

The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025 • \$4

Waltz team Gmail use draws flags on security

Public's work conducted over personal accounts, in wake of Signal mishap

BY JOHN HUDSON

Members of President Donald Trump's National Security Council, including White House national security adviser Michael Waltz, have conducted government business over personal Gmail accounts, according to documents reviewed by The Washington Post and interviews with three U.S. officials.

The use of Gmail, a far less secure method of communication than the encrypted messaging app Signal, is the latest example of questionable data security practices by top national security officials already under fire for the mistaken inclusion of a journalist in a group chat about high-level planning for military operations in Yemen.

A senior Waltz aide used the commercial email service for highly technical conversations with colleagues at other government agencies involving sensitive military positions and powerful weapons systems relating to an ongoing conflict, according to emails reviewed by The Post. While the NSC official used his Gmail account, his interagency colleagues used government-issued accounts, headers from the email correspondence show.

Waltz has had less sensitive, but potentially exploitable information sent to his Gmail, such as

SEE GMAIL ON A8

OMB starts a study on cost to 'get' Greenland

Most concrete step yet in Trump's long quest to acquire Danish territory

BY LISA REIN, MICHAEL BIRNBAUM, NATALIE ALLISON AND JEFF STEIN

The White House is preparing an estimate of what it would cost the federal government to control Greenland as a territory, according to three people with knowledge of the matter, the most concrete effort yet to turn President Donald Trump's desire to acquire the Danish island into actionable policy.

While Trump's demands elicited international outrage and a rebuke from Denmark, White House officials have in recent weeks taken steps to determine the financial ramifications of Greenland becoming a U.S. territory, including the cost of providing government services for its 58,000 residents, the people said.

At the White House budget office, staff have sought to understand the potential cost to maintain Greenland if it were acquired, two of the people said. They are also attempting to estimate what revenue to the U.S. Treasury could be gained from Greenland's natural resources.

One option under analysis is to

SEE GREENLAND ON A5



KATHLEEN FLYNN/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Cyprus Louviere, 3, and his mother, Victoria Courville, in Iberia Parish, Louisiana, where Cajun Broadband is waiting to get to work.

Rural internet program is put on hold

BY JULIAN MARK

Chris Disher, the co-owner of a rural internet provider in Louisiana, is ready to start digging to get fast and reliable internet to some of the estimated 450,000 households and small businesses in the state that don't have it.

His company, Cajun Broadband, was awarded \$33 million in January under a Biden administration plan to do just that. But the money isn't flowing while the Trump administration revamps the program and opens it up more to satellite internet, including Elon Musk's Starlink.

Now Disher is worried that a long-promised push for rural access will be upended, leaving Louisianans desperate for internet waiting.

"I really hope they don't start over again because it's a lot of work there that's gone into that," Disher said. More than losing

up-front business costs, he added, "the bigger impact for me is not going to help people." Other recipients of Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) grants have also expressed worries that years of planning to bring internet to underserved rural households could be stymied by the Trump administration's shift in the program's direction. Under the original plan, which Congress approved with bipartisan support in 2021, Louisiana was set to receive \$1.4 billion as part of the \$42 billion program.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick announced in March that the program would

drop former president Joe Biden's "woke mandates" and "burdensome" regulations and take a "tech-neutral" approach to getting internet to rural residents. "Under the revamped BEAD program, all Americans will receive the benefit of the bargain that Congress intended," Lutnick said March 5. "We're going to deliver high-speed internet access, and we will do it efficiently and effectively at the lowest cost to taxpayers."

The program has been designed overwhelmingly around installing underground fiber-optic cables, a medium widely seen as a gold standard for fast and reliable internet. Some critics of the BEAD program say that approach is too expensive and time-consuming and that using the "low-orbit satellite" technology offered by Starlink and Amazon's Kuiper costs less and can get people connected faster. (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

SEE INTERNET ON A12



KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

HHS workers line up outside a D.C. office Tuesday to be screened and learn their employment status.

Layoffs, leadership purge reach HHS

This article is by Carolyn Y. Johnson, Rachel Roubein, Joel Achenbach, Lena H. Sun and Lauren Weber

RFK Jr. calls the cuts a 'win-win,' but experts lament loss of expertise

Senior leaders across the Department of Health and Human Services were put on leave and countless other employees lost their jobs Tuesday as the Trump administration began a sweeping purge of the agencies that oversee government health programs.

Top officials at the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration were put on admin-

istrative leave or offered reassignment to the Indian Health Service. Other employees began receiving layoff notices or learned they had lost their jobs when their entry badges no longer worked Tuesday morning.

At one HHS office in Rockville, Maryland, long lines grew as workers were screened to determine whether they were still employed.

SEE HHS ON A6

White House prepares escalation: 20% tariffs

Plan calls for permanent import taxes that experts say would spur recession

BY JEFF STEIN AND DAVID J. LYNCH

White House aides have drafted a proposal to impose tariffs of about 20 percent on most imports to the United States, three people familiar with the matter said, as President Donald Trump pushes for the most aggressive overhaul of the global economic system in decades.

If implemented, the plan is likely to send shock waves through the stock market and global economy. Assuming that permanent tariffs took effect in the current quarter and triggered robust retaliation by U.S. trading partners, the economy would almost immediately tumble into a recession that would last for more than a year, sending the jobless rate above 7 percent,

according to Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's, who described the results as a worst-case scenario.

White House advisers cautioned that several options are on the table and no final decision has been made. On Monday evening, Trump repeatedly suggested the tariffs would be "reciprocal" — in direct proportion to those levied by foreign countries on U.S. exports — and indicated that many countries would not be included in the import duties. That would probably represent a less drastic action than a single universal tariff.

The administration has for weeks been involved in extensive planning to announce new tariffs on Wednesday, which the president has dubbed "Liberation Day." White House officials have scoffed

SEE TARIFFS ON A13

E.U. response: Bloc is considering tariffs on digital services. A13

DEI: State Dept. asks foreign firms to comply with Trump order. A14



SENATE TELEVISION/AP

Booker breaks modern record In a floor speech criticizing Trump's policies, the senator from New Jersey surpassed a 24-hour oration by Sen. Strom Thurmond in 1957. Booker yielded the floor Tuesday night after being at the lectern for 25 hours and 5 minutes. A7

IN THE NEWS

'Unconventional' nominee Retired Lt. Gen. Dan Caine, a surprise pick for Joint Chiefs chairman, told senators he'd work to earn trust and would obey the Constitution. A8

Restricting access The D.C. Council passed short-term legislation that shuts members of the public out of many of its meetings. B1

THE NATION Alaska's senators, both Republicans, differ on how to battle DOGE cuts in the state. A3 The U.S. will seek a death sentence for the man accused of killing a health-care CEO. A6

THE WORLD Photos after Sudan's army retook Khartoum show the civil war's devastation of the capital. A9 China targeted Taiwan's leader, Lai Ching-te, with military drills and personal attacks. A10

THE ECONOMY Some companies are ignoring consumers' privacy demands, Consumer Reports found, and no one is stopping them. A11 Financial experts are offering free or reduced-price guidance to former and current federal employees. A14

THE REGION A new stump-shaped cherry tree is beginning to grow a following at the Tidal Basin in the District. B1 Police arrested a suspect in the fatal shooting of Darius Nico Young, a D.C. government worker and the son of a retired police officer. B1

SPORTS Maryland hired Texas A&M's Buzz Williams to be its next men's basketball coach. D1 FOOD In the dining world, explicit hip-hop can both be a restaurateur's personal touch and lead to an earful from offended customers. E1

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