel culture; why social media is not the solution to a scandal; and how there really is no "getting ahead" of a bad story. It also takes a look at some of the most high-profile reputational scandals that have hit over the past five years.

MAKING POST-PANDEMIC TRAVEL SUSTAINABLE

Travelers are making more conscious decisions about their travel experiences in a post-pandemic world, which includes their preferred mode of transport and where they stay. Writers are mulling over the trends they're seeing, wondering



Debbie Flynn

whether everything will return to normal or whether they're witnessing a permanent and accelerating change in behavior. Companies are looking deeply into how and whether they need to pivot their business models, to accelerate their path toward sustainability. Destinations are both frightened by the volumes of tourists now returning and grateful to be once again receiving the dollars that drive economic growth and jobs.

What are we to make of the impact of COVID on the sustainability of travel and tourism?

The Travel Foundation describes sustainable tourism: "By its very nature, tourism values the things that are most precious in our world: stunning landscapes, wildlife, history, culture, and people. Tourism can be a catalyst for growth in the local economy, providing good quality jobs, opportunities for enterprise and funds for conservation. But if it's not managed well, tourism can have negative impacts on local communities and environments."

The pandemic has driven some key changes in behavior, with more consumers wanting to holiday closer to home, to avoid crowded spaces and airport lines, to find a blend of work and leisure by staying away from offices, to spend more quality time with family and friends, to experience nature and support local businesses and, importantly, to reflect on what's truly important in life.

The area that epitomizes all this change of focus and mindset is the trend toward "slow travel."

Travel blogger Charlie Marchant defines slow travel as "a conscious decision to travel at your own pace. When you travel slow, you decide not to rush around. Slow travel is inextricably linked to sustainable travel as it focuses on meeting and supporting local people. Because of this, slow travel is often considered low impact and opposite to mass tourism."

Despite the return to the skies witnessed during the last few months, there are many people for whom aviation is truly an unsustainable form of travel and who actively choose rail or car travel as short trip alternatives. Just as Uber and Airbnb were born in the financial crisis years, other travel businesses have launched in the middle of the COVID crisis to take advantage of this new trend.

So, as the world comes out of the grip of the coronavirus lockdown, has the consumer mindset toward travel really changed? For some, it has changed on a permanent basis, creating a new target for the marketers, but for the vast majority the memory is short and life will return to normal.

This broader range of flexible consumers is an opportunity for destinations to build messaging around a more sustainable kind of tourism. It's no longer acceptable to hide behind the generic messaging of "Tourism is a Force for Good."

Travel: Sustainable or unsustainable? That's still the question in this post-pandemic world.

Debbie Flynn is Managing Partner, Global Travel Practice Leader, at FINN Partners.

IT'S TIME FOR TRUMP'S PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

It has been almost 18 months since Donald Trump left office. I have wondered why we haven't heard about any plans for a Trump presidential library, but now I think I know: Trump wanted to wait until the completion of his second term to announce a library.

With the testimony of White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson, Trump can kiss that idea goodbye. Ms. Hutchinson was Trump's Monica Lewinsky. Bob Woodward went so far as to tell CNN's Wolf Blitzer that Hutchinson had "written Trump's political obituary."

Trump would do well to trot out plans for some library, somewhere, to remind people that he was the 45th president and isn't done yet. The library would not only serve as a deflection tool, it might help to bolster the perception that the Orange One is still in control of himself and his actions.

Speaking at a real presidential library, the Reagan in California, Rep. Liz Cheney said, "It has become clear that the efforts Donald Trump oversaw and engaged in were even more chilling and more threatening than we could have imagined." The applause was deafening, and, as Lawrence O'Donnell noted, "these were Republicans!"

Bill Huey is president of Strategic Communications and the author of Carbon Man (Kindle, 2010).

PINELLAS CO. (FL) UTILITY SEEKS PR

The Pinellas County Utilities Department is looking for a partner to handle public information and community outreach. With about 1M residents, Florida's Pinellas County includes the cities of Tampa, Saint Pete and Clearwater.



PCUD's selected firm will communicate information concerning capital projects, rates, water quality, conservation programs, biosolids management, emerging contaminants, workforce development and a variety of other topics. It also will support PCUD's strategic communications, media relations and events.

The firm is required to have significant knowledge pertaining to water, wastewater and reclaimed water systems and regulations.

Proposals are due July 12.

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

UKRAINE MILITARY GETS MEDIA SUPPORT

Daniel Rice, who is working on a doctoral dissertation on Ukrainian military leadership, is now repping the Ukrainian Armed Forces. He serves as a special advisor to commander-in-chief General Valerii Zaluzhnyi and provides guidance on war fighting.

Rice has written articles and made media appearances to boost awareness of the military situation in Ukraine.

His "The Untold Story of the Battle for Kyiv" in "Small Wars Journal" argued that the US should provide different weapons systems to Ukraine.

Rice spoke at the Ukrainian Institute of America on June 1 and then was interviewed by the Voice of America. The resulting article was translated into Russian.

Rice is not compensated for his work.



Daniel Rice

NAVY FLOATS PUBLIC AFFAIRS RFQ

The Naval Surface Warfare Center's corporate communications division has issued an RFQ for public affairs and visual support services.



The corporate communications unit is responsible for "all internal and external communication products, services, policies and procedures in the areas of public affairs, strategic communication, visual information and protocol in order to develop awareness and understanding of NSWC to internal, local, national and international audiences," according to the document.

It keeps the commanding officer, technical director and other leadership apprised of developments related to the command, employees, public or Congressional interests.

The selected partner will further the command goals via the production of multimedia products (social media content, website work), branding, newsletters, promotions, exhibits, magazines, presentations and other creative materials.

The work will be conducted at the NSWC facility at Indian Head, MD.

Proposals are due July 14.

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

SHOPIFY'S HUFFT MOVES TO ZOOM

Amy Hufft, who was VP-head of global brand marketing & communications at Shopify, has moved to Zoom.



Amy Hufft

As head of brand and communications, Hufft will oversee brand marketing, social media, content creation and the effort to evolve Zoom's narrative.

During her four-year run at Shopify, Hufft launched its first-ever branding campaign, built a global communications structure and positioned the company as a trusted commerce innovator.

Prior to Shopify, she was president of HL Group, VP-strategic development at the Sage Collective and senior director, client services and business development at Harrison & Shriftman.

BRUNSWICK RECRUITS GERMAN POLITICO

Brunswick Group has hired German politico Andreas Nick to bolster its public policy and investment banking capabilities.

Nick served as VP of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe and was a member of Germany's Bundestag from 2013 to 2021.

Earlier, he worked for more than 15 years as head of mergers & acquisitions at Sal. Oppenheim and head of M&A-Germany at UBS.

At Brunswick, Nick will counsel German and international clients on PA issues and financial situations including private and public market transactions.

CEO Neal Wolin said Nick "will

help clients navigate the interconnected worlds of finance, politics and society."

Brunswick has operated in Germany for 20 years.



Andreas Nick

ON THE MOVE

Tierney appoints **Jason Trubowitz** as executive vice president/media director. Trubowitz comes to the agency from UnitedHealth Group, where he led media planning and advertising for all brands in the company's portfolio. He previously handled media planning, advertising and strategic partnerships for several brand under the NCBUniversal umbrella, including NBC News, MSNBC and the Today Show. At Tierney, Trubowitz will leading the planning, paid media, and data & analytics practice. "A seasoned thought-leader and digital pioneer recognized for his collaborative approach and strong relationships, we are thrilled to have Jason's perspectives and leadership augment our talented team of media professionals," said Tierney president Tracey Santilli.

Winnebago Industries brings on **Amber Holm** as senior vice president, chief marketing officer, effective July 6. Holm was most recently vice president, brands at Newell Brands, where she led the global housewares business, including Rubbermaid, Calphalon, FoodSaver and Ball Canning. She has also served as vice president of marketing at Bridgestone Americas and senior marketing manager at General Mills.



Amber Holm

Health Recovery Solutions, which provides remote patient monitoring and telehealth services, names **Melissa Humphrey** chief marketing officer. Humphrey was most recently vice president of marketing at Gainwell Technologies. In her new post, Humphrey will lead the strategy and execution of HRS's brand marketing, product marketing, client communication and demand generation.

G&S Business Communications promotes **Christine King** to vice president of digital marketing. King joined G&S earlier this year as associate vp of digital marketing. She was previously director of digital marketing at TealBook, where she executed a full company rebrand. Before that, King co-founded CASK Communications, where she also served as principal marketing consultant. "Christine brings unique skills, a breadth of experience and a strategic vision," said G&S principal and managing director, client service and digital Caryn Caratelli.



Christine King

Narrative Strategies hires **Dominique McKay** as senior director.

McKay rejoins the firm, where she was previously a director, after serving as communications director for U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC). She has also served as deputy communications director for Sen. John Thune (R-SD), as well as press secretary for the Senate Republican Conference Committee under Senator Thune.

Paubox, which provides email solutions for healthcare organizations, names **Shawn Dickerson** vice president of marketing. Dickerson was previously CMO at KeyedIn, a project and portfolio management software firm. Before that, he held leadership roles at Workfront and Novell. In his new role, Dickerson is guiding Paubox's strategic marketing initiatives for a suite of solutions that support the email compliance and security needs of medical practices, mental health facilities, hospitals and other entities covered by HIPAA regulations.

OKC HOUSING POSTS PR SERVICES RFP

The Oklahoma City Housing Authority, the public housing agency that provides affordable housing and housing assistance to low-income residents of Oklahoma City, is requesting proposals from agencies that can provide public relations services.



Scope of the work includes developing and implementing a strategic PR plan; promoting public awareness of OCHA's work through a consistent and positive messaging; developing and

implementing programs to improve communications with elected officials, community advocates and leaders, partners and Oklahoma City residents; and developing effective outreach strategies, goals and objectives to be used in advertising, promoting and publicizing OCHA including their online presence.

Initial terms of the contract end on December 31, and may be extended for an additional one-year term.

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. (CT) on July 14, and should be sent via email to mgillett@ochanet.org.

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

BGR SPEAKS UP FOR DOGS

BGR Government Affairs is handling the Hong Kong-based World Dog Alliance, which is committed to ending the consumption of canines.



The Alliance also works to "promote the harmonious interaction between humans and dogs and reduce the cruelty and abandonment of dogs."

It claims 30M dogs are slaughtered and eaten in Asia each year. Seventy percent of them were dognapped.

Florida Congressman Alcee Hastings introduced a bill in 2017 to ban the human consumption of dog and cat meat.

President Donald Trump signed that bill into law in 2018.

More than 30 Congressmen sent a letter to Trump in 2019 to support an international convention to prohibit the eating of dogs and cats.

BGR reps the Alliance on animal welfare issues.

Its lobbying team includes Fred Turner, who was chief of staff for Hastings; Mark Tavlarides, director of legislative affairs at the National Security Council; Lester Munson, chief of staff for Sen. Mark Kirk; and Maya Seiden, veteran of the Clinton and Obama administrations.

DCI EXPOSES RUSSIA'S THEFTS IN UKRAINE

DCI Group is working for SCM Consulting to run a PA and media campaign to highlight Russia's theft of grain, minerals and steel in Ukraine.

Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest person and a former member of parliament, launched System Capital Management and serves as its president.

SCM's properties include the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, which was overrun by Russian forces on May 20 following fierce resistance by Ukrainian soldiers.

Akhmetov has pledged to use his fortune to help rebuild Ukraine's shattered economy.

DCI Group is helmed by Republican operatives Doug Goodyear, Justin Peterson and Brian McCabe.

SCM hired Qorvis Communications in May.

ACCOUNTS IN TRANSIT

Hemsworth Communications signs on to represent **AOC Hospitality**, a Charleston, S.C.-based restaurant group. The agency's scope of work includes local, regional and national media relations, event programming and social media support for their two concepts: Stems & Skins, a neighborhood wine bar recognized by the James Beard Foundation for its Outstanding Wine Program; and Three Sirens, a recently launched seafood concept. Both are located in North Charleston's Park Circle neighborhood.

Zapwater Communications is named US PR firm for **Copa Airlines**, which was founded in 1947 as the National Airline of Panama. Zapwater will support U.S. communications strategy and launch a campaign to celebrate the airline's 75th anniversary. The fully integrated campaign, which will include media relations, influencer marketing and social media, will be managed by the agency's bilingual team in its Miami and Chicago offices. Copa offers more than 295 daily scheduled flights to more than 72 destinations in 32 countries throughout South America, Central America, North America and the Caribbean.



Xhibition checks in at **Hotel Indigo Williamsburg**. The agency will spearhead an international public relations campaign to relaunch the property, as well as providing community engagement and programming support. The 187-room hotel, which closed its doors at the onset of the pandemic, is now welcoming travelers again. It also offers 20,000 square feet of flexible meeting space with AV support, including a 6,630-square-foot ballroom, a 2,800-square-foot pre-function space, a 480-square-foot Union Mezzanine, and a large outdoor courtyard

FischTank PR is retained by **The Coretec Group**, which is developing a portfolio of engineered silicon to improve such energy-focused verticals as electric vehicles and consumer batteries. FischTank will oversee Coretec's corporate communications, including press releases, social media platforms, email marketing and editorial media opportunities. It will also work to increase the brand's footprint in the automotive, cleantech and electric vehicle categories.

Ripley PR is selected to work with **RC Mowers**, a manufacturer of remote-operated robotic mowers, on efforts to enhance awareness of the brand's products. The company's product are designed to traverse steep slopes, difficult terrain and other hazardous landscapes. It serves commercial mowing companies, public works departments and park maintenance crews across the United States, as well as in Canada and Australia. "We needed a public relations agency with deep roots in B2B technology and manufacturing to share our vision and accurately tell our story," said RC Mowers vice president of sales and marketing Tim Kubista.



Experiency, creative tech studio, partners with **Marino PR** to design the proprietary metaverse concept for Bulgari. The Roman jeweler, part of the LVMH Group, says the metaverse platform, which was developed using Epic Games' Unreal Engine 5, is intended to be a sign of the future intentions of the brand, which are firmly set on deploying such marketing and communications tools.

COMMENTARY



What is the biggest crisis that a Big 4 auditing firm or any accountant could face?

How about admitting that your audit professionals cheated on the ethics component of CPA exams and various continuing education courses required to maintain professional licenses?

Ernst & Young fessed up June 28 as the Securities and Exchange Commission slapped it with a \$100M fine, the largest penalty ever imposed by the SEC against an audit firm.

Gurbir Grewal, SEC's enforcement director, summed up EY's shocking breach of trust quite nicely: "It's simply outrageous that the very professionals responsible for catching cheating by clients cheated on ethics exams of all things."

EY confessed that during the SEC probe, it claimed to have "no current issues with cheating when, in fact, the firm had been informed of potential cheating on a CPA ethics exam," according to the SEC's statement.

The firm also admitted that it did not correct its SEC statement "even after it launched an internal investigation into cheating on CPA ethics and other exams and confirmed there had been cheating, and even after its senior lawyers discussed the matter with members of the firm's senior management."

The *Wall Street Journal* has reported that EY plans to split itself into an audit company and a consulting firm.

The SEC probe may put those plans on hold. What company wants to have its books reviewed by an ethically-challenged firm?

Not exactly the "Love Boat." Business at Carnival Cruise Line has been booming since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its COVID-19 guidance on March 30.

Its buoyant CEO Arnold Donald predicted cruise occupancy rates will approach 110 percent during the third quarter.

A PR disaster such as a "huge dance floor brawl" has the potential to bring Donald back to Earth.

And that's exactly what happened on June 28.

Chaos erupted in a nightclub on Carnival Magic while it sailed under the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge on the way to Manhattan after an eight-day cruise. The fisticuffs, which began as a squabble between two people, rapidly escalated into an all-out brawl as other passengers joined the fray.

Carnival put some PR spin on the situation, terming the melee "an altercation" and noted that "no serious injuries were reported."

The company used to market its fleet as "fun ships" due to their enhanced dining, bars and entertainment offerings.

Will it now be promoting "fight ships?"

Nearly half of America wants Donald Trump charged with a crime connected to the Jan. 6 assault on the US Capitol, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll released June 30.

Forty-eight percent of respondents want the former president indicted, while 31 percent don't. Twenty percent have no opinion.

The bad news for Trump: the poll was conducted before the bombshell testimony of ex-White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson. That urge to indict has dramatically grown after Hutchinson testified that Trump wanted to join the rabble trashing the Capitol and supported hanging vice president Pence.

And where is attorney general Merrick Garland?

The *New York Times* on June 30 reported that federal prosecutors were "astonished" by the compelling testimony of Hutchinson at the Jan. 6 Congressional committee hearings.

That doesn't bode well for the sleuths at the Justice Dept., which is conducting its own probe on the Capitol riot.

Committee members claim that Garland has not moved fast enough to follow their investigative leads. Time is running out, Merrick, as the midterm elections loom.

And speaking of running out of time. The AP-NORC poll shows that America is done with Trump.

As Congresswoman Liz Cheney so eloquently put it during her speech at the Reagan Library.

"No party, and no people, and no nation can defend and perpetuate a constitutional Republic if they accept a leader who's gone to war with the rule of law."

The ball is in your court, Ron DeSantis. Make your move.

The fading and shameless Trump says the Florida governor could be his VP pick. Why would the 43-year-old DeSantis saddle up with a surefire loser?

Cutting off dictators... The Human Rights Foundation and the Life+Liberty Indexes has launched the Defund Dictators Tool. DDT focuses on emerging markets exchange traded funds that invest some of their assets in dictatorial regimes such as Russia, China and Saudi Arabia.

"Investors from free countries should be well informed of the human rights situation in the countries they seek to invest in and always consider democracies as the safer, more ethical choice," said HRF's senior policy officer Alvaro Piaggio.

You don't want to invest in a fund that helps bankroll Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Do you?

Are you looking for a new gig? Do you want to meet people from all walks of life and live out new adventures while earning a competitive pay and building a rewarding career?

Uncle Sam may want you but the hotel industry really wants you.

The American Hotel and Lodging Assn. has stepped up its "[A Place to Stay](#)" recruitment campaign to fill some of more than 130K openings in the hospitality industry.

Ninety-seven percent of AHLA members are short of staff. Nearly half (49 percent) severely so.

The Place to Stay effort pitches "the opportunity to craft lifelong memories with guests who will also welcome you into their lives in many special ways."

The Assn. needs to tone down its campaign a bit. The post-COVID world of airport chaos, canceled flights and high gas prices, combined with staff shortages, makes many of those hotel guests downright surly.

New hotel staffers may be in for some very unpleasant experiences.

—Kevin McCauley