

Runs 8:24 Trial of Derek Chauvin The trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin began this week in Minneapolis Minnesota... ten months after the death of George Floyd (BYTE) The week was filled with emotional testimony as many relived the moments they watched George Floyd die in police custody (BYTE) As the Floyd family searches for justice... this trial signifies something more... before the trial began... ABC's Linsey Davis talked about why THIS case...means so much. (BYTE) It's a sentiment echoed by many...including the son of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. (BYTE) Martin Luther King the third...telling the Associated Press...he didn't even want to consider what might happen if Chauvin is found not guilty. We're all thinking about that too... what it would mean for this country... ABC News' Ike Ejotchi was in Minneapolis this week and has followed the trial closely... I talked to him about witness testimony... how the trial could end... and what the could happen once it's over (INT) People have said an innocent verdict would mark just another instance where police aren't held to account. (BYTE) What does this mean...though...for Minneapolis, a city that has found in the middle of the most important social justice trials in American History? For that, we turn to Janel Klein. She's also covering the trial for ABC... and spoke to her about what she's seen in Minneapolis this week (INT)

Runs 9:44 Sports and Activism We've been reporting on this show about ABC News' six-part program, "Soul of Nation," the first broadcast network news magazine examining the black experience in America.. it airs Tuesday nights on ABC as well as on Hulu... This past week... we looked into the role sports activism has played in America's racial reckoning... ESPN's Michael Wilbon hosted one of the segments, speaking with athletes on the front lines of the fight for racial justice... (PKG) and Michael Wilbon joins me now (INT) The final episode of "Soul of a Nation" airs this Tuesday April 6th at 10 o'clock eastern... it can be viewed the next day on demand and on Hulu....

Runs 8:00 Sweeping Legislation Infrastructure week... traditionally thought to be a rare moment of bipartisanship in the nation's capital... but not this year. President Biden introduced his 2 trillion dollar plan that would invest in things from the nation's bridges and roads all the way to societal inequities... The president was hoping for bipartisan support (BYTE) Well, Republicans did speak, and it wasn't positive... also this week... new laws in Georgia prompted an uproar from voting rights groups... and condemnation from state businesses. The Republican-led government in the state this week passed sweeping legislation which they claim tightens election security...and voting rights organizations say suppresses voters of color... President Biden... calling it an injustice (BYTE) And it's not happening only in Georgia. To break all of this historic legislation... I spoke with ABC News political director Rick Klein (INT)

Runs 5:40 Black Sororities As we talk about Georgia's attempt to block voting in the state, and the backlash that's resulted because of it...something to keep in mind is how hard Black people...and especially Black women...had to fight to be able vote at all. (PKG)

Runs 2:21 MLB Opening Day After a year that tested us all...there are some signs of hope in the air. Even though Covid cases are still going up, both here and in many places around the world, more Americans are getting vaccinated, and this summer could see many of us traveling again. The the trees are starting to get green, the daffodils are blooming, and the smell of hot dogs and beer is in the air. Opening Day was this week...and ABC's Aaron Katersky has more. (PKG)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

Runs 8:48 Guatemala and Immigration We'll get to Covid, and social anxiety, and we'll even tell you this week what NFTs are and why people are paying millions of dollars for them. But we're going to begin with immigration. Some shocking numbers were released from the government this week--the U.S. says more than 170-thousand migrants were either arrested or detained trying to enter the country in the month of March--19-thousand of them were unaccompanied minors. Last week, video was released of two little girls ages 3 and 5 being dropped from atop the 14-foot-tall section of the border wall into the U.S. by human smugglers. This week, we saw video of a nine-year-old boy walking by himself near the Texas border....ABC's Matt Gutman has the story.. (BYTE) Through the tears, the boy explains he wasn't traveling with his mom or dad he was abandoned, ditched in his words, by the migrant group he was traveling with (Border patrol agent and child in spanish: did you come with your mom or dad? boy: no one. I came with a group...And they left me behind.) Sobbing- the boy telling the agent he was scared of getting robbed - or worse - kidnapped. He was found by authorities - and reportedly taken to the child detention center in Donna, Texas. That is hard to hear. But his story is just one of the many we've heard about of migrant children making the trip through Mexico to the US Southern Border... the Biden administration says it's doing everything they can to develop a clearer path to citizenship as it looks to address the wave of migrants entering the country. This week... Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with the president of

Mexico to address the critical political challenge... and last week... SHE spoke with Guatemala's president Alejandro Giammattei about it. .. and this week... President Giammattei did his first US television interview with ABC's John Quinones... (PKG) and John joins me now to talk about it (INT)

Runs 9:16 Tulsa Race Massacre For several weeks now... we've reported on "Soul of a Nation," ABC News' historic six-part series examining the Black experience in America...as told by Black Americans. In this week's episode, ABC's Steve Osunsami focused on something that for years, even people born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma might not have known about. Back in 1921, there was a thriving Black population in the city--because Black people weren't allowed in many places, in Tulsa they built their own--in the Greenwood section of the city, were stores and banks and restaurants--Booker T Washington even nicknamed it "Black Wall Street." Until, a white mob ended it all in what was one of the most violent demonstrations of racial violence in this country's history... As a part of Soul of a Nation, Steve talked with descendants of the survivors, as well as historians and the Mayor of Tulsa .. and he has also turned it into a podcast for ABC News called "Tulsa's Buried Truth" "I talked to Steve about the massacre and the role it played in American history... and how it still affects residents a century later. (INT) If you want to hear more about this story, you can download "Tulsa's Buried Truth" on Spotify, Apple Podcast, or your favorite podcast platform... and stream "Soul of a Nation" on the ABC News app and on Hulu.

Runs 3:23 Coronavirus Czar This week President Biden announced the United States has administered more than 150 million COVID-19 vaccine shots in the first 75 days of his administration. It means a shorter wait for those not yet eligible in their states--even though finding an appointment can still be challenging in many places, the president has said that by April 19th all American adults will be eligible for a shot. Dr. Bechara Choucrair (Beh-shah'-rah Shoo-care) is the Biden administration's vaccinate coordinator who spoke this week to our medical contributor Dr. Jay Bhatt and ABC's Aaron Katersky.

Runs 3:25 Coronavirus Social Anxiety Now as more and more Americans get the jab... many of us will start resuming our lives as they were prior to the pandemic... but that won't be so easy for many of us...listen to Rhonda Sanford from Queens, New York, and tell us if this sounds like anyone you know (BYTE) So, how's YOUR anxiety these days? And what happens when you think about getting back out there and interacting with real people? As more Americans get vaccinated and more Americans leave the safety of their homes, more Americans are starting to get a little freaked out about it. Social anxiety-or at least a fear of being socially awkward when we leave our cocoons-its real. We talked about it this week with Dr. Samuel Rothman, a PYSCHIATRY resident with Bronx Care Health System is a member of the ABC News medical unit. (INT)

Runs 5:52 NFTs One of the main tenants of the internet is that everything is copyable. There's copy-and-paste, screenshotting, and of course there's a whole world of memes being endlessly remixed and replicated too. But recently, some people have been shelling out big money for pieces of the internet that - they say - can't be copied. And it's got the attention of artists, environmentalists, and the financial world. To find out more, ABC's Mike Dobuski fired up the internet, and took a trip back to 2011 (PKG)

Runs 3:14 Prince Philip and DMX He was a fair-haired boy, rather like a Viking, with a sharp face and piercing blue eyes. That, according to Robert Lacey's seminal biography "Majesty" is how Queen Elizabeth's longtime governess, or Crawfie as she was called, described Prince Philip of Greece on the day in 1939 that he and then Princess Elizabeth first noticed each other. He was just 18 and she was just 13. But they kept in touch and nearly a decade after that meeting, in NOVember of 1947, they were married. Prince Philip has been described as the Queen's closest confidant, the one person around whom she can truly be herself. The pandemic is said to have brought them closer together because like the rest of us, they were quarantined together. Prince Philip was 99 when he died on Friday. From the foreign desk in london, here's abc's james longman. (PKG) And we also remember the life of a music icon taken from us at 50-years-old... and influential rapper... DMX (PKG)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 4/18/21

Runs 9:06 Turmoil in Minnesota The murder trial of former Minneapolis cop Derek Chauvin enters its closing arguments... and that's where we're going to begin--in Minnesota...because just a few miles north of the trial... in the suburb of Brooklyn Center (NATs) protests and some violence broke out this week in reaction to the death of 20-year-old unarmed black man Duante Wright... who was pulled over last Sunday, shot, and killed by a white veteran police officer... his parents, speaking exclusively to "Good Morning America" this week (BYTE) Brooklyn Center Police Chief Tim Gannon said the officer didn't intend to shoot Daunte (BYTE) His mother and father, Katie and Aubrey, told ABC's Robin Roberts it was difficult to believe that (BYTE). That officer has now been charged with second degree manslaughter. She and the police chief both resigned this week. As the protests were ongoing... just south of Brooklyn Center in Minneapolis... George Floyd's family took the stand to testify against Derek Chauvin... accused of killing George Floyd last year... Tensions were already high in Minneapolis

this week... and they were only heightened in the wake of Daunte's death. ABC's Alex Stone has been on site this week... he has the latest on everything going on in the state. (INT). A couple weeks ago, we spoke with Janel Klein... who's covering the Chauvin trial for ABC... we wanted to bring Janel back... she has more on what's ahead in the Chauvin trial with closing arguments scheduled for Monday (INT) In Chicago... police body cam was released showing the police shooting of a 13-year-old boy. Adam Toledo was running from a police officer in the early morning hours a few weeks ago. The teen eventually stopped running and appeared to be responding to the officer's command to put his hands up when he was shot and killed by the officer. All of it took place within a split second. A gun was later found on the ground next to a fence near where Toledo was standing.

Runs 2:26 Race for the Vaccine The nation's covid vaccine program hit a big road block this week when the FDA and the CDC paused vaccines from Johnson and Johnson. The concern, over blood clots that had developed in six women, out of more than six million doses administered. On capitol hill, there was a tense exchange between Congressman Jim Jordan and Dr. Anthony Fauci. The Ohio Republican, asking the nation's top infectious disease expert, when Americans can stop social distancing and wearing masks. (BYTE) It got so nasty at one point, that the chairwoman of the committee holding the hearing, Maxine Waters, had to shut it down. It comes as new data shows how effective the vaccines are. The CDC says out of 66 Americans who've been given shots...only 58-hundred people have developed covid, far less than one percent. The CEO of Pfizer also said this week that those who got the shot made by Pfizer may need a booster in a year--and possibly every year. This is Pfizer CEO (BYTE) It comes as some states are struggling with another wave. In Michigan, outside triage units are again being set up, and two dozen of the state's hospitals are now at 90 percent capacity. The CDC says it'll be safe to put this behind us when the country records 10-thousand new cases per day. Right now, we're averaging 60-thousand per day.

Runs 6:50 Greenwashing President Biden again this week touted his historic infrastructure plan... the American Jobs Plan... that the Biden Administration has said will help create millions of jobs for American citizens... and not only address problems with the nation's roads and bridges... but other societal issues... the president said this week he'd like bipartisan support for the plan (BYTE - debating) but Republicans say his plan is too broad and doesn't really amount to an infrastructure bill, as it looks to address issues like racial inequity and climate change... and just this week... hundreds of businesses called on the Biden administration to make cuts to greenhouse gas emissions... In addition to government action... many private companies have said they are taking their own initiatives to address the existential threat... but some aren't following through on what they say they're doing. It's a tactic called "greenwashing." ABC's Elizabeth Schulze has more on that story from Washington (PKG).

Runs 6:19 Trans Female Athletes There has been a lot of news this year on legislation involving transgender rights. Shortly after president Biden took office... he reversed policy that largely banned transgender people from serving in the military... Over the past few weeks.... there's been back and forth on legislative movement in Arkansas targeting transgender people and access to medical care. And a number of governors have pushed through legislation designed to limit participation on girls' school sports teams to people assigned female at birth. ABC's Kayna Whitworth traveled to Idaho to report on the impact its having on trans female athletes (PKG) And Kayna joins me now. (INT)

Runs 6:45 Remembering DMX Just as we were putting together our show last week... we learned of the death of influential rapper DMX... who had been on life support after experiencing cardiac arrest... Tributes poured in all week for Grammy-nominated performer... reflecting just how impactful of an artist he was. (PKG)

Runs 3:43 Yahoo Answers Over the past year... a lot of us turned to the Internet for answers to our many, many questions. A lot of them, of course, about the coronavirus... but for many of us... we look up different types of things... like what time does the restaurant down the road close... or where's the best place to travel in April... some questions... were more existential... like "what's the meaning of life?" Well, good luck with that one. Folks in the early days of the internet turned to forums like Ask Jeeves or Yahoo Answers to their questions... and maybe you're thinking... wow it's been awhile since I heard of one of those! Yeah, well, Yahoo's noticed too... ABC's Mike Dobuski has more on the end of an era for a resource that was once used by many curious web surfers. (PKG)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 4/25/21

Runs 12:30 Derek Chauvin Verdict The long-awaited murder trial of former Minneapolis cop Derek Chauvin featured weeks of emotional testimony from witnesses and family members who watched George Floyd die with Chauvin's knee on his neck... the jury reached a verdict this week... and within hours... we learned their decision. Chauvin was found guilty on all three counts in the death of George Floyd. The decision was met with all sorts of

emotion (NATS)... we heard cheers... tears... reaction from Floyd's family. George's brother Philonise this week on "Good Morning America" (BYTE). Janel Klein has covered the trial for ABC News and has been giving us updates the past couple weeks... she spoke with firefighter Kris Emond after hearing the verdict (BYTE - Police Think About This Case). ABC's Mark Remillard was also in Minneapolis for the verdict... he has more on what's ahead for the city and the country's justice system. (PKG). With all the protests and news coverage over the past year... what does this moment mean for us as Americans? And what does it mean for race relations in a country that's struggles run so deep? We talked about that this week with ABC News Nightline anchor Byron Pitts. (INT) Runs 6:48 Merrick Garland Interview Former Supreme Court nominee and long time US circuit judge Merrick Garland was appointed to run the Justice Department for the Biden Administration almost five years from the day President Obama he was nominated to fill the seat left vacant by former Justice Antonin Scalia... This week... the recently confirmed US Attorney General returned to the site of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing... he led an investigation and prosecution in that case... Garland is still concerned about domestic terrorism today... it's a threat he says the Justice Department will combat, and he outlined several others in his first interview as US attorney general... Garland spoke exclusively with ABC News' Chief Justice correspondent Pierre Thomas (INT) After the interview took place and a day after the verdict in the murder trial of Derek Chauvin was announced... Merrick Garland announced the Justice Department would be investigating policing practice in the city of Minneapolis.

Runs 4:41 Biden Nears 100 Days President Biden announced this week the US will hit its goal of 200 million vaccine shots ahead of Day 100 of his presidency... which will be marked next week... and he hopes to make a push for those Americans who are hesitant to get vaccinated (BYTE). The vaccine rollout has been one of the successes of the early part of the Biden presidency... but questions about spending, immigration, and bipartisanship loom in the months ahead. We took a quick look back at Joe Biden's first few months in office and what's ahead for the administration with ABC News white house correspondent Karen Travers. (INT)

Runs 5:02 Earth Day and Electric Buses Joe Biden has talked a lot about plans to combat climate change during his presidency... and the president hosted a virtual summit on lowering climate emissions this week (BYTE)... the summit took place during Earth Week... during which Biden said he would like to cut emissions at least in half by 2030.. part of that plan is putting more electric vehicles on the road... and those vehicles extend beyond just your personal sedan... ABC producer Leighton Schneider reports more on Earth Day and one Maryland district that's cutting emissions by replacing its school buses (PKG).

Runs 6:29 Historic Week in Space We've all been so focused on everything else going on lately...you might not have noticed that a lot has been happening in space. Scientists have been achieving things that have never before been done, things that could have a huge impact on the future of space exploration. Let's begin on Mars, where the Rover Perseverance has been sending back incredible pictures...and where a little helicopter named Ingenuity has been making history. What does it mean for us here on earth, though? Here's ABC's Alex Stone. (PKG) ABC's Gio Benitez has been covering the historic spaceX launch in Florida. We talked to him about that as well. (INT)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 5/2/21

Runs 8:12 100 Days: Interviews President Joe Biden gave his first address to a joint session of Congress Wednesday night... (BYTE)... it was historic in a number of ways... not just because attendance was limited due to the pandemic... but there were two women sitting behind the US president for the first time in this country's history (BYTE). President Biden highlighting the administration's early accomplishments in addressing COVID-19 and the vaccine rollout... he also discussed his two multi-trillion dollar plans... before hitting the road with Vice President Harris to campaign for them. South Carolina Senator Tim Scott offered the Republican rebuttal to Biden... and we heard from different politicians on both sides of the aisle give their thoughts on Biden's speech and his first 100 days... but what do Americans think about the job Biden's done so far? ABC's Aaron Katersky drove to western Pennsylvania to get an idea (PKG).

Runs 2:15 COVID: Real People One of the big accomplishments of the Biden administration so far has been its response to the pandemic. Brown University School of Public Health Dean Dr. Ashish Jha put it this way... (WORST BEHIND US) And Robert Wood Johnson Foundation head Dr. Richard Besser put it this way (MORE PEOPLE VACCINATED). the mayor of the biggest city in the country announced (NEW YORK RE-OPENED) Even Disneyland re-opened the gates in southern California (MAKES ME HAPPY) The announcement this week that fully vaccinated people don't need masks outside led CDC director Dr. Rochelle Wallensky, who said a few weeks ago that she had a sense of impending doom...to say this week...(TURNED THE CORNER) Since the pause in the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, however, trust in that shot has fallen. According to a new ABC News/Washington Post poll... fewer than half of Americans see the J-and-J jab as safe and barely more than a

fifth of those not yet vaccinated say they would be willing to take it... ABC producer Cheyenne Haslett spoke with one of the respondents to that poll, 18-year-old Joshua Smith... in Maricopa County... he discusses the hit trust in the J&J shot took after the pause (INT)

Runs 4:10 COVID In India This past week... as vaccine distribution surges across America... across the world... India topped 200,000 deaths from COVID-19... becoming the epicenter of the coronavirus... and entering the darkest chapter of the pandemic yet... (PKG)

Runs 3:40 COVID and Perfume A lot of people who've been infected with the coronavirus have made full recoveries. But many others are still dealing with lasting side effects--extreme fatigue, brain fog, coughing, headaches, and the loss of taste and smell, which can seriously compromise your quality of life. There is one group of people you might not expect, however, trying to do what they can to help. ABC's Ines de la Cuetara reports from France on how skilled Parisian perfumers are using THEIR noses...to try and help COVID patients...smell the roses again. (PKG)

Runs 5:36 New Census Numbers One of the reasons this country was so unique when it was founded is that those who wrote the U.S. Constitution laid out how the people would play a role in deciding on who governs the nation. Article 1, Section 2 stipulates that every person in the nation should be counted, and to use that count to determine representation in Congress. Before that...census counts were used mainly to just tax people--or to force people into the military. This week, the U.S. Census Bureau released the first batch of data from the 2020 census, kickstarting the once-a-decade redistricting battle after delays due to the pandemic... So...what did we learn? Well, California lost a House seat for the first time since it was founded in 1850, and New York lost a seat because of just 89 people. Texas, Florida and North Carolina...all gained people--and a greater voice in Washington. Geoffrey Skelley with our partners at the fivethirtyeight has been analyzing data... -not just about what it means for what it all means for each state...but what it means for future Congressional and presidential elections (INT)

Runs 8:10 Afghanistan US forces are set to leave Afghanistan September 11th... 20 years from the deadliest foreign terror attack to strike America... ABC News foreign correspondent Ian Pannell has covered America's longest war since 9/11... he traveled back to Afghanistan to take an in-depth look at life inside the country and the impact the withdrawal of U.S. forces could have, especially on women. (PKG) And Ian joins me now. (INT)

Runs 2:36 Rental Cars With so many Americans once again traveling, airplane tickets and hotel reservations are starting to book up. So are rental car bookings... so much so that the car you were hoping to take from point A to B... may cost you more than that night in a hotel. ABC's Alex Stone has more on that story (PKG).

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 5/9/21

Runs 7:08 Family Reunification The Biden administration set a new benchmark for vaccines this week: getting nearly three quarters of Americans the shot by Independence Day... and the CDC is now predicting a sharp decline in overall Covid cases by July. We've got that coming up...but we're going to begin with reunion...of family members separated at the southern border four years ago. Bryan was just 15 years old when he was separated from his mother Sandra Ort??z under the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy...now... they've been reunited... This video from Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center: (NATs). The reunion came at the very same point of entry, San Ysidro, where Sandra was deported and separated from her son in 2017. later that night.... Mabel, a mother from Honduras... surprised her two sons at a family gathering in Philadelphia and locked them in for a tearful group hug for the first time in over three years (NATs) These families are among the first to be reunited by organizations working with the Biden administration's Family Reunification Taskforce... This comes as many of the unaccompanied minors who crossed the southern border are moved from overcrowded border patrol facilities to Health and Human services shelters... but there's still an increase of children coming to the US.... ABC News chief white house correspondent Cecilia Vega has covered the border crisis for years... she has more on the administration's approach to the nation's immigration crisis (PKG) And Cecilia joins me now (INT)

Runs 3:21 Herd Immunity President Biden says he wants 70% of American adults vaccinated by July 4th (BYTE) the president acknowledged this week what scientists have been saying now for months: Eradicating the virus that causes COVID-19 might not be possible. But if enough Americans get some protection, it'll become manageable... so... what happened to that whole herd immunity thing we all heard so much about? It's probably not happening... Dr. John Brownstein is an epidemiologist at Boston Children's hospital and Harvard professor... he's also an ABC News medical contributor... he talked about the dimming prospect of herd immunity in the US with ABC's Devin Dwyer on the daily podcast "Start Here." (INT)

Runs 7:40 Revitalizing Chinatown May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month... and since the pandemic began in the US... the nation has seen a significant uptick in violence against Asian-American

communities... but here in New York City... a new generation is mobilizing to protect the elderly and family run businesses... ABC's Eva Pilgrim has more on how Chinatown has transformed amid COVID-19 and rise in racist attacks (PKG). And Eva Pilgrim joins me now. (INT)

Runs 5:38 Roaring Housing Market It's being called the wild west: with so many folks ditching the city for the suburbs in the pandemic... Americans are getting priced out of the housing market... ABC News' Elizabeth Schulze reports on how the high demand is leaving potential homebuyers puzzled, and many times, frustrated. (PKG) And Elizabeth Schulze joins me now. (INT)

Runs 5:53 Global Refugee Crisis As Americans go to extremes to buy a home in the U.S. these days....tens of thousands of refugees are simply looking for a place to sleep. It's something that has been spiraling out of control in recent years... with the number of refugees continuing to climb... ABC News foreign correspondent James Longman recently traveled to Syria to report on the impact the 10-year civil war has had on its children (PKG) The United States has long been a leader in resettling refugees... including many from war-torn Syria... but this country has fallen recently when it comes to taking in those who have nowhere to go... President Biden promised he would change the United States' policy on the refugee crisis... but it's become one of the challenges he's faced in the early part of his presidency. ABC producer Jonah Haskell explains why. (PKG)

Runs 4:40 Traveling to Space It seems sometimes that are two types of people in this world. Those who are fascinated by space....going to the moon and mars and beyond...or even just out into the atmosphere onboard a rocket....and those who aren't. Journalist Nicholas Schmidle, who writes for the New Yorker...always considered himself in the latter group. (PKG)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 5/16/21

Runs 2:18 Ditching the Masks This was a busy week. That cyber-attack on a major pipeline sent Americans racing to gas pumps in the southeast...and in the Middle East, the violence is escalating. We're not starting there, though. We're starting with the CDC announcement that fully vaccinated Americans can now stop wearing masks inside. (BYTE) How do fully vaccinated Americans feel about it? We'll let them tell you. (MONTAGE) Some places will still require face coverings and social distancing inside as a precaution, but if you go to the CDC website, there's a list of everything that's allowed. And if you're fully vaccinated, pretty much everything is now allowed. Adolescents began getting shots this week...thanks to FDA and CDC approval. Dr. Richard Besser, who heads up the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, called the decision "huge" (BYTE) One extra layer of protection, Dr. Besser says: limiting the spread of those contagious variants. (BYTE)

Runs 5:05 COVID In India As we celebrate all the good news here in the U.S., in India, the outbreak is still out of control. The World Health Organization is designating the variant discovered in that country a global concern... Some think a million people in the country may die....and only about 2 percent of the population is vaccinated so far. ABC's Maggie Rulli and her team traveled to India this week to see what was happening on the ground. From New Delhi...she and I spoke on Wednesday. (INT)

Runs 5:49 Cyberattack on Gas Pipeline For the first time in nearly 7 years, gas prices are averaging more than three dollars a gallon. the reason: a cyberattack that led to a buying panic. By mid-week, stations in four Southeast states were running out of fuel and long lines of anxious drivers were starting to form (BYTE) It was caused by a cyber-attack on the Colonial Pipeline, which stretches from Houston, Texas...all the way up through Linden, New Jersey. So, what exactly took this pretty important company offline? And how prepared are we for other, similar attacks? No one better to answer those questions than ABC News Chief Investigative reporter Josh Margolin. (INT)

Runs 5:05 Robocalls Moving to another issue of security... that comes in the form of a huge annoyance...robocalls. In one of the latest versions, a phony federal drug agent tries to steal your money. The DEA is now warning the public about these imposters because they re convincing the vulnerable to part, collectively, with millions of dollars. ABC's Aaron Katersky has this story. (PKG)

Runs 5:41 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict For the past several weeks....tensions have been escalating between Israel and the Palestinians. they began with the threat of evictions--Palestinians from land Jewish settlers had been told would be theirs. The violence has only intensified and is the worst since 2014..Israeli airstrikes, leveling buildings in Gaza, where, according to the Israelis, Hamas military leaders and infrastructure has bene targeted. More than a thousand rockets, fired from Gaza toward Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. But it's on the ground, too. Why does this time feel different, more serious? According to ABC's Matt Gutman, who's in the region, there are lots of fires and no extinguisher in sight. (BYTE). ABC's Jordana Miller has lived in Jerusalem for a long time... and told me this week... she hasn't seen so much violence in the territory for years (INT)

Runs 4:38 Allergy Awareness Month May is National Allergy Awareness Month... and to mark it, not President Biden recently signed something called the FASTER Act. It'll change the way foods are labeled, and had the support of both Democrats and Republicans for a change. ABC News producer Jenni Goldstein reports on what it means for more than a million people in this country who are allergic to sesame. (PKG)

Runs 4:32 COVID Memorial in California Around the world, more than three million people have died of Covid-19. And even though we got some good news this week...in the United States, we have still lost nearly 600-thousand people. At a hospital in Southern California...they held a memorial this week for all their patients who had lost their fight with the coronavirus...but the gathering was also for all the doctors, nurses, and support staff who helped care for them. Many of those front liners are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder because of all they've been through in the past 14 months. ABC's Alex Stone attended the ceremony at Providence St Jude Hospital. (PKG)

Runs 1:30 Ohio COVID Lottery Finally, there are lots of incentives to get vaccinated against Covid...seeing other people, seeing other people's smiles when you take off your mask, hugging and touching once again. But in Ohio, the incentive is cold, hard cash. Governor Mike DeWine, announcing those who've gotten their shots will be entered into a lottery. (BYTE) That's a lot of money for one little jab. If you're a fully vaccinated Ohio teenager...you could be eligible for another mid-week lottery...if they draw your name for that, you win a full ride to one of the state's public universities. (BYTE) Is this kind of like a bribe? Absolutely says ABC News Medical contributor Dr. Yvonne Maldonado...but who cares? (BYTE) The money's coming from leftover Covid relief funds...the drawings, to be held over the next five weeks. and to be eligible, you must be at 18 years old and an Ohio resident. So...sorry, no crossing state lines to try and hop on the Ohio vaxx bandwagon. We're looking at you, Indiana and Kentucky. You're gonna have to get your shots in your own states.

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 5/23/21

Runs 8:19 New Police Data Deadly fighting between Israel and Hamas continued this week.. and there's important new guidance about when to get screened for colon cancer... but we're going to begin with developments in two cases of fatal police shootings... In North Carolina... protests continued over the death of Andrew Brown Jr. ((NATS)), as the District Attorney in Pasquotank County, said sheriff's deputies were justified in shooting and killing Brown as Brown drove away from in his car. Brown's family--and their supporters--continued calling on the sheriff's department to release the FULL body-cam footage of what happened that night...not just part of it. The Associated Press was able to get hold of body cam footage from the death of another Black man, in Louisiana, in 2019. It appears to show state troopers stunning, punching, and dragging Ronald Greene from his car as he apologized for leading them on a high-speed chase. Authorities had refused to release that video for two years and said its release "undermines the investigative progress and compromises a fair and impartial outcome for the Greene family, Louisiana State Police employees, and the community." BC New Chief Law and Justice correspondent Pierre Thomas has more on that video (PKG) Would there be fewer stories like that...if police officers looked more like the communities they serve? ABC News and our affiliated stations across the country have been looking into that--analyzing how diverse police departments really are. Pierre Thomas and I talked about it this week. (INT) Gloucester City, New Jersey is right across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. The most recent census data showed it is about 80 percent white, 10 percent Latino and 10 percent Black and other minorities. It's also right next to Camden, New Jersey, which is 77 percent non white. Gloucester City was founded 398 years ago...and this week, welcomed its very first black police officer.

Runs 9:08 Israel-Hamas On Friday...a cease fire was called in the Middle East...but there was immediate speculation on both sides, wondering how long the truce would last. Throughout the 11-day conflict, four thousand rockets, fired by Hamas into Israel...and airstrikes from the Israeli side, taking out miles of tunnels under Gaza, ((NATS)) but also leveling high rises in the territory and leaving tens of thousands of people homeless. The toll has been especially hard on children living in Gaza. ABC's Matt Gutman is covering the conflict -- and filed this report. ((MATT)) (INT)

Runs 0:52 Israel-Palestine in NYC The conflict between Israel and Hamas spilled over into this country. New York City was the site of protests in support of both sides. ABC's Aaron Katersky has more from Times Square. (PKG) New York Senator Chuck Schumer...addressing New Yorkers about it on Friday. (BYTE)

Runs 5:13 Colon Cancer Actor Chadwick Boseman was only 43 years old when he died last year. Of colon cancer. When his wife accepted an NAACP Image Award in his honor, she pleaded with his fans--to get screened for colon cancer. (BITE) Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. taking more than 50-thousand lives every year. And it's showing up more and more in younger people--like Chadwick Boseman. The numbers are also increasing for Black Americans. This week, the US Preventative Services Task force made the official recommendation that: people of average risk should now get screened for colorectal

cancer at 45 instead of 50. Dr. Kimmie Ng is the director of the Young-Onset Colorectal Cancer Center at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston...she's long been pushing for the change...and we talked about it this week. (INT)

Runs 4:37 Stroke Awareness Month This week... the World Health Organization and the UN's International Labour Organization published findings from a global analysis of people who work long hours... 55 a week or more. You might know some of those people... you might BE one of those people. The two groups estimated that in the year they analyzed, 2016...working long hours led to 745000 deaths... and half of those were caused by strokes... If you're a woman over the age of 55... you have a one in five chance of suffering a stroke before your 75th birthday.. and for black women... that number is even higher... Vivian King is a former tv anchor in Milwaukee... she had a stroke a few years ago and is outspoken about her experience... she's a positive person... you can hear that in the way she reflects on the past year: (PKG)

Runs 6:17 Athletes and Mental Health May also happens to be mental health awareness month... and as Americans continue to get vaccinated and the country reopens... many are experiencing a mental health challenge that psychologists are calling "re-entry anxiety..." It's things like hesitation going to the grocery store without a mask... or going to dinner with friends... With summer around the corner, many young athletes will be returning to their playing fields... and that can present some mental challenges of their own. ABC producer Aaron Ferrer has more on that story. (PKG)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 5/30/21

Runs 9:33 George Floyd: One Year Later A year ago this Memorial Day weekend....the country...was shut down, still in the early stages of the pandemic. People were on their computers, working and studying from home, when a video began to surface from Minneapolis. We now know it was taken by a nine-year-old girl and what it showed was a white police officer kneeling on a black man's neck for nine minutes and 29 seconds. The Black man-George Floyd-died. The white police officer-Derek Chauvin-was convicted of 2nd and 3rd degree murder and will be sentenced next month. The killing sparked protests and calls for change around the world. (NATs) George Floyd's family visited the White House. his siblings... saying afterwards (BYTE)... Congress continues to negotiate police reform as the country... (NATs) continues to demand change... So, where are we going? And what does it mean? Here's ABC's Janai Norman. (PKG) ABC's Janai Norman.... The nation is still trying to figure out how to make change permanent...because people--primarily black men--ARE still dying. As a part of ABC's Soul of a Nation's "In the Kitchen" segment, ABC's Sunny Hostin spoke with the mothers of three black men killed in police-related violence in recent years. Michelle Kenny's 17 year old son Antwon Rose the second was shot and killed in East Pittsburgh after fleeing from a officer in 2019. Lezlie McSpaden's son Michael Brown was shot and killed by Ferguson Missouri police in 2014 and Valerie Bell's 23-year-old son Sean was shot and killed by police in Queens New York on the morning before his wedding in 2006. (PKG) ABC's Sunny Hostin with the mothers of Antwon Rose, Michael Brown, and Sean Bell.

Runs 1:32 San Jose Shooting and Coronavirus Origin Another mass shooting....in San Jose, California nine men are dead, ten including the gunman, who took his own life after killing his former colleagues at a transit railyard. Afterwards, California governor Gavin Newsom said this about gun violence, and mass shootings in U.S. (CUT) The nation's intelligence community has been tasked with the job of trying to find out once and for all, the origin of Covid-19. Did it come from an infected animal, or did it escape from a lab in Wuhan, China? Nature Magazine Senior Reporter Amy Maxmem told Brad Mielke on ABC's Start Here...podcast, why Dr. Fauci's name has been brought up in all this. (INT) The intelligence community has 90 days to return its report to the White House.

Runs 7:16 Mike Tyson: The Knockout He weathered countless punches in the ring... and personal mistakes and losses in his life... Mike Tyson's recognized for his legendary boxing career, which often times has been overshadowed by his eventful and often controversial life outside of the ring... but who is the Mike Tyson that seems to resurface again and again in American culture? The "baddest man on the planet?" An imperfect man still haunted by bad decisions? ABC News Nightline anchor Byron Pitts had a three hour conversation with Iron Mike for the new two-part ABC News documentary "The Knockout." Part 1 aired last week on ABC... Part 2 is airing June 1st... and it's also streaming on Hulu and the ABC streaming app. Here's what some of their conversation sounded like (PKG) I spoke with Byron this week... we talked about how, despite all of his troubles, Mike Tyson is an intelligent, and pretty unique guy (INT)

Runs 3:44 AAPI Representation in Film and Business A new study by the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative found the lack of Asian and Pacific Islander representation continues to be a problem in the mainstream film industry... The study notes non-stereotypical API roles are rare in the film industry...and often characters are typecast as "perpetual foreigners," who can't assimilate to American culture...or the "model minority" portrayed

as highly successful people who are quiet and law-abiding. This invisibility and lack of representation also seems to be embedded in American consumer culture... ABC News' Euni Han takes a look... (PKG)

Runs 4:28 Remote Learning Challenges The nation's largest school district has announced that classes this fall will all be in person, with no remote option. ((deblasio?)) New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio made it official this week... a reversal from just a few months ago, when he said he anticipated offering a hybrid option in the fall. It was a contentious year of schooling in all across the country. Here in New York, it became clear early on that many of the district's most vulnerable students were falling behind--partly because of the lack of access to online learning. ABC producer Marwa Mouawki has more on how the struggles to get an equal education was, in some cases, divided along racial lines. (PKG)

Runs 3:29 Gearing Up for Online Spending A lot of parents will be doing a lot of shopping as their kids head back into the classroom. A lot of businesses will too...as workers head back to offices that have been abandoned for more than a year. We've all done a lot of online shopping over the past year...and believe it or not, not ALL of it was done on Amazon. ABC's Daria Albinger took a trip to a fulfillment center for the e-commerce retailer BOXED to check out how this wholesale retailer thrived during the pandemic...how they're prepping for the coming months before school restarts...and how they're working to make sure their employees are thriving through it all. (PKG)

Runs 4:26 Fleet Week Global Step Challenge On this Memorial Day weekend, the U-S Navy has a challenge for you. This weekend climb some stairs. COVID means fleet weeks are different than they normally would be but in partnership with Japanese naval forces, the US wants Americans to hit the stairs for a challenge this weekend. ABC's Alex Stone has the story. (PKG)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 6/6/21

Runs 6:52 Shootings in America As more Americans get vaccinated....more Americans are going outside. The weather is warmer, the masks are off, and the guns have been out There were shootings in every New York City borough over a six-hour period through Memorial Day weekend. Gunman in Miami picked off partygoers leaving a banquet hall in Miami, killing two and wounding more than 20. In California, a firefighter targeted his fellow firefighters before taking his own life, and in Florida, there was this story, about two kids who went after sheriff's deputies with stolen weapons. (PKG) The girl was hospitalized with bullet wounds, the boy was arrested. There have already been several mass shootings already this year, and police around the country anticipate things will only get worse throughout the summer. ABC Senior Investigative Reporter Aaron Katersky has been talking to a lot of officers about it--he and I discussed it this week. (INT)

Runs 4:23 Race Norming in the NFL "I was wrong." That's what a negotiator in the billion-dollar NFL concussion lawsuit is saying about the way decisions have been made regarding who should be compensated and who shouldn't. Following an ABC News Investigation, Christopher Seeger -- who represents former players is speaking out amid criticism of his response to allegations of racial bias in the program. He has also apologized to Black former players who've claimed the league's protocols skewed payouts along racial lines. ESPN's Ryan Smith is the one who broke the story. (PKG)

Runs 3:49 Naomi Osaka and Mental Health Forbes announced this week that tennis star Naomi Osaka--yes, that Naomi Osaka who withdrew from the French Open citing mental health needs--made 77 million dollars over the past 12 months...making her the highest paid female athlete ever. Her sponsors have come out solidly in her favor as she stood her ground--pulling out of the Grand Slam rather than take part in post-match press conferences that she says make her doubt herself. It's sometimes hard to believe that Naomi Osaka is only 23 years old. Chris Evert was only 16 when she made her Grand Slam debut so she knows the pressure. Earlier this week, she told ABC's George Stephanopoulos she thinks Osaka speaking out is an opportunity to rethink how professional tennis players interact with the press. (PKG)

Runs 3:08 Veterans and Mental Health Sometimes, elite athletes, like veterans, are thought to be invincible. They do so much and seem so strong. But for many, it's an ongoing struggle trying to maintain positive mental health. ABC's Michelle Franzen talked about that with Marine Corps Veteran Jon Hancock....who traveled cross country--on foot--as part of his own journey of self-awareness. He's got a documentary out about it....here's Michelle. (PKG)

Runs 4:35 Live Out Loud Podcast June is Pride month... and IN HONOR OF THAT ABC Audio has launched the LBGTQ+ focused podcast, "Life Out Loud," hosted by ESPN senior writer and ABC News contributor LZ Granderson... LZ opens up about his life, and talks about the journeys of others how the LBGTQ+ experience has been shaped in this country... LZ talked about the podcast and the impact he hopes it has with ABC's Mark Remillard (PKG)

Runs 4:08 Lab-Made Diamonds According to a recent survey done by the wedding planning and registry site The Knot, a third of all people who became engaged in 2020 shopped for a ring online. But what kind of ring are they looking for? Increasingly, they're in the market for diamonds that are manufactured rather than mined. ABC's Ines de la Cuetara reports from Paris on a declaration by the world's largest jeweler, Pandora, that it will, from now on, only sell lab created diamonds as more customers ask for manmade gems. (PKG)

Runs 3:10 Supersonic Planes Over the past year you've heard about all the ways in which the airlines have been suffering through the pandemic. They were in deep financial situations. Travel demand has come back fast but it was still surprising on Thursday when United Airlines made an announcement that it is buying supersonic jets. Yes it's back to the future. You're right if you're thinking weren't there supersonic jets years ago that went away? Well, United says that era of flying faster than sound will be coming back. ABC's Alex Stone is covering it and is here. (PKG)

Runs 4:20 Westminster Dog Show We've all had to experience things differently during the pandemic but humans aren't the only ones who've had to make sacrifices. The nation's elite DOGS are doing things in a new way as well this year. ABC's Daria Albinger -- our Dog Show Correspondent -- tell us how they're changing things up at Westminster this year. (PKG)

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 6/13/21

Runs 6:53 G7 Summit President Biden is on his first overseas trip this weekend ahead of his summit with Russian president Vladimir Putin... who may (or may not) have heavily influenced the spate of recent ransomware attacks seen on American companies. That discussion happens next week. THIS week, President Biden is telling leaders of the G7 nations during the first in-person summit since the pandemic...that he sees an urgent need to mend relationships that were strained under the former administration. The entourage you typically see at these summits were limited due to continued COVID restrictions... but the president is still hoping to leverage his influence to work with allies and take on global issues... ABC News White House correspondent Karen Travers is the only network radio reporter traveling with the president... I spoke with her this week about the president's trip and what's ahead for his meeting with Russia (INT)

Runs 2:02 Cybersecurity in the US Back here in the US... cybersecurity is becoming a big topic of conversation as every business and public institution faces the threat of ransomware...we've seen two big companies pay millions to protect vital information. (BTYE) Unconscionable. That's how Homeland Secretary Alexander Mayorkas described the hackers to ABC News this week. ABC's Chief Law and Justice correspondent has more on what the government's trying to do about it (PKG).

Runs 1:37 Job Openings We got two big signs of how the economy is recovering this week. First: Inflation. The bureau of labor statistics reported that consumer prices were up five percent compared to a year ago...the biggest surge since we began coming out of the Great Recession in August of 2008. Then, jobs. 376-thousand people filed first-time unemployment benefits. A high number, but still the lowest since the pandemic began. With the country reopening and people clamoring to get back to doing the things they once did... companies are on a hiring spree... but many say can't find workers...So what are they doing about it? ABC News chief business and economics correspondent Rebecca Jarvis has more on that (PKG)

Runs 7:48 Unemployment Benefits The issue of unemployment is a complicated one. ABC's Elizabeth Schulze reports on extended unemployment benefits and whether they are keeping workers at home as the economy reopens. (PKG) And Elizabeth joins me now (INT)

Runs 4:06 Jazz Musicians Some people may not want to go back to their old jobs, or not want to go back to work at all. For others who want to return to work, "work" may look very different once they get back. Take jazz musicians... I spoke with a couple who perform here in New York City... they talked about how that will change in the coming months as the city opens up (PKG)

Runs 2:08 Delta Variant and Child Vaccinations The so-called Delta variant of the coronavirus is popping up across the world and in the US... that's the strain first identified in India... it's 40 percent more transmissible and patients are slower to show symptoms... the nation's leading infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci says this variant creates more of a sense of urgency to get vaccinated (BYTE) on ABC's Kelly and Ryan this week... Dr. Fauci also said he expects Americans of any age will be able to get vaccinated by the end of 2020 (BYTE) Pfizer says it's on the final frontier as it begins COVID vaccine trials for children, ages 5-11, and Moderna has filed for emergency use authorization for its shot to be given to anyone over the age of 12. The president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson foundation and former CDC acting director Dr. Richard Besser talked about the Delta Variant developments and vaccines for children this week with ABC's Robin Roberts. (INT)

Runs 3:30 Vaccine Hesitancy The US is increasingly unlikely to reach its Fourth of July goal of vaccinating 70 percent of Americans... some are tasked with talking through the shot with hesitant people in their lives... ABC's

Megan Stone has more on vaccine hesitancy and how you can help those in your family who are reluctant to get the shot.

Runs 5:30 Space Language We're launching the richest man on the planet into space! Well, he's launching himself into space (BYTE) Amazon founder Jeff Bezos announcing on Instagram this week he will exit the atmosphere with his company Blue Origin for 11 minutes... joined by his brother and another passenger, who's paying millions of dollars for the third seat. So...what are we going to say once they get back? Are we going to call the trip a Bezos? A Prime opportunity? Space has had a lot of influence over our everyday language. There are words and phrases we use every day that weren't around prior to space travel. glitch, abort, launch, uplink...even Houston, we have a problem. I got to talk recently with Julie Hanson...she's CEO of the language learning app Babble...about the how space has influenced our vocabulary.

Runs 1:00 LGBTQ+ Cookies Finally this week....June is pride month....so ABC's Jim Ryan's got a story from Texas about .rainbow cookies. (PKG) Austin Rozell was one of the customers...who jumped into the two hour line...to buy some cookies: (BYTE) TX Pride Cookies/Gratitude (BYTE) If you go to the Confections Facebook page, you'll find it filled with messages of support that have been pouring in all week long. And yhey've raised over five thousand dollars for the Lufkin High Club Diversity Scholarship fund.

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 6/20/21

Runs 7:09 Juneteenth We got another jarring reminder this week of the human toll that Covid-19 has had on the country--we also got a reminder of the significance of diplomacy, and how important journalists are in asking tough questions of world leaders. But we're beginning this week in Washington... with a celebration... The House of Representatives marked it with a song (BYTE) With a pen, President Biden made it official. Juneteenth is now a federal holiday. (BYTE) It was only last year when ABC's Kenneth Moton described to us what Juneteenth is...the day in 1865 on June 19th when former slaves in Galveston, Texas found out they were free. (BYTE) In honor of the new holiday, ABC News is releasing a new Soul of a Nation Special event--Juneteenth: Together we triumph." there are stories of reliance and celebration in honor of the holiday, and in recognition of what Black Americans have contributed to the fabric of our country. ABC's Steve Osunsami has the story of a Black-owned business that has helped build the nation, literally, for more than a hundred years...and describes how black owned businesses endured during a time of racial reckoning. I got the chance to talk with Steve Osunsami about it this week. (INT) Soul of a Nation: Juneteenth Together we Triumph can be found on the ABC News channel, or you can also find it on Hulu.

Runs 3:09 The Biden-Putin Summit It was the most anticipated week yet in the 6-month-old Biden presidency. A face-to-face meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, taking place at a Swiss villa in Geneva, and coming at a time that both leaders agree is a "low point" in the U.S.-Russia relationship. Russian interference in U.S. elections, the recent cyber-attacks on American businesses, and nuclear arms talks were all brought up. But so was the issue of human rights, including the poisoning and imprisonment of dissident Alexy Navalny. In fact, ABC's own Rachel Scott was the one who asked one of the most powerful men in the world about Navalny by name.... (BYTE) Rachel was embedded with the RUSSIAN media...and that's why she got to ask Putin that, and why she was able to follow up her question by asking it again (BYTE) Putin responded by trying to compare Navalny and others in the Russian opposition to those who stormed the capitol on January 6...and even to the Black Lives Matter movement. Rachel is our Congressional Correspondent and afterwards, talked about that moment with ABC's Brad Mielke as a part of our ABC News Daily Podcast, Start Here. (INT) On "Good Morning America" this week... Robin Roberts again asked Rachel if she was satisfied with President Putin's response to her questions (BYTE)... but the moment itself was hugely significant... not only for the Western press... not just for democracy, but also for the nation... the same week America marked Juneteenth as a day of remembrance... a young black journalist confronted a violent dictator on the world stage... representing America... and freedom of the press... On "Good Morning America" this week... Robin Roberts again asked Rachel if she was satisfied with President Putin's response to her questions (BYTE)...

Runs 4:07 600,000 COVID Deaths This week...two of the most populous states in the country announced they were reopening. ABC's Alex Stone...is in California (BYTE) Across the country...in New York...fireworks--from Niagara Falls to the Big Apple (NATS) ..to celebrate that 70 percent of the state's adults are now at least partially vaccinated. New York City Bill de Blasio...also announcing a ticker tape parade for doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff (BYTE) But in the same week there was so much good news....there was also heartbreak. Because this week, the nation passed another milestone. 600-thousand Americans have now died of Covid. And if you are one of those who can no longer be with someone YOU loved, fireworks don't make it hurt any less. Here's just one of the 600-thousand stories. (INT)

Runs 1:34 Delta Variant Thank you, to Pamela Addison for sharing the story of her husband Martin, one of more than 600-thousand people who've died of Covid. Medical professionals are expressing concern over the Delta variant of COVID-19 that emerged in India... ABC's Amy Robach talked about that and how it could affect Americans with Dr. Ashish Jha, the Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health. (INT)

Runs 2:21 Lab Leak Unraveling the debate over the origins of COVID-19... accomplished scientists and public health officials are standing on both sides... did it come from nature... or a lab? And was it an accident? ABC's Terry Moran reports on what lead researchers are learning about COVID-19 while studying inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology. (PKG). And Terry Moran joins me now. (INT)

Runs 4:30 HIV Vaccine Over the past year and a half, we've all gotten to know Dr. Anthony Fauci as one of the nation's top experts on Covid-19. But before that, he was the nation's top experts on HIV and AIDS. He first began tracking the virus in 1981, and in 1984, became director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Ever wonder how we've been able to come up with a vaccine against the coronavirus so quickly...when there's still no vaccine for the virus that causes AIDS? That question was posed to Dr. Fauci...on the ABC podcast "Life Outloud with LZ Granderson." They also talked about what we've learned so far fighting that virus, this new virus, and the racial disparity that's present in both. (INT) That entire interview--including a segment on the relationship between Dr. Fauci and longtime AIDS Activist Larry Kramer--founder of the group ACT-UP, can be heard in this week's episode of Life Out Loud with LZ Granderson, you can find it wherever you get your podcasts. (PKG)

Runs 4:06 Italian Monarchy Ahead of the NATO summit... President Biden dined with royalty... well, he had a quick beverage... he and first lady Jill Biden visited Windsor Castle Sunday afternoon to meet with Queen Elizabeth II... they went inside the castle to have tea privately. Meanwhile in Italy... there's a shakeup in its former monarchy... In exile since after World War II when Italy ended their rule... the family of the former monarchs are now divided decades later over whether a teenage girl in Paris can run the family... ABC News' Ines de la Cuetara speaks with the teenage heir to the family... and reports on how she can become the first female in a thousand years to lead the new-defunct throne. (PKG)

Runs 6:43 Cicadas If you live in a certain part of the country, you've gotten very familiar this spring with the sound of cicadas. The bugs of Brood Ten--sounds like a sci-fi movie--have been generating a lot of headlines. They delayed a White House Press plane...they've been blamed for a car crash in Ohio. The swam even showed up on weather radar over Maryland...and all that is just since the beginning of June. The brood is so big, in fact, we needed two producers to tell the story. ABC's Leighton Schneider and Mike Dobusky have more on why the cicadas aren't done with us yet (PKG)

Runs 0:55 Butterflies We're going to stick with the insect theme to finish this week with..the story of the butterfly boy. It is a rare thing...for a six year old....to find a calling. But six-year old Liam already knows what he wants to be when he grows up. Lepidopterist, A lepidopterist is a scientist who studies moths and butterflies. Liam specifically wants to help save endangered Monarch butterflies, which migrate from Canada down to Mexico every year, laying eggs along the way on a very specific plant. Yeah, milkweed. That's the basic plant for monarchs to lay their eggs in, and the caterpillars start munching on it. So Liam, put together packets of milkweed seeds and mailed them to people and groups all over the country. 500 packets went out. His project is on Facebook -- called Amigos for Monarchs. Good Luck, Liam. We think you'll make a great lepidopterist...or whatever it is....

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo

ABC News' Perspective

Aired on WJAW at 6 am 6/27/21

Runs 3:52 SCOTUS Cheerleader The Supreme Court is getting ready to go on its summer break, which means it's time for all the decisions on cases they've heard this term. Last week, there was a major ruling keeping Obamacare in place, the justices, overwhelmingly upholding the Affordable Care Act, ensuring that millions of Americans will be able to keep their health care. This week, the justices weighed in on a couple of cases involving how much control colleges and high schools can have over their students. The first case involved the free speech of a Freshman from Pennsylvania who THOUGHT she should have made the varsity cheerleading squad. And she said so---on Snapchat, using slightly more colorful language. Here's ABC's Aaron Katersky.

Runs 6:10 NCAA Ruling The Court also upheld a lower court ruling... unanimously deciding that the cap on a relatively narrow list of education-related benefits for college athletes... must be lifted. ABC's Devin Dwyer explains (BYTE) It's a decision that will have major implications for the NCAA and college athletes... ABC's Eric Mollo spoke with ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas--who himself played at Duke, was an assistant coach, and is also a lawyer... he's long spoke out against the NCAA's practices... he explains why: (INT)

Runs 3:34 Gun Violence President Biden this week unveiled his strategy to stop gun crime as summer violence spikes (BYTE) the president is attempting to use executive orders to do things like cut off the flow of illegally sold

firearms and to allow coronavirus relief money to be used for police departments... he also called on more action from Congress. ABC Senior White House correspondent Mary Bruce talked about the president's plan with Brad Mielke on the ABC News daily podcast "Start Here." (INT)

Runs 4:42 Inflation Employers added 559,000 jobs in May, closer to what economists anticipated after April's disappointing jobs report... and Americans filing for unemployment claims have steadily been declining... but there's still concern over inflation becoming a long-term issue. ABC News Elizabeth Schulze reports on the rising prices for consumers as the economy reopens, and the debate among policymakers on whether higher inflation is temporary or a sign of things to come (PKG)

Runs 5:03 Coronavirus-Free Concert As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations trend downward across the US, health officials say they are worried about the Delta variant gaining traction - particularly in communities that are under vaccinated. CDC Director Doctor Rochelle Walensky told "Good Morning America" this week that the Delta variant now accounts for more than 20 percent of cases in the US - but that number could rise quickly. (BYTE) Meanwhile, at Madison Square Garden (music) it took 460 days but it was open at 100 % capacity last week when for a Foo Fighters concert (music)... it was the first time MSG filled all the seats for a concert since before the pandemic began... anyone who entered was required to be vaccinated... one of those people who entered was ABC's Matt Wolfe... and for as much as he enjoyed it... he says getting back into the swing of concerts post-pandemic was a little weird (INT)

Runs 5:55 Eurovision The mega popular Eurovision Song Contest was canceled for the first time in its history in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic... but the international song competition roared back to life this year with coronavirus bubbles added to its heady mix of music and camp... ABC's Joy Piazza reports on the immensely popular event's return this year... and how it mixes high camp with lyrics to encourage inclusion and positivity while avoiding political messaging (PKG)

Runs 3:51 Olympic Training and OCD Organizers announced this week the Tokyo Olympics will feature fans at this year's Games... despite medical professionals recommending otherwise... they'll be under strict limitations... organizers set a limit of 50% capacity up to a maximum of 10,000 fans for each venue... but if coronavirus cases rise again... the rules could be changed again and fans could still be barred all together. Virginia Fuchs will be taking part in the games next month... she's a boxer representing Team USA...who not only fights in the ring, she fights mental illness every day, battling OCD and has decided now is the right time to talk about it. (PKG)

Runs 1:25 LGBTQ+ and Sports Another ground breaker in the Olympics. New Zealand's Laurel Hubbard will become the first transgender athlete to compete in the Games...some have argued that because she went through male puberty, she'll have an unfair advantage over her competitors. But she did meet the IOC's requirements for athletes who transition from male to female. Hubbard, who transitioned eight years ago, said in a statement she was grateful to New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern --who said publicly that Hubbard supported all the guidelines to earn her place at the Olympics. The decision was groundbreaking... Carl Nassib--the defensive lineman for the Las Vegas Raiders--posting an Instagram video announcing that he is gay--becoming the first active NFL player ever to come out publicly (BYTE) Nassib also announced he'd be donating 100,000 dollars to the Trevor Project, which provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to the LGBTQ+ community...especially young people. Nassib received an outpouring of support from players and league executives... his jersey eventually becoming the top-selling item in the NFL...

Host: Cheri Preston Producer: Eric Mollo