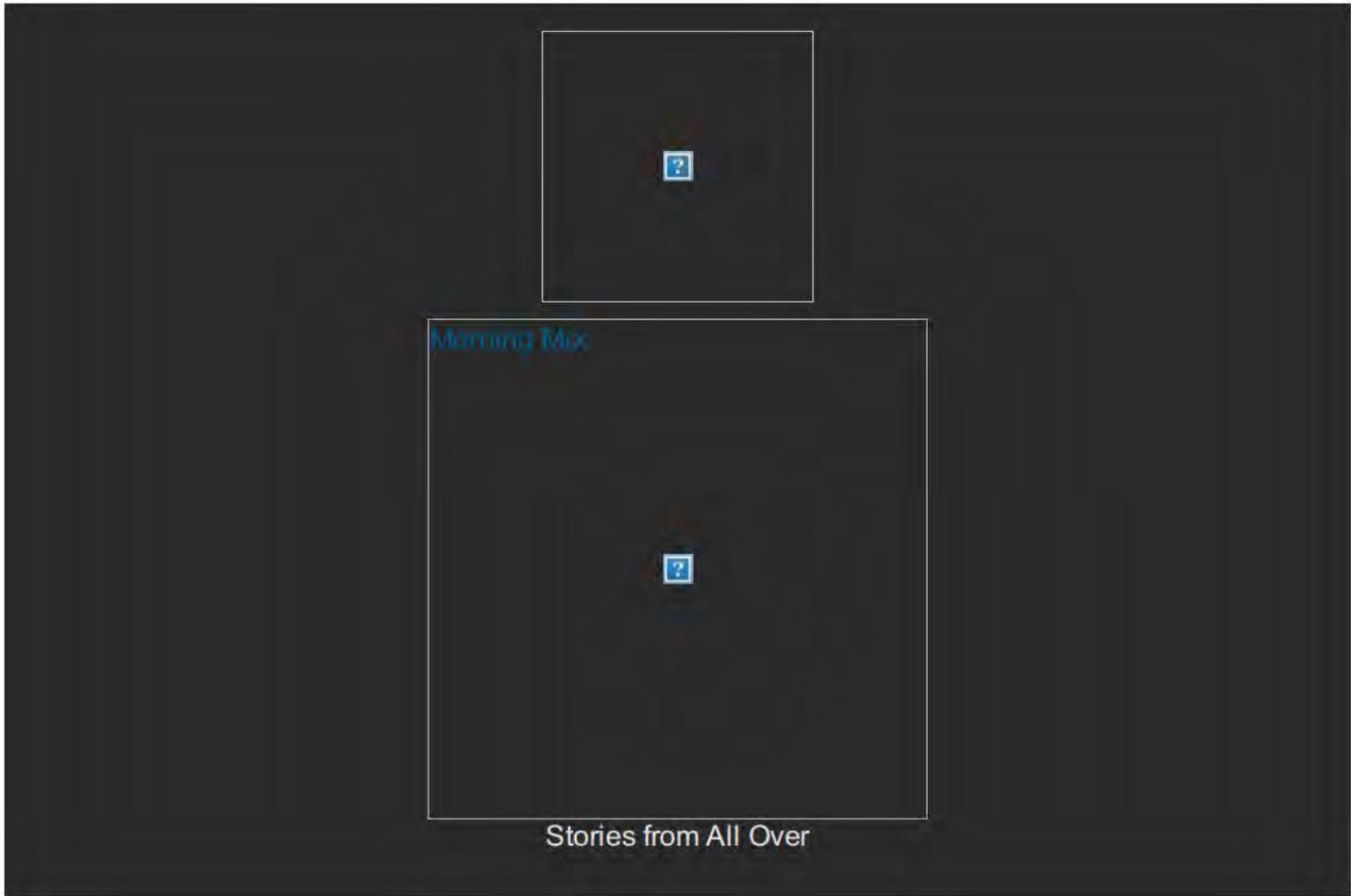


The Washington Post

From: The Washington Post
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 7:31 AM
To: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)
Subject: Morning Mix: 'This was an orchestrated effort': Devin Nunes sues Twitter, 'Devin Nunes' cow' for defamation





‘This was an orchestrated effort’: Devin Nunes sues Twitter, ‘Devin Nunes’ cow’ for defamation

Nunes alleges that Twitter "knowingly acted as a vessel for opposition research" and accused the social media platform of "shadow banning" conservative voices.

By Allyson Chiu · [Read more](#)

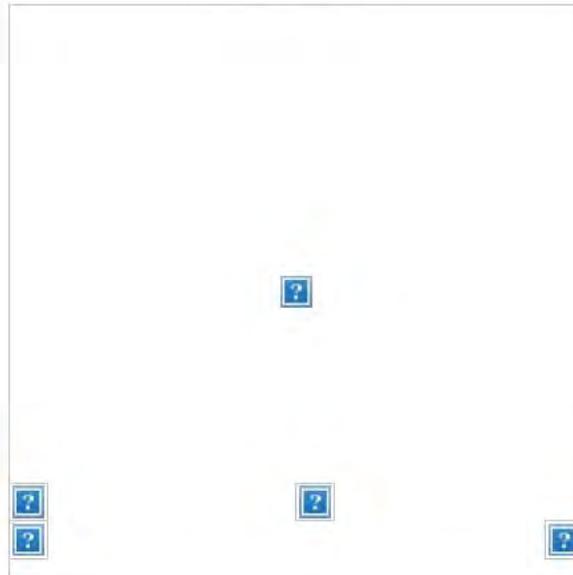
A Grateful Dead fan was crushed by a bulldozer during a police chase over ten pot plants. Now his family is suing.

Gregory Longenecker, 51, a short-order cook and a Grateful Dead fan, had been busted with less than a dozen marijuana plants.

By [Antonia Farzan](#) · [Read more](#)



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NYPD said it captured a cop killer who fled justice 20 years ago. Turns out, the cop is still alive.

Someone at NYPD apparently just "misread" the paperwork, police said.

By [Meagan Flynn](#) · [Read more](#)



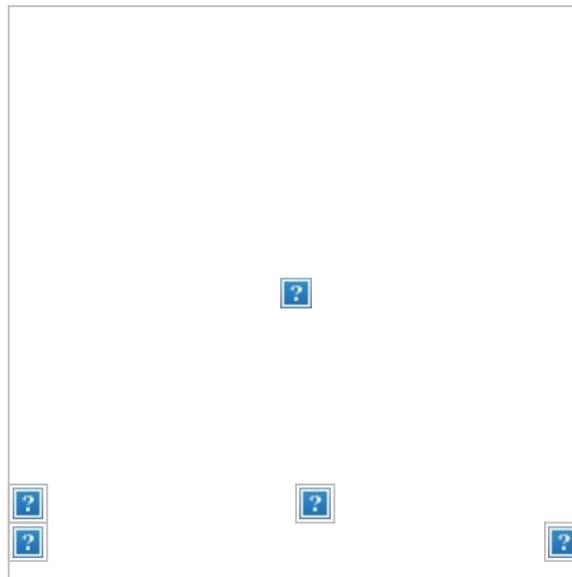
Who watches ISIS beheading videos in the U.S.? Men, Christians, and the fearful, say psychologists.

Using ISIS beheading videos as a case study, researchers found that the likelihood of watching this material was associated with being male, Christian and unemployed, as well as frequency of watching television and prior exposure to violence.

By Isaac Stanley-Becker · [Read more](#)



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No one who watched New Zealand shooter's video live reported it to Facebook, company says

It took 29 minutes and hundreds of views before someone reported the graphic video of the mass shooting.

By Meagan Flynn · [Read more](#)

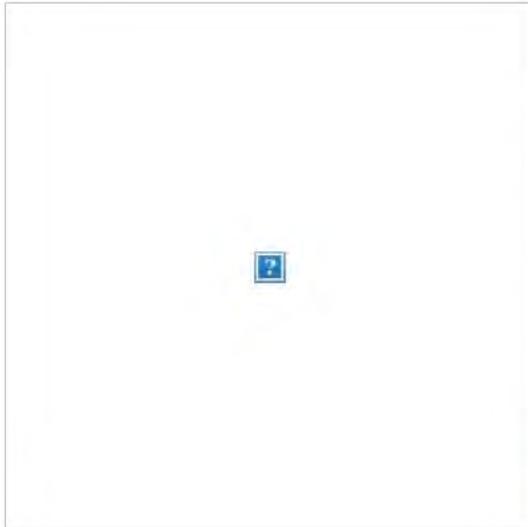


'Poppy Apocalypse': Small California city overrun by thousands of

tourists declares 'public safety crisis'

"This weekend has been unbearable," Lake Elsinore officials said Sunday after the city was inundated with "Disneyland size crowds" of people wanting to see its famed California golden poppy blooms.

By Allyson Chiu · [Read more](#)



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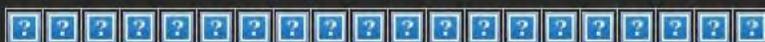
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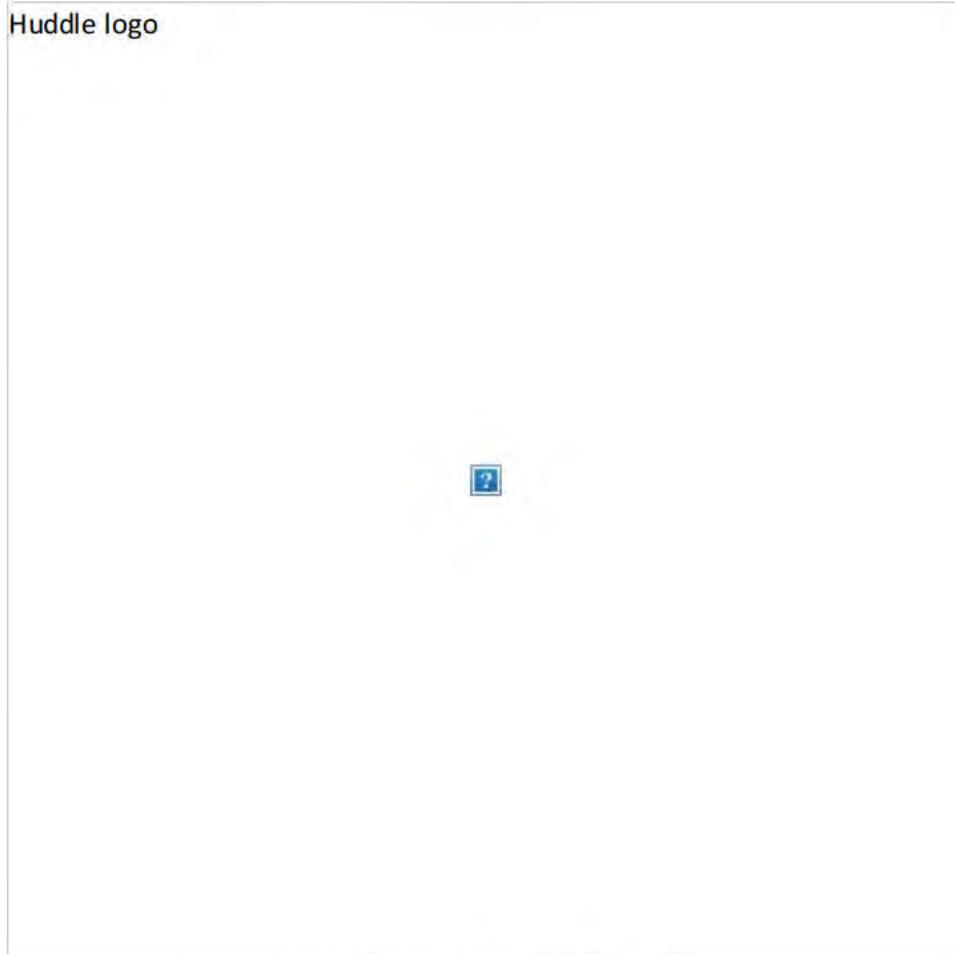
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POLITICO Huddle

From: POLITICO Huddle
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 8:07 AM
To: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA)
Subject: POLITICO Huddle: NADLER RECEIVES MOUNTAIN OF DOCUMENTS IN TRUMP PROBE -- Dems call for FBI investigation of ex-spa owner -- GOP SENATOR TAKES HEAT FOR DEFYING TRUMP -- Nunes seeks revenge on his Twitter trolls

[View online version](#)



03/19/2019 08:05 AM EDT

By MELANIE ZANONA (mzanona@politico.com; [@MZanona](https://twitter.com/MZanona))

PROBE PROGRESS -- House Democrats have received "tens of thousands" of documents in their sweeping investigation into President Donald Trump. But not all of the 81 individuals and

entities met a Monday deadline to fork over information to the House Judiciary Committee. That means subpoenas could be coming soon as Democrats ratchet up their probe into allegations of corruption, abuses of power and obstruction of justice.

But so far, tensions have not reached a boiling point between the Judiciary Committee and the Trump administration. Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) said he was "encouraged" by the "large number" of responses, though he declined to specify who did and didn't comply with the committee's demands. At least one of the 81 letter recipients, the president's personal attorney Jay Sekulow, has told investigators he doesn't have any of the requested documents, reports Andrew.

Some of the individuals said they would only comply with the document requests if the committee issues a subpoena, which Nadler referred to as a "friendly subpoena." But he also said his staff has heard from others who were "defiant" and would refuse to comply, which could lead to not-so-friendly subpoenas. "Ultimately, people have to respond to us, unless the president personally invokes an executive privilege, which is a rare thing, they have no immunity," Nadler told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. Much more: <https://politi.co/2WaBGgl>.

Related read: "Trump officials prepared to stonewall Democratic oversight demands," by Anita Kumar: <https://politi.co/2TXeLHU>.

DEMS DEMAND FBI INVESTIGATION -- Top Democrats are calling on the FBI to investigate a former massage parlor owner who [reportedly](#) arranged access to Trump for clients in a separate business. Li "Cindy" Yang, who took a picture with the president at his Super Bowl party at Mar-a-Lago, founded a massage parlor chain in south Florida that was linked to a human trafficking and prostitution probe, though she was not charged or implicated in connection with that investigation.

But Democrats worry that Yang's access to Trump and other government officials could be exploited by foreign governments seeking to blackmail U.S. figures. "The facts in this situation are very concerning, and we urge [FBI] Director Wray to adhere to the joint bicameral requests of the Democratic Senate ranking members and Democratic House chairmen and start an investigation," said Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer in a joint statement. Kyle with the dispatch: <https://politi.co/2TKOSMc>.

Related: "House Judiciary Committee Planning Hearing on the Rise of White Nationalism," by Erin Banco and Sam Stein of The Daily Beast: <http://bit.ly/2TgrhxU>.

GOOD MORNING! Welcome to Huddle, the play-by-play guide to all things Capitol Hill, on this Tuesday, March 19, where your host cannot get enough of Beto O'Rourke " [standing on things](#)."

MONDAY'S MOST CLICKED: Burgess and Marianne's [report](#) on 2020 Democrats warming up

to the idea of expanding the Supreme Court was the big winner.

IT'S MARCH MADNESS: HAVE YOU FILLED OUT YOUR PLAYBOOK POOL

BRACKET? Compete against your friends, Playbookers, top political insiders and VIPs to win great prizes, not to mention some legit bragging rights in our **3rd Annual Playbook Pool College Basketball Bracket Challenge!** Submit your bracket before noon on Thursday, March 21. Governors, senators, House members and mayors, as well as some of the biggest names in politics and media, are already in the game, click [HERE](#) to take them on!

NUNES SUES HIS TWITTER TROLLS -- Rep. Devin Nunes is suing Twitter and several of its users for ignoring reports of abusive behavior and censoring conservative voices, reports Fox News. The California Republican is seeking a whopping \$250 million in compensatory damages and another \$350,000 in punitive damages. The other targets in the lawsuit include GOP operative Liz Mair and two Twitter parody accounts: @DevinNunesMom and @DevinCow. Nunes, a top Trump ally who used to chair the House Intelligence Committee, is also seeking the identity of the anonymous Twitter trolls who harassed him with tweets like, "Devin's boots are full of manure. He's udder-ly worthless and its pasture time to move him to prison." More on the wild lawsuit from Gregg Re and Catherine Herridge: <https://fxn.ws/2HrEVg9>.

Related: "Steve King deletes Facebook post asking who would win new US civil war," via The Hill's Zack Budryk: <http://bit.ly/2HuYdBm>.

BLUNT BACKLASH -- Sen. Roy Blunt is learning the hard way that there are consequences for crossing Trump. The Missouri Republican, who supported a disapproval resolution last week to kill Trump's national wall emergency, was recently disinvited from a local GOP event, reports McClatchy. A member of the Christian County Republican Central Committee said in an email to Blunt's office that the senior senator was no longer welcome at a Lincoln/Trump Day Dinner being held on April 6. "I am so disappointed in you now that I can hardly speak," wrote Wanda Martens, the committee's event chair. The backlash facing Blunt is exactly why Republicans were so wary of rebuking Trump over one of his signature campaign issues. More from Bryan Lowry and Lindsay Wise: <http://bit.ly/2HsyFoo>.

Morning Money newsletter to the Milken Institute Global Conference: Ben White will once again bring POLITICO's Morning Money newsletter to the Milken Institute Global Conference from April 28 through May 2. The special edition newsletter will detail

conference highlights, major conversations, evening festivities and VIP gatherings throughout the conference. [Sign up today](#) to receive exclusive, in-depth coverage from the scene of #MIGlobal.

A PACKED HOUSE -- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer laid out the Democratic agenda for the next month, which will cap off the party's first 100 days in the majority, reports Sarah. After lawmakers return from the weeklong recess break, the House will take up a gender wage gap bill and vote to override Trump's veto of a congressional resolution killing his national wall emergency. In April, lawmakers will consider bills to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and halt the Trump administration's contentious net neutrality rules. Also on tap at some point: a Senate-passed war powers resolution to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. More: <https://politi.co/2HtC864>.

MOVING TO THE SUBURBS -- Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) has officially launched the Suburban Caucus, kicking off an effort to win back the suburban voters and women who revolted against Trump and fled the GOP in 2018. The caucus plans to hear directly from constituents to craft a policy agenda that resonates with suburban voters and soccer parents. The idea is to create a roadmap for Republican candidates who are running in suburban swing districts all around the country in 2020. "Our ideas and policies will make the lives of suburban families easier and provide for a work-life balance that allows parents to spend more time with their families and community," Wagner said in a statement.

TRANSITIONS

Jordan Dunn has started as press secretary for Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.). Dunn was previously press secretary for Paul Ryan.

Tessa Gould, former chief of staff to then-Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), is joining Forbes Tate Partners.

Meghan Lynch is joining Sen. Kamala Harris' (D-Calif.) office as press secretary. She previously served as communications director and counsel to Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.).

Miguel Ayala, who has worked on Capitol Hill and for the Obama administration, has joined Rep. Jan Schakowsky's (D-Ill.) office as communications director.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

The House and Senate are OUT until the week of March 25.

AROUND THE HILL

Nada.

TRIVIA

FRIDAY'S WINNER -- Dominic Moore was the first to correctly guess that Pennsylvania Congressman and former professional baseball player John Tener organized the first-ever Congressional Baseball Game between Democrats and Republicans in 1909.

TODAY'S QUESTION -- From yours truly: The annual Easter egg roll used to be held at the Capitol, but was shifted to the White House in 1876. Why did the tradition move locations? First person to correctly guess gets a mention in the next edition of Huddle. Send your best guess my way: mzanona@politico.com.

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Joe Uchill

From:

Joe Uchill

Sent:

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:55 AM

To:

Raman, Sujit (ODAG)

Subject:

Axios Codebook: Beto and his past — Nunes sues Twitter — Aluminum company attacked

Axios



Welcome to Codebook, the cybersecurity newsletter with three distinct
"cow" proper nouns.

Beto O'Rourke



Beto O'Rourke is now the first presidential candidate to be judged by a record of online posts from his high school days.

The big picture: Joe Menn's Reuters story Friday [outed Beto](#) as a high school member of the Cult of the Dead Cow, an influential Texas-based hacking collective in the late '80s and '90s. O'Rourke does not, however, appear to have been a hacker in the conventional sense of the term — rather, he was mostly on the forums to share screeds on punk rock and offer a teen's eye view on politics.

Why it matters: This is a paradigm shift in politics we've all known was

coming — the moment when a lifetime record of social media postings (or, in this case, their early internet equivalent) gets turned against a presidential candidate.

- It's a situation embodying every parent's — and politician's — worst fears of the Facebook era.

The intrigue: We'd already seen lifelong digital records seep into the political landscape, as with freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's dancing video. But that was taken when the New York wunderkind was in college and ostensibly an adult.

By the numbers: Because of the age of candidates and the age of Facebook, we haven't seen many instances of high school hijinks coming back to haunt candidates for federal office. But that will change.

- 2018 was the first election in history where someone with access to Facebook in high school was elected to federal office. That honor is split between Reps. Katie Hill, Abby Finkenauer and Ocasio-Cortez. (Facebook only started to allow kids 13 and up to join the service in 2006; it was previously limited to college students.)
- While the trio would have had access to Facebook, social media wasn't yet the pervasive force we know today. That shifted around 2012, when Facebook crossed the 1 billion visitors a month mark and smartphones became ubiquitous.
- Based on a back-of-napkin calculation, 85% of the Democratic nominees are 44 years old or older. Someone who was 13 in 2012 will be 44 years old in 2043.
- God help us in 2043.

O'Rourke, who wrote essays shared to the Cult of the Dead Cow dial-up bulletin boards as "Psychedelic Warlord," [told an Iowa crowd](#), "I'm mortified to read it now, incredibly embarrassed, but I have to take ownership of my words."

- Teenaged O'Rourke wrote and posted a short story that included his running over children with a car.
- He also crudely railed against women he saw as punk rock posers, unlike real punks like him.

To be sure: We assume a public record of juvenilia will harm candidates, but it could just as easily humanize them. Beto's supporters are already pitching him as one candidate who won't get hacked by Russia.

Go deeper on O'Rourke and the Cult of the Dead Cow and how that era's hackers grew into government service.





California Rep. Devin Nunes (R) filed a \$250 million lawsuit against Twitter and several entities with Twitter accounts largely alleging defamation on the platform.

Details: Nunes charges conservative critic Liz Mair and the satire accounts "Devin Nunes' Cow" and "Devin Nunes' Mom" with unlawfully impugning his character, and Twitter with not doing enough to police it.

- The suit also alleges that Twitter is biased against conservatives, a thinly evidenced theory popular on the right.

Andrew Napolitano, Fox News' legal analyst, speculated the suit was a ploy to make a political statement.

- Whatever the intent, if Nunes is concerned that his cow and mom harmed his reputation, he may have made the matter worse — at least temporarily.
- The lawsuit mentions that Devin Nunes' Cow had a mere 1,024 followers at the time of filing. As of Tuesday morning, the cow had more than 80,500.



Norsk Hydro fought to beat back a still-active-as-of-writing "extensive cyber attack" Monday night and Tuesday morning, the Norwegian aluminum maker told the Oslo Stock Exchange (its own website being down).

What they're saying: "IT systems in most business areas are affected and Hydro is switching to manual operations as far as possible," the firm said in the statement. "Hydro is working to neutralize the attack, but so far does not know the full extent of the situation."





As GDPR turns one year old, unprepared companies are experiencing:

- 60% longer sales delays.
- More potential for \$500,000+ losses.
- Longer system downtimes.

[Find out how data privacy by design strengthens companies.](#)

- [Germany is mulling a crackdown on anyone providing the infrastructure for crime on the dark web.](#) (ZDNet)
- Vladimir Putin signed two [internet moderation bills](#) into law. (Ars Technica)
- Now, you too, can try to [break Enigma](#). (The Register)
- Slack is now letting users [bring their own encryption keys](#). (Slack)
- [Infrastructure security firm Dragos](#) launched a set of free tools. (Dragos)
- Business email compromise scams benefit by [moving conversations to mobile phones](#). (Agari)
- Project Aurora, a [supercomputer](#), begins — not to be confused with Operation Aurora, a [Chinese operation to hack Google](#), or the Aurora Project, the Idaho National Laboratory's [famous demonstration](#) that hackers could cause physical damage to power generators. (Reuters)





GDPR-readiness isn't just about compliance. According to a survey of 3,000 security experts around the globe, privacy investment gives companies:

- Greater agility.
- More investor appeal.
- Shorter sales delays.

The more companies invest in data, the bigger the payoff.

Cowedbook will be back Thursday.



Law.com Afternoon Update

From: Law.com Afternoon Update
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 4:01 PM
To: Pandya, Brian (OASG)
Subject: Who Is Devin Nunes' Cow?

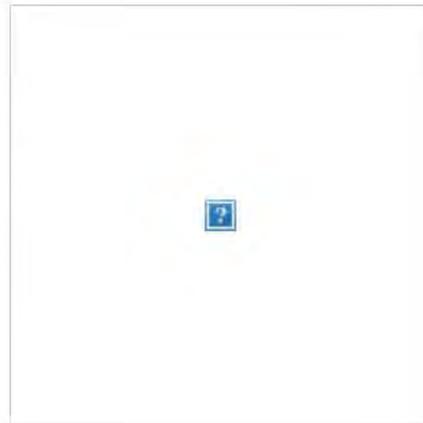


GOVERNMENT | Q&A

Who Is Devin Nunes' Cow?

By Leigh Jones

The Republican Congressman's defamation lawsuit against Twitter involving the parody social media account may have more meat to it than one might expect. [Read More](#)



Jessica Causgrove

How I Made Partner: Fisher & Phillips'

EMPLOYMENT LAW | Q&A

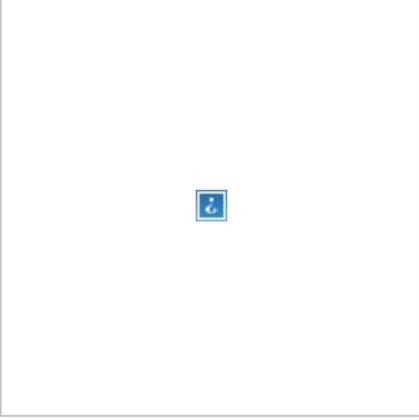
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"We conclude that the case should be remanded for the courts below to address the plaintiffs' standing in light of Spokeo," the justices said. Justice Clarence Thomas, in dissent, would have reached the merits and vacated the settlement.

By Marcia Coyle

Justices Punt on Google 'Cy Pres' Settlement Amid Standing Questions

CIVIL APPEALS

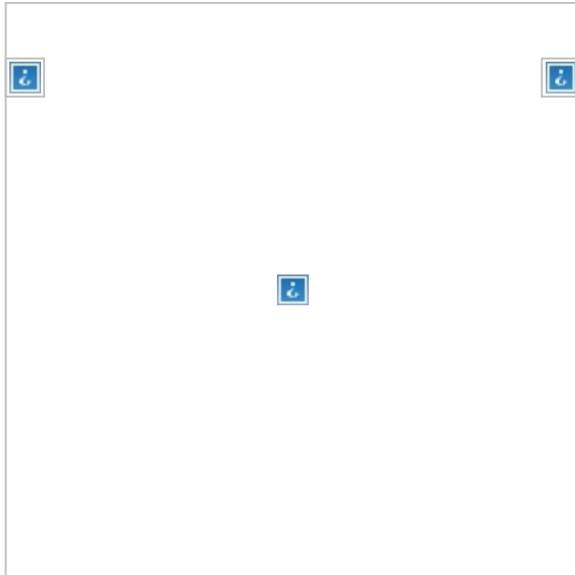
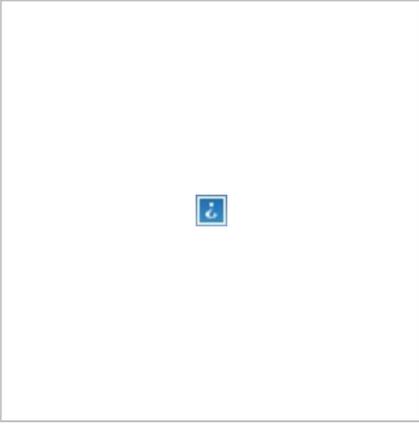


This marks the third billion-dollar penalty European regulators have imposed on the tech giant for hindering competition. **[Read More](#)**

By Simon Taylor

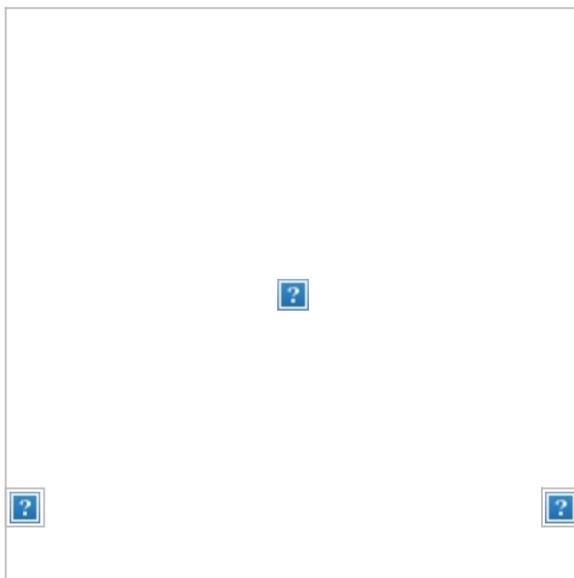
EU Hits Google With a \$1.7 Billion Antitrust Fine

ANTITRUST | NEWS



By Jonathan Ringel

"It is important to get out of your office and into your communities to meet people." [Read More](#)



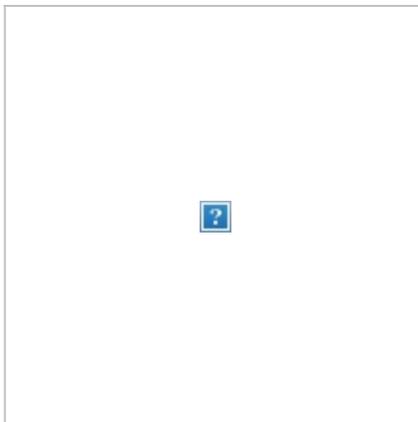
MASS TORTS | NEWS

Plaintiff Claims Monsanto 'Influenced and Manipulated' Science in Roundup Part 2

By Ross Todd

Monsanto's lawyer argued in openings for the liability and damages phase of the trial that plaintiffs were cherry-picking Monsanto's statements and that no regulator had found that Roundup caused cancer during the time plaintiff Edwin Hardeman was using the weedkiller.

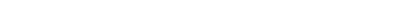
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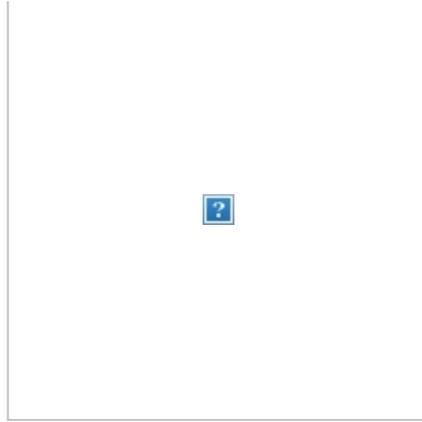
CRIMINAL LAW | NEWS

Undocumented Immigrant Denied Jury Trial Despite High Court Decision

By Dan M. Clark



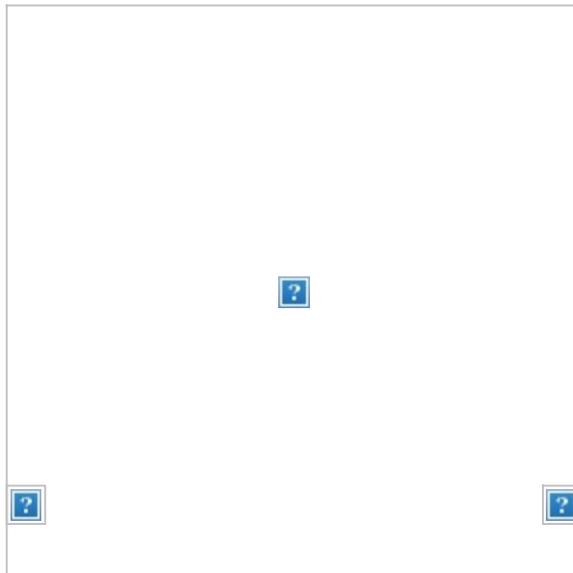
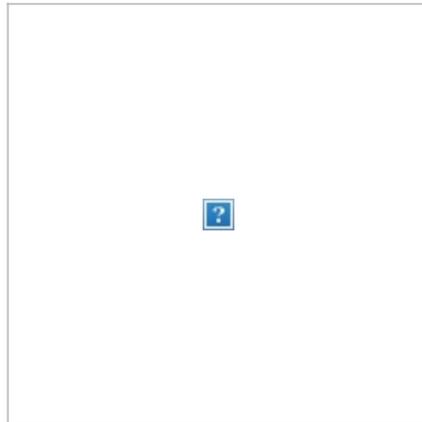
The defendant in the case had asked the judge in the middle of his bench trial for a jury trial after a decision from the state's highest court said undocumented immigrants should be offered a jury trial if they're at risk of being deported following a conviction. [Read More](#)



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The Washington Post

From: The Washington Post
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 6:25 AM
To: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)
Subject: Power Up: Waiting on Mueller, Trump fixates on another perceived enemy: John McCain

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Power Up



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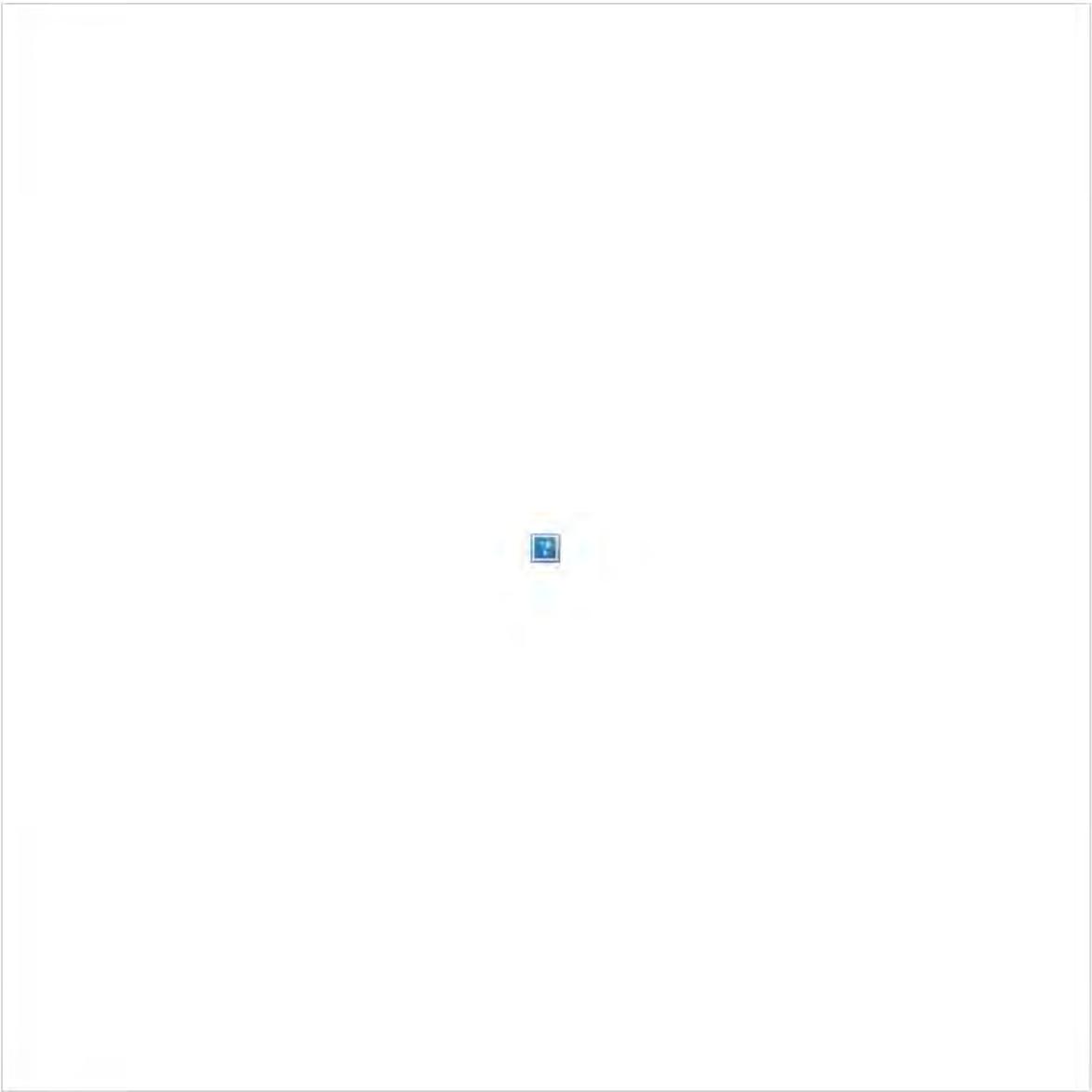
 Feedback



JACQUELINE ALEMANY

with Brent D. Griffiths

Good morning, compadres. Have you followed [@DevinCow](#)? Tips, comments, recipes -- send 'em! Thanks for waking up with us.

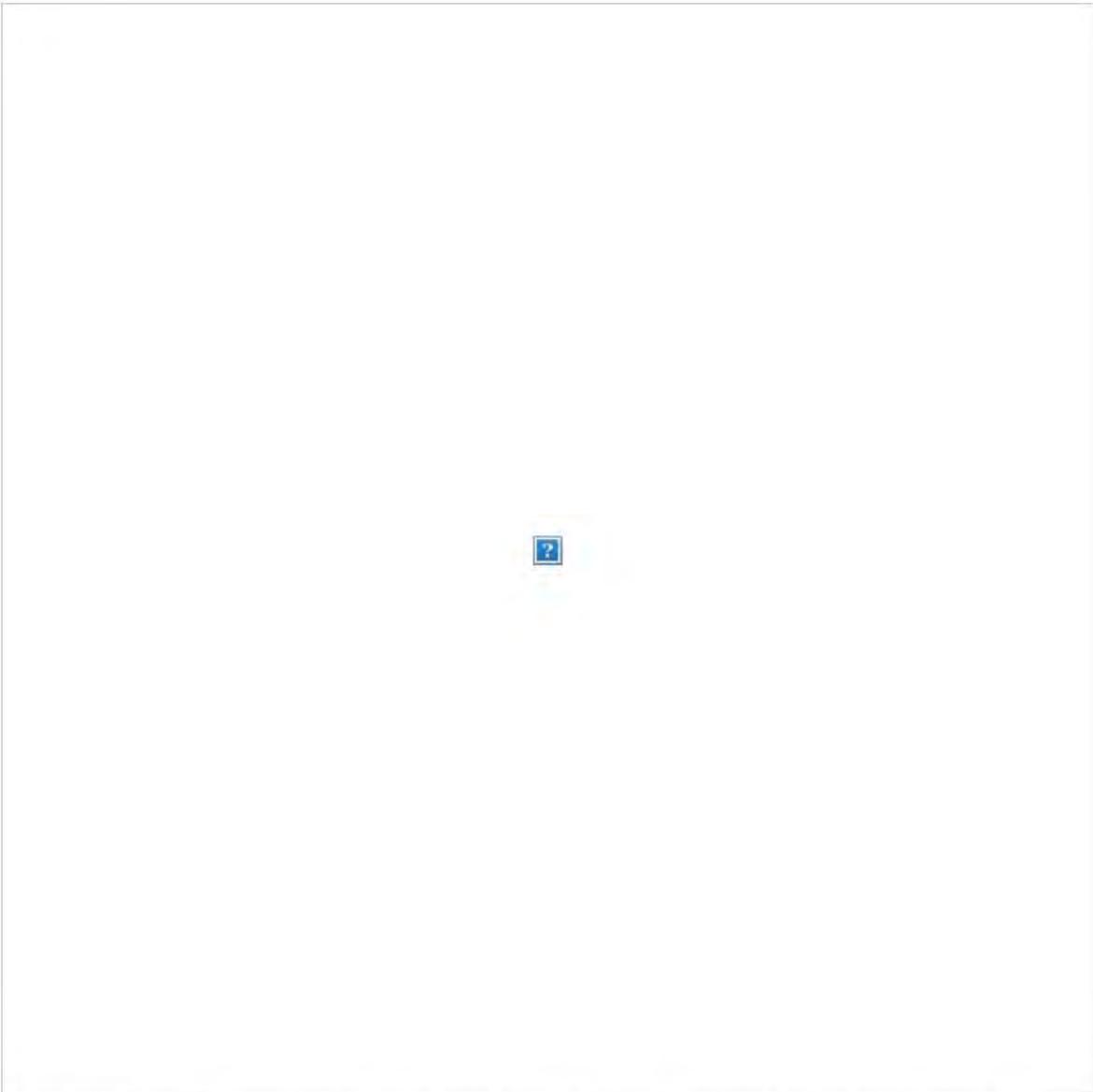


Trump: 'I didn't get a thank you,' for approving McCain's funeral

At the White House

THE WEEK OF GRIEVANCES CONTINUES: As Washington [waits for signs](#) Robert Mueller's Russia report may finally be ready, **President Trump has created headline after headline by tearing down his perceived enemies — both living and dead.** He's lashed out at the special counsel, his senior adviser's husband and the late senator John McCain -- a frequent source of ire, from even beyond the grave.

- The former Naval aviator and prisoner of war in Vietnam “didn’t get the job done for our great vets,” Trump said in a five-minute diatribe during a speech ostensibly on manufacturing jobs at a tank plant in Lima, Ohio.
- **"I gave him the kind of funeral he wanted, which as president I had to approve,"** Trump inaccurately claimed. He added: **"I didn't get a thank-you."**
- Even sitting next to Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro in the Oval Office on Tuesday, Trump told reporters that he has never been a fan of the senator who passed away from brain cancer and never would be.



President Donald Trump and the late Sen. John McCain. (Photos by Jabin Botsford and Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

“The full-throated repudiation of a deceased and revered member of his party was remarkable even for a president constantly at war with his rivals, and it came amid an outpouring of statements in recent days praising McCain in the face of Trump’s attacks,” my colleagues Josh Dawsey, Ashley Parker, Felicia Sonmez and Alex Horton [report](#).

McCain has been an obsession for Trump since the 2016 campaign, when Trump first stated that McCain was not a war hero. But the continued rebukes of McCain seven months after his death come against the advice of Trump’s own aides.

- "Exasperated advisers have encouraged him repeatedly to drop the issue, but his grudge against McCain is particularly visceral, according to current and former aides," my colleagues report.
- **The dossier:** White House aides told my colleagues that the "new round of frustration over McCain" was fueled by a news report about McCain's role in providing a copy of the dossier to the FBI after the 2016 election. (As my colleagues noted, Trump falsely blames the disputed dossier for the FBI launching the probe into Russian interference.)
- **Russia on the mind?:** "Some close to the president have attributed his frustrations to worrying over the looming report on Russian election interference from the special counsel's office — which he mocked Wednesday on the South Lawn of the White House en route to Ohio — while others said he simply has fewer advisers to restrain him from airing his grievances," they report.
- **A former White House staffer tells Power Up:** "He believes that McCain was out to jeopardize him by passing the dossier to conflicted individuals within the intelligence community."
- **The famous thumbs-down vote:** "The thing that Trump and everyone in the White House remembers is that he changed his mind on healthcare and tanked everything," a former member of the Trump administration told us, referring to McCain's vote against repealing the Affordable Care Act. "That doesn't mean he wasn't a hero but it means that every Republican said let's repeal and replace, and this is the one guy that screwed that all up. That's a legacy."
- **Then there's this:** "I think the other part of this is that he can have an enemy that won't and can't punch back," the former White House staffer tells us. "But yeah, it boggles my mind why he would bring this up at this particular moment."

Beyond McCain: Trump [kicked off yesterday](#) by tweeting Kellyanne Conway's husband George was "a stone cold LOSER & husband from hell!"

- **Contrast:** Former President Barack Obama [tweeted](#) about how to help those impacted by the flooding in the Midwest and cyclone victims in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

In the end, Trump just can't be stopped when he has something on his mind, says a source close to the White House:

- **"Trump has no filter and no ability to hide his feelings. There's no real political upside to attacking [McCain],"** the source said. "Yes, here's a lot of people in this base who hate John McCain and love this stuff. But this is just Trump. **This is what you get when you have a president who is more honest about their feelings on things than any other political consultant would want them to be.**"





In this Feb. 14, 2019 photo, Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., leads a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

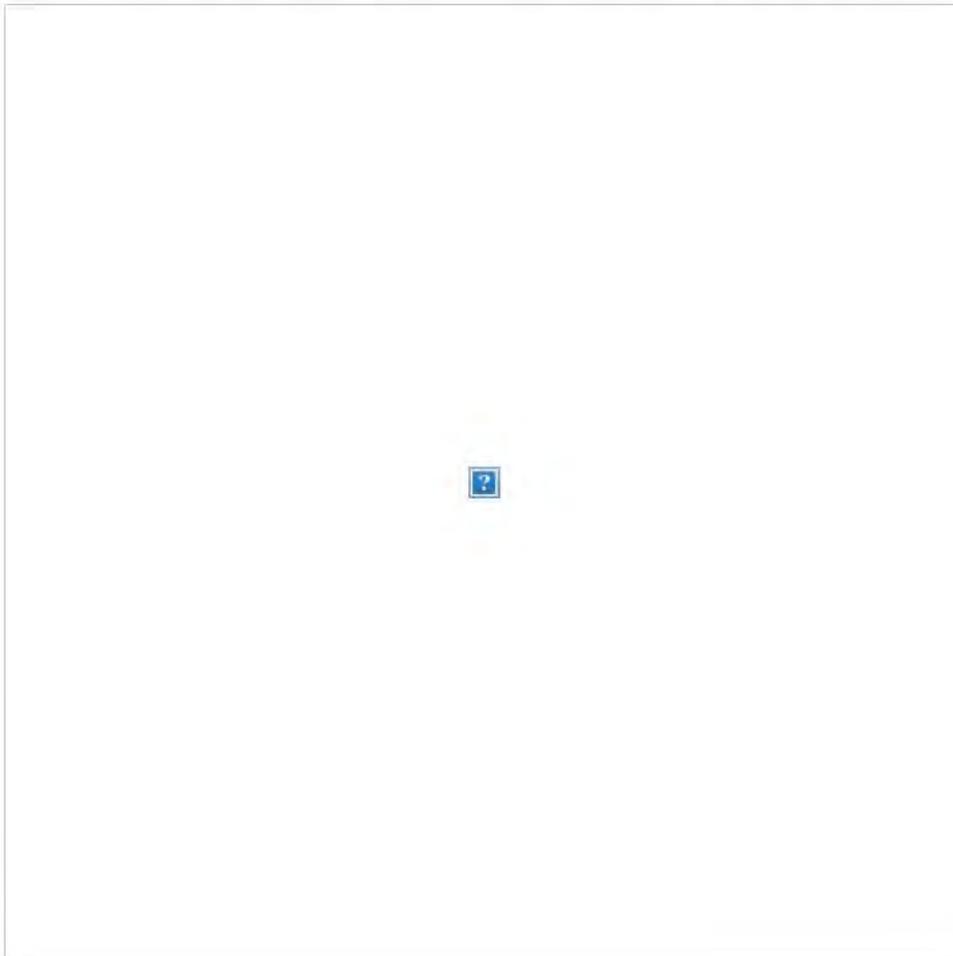
On The Hill

REPUBLICAN FISSURES: Trump's slams on McCain led some Republicans to speak out on the late senator's behalf.

- **“It’s deplorable what he said,”** Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, said in an interview with Atlanta-based Georgia Public Broadcasting earlier Wednesday, referring to previous Trump attacks on McCain. “It will be deplorable seven months from now, if he says it again, and I will continue to speak out. . . . We

should never reduce the service that people give to this country, including the offering of their own life.”

- **Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) tweeted a day earlier:** “I can’t understand why the President would, once again, disparage a man as exemplary as my friend John McCain: heroic, courageous, patriotic, honorable, self-effacing, self-sacrificing, empathetic, and driven by duty to family, country, and God,” Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) tweeted.
- **Rep. Chip Roy, a Texas Republican, weighed in last night:**



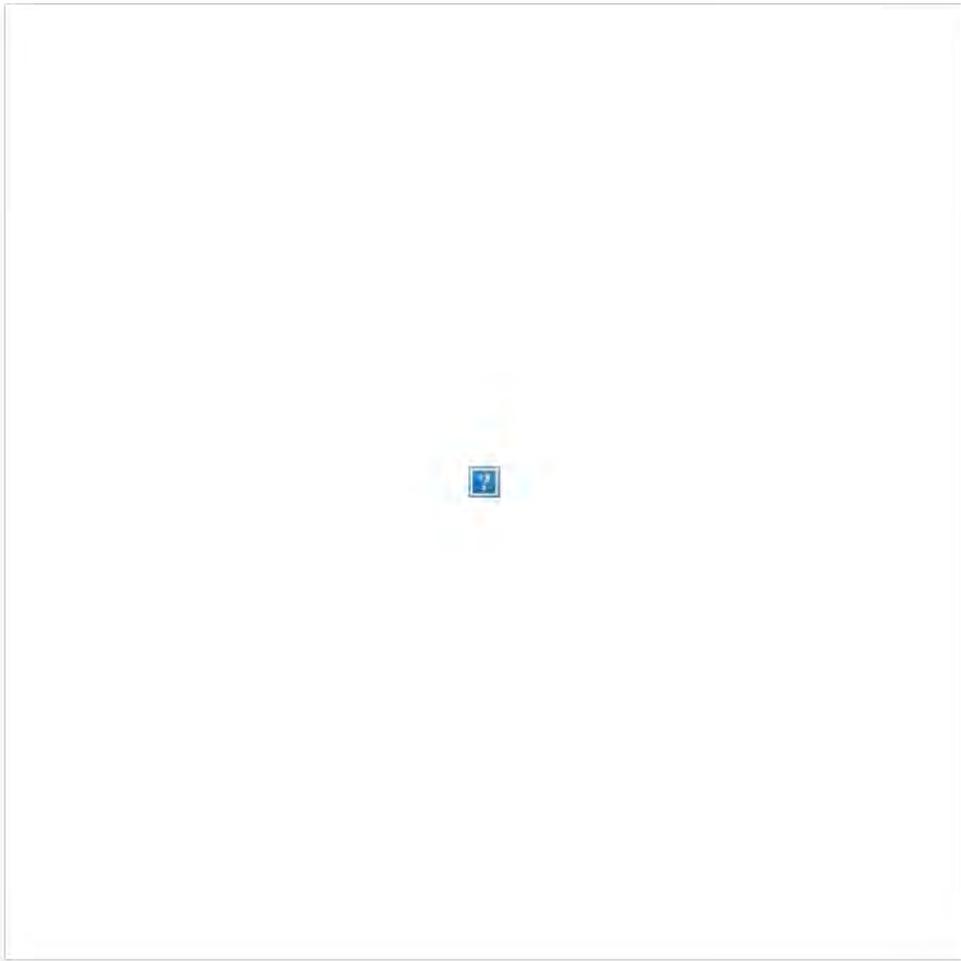
Other key Republicans did not mention Trump by name:



And Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally who was especially close with McCain, tried to toe the line.

- **"I think the president's comments about Sen. McCain hurt him more than they hurt the legacy of Sen. McCain.** I'm going to try to continue to help the president," he said in South Carolina, [per The Hill](#).
- **On Trump:** "We have a good working relationship. I like him. I don't like when he says things about my friend John McCain."
- **His way forward:** "The best thing that can happen, I think, for all of us is to move forward."

And the McCain Institute released this [fact sheet](#) about the late senator's military service and positions on everything from veterans issues to health care.





Global Power

SIX DAYS LATER: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced late Wednesday night that just six days after an attack that left 50 people dead at two mosques in her country, New Zealand has banned military-style semiautomatic weapons and assault rifle.

- **“On 15 March, our history changed forever. Now, our laws will, too,”** she said. “We are announcing action today on behalf of all New Zealanders to strengthen our gun laws and make our country a safer place.”
- **A mandatory buyback program** will be launched to take the military-style semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles out of circulation, Anna Fifield [reports from Christchurch](#), the site of the massacre. Those who fail to comply after a return period will face a \$2,700 fine or three years in

prison.

- Ardern said the buy-back could cost up to \$138 million, [per The BBC](#), but "that is the price that we must pay to ensure the safety of our communities".
- "New Zealand has tried - and failed - to reform its gun laws several times in the past two decades, but the momentum for change is now overwhelming. Owners will be forced to surrender proscribed firearms and will be compensated, but those who resist could be prosecuted," The BBC's Phil Mercer reports.

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White House Communications Director Hope Hicks leaves the U.S. Capitol after attending the House Intelligence Committee closed door meeting in Washington, U.S., February 27, 2018. REUTERS/Leah Millis

The Investigations

HOPE HICKS IS BACK... WELL, SORT OF: At least one Trump confidant has agreed to help the House Judiciary Committee with its investigation into potential obstruction of justice -- even as the White House and government agencies [intentionally ignore document requests](#) from the chamber's Democratic committee chairmen investigating the president.

CNN's Manu Raju, Jeremy Herb, and Kara Scannell [report](#) that Hope Hicks has agreed "to provide documents to the committee, according to

[committee chair Jerry] Nadler's spokesman Daniel Schwarz. Hicks' attorney declined to comment.”

- Nadler (D-N.Y.) sent Trump's former communications director a letter earlier in March requesting documents of “any personal or work diary, journal or other book containing notes, a record or a description of daily events’ about Trump, the Trump campaign, the Trump Organization and the executive office of the President.”
- There are others cooperating with Nadler’s sweeping document request that was sent to 81 individuals in Trump’s orbit -- but it’s unclear just how many people met his committee's deadline this past Monday.
- The committee said that they’ve received “tens of thousands” of documents from recipients of the requests thus far.
- **“I am encouraged by the responses we have received since sending these initial letters two weeks ago,” Nadler said.** “It is my hope that we will receive cooperation from the remainder of the list, and will be working to find an appropriate accommodation with any individual who may be reluctant to cooperate with our investigation.”

Another potentially missed deadline?: Wednesday (yesterday) was also the White House's deadline to answer an additional Judiciary request seeking information on Trump’s possible interference with the DOJ’s move to block AT&T’s merger with Time Warner.

“LET IT COME OUT”: Trump said Attorney General William Barr should release Mueller’s report to the public once it's ready.

- “Let people see it. That’s up to the attorney general,” Trump told [reporters](#) on the South Lawn.

Notable: “Support for impeaching President Donald Trump has fallen 7 points since December, [a CNN Poll](#) conducted by SSRS finds, following Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi calling impeachment “so divisive to the country.”



BOEING PROBLEMS: Separately, the Justice Department has “issued multiple subpoenas as part of an investigation into Boeing's Federal Aviation Administration certification and marketing of 737 Max planes,” [CNN's Evan Perez and Shimon Prokupecz report](#).

- “The criminal investigation, which is in its early stages, began after the October 2018 crash of a 737 Max aircraft operated by Lion Air in Indonesia, the sources said. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao on Tuesday asked the agency's inspector general to investigate the Max certification.”
- The FBI's Seattle office and Justice Department's criminal division in Washington are leading the investigation.

Swamp alert: “The Defense Department’s independent watchdog has opened an investigation into allegations that acting defense secretary Patrick

Shanahan violated ethics rules by taking actions to promote Boeing after leaving the aerospace company and accepting a top job at the Pentagon,” [The Post’s Paul Sonne reports](#).

- “The Department of Defense Office of Inspector General has decided to investigate complaints we recently received that [Shanahan] allegedly took actions to promote his former employer, Boeing, and disparage its competitors, allegedly in violation of ethics rules,” the statement said.
- Shanahan has denied favoring his former employers during his time serving as deputy defense secretary but in a letter to the inspector general, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) argues that Shanahan appeared to have “made numerous statements promoting his former employer Boeing and has disparaged the company’s competitors before subordinates at the agency.”

The inquiry comes as Shanahan is vying for the official nomination to replace Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Phoenix Division shows a closeup of the fentanyl-laced sky blue pills known on the street as "Mexican oxy." (Drug Enforcement Administration via AP)

IN THE AGENCIES

FENTANYL SPIKING OVERDOSE DEATH RATE: “The synthetic opioid fentanyl has been driving up the rate of fatal drug overdoses across racial and social lines in the United States, with the sharpest increase among African Americans, according to a new analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,” my colleague Joel Achenbach [reports](#).

- **141 percent:** “The death rate among African Americans from fentanyl-involved drug overdoses rose 141 percent each year, on average, from

2011 to 2016, the study showed, with a particularly dramatic spike starting in 2014. The death rate for Hispanics rose 118 percent in that period every year on average, and 61 percent for non-Hispanic whites. The CDC did not have reliable data on Asian Americans and Native Americans.”

- “Overdoses related to fentanyl — which is often mixed with heroin, cocaine and other drugs — remain more common among non-Hispanic whites, about 7.7 deaths per 100,000 annually, compared to a death rate of 5.6 for blacks and 2.5 for Hispanics. But the report’s lead author, Merianne Rose Spencer, a health statistician for the CDC’s Center for Health Statistics, pointed to the change in death rates as the most significant revelation.”

"Third wave": “These findings, published Thursday in a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, highlight the start of the third wave of the nation's opioid epidemic. The first was prescription pain medications, such as OxyContin; then heroin, which replaced pills when they became too expensive; and now fentanyl,” Morning Edition’s Martha Bebinger [reports](#).

“Men are dying after opioid overdoses at nearly three times the rate of women in the United States...And there's an especially steep rise in the number of young adults ages 25 to 34 whose death certificates include some version of the drug fentanyl.”



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DOJ Digests

From: DOJ Digests
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:02 AM
To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk
Subject: Morning Digest

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
March 21, 2019
08:00 AM EDT**

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WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: MARCH 21, 2019

There are no public events scheduled for the DOJ or Congress.

- 10:55 AM: The President to arrive at a business roundtable.
- 11:00 AM: The President to participate in a conversation at the Business Roundtable 2019 Q1 Quarterly Meeting.
- 12:05 PM: The President to depart a business roundtable en route to the White House.
- 3:15 PM: The President to participate in an executive order signing and remarks on improving free

inquiry, transparency, and accountability on campus.

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: MARCH 20, 2019

ABC: World News Tonight with David Muir

CBS: Evening News with Jeff Glor

NBC: Nightly News with Lester Holt

- A coastal storm is set to bring heavy rain, snow and strong winds to the Northeast on Thursday and Friday. The storm system will develop along the Carolina coast Wednesday night with heavy rain in the area. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- US Justice Department prosecutors have issued multiple subpoenas as part of an investigation into Boeing's Federal Aviation Administration certification and marketing of 737 Max planes. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- A YouTube star is accused of physically abusing her seven adoptive children, who told authorities they were pepper sprayed, beaten and deprived of food and water if they did not participate in her videos. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Donald Trump aimed new blasts of invective at the late John McCain Wednesday, even claiming credit for the senator's moving Washington funeral and complaining he was never properly thanked. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- Li "Cindy" Yang, the embattled Floridian former spa owner, defended President Donald Trump in an interview saying, "He's saying 'make America great again'." "I totally believed he's a business person," she added. "I'm a small business person too. I believe that we will make America great again." [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Donald Trump on Wednesday told reporters he doesn't understand why special counsel Robert Mueller is writing a report, but that he wants the general public to see it anyway. [[ABC](#)]
- The Supreme Court is hearing arguments over a Mississippi prosecutor's decision to keep African-Americans off a black death row inmate's jury in a murder trial. The appeal before the court Wednesday comes from inmate Curtis Flowers, who has been tried six times for the same crime. [[ABC](#)]
- Las Vegas Metropolitan Police released body camera footage and identified the robbery suspect shot by police Saturday. At about 10:17 p.m. Saturday, officers stopped Steven Aguirre, 20, near Fountain Heights Lane and Robindale Road. [[ABC](#)]
- The parents of a UCLA student allegedly used bribery to get their daughter onto UCLA's elite women's soccer team – even though the teen reportedly never played the sport. [[ABC](#)]
- Christchurch, New Zealand — The first victims of last Friday's mosque attacks in New Zealand were buried Wednesday. Among them were two men who fled the civil war in Syria. One of the mosques is now being cleaned so Friday prayers can be held. [[CBS](#)]
- In northern Kentucky, an outbreak of more than 30 cases of chickenpox prompted health officials to ban unvaccinated students from school. Now one student's family is suing for religious reasons. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- "New Zealand to Impose Sweeping Gun Ban After Christchurch Mosque Killings " [[NYT](#), [WSJ](#), [WaPo](#)]
- "Doomed Jets Lacked 2 Key Safety Features That Boeing Sold as Extras" [[NYT](#)]
- "The Fed's New 'Normal' Looks Worrisome" [[WSJ](#)]

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

CNN: "Justice Department issues subpoenas in criminal investigation of Boeing," Evan Perez and Shimon Prokupecz, March 21, 2019, 12:40 AM

US Justice Department prosecutors have issued multiple subpoenas as part of an investigation into Boeing's Federal Aviation Administration certification and marketing of 737 Max planes, sources briefed on the matter told CNN. The criminal investigation, which is in its early stages, began after the October 2018 crash of a 737 Max aircraft operated by Lion Air in Indonesia, the sources said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ABC: "Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein staying longer at the Department of Justice: Sources," Luke Barr and Mike Levine, March 20, 2019, 3:06 PM

The deputy Attorney General is staying on longer than he was originally expected, sources tell ABC News. Previously, ABC News reported Rod Rosenstein was planning to leave the Department of Justice in mid-March. Sources had said, that he had wanted to stay on to ensure a smooth transition for his successor and wanted to accommodate the needs of new Attorney General William Barr. [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WaPo: "Charlottesville cancels public school classes Thursday in response to threat," Clarence Williams, March 20, 2019, 11:52 PM

Charlottesville schools officials closed all city schools for Thursday as city police, Virginia State police and the FBI investigate a threat made against Charlottesville High School on Wednesday, authorities said. Charlottesville City police received an email Wednesday afternoon from "a concerned citizen regarding a possible threat" against the school, police officials said in an email. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Chicago Sun Times (Chicago, IL): "ATF offers \$10K reward for info on suspects who lit Austin grocery store ablaze," Emmanuel Camarillo, March 20, 2019, 11:38 PM

The ATF is offering up to \$10 thousand for information that leads to the arrest of two suspects who allegedly lit an arson fire last year at a grocery store in the West Side Austin neighborhood. About 10 p.m. May 31, 2018, two males entered the Super Giant Grocery Store at 5147 West Division St. and ignited a fire, the ATF said in a statement. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WBBM \(Chicago, IL\)](#)

KSWO-ABC (Lawton, OK): "Police release 911 call that lead to FBI investigation at Lawton apartment," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 11:00 PM

Authorities have released the 911 recording of a call made by a woman which led to the arrest of Philip Heath. Police say Heath had weapons, drugs, and bomb making materials in his west Lawton Apartment in late January. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Cincinnati.com: "Trapped and trafficked: One town's dark secret," James Pilcher, Liz Dufour, Kate Murphy, March 20, 2019, 11:00 PM

On a clear morning, the four-story Scioto County Courthouse casts its shadow over the smaller brick building just across Court Street, where criminal defense attorney Michael Mearan lives and operates his namesake legal practice. Mearan, 73, is a one-time city councilman who since the 1970s has been a fixture in this small but troubled town along the Ohio River, which separates southern Ohio from northeastern Kentucky. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WNYT-NBC (Albany, NY): "FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force working to keep kids safe," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 9:37 PM

An Albany man is accused of distributing and receiving child pornography. Michael J. Kurtz, 55, is facing federal charges. Only NewsChannel 13 was there on Aspen Circle in Albany as federal, state, and local law enforcement agents served a federal search warrant at Kurtz's home around 6 a.m. Monday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Westerly Sun (Westerly, RI): "Providence man arrested after DEA seizes large amount of fentanyl, heroin ," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 9:00 PM

A Providence man is being held in federal custody without bond after a Drug Enforcement Administration task force seized more than 2 kilograms of fentanyl and 400 grams of heroin in an undercover operation. The DEA, assisted by Providence police, arrested Josimar Delacruz-Reyes, 31, on Monday night after he delivered the drugs to undercover agents, officials said. He is facing federal charges of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl and possession with intent to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KXAN-ABC (Austin, TX): "U.S. Marshals helping track down murder suspect who fled to Mexico," Alex Caprariello, March 20, 2019, 6:11 PM

A criminal investigator with the U.S. Marshals Service told KXAN his organization has been asked to help locate and bring in accused murderer Juan Eduardo Rendon, who Austin Police say killed his boyfriend and left his body in Onion Creek. Austin police announced on Wednesday that they believe 20-year-old Rendon fled to Mexico to elude authorities. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Courthouse News (Pasadena, CA): "Dozens Charged in Texas Drug-Trafficking Bust," Cameron Langford, March 20, 2019, 6:00 PM

Unsealing a 43-count indictment, federal agents said they arrested 43 people Wednesday morning and seized millions of dollars from a Houston home, breaking up a cocaine-and-heroin trafficking operation involving an associate of the Gulf Cartel. Houston DEA Special Agent in Charge Will Glaspy said the main target of the dragnet, dubbed Operation Wrecking Ball, is Mexican national Carlos Alberto Guajardo. Though Guajardo is the first of 56 people named in the indictment, he is still at large. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WFMJ-NBC/CW (Youngstown, OH): "Youngstown man faces up to 30 years in prison for heroin arrest," Corey Vallas, March 20, 2019, 5:38 PM

A Youngstown man that was arrested last September in New Castle plead guilty in federal court yesterday to a charge of possession with the intent to distribute heroin. 46-year-old Frank Christian faces up to 30 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or a combination of both. The sentence given is based upon the seriousness and prior criminal history of the defendant. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Midland Reporter-Telegram: "More than four dozen arrested in Houston drug trafficking sting," Ileana Najarro, March 20, 2019, 5:35 PM

More than four dozen people were arrested and at least \$3.1 million was seized in a sting involving a known drug trafficker with ties to the Gulf cartel who allegedly supplied cocaine and heroin to at least six distribution cells in the Houston-Galveston area, authorities said Wednesday. The three-year investigation, dubbed "Operation Wrecking Ball," included a full-time Department of Justice prosecutor in Galveston, the first time the federal agency has had someone there in decades, said The Honorable Ryan Patrick, U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Texas. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reuters: "FBI joins criminal investigation into Boeing 737 MAX certification," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 4:37 PM

The FBI has joined the criminal investigation into the certification of the Boeing Co's 737 MAX, the Seattle Times reported on Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter. This comes after Reuters reported here that federal prosecutors and the U.S. Department of Transportation are scrutinizing the development of the 737 MAX jetliners in the wake of two deadly crashes in five months. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "FBI joins investigation into missing Indianapolis baby," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 4:33 PM

The FBI has joined Indianapolis police in investigating the disappearance of an 8-month-old baby. FBI spokeswoman Chris Bavender confirmed Wednesday the FBI is assisting police with the investigation into the whereabouts of Amiah Robertson. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "Man accused of bludgeoning crew member on vessel off Florida," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 4:30 PM

A Florida man has been charged with bludgeoning to death a sleeping crew member aboard a fishing vessel in the Gulf of Mexico. Federal authorities said Wednesday that Casey Hickok was arrested on a charge of

second-degree murder. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WBUR-NPR (Boston, MA): "Civil Rights And Faith Leaders To FBI: Take White Nationalist Violence Seriously," Leila Fadel, March 20, 2019, 4:00 PM

A group of civil rights and faith leaders are demanding a meeting with FBI Director Christopher Wray in the wake of the New Zealand terror attacks that killed at least 50 people as they prayed in mosques. The killer was a white nationalist who named President Trump as an inspiration in his online racist screed. The groups want the FBI to address "the threat to public safety" and to their communities "by white nationalist violence." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Gazette Mail (Charleston, WV): "Martinsburg case reveals issues in disposal of federal firearms," Lacie Pierson, March 20, 2019, 5:00 PM

The arrest of a Martinsburg man earlier this month has prompted one U.S. senator to call for an investigation into the facility and has revealed issues in the system in which firearms are destroyed after they are decommissioned from use by federal agents or used as evidence in criminal cases. Christopher Lee Yates, 52, was arrested March 1. A federal grand jury indicted him Tuesday on one count each of sale of a stolen firearm, possession of stolen firearms, possession of an unregistered firearm and theft of government property, according to a news release. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY

AP: "5 suspects at New Mexico compound face terror charges," Mary Hudetz, March 21: 2019, 6:00 AM

Five extended family members who lived at a ramshackle New Mexico compound where a 3-year-old boy was found dead last year are due in federal court Thursday to face new charges that they plotted attacks on U.S. law enforcement and members of the military. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Courthouse News (Pasadena, CA): "Two Men Accused of Smuggling US Electronics Into Russia," Jon Parton, March 21, 2019, 12:30 AM

Two Russian men are facing 52 charges for allegedly masterminding a scheme to smuggle electronic components from the United States to Russia, including computer chips with military uses, federal prosecutors revealed Wednesday. Russian nationals Valery Kosmachov, 66, and Sergey Vetrov, 66, are accused of conspiring to smuggle U.S.-produced microelectronics through two Estonia-based companies set up as fronts. The two men were able to obtain the components by falsely stating that they would be used by entities in Estonia, according to U.S. Attorney The Honorable David Anderson in the Northern District of California. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [San Francisco Chronicle \(San Francisco, CA\)](#)

Syracuse.com (Syracuse, NY): "Syracuse man found guilty of threatening to kill Maxine Waters, Obama," Julie McMahon, March 20, 2019, 4:35 PM

A jury today found a Syracuse man guilty of threatening to kill California Congresswoman Maxine Waters and former President Barack Obama. The jury convicted Stephen Taubert, 51, after a three-day trial before U.S. District Court Chief Judge Glenn Suddaby. Taubert now faces up to 20 years in prison, prosecutors said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "Feds: Palestinian Man Lied About Possible Ties To Terrorist Organization To Get U.S. Visa," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 3:00 PM

Federal authorities say a Palestinian man lied about his possible ties to terrorist organizations and acts of violence against Israeli military forces in order to travel to the U.S. The U.S. attorney for Massachusetts on Wednesday said 19-year-old Waad Alzerei is charged with visa fraud and making materially false statements. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [MassLive](#), [Washington Times](#)

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

AP: "Migrants encounter snafus with new US asylum policy," Elliot Spagat, March 21, 2019, 6:00 AM
Scheduling glitches led an immigration judge to deny the Trump administration's request to order four Central American migrants deported because they failed to show for initial hearings Wednesday in the U.S. while being forced to wait in Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NYT: "Border Patrol Facilities in Texas Are Overflowing, Prompting Mass Releases in Border Cities," Manny Fernandez and Mitchell Ferman, March 20, 2019, 9:00 PM
Border Patrol detention centers in Texas's Rio Grande Valley have soared well past their capacity in recent days, prompting mass releases of migrants onto the streets as local leaders scramble to house and feed hundreds of new arrivals daily. "They're as stressed as we are," Jim Darling, mayor of the South Texas border city of McAllen, said of Border Patrol officials. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [FOX](#), [NPR](#)

NBC: "Trump administration starts 'remain in Mexico' policy in El Paso, Texas: 'These Tragedies Cannot Continue'," Suzanne Gamboa and Julia Ainsley, March 20, 2019, 8:31 PM
The Department of Homeland Security began rolling out in El Paso, Texas, Wednesday its policy of requiring asylum seekers to stay in Mexico while they await court hearings in their cases, NBC News has learned. A DHS official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said people subject to the the policy, called Migrant Protection Protocols by the Trump administration, will be required to remain in Mexico beginning later this week. [[Continue Reading](#)]

BuzzFeed: "The Trump Administration Is Expanding Its Controversial Policy Of Sending Asylum-Seekers Back To Mexico" Hamed Aleaziz, March 20, 2019, 7:34 PM
The Trump administration on Wednesday expanded a policy to keep Central American migrants in Mexico while they wait for their asylum cases to be processed in the US at the El Paso port of entry, officials said. The expansion of the policy — called Migration Protection Protocols — represents the administration's latest move to dissuade asylum-seekers by instituting sweeping policy changes. Already, the administration has rolled out the policy along other portions of the southwestern border, including in the San Diego region and the Calexico port of entry. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WRAL-NBC (Raleigh, NC): "Men found crammed in SUV accused of entering US illegally," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 5:58 PM
Fourteen men from central and South America were found crammed into an SUV that was pulled over last month on Interstate 64 in southern Illinois, authorities said Wednesday. A Lebanon police officer working with the Drug Enforcement Administration pulled over the SUV on Feb. 25 near New Baden for improper lane usage, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois said. The SUV had a temporary Texas license plate. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Belleville News-Democrat \(Belleville, IL\)](#)

The Hill: "American Bar Association says US immigration courts facing an 'existential crisis'," Owen Daugherty, March 20, 2019, 5:27 PM
The American Bar Association (ABA) is drawing attention to the "existential crisis" facing U.S. immigration courts, saying they are "irredeemably dysfunctional." The immigration courts tasked with deciding whether or not immigrants are allowed to remain in the country have been bogged down by an overflow of cases recently, so much so that the bar association says they are "on the brink of collapse," according to a new report released Wednesday and covered by CNN. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABA Journal](#), [CNN](#)

News 12 (Brooklyn, NY): "Speaker Pelosi, immigration advocates tout American Dream and Promise Act" Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 5:09 PM
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined Mayor Bill de Blasio, Rep. Nydia Velázquez and immigration advocates Wednesday to call for the passage of the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019. The bill would provide those with temporary protected status and individuals with deferred enforced departure with protection from deportation and an opportunity to obtain permanent legal status. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Reuters: "Trump's border wall money may come at expense of schools for military kids,"

Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 1:26 PM

The U.S. Department of Defense is proposing to pay for President Donald Trump's much-debated border wall by shifting funds away from projects that include \$1.2 billion for schools, childcare centers and other facilities for military children, according to a list it has provided to lawmakers. The Pentagon gave Congress a list on Monday that included \$12.8 billion of construction projects for which it said funds could be redirected. [[Continue Reading](#)]

HuffPost: "Mexicans Are Stealing Border Wall Materials, Using Them For Home Security," Ryan Grenoble, March 20, 2019, 5:21 PM

Whatever adjectives you might use to describe a border wall — “big” or perhaps even “beautiful” — “readily stolen” is not likely one of them. Unnamed Mexican officials told San Diego's KUSI-TV that 15 to 20 people have been arrested for stealing concertina wire from the U.S.-Mexico border and selling it to security-minded homeowners in Tijuana. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCAU-NBC (Philadelphia, PA): "Authorities Find 537 Kilos of Cocaine in Shipping Container at Port of Philadelphia," David Chang, March 20, 2019, 12:19 PM

Hundreds of kilos of cocaine were found in a shipping container at the Port of Philadelphia during a massive drug bust Tuesday morning. The shipment was on board the MSC Desiree, a container ship that was traveling from Colombia to Europe, according to law enforcement sources. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: "ACLU Demands Investigation Into Migrant Medical Care Practices After Fourth Migrant Dies in CBP Custody: 'These Tragedies Cannot Continue'," Chantal Da Silva, March 20, 2019, 1:01 PM

The American Civil Liberties Union's Border Rights Center in Texas has demanded an investigation into the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency's medical care practices for migrants, as well as into its detention facilities. This comes after the CBP announced that a fourth migrant had died in its care since December. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Miami New Times (Miami, FL): "ICE Issued False Deportation Requests for 420 U.S. Citizens in Miami-Dade, ACLU Reports," Jerry Iannelli, March 20, 2019, 12:00 PM

Two American citizens who live in South Florida— Miamian Garland Creedle and Keys resident Peter Sean Brown — sued Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties after being wrongly held in jail and nearly deported thanks to mistaken paperwork from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

The Hill: "GOP lawmaker offers constitutional amendment capping Supreme Court seats at 9," Tal Axelrod, March 21, 2019, 6:00 AM

Rep. Mark Green (R-Tenn.) introduced a constitutional amendment Thursday that would limit the number of Supreme Court seats to nine, as several Democratic presidential candidates express a willingness to consider expanding the number of justices on the bench. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Denver Post: "U.S. Supreme Court rules against Colorado homeowner, says foreclosure lawyers are not debt collectors," David Migoya, March 20, 2019, 10:07 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday unanimously ruled that foreclosure lawyers are not debt collectors, ending a Colorado man's years-long effort to gut the state's century-old public trustee foreclosure system. As such, the attorneys representing Wells Fargo Bank in its efforts to foreclose on Dennis Obduskey's home in Bailey are not subject to comply with a broad array of consumer protections mandated by the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, such as proving the bank actually has the right to foreclose. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ABC: "Justices sidestep decision on propriety of "cy pres" class-action settlements," Annika Merrilees, March 20, 2019, 8:26 PM

As candidates muscle for support in a crowded Democratic primary, several are considering proposals that could mean changes to the Electoral College and transform the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court. These ideas, along with such efforts as the Green New Deal and Medicare for all, amount to a wave of significant, structural proposals in a still "embryonic" primary, said ABC News Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl on the Powerhouse Politics podcast Wednesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

SCOTUSblog: [OPINION] "Justices sidestep decision on propriety of "cy pres" class-action settlements," Ronald Mann, March 20, 2019, 5:37 PM

This morning the justices issued a per curiam opinion vacating the decision of the lower court in Frank v. Gaos. They had granted review in that case to consider the propriety of so-called "cy pres" settlements – settlements of class actions that distribute all or a part of the monetary relief to public-interest or charitable recipients instead of the named plaintiffs. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: "Supreme Court examination of jury discrimination prompts rare question from Clarence Thomas," Robert Barnes, March 20, 2019, 5:29 PM

The Supreme Court seemed deeply troubled Wednesday about the actions of a Mississippi prosecutor who has tried an African American man six times for a quadruple murder and has blocked the vast majority of black potential jurors. The hour-long argument brought a surprise: a question by Justice Clarence Thomas, and one that went in an opposite direction. He inquired about the race of jurors dismissed by defense lawyers for Curtis Flowers, drawing out the information that they were white. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [NBC](#), [NYT](#)

WSJ: "Supreme Court Weighs Racial Bias in Jury Selection for Murder Case," Jess Bravin, March 20, 2019, 5:25 PM

The Supreme Court appeared set to throw out a murder conviction from Mississippi amid evidence of racial bias—after dramatic arguments Wednesday that concluded with a rare question from Justice Clarence Thomas. Over the course of prosecuting a black defendant, Curtis Flowers, six times since 1997 for the same crime—Doug Evans, district attorney in rural Winona, Miss., used his power to dismiss, without explanation, at least 41 of 43 potential jurors who were African American, leaving nearly all-white panels to pass judgment. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Daily Caller](#), [LAT](#), [Mississippi Today](#)

Bloomberg: [OPINION] "Supreme Court Isn't Sold on the Harms of Big Tech," Noah Feldman, March 20, 2019, 2:22 PM

European regulators are cracking down on the big technology companies — witness the 1.49 billion euro (\$1.7 billion) fine against Google on Wednesday. At the same time, however, the U.S. Supreme Court is cautiously entering the business of protecting them. In a decision that on the surface looks minor, but is actually an important signal, the court on Wednesday sent a class-action suit against Google back to the lower courts to determine whether any of the plaintiffs actually had standing to sue. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: "Florida man poised for guilty plea proceeding in New York," Unattributed, March 21, 2019, 1:00 AM

A Florida man who authorities say sent pipe bombs to prominent critics of President Donald Trump is expected to plead guilty Thursday. Cesar Sayoc is scheduled to enter the plea in Manhattan federal court. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Williamsport Sun-Gazette (Williamsport, PA): "Suspect faces drug, weapon charges," Mark Maroney, March 21, 2019, 12:20 AM

An Old Lycoming Township man recently was indicted in federal court on alleged drug trafficking and firearms charges, according to U.S. Attorney David J. Freed. Zakhary W. Pryer, 39, allegedly distributed heroin and cocaine on five separate dates between Oct. 12 and Nov. 19, 2018, according to the indictment in U.S. Middle District Court. The indictment also alleges that on Nov. 20, Pryer possessed with intent to distribute

50 grams or more of methamphetamine and additional amounts of heroin, cocaine, marijuana and phencyclidine (PCP). [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WDSU-NBC (New Orleans, LA): "Father, son convicted in armored truck killing sentenced to life in prison," Travers Mackel, March 20, 2019, 11:55 PM

A father and son convicted in a 2017 killing of an armored truck driver were sentenced to life in prison Wednesday. Both men were charged in connection with the shooting death of Loomis employee James McBride. Jerome Kieffer and his father, Armstead Kieffer, were found guilty in October 2018 on charges of conspiracy to commit bank robbery, armed bank robbery, se of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, armed bank robbery resulting in death, murder, making false statements to a federal grand jury and being a felon in possession of a firearm. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [AP](#), [FOX \(New Orleans, LA\)](#), [The Advocate](#), [Times-Picayune \(New Orleans, LA\)](#), [WWL-CBS \(New Orleans, LA\)](#)

WTOP (Washington, DC): "Maryland man sentenced to 40 years in child sex abuse case," Zeke Hartner, March 20, 2019, 11:08 PM

A Maryland man was sentenced Wednesday to 40 years in federal prison, followed by 40 more of supervised release for the production of child pornography and other charges. Glenn Ranger, 56, of Glen Burnie was sentenced for two counts of production of child pornography connected to the sexual abuse of a young boy who was approximately 7 years old. Government prosecutors also presented evidence to the court that Ranger had sexually abused a 5-year-old girl beginning in the 1990s, which the judge took into consideration in imposing the sentence. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WBFF-FOX \(Baltimore, MD\)](#), [WJZ-CBS \(Baltimore, MD\)](#)

WaPo: "D.C. man found guilty of murder in case prosecutor calls 'every person's worst nightmare'," Keith Alexander, March 20, 2019, 10:18 PM

An artist visiting the District to work on an exhibit at George Washington University's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design was slain in her basement apartment by a homeless man, a jury concluded Wednesday. During an emotional four-week trial in D.C. Superior Court, attorneys for El Hadji Alpha Madiou Toure offered various explanations for evidence linking him to the rape and stabbing of Corrina Mehiel. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [FOX \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WRC-NBC \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WTOP \(Washington, DC\)](#), [WUSA \(Washington, DC\)](#)

WKBW (BUFFALO, NY): "Buffalo photographer facing child porn charges," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 10:16 PM

Delshawn K. Trueheart, a Buffalo-based photographer, is now under arrest facing child pornography charges and could face up to 10 years in prison, if convicted. According to the U.S. Attorney's office, earlier this month, a victim told Buffalo Police that Trueheart had a sexual relationship with her when she was between the ages of 15 and 17 years-old. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KLBK-CBS (Lubbock, TX): "Muleshoe man accused of kidnapping two children," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 10:09 PM

Federal prosecutors on Wednesday announced an indictment against Rene Gloria, 57, of Muleshoe for kidnapping two children. In February, EverythingLubbock.com covered criminal charges against Gloria who was at that time accused of sexually abusing a child. The statement on Wednesday said Gloria's kidnapping case was in addition to the sexual abuse indictment for a total of three children as his victims. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KAYS (Hays, KS): "Kansas man admits seeking mother-child sex slaves," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 8:00 PM

A Kansas man pleaded guilty Tuesday to a federal charge that he drove to Missouri to meet what he believed was a mother who was willing to sell her 10-year-old daughter for sex, according to U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WBFF-CBS (Baltimore, MD): "Baltimore Man Sentenced To 12 Years In Federal Prison For Armed

Carjacking," Zeke Hartner, March 20, 2019, 7:01 PM

A Baltimore man was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison Wednesday for committing an armed carjacking. DeAndre Spencer, 27, of Baltimore, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake. According to his plea agreement, Spencer approached a stopped car on Oct. 26, 2017, at the intersection of North Duncan Street and East Fairmount Ave. in Baltimore and asked the driver for a ride. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KVLY-NBC (Fargo, ND): "Federal jury convicts North Dakota man of child sex crime," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 6:20 PM

A jury in federal court found a North Dakota man guilty of sexually assaulting a young girl. Calvin Keith Delorme, 30, of Belcourt was convicted Tuesday of aggravated sexual assault of a child under 12-years-old, according to a press release. The two-day trial took place inside U.S. District Court in Fargo. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "Ex-Marine, citing PTSD, gets prison for parking spat bombing," Larry Neumeister, March 20, 2019, 6:05 PM

A man who joined the Marines two days after the Sept. 11 attacks was sentenced Wednesday to a decade in prison after blaming post-traumatic stress disorder for car bombing his neighbor after a parking dispute. Despite a fireball and an explosion powerful enough to buckle the car's doors, the victim miraculously escaped injury when the bomb was detonated as he drove down a Bronx street in 2016. [[Continue Reading](#)]
See also: [New York Daily News \(NY\)](#), [New York Post](#), [WPIX \(NY\)](#)

The Global Dispatch: "'Straw Hat Bandit' Richard Boyle Convicted of 11 Bank Robberies at Trial," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 6:00 PM

United States Attorney The Honorable William M. McSwain announced that Richard Boyle, 59, of Doylestown, PA was convicted today by a federal jury of 11 separate bank robberies, 10 counts of brandishing, using, and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence, and 10 counts of money laundering. The sentencing hearing is scheduled on July 15, 2019 before the Honorable Gene E.K. Pratter. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Journal Record (Oklahoma City, OK): "Man pleads guilty to false representation," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 6:00 PM

Felipe Gutierrez, 48, of Oklahoma City, pleaded guilty to making a false statement and representation to the Department of Labor to employ Mexican workers, according to First Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert J. Troester. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KNBN-NBC (Rapid City, SD): "Eagle Butte man indicted for firearm charges," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 6:00 PM

Devin Dolphus of Eagle Butte, S.D. is facing up to 10 years in federal prison and/or a \$250,000 fine after he was allegedly found illegally possessing a shotgun. On Jan. 16, 2019, Dolphus was allegedly found in possession of a shotgun that had a barrel length of less than 18 inches, and it was not registered in the National Firearms Registration database. Dolphus, 19, was previously prohibited from having a firearm as a known user of methamphetamine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Des Moines Register (Des Moines, IA): "Iowa is a hot spot for trafficking in the illicit massage industry, but prosecutions are rare," Lee Rood, March 20, 2019, 5:43 PM

The men who frequented the two Dubuque massage parlors told stories almost identical to those of other johns across the country. Flower Garden Massage and 485 TuiNa Studio advertised, like others, on sites like Craigslist, Backpage and Rubmaps. For \$60 and a tip that often ranged from \$20 to \$40, those who frequented the parlors got a massage that finished with a "happy ending." No questions asked. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Times Herald-Record (Middletown, NY): "22 arrested in Ellenville-area drug sweep," Michael Randall, March 20, 2019, 5:35 PM

Federal, state and local law enforcement officials led by U.S. Attorney for the Northern District Grant C. Jaquith announced Wednesday they have shut down an operation selling large amounts of drugs in the Ellenville area. Four Ellenville residents were arrested Wednesday morning. They and three others arrested in December and January were all named in a federal indictment returned last week. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Poughkeepsie Journal \(Poughkeepsie, NY\)](#)

Hagerstown Herald-Mail (Hagerstown, MD): "Martinsburg man fails to appear in court in stolen ATF firearms case," Matthew Umstead, March 20, 2019, 4:30 PM

A U.S. magistrate issued a bench warrant Wednesday for a former contractor at a U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives facility near Martinsburg after he failed to make an initial appearance in court for his arraignment on stolen firearms charges. Christopher Lee Yates, 52, of Martinsburg, who worked as a security guard at the Needy Road facility in Berkeley County, W.Va., was charged with single counts of sale of a stolen firearm, possession of stolen firearms, possession of an unregistered firearm and theft of government property, according to an indictment filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WGRZ-NBC (Buffalo, NY): "Chinese national charged with possession of firearm," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 4:25 PM

A Chinese national was arrested Wednesday and charged with being an alien in possession of a firearm, according to the office of U.S. Attorney for Western New York James Kennedy. According to the criminal complaint, Teng Sun was charged with illegal gun possession by the Niagara County District Attorney's Office last year, on December 17. A background check that followed revealed that Sun was a citizen and national of China and was in the United States illegally. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Naples Daily News (Naples, FL): "Killing on the high seas? Complaint says Collier man beat dad to death on fishing boat," Michael Braun, March 20, 2019, 4:23 PM

A Collier County man is facing charges in what the U.S. government says was an apparent killing on the high seas in the Gulf of Mexico off Marco Island. Casey Lowell Hickok, 32, of Copeland, was charged Tuesday with second-degree murder within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Chicago Tribune (Chicago, IL): "FBI arrest 2 men in Merrillville to prevent suspected armored truck robbery," Becky Jacobs, March 20, 2019, 3:45 PM

Two men were arrested at a Merrillville grocery store Monday because the FBI thought they were about to rob an armored truck, court records show. Reilly Jackson Jr., 23, of Griffith, and Delvin Perkins, 23, of South Holland, Ill., were charged Wednesday in Hammond's federal court. Jackson was charged through a criminal complaint with conspiracy to commit robbery affecting commerce, while Perkins was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Chicago Sun Times \(Chicago, IL\)](#), [The Times of Northwest Indiana \(Munster, IN\)](#)

The Daily Item (Sunbury, PA): "Two USP-Allenwood inmates indicted," Eric Scicchitano, March 20, 2019, 2:40 PM

A federal grand jury indicted two inmates at the Allenwood prison complex for separate incidents — one accused of assaulting a correctional officer and another accused of possessing a "shank." James Duncan, 54, struck and injured the officer on Nov. 26 while held at the Federal Correctional Institution, according to the indictment. He's charged with assault and faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [WPMT-Fox \(York, PA\)](#)

KADN-Fox (Lafayette, La): "Illegal Alien Arrested in St. Mary Parish Sentenced to 21 Years for Drugs and Firearms Charges," Sharlee Jacobs, March 20, 2019, 2:00 PM

United States Attorney David C. Joseph announced that Raymundo Pizano-Montes, 38, of Mexico, was sentenced yesterday to 21 years in prison by U.S. District Judge Dee D. Drell for distributing LSD in St. Mary Parish and possessing firearms. A St. Mary Parish deputy pulled over a Mazda SUV in which Pizano-Montes was an occupant on November 18, 2016 for a traffic violation. During a search of the vehicle, the

deputy found \$14,582 in cash, 319 dosage units of LSD, 82 Xanax pills, marijuana paraphernalia, a scale, and 12 firearms. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Concord Monitor (Concord, NH): "Convicted felon sentenced to federal prison on firearms charges," Alyssa Dandrea, March 20, 2019, 2:00 PM

A Concord man was sentenced to more than five years in federal prison for unlawfully possessing firearms and ammunition. Nathaniel Carr, 25, previously pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in December to charges stemming from separate incidents in the city in August. He will serve 63 months in prison as part of a plea deal reached with the U.S. Attorney's Office. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) See also: [San Francisco Chronicle \(San Francisco, CA\)](#), [New Hampshire Union Leader \(Manchester, NH\)](#), [Patch](#)

WVEC-ABC (Hampton, VA): "Portsmouth man sentenced to prison for heroin, cocaine trafficking," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 1:55 PM

A Portsmouth man was sentenced to prison on Wednesday for heroin and cocaine trafficking. William Jerome Peele, 45, was part of a massive drug-trafficking operation in Hampton Roads, according to court documents. Peele personally distributed over 15 kilograms of cocaine, more than 2 kilograms of crack, and more than 100 grams of heroin. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (Newton, MA): "Newton Man Pleads Guilty To Gun Charges," Jenna Fisher, March 20, 2019, 1:14 PM

A Newton man pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court in Boston to a federal firearms charge. Juan Francisco David, 46, pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition. Senior U.S. District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock has not yet scheduled a date for sentencing. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WVEC-ABC (Hampton, VA): "Virginia Beach man pleads guilty to producing child porn," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 11:34 AM

A Virginia Beach man pleaded guilty on Tuesday to producing child porn. According to court documents, 34-year-old Benjamin Taylor White produced an image of a 12-year-old child completely nude in a shower. Officers uncovered the photos on White's cell phone, which also had 2,600 photos or videos of suspected or supported child exploitation or pornographic materials. Court documents revealed that White got the photos or videos from a peer-to-peer file sharing network in 2018. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

Penn Live (Mechanicsburg, PA): "Lawsuit blaming Penn State frat board for Piazza death voluntarily dismissed," John Beauge, March 20, 2019, 8:02 PM

A federal lawsuit that placed blame for a hazing death on members of the board that owns a Penn State fraternity house has been voluntarily dismissed. U.S. Middle District Judge Matthew W. Brann on Wednesday, upon receiving that notification, formally dismissed the suit against 11 board members of AY Corp. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: "SPLC Wants Sanctions For RICO Suit Over 'Hate Group' Label," John Beauge, March 20, 2019, 4:51 PM

Two leaders of the Southern Poverty Law Center asked a D.C. federal court on Tuesday to hit the Center for Immigration Studies with sanctions for filing a frivolous lawsuit, accusing the nonprofit think tank, which advocates for restrictionist immigration policies, of hiding a weak defamation suit behind its wire fraud claims. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: "Third Lawsuit Filed Over Medicaid Work Requirements," Michelle Hackman, March 20, 2019, 6:26 PM

Several Medicaid enrollees in New Hampshire sued the Trump administration over the state's work requirements for program participants, marking the third such lawsuit and raising pressure on the administration to justify its support of the new rules. The administration approved a package of changes to

New Hampshire's Medicaid program, including the new work requirements, in November. It aims to overhaul Medicaid state by state, after a wholesale revamp of the program sank in 2017 with Republicans' failed attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "Jury awards \$250,000 to woman jailed without seeing a judge," Jeff Amy, March 20, 2019, 6:11 PM

A Mississippi jury awarded \$250,000 in damages Tuesday to a woman jailed 96 days without seeing a judge, a case spotlighting how Mississippi still struggles to provide access to lawyers or bail to people jailed before trial. The verdict included \$200,000 in damages against Choctaw County Sheriff Cloyd Halford and \$50,000 against the county. It was handed down Tuesday after a two-day trial in federal court in Aberdeen. The jury was only determining how much Jauch was owed, after U.S. District Court Judge Sharion Aycock earlier ruled that the county and Halford were liable. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Lexington Herald Leader (Lexington, KY) : "Referee's lawsuit against Kentucky Sports Radio dismissed. Here's what the judge said," Jared Peck, March 20, 2019, 1:30 PM

A Kentucky judge on Wednesday dismissed the lawsuit filed by college basketball referee John Higgins against Kentucky Sports Radio, ruling the company's on-air and online comments criticizing Higgins in the wake of his call of a 2017 NCAA Tournament game are protected free speech. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [WRDB-AM \(Reedsberg, WI\)](#)

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, UT): "Judge again rejects Utah gun enthusiast's attempt to block federal bump stock ban," Dennis Romboy, March 20, 2019, 4:30 PM

A federal judge has again rejected a Utah gun enthusiast's attempt to block a new rule that bans a gun accessory known as a bump stock in the U.S. starting next Tuesday. U.S. District Judge Jill Parrish denied Clark Aposhian's request for a preliminary injunction last week, concluding he isn't likely to win the lawsuit he filed against the government on its merits. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

AP: "New federal charges filed against indicted police officers" Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 10:00 PM

Additional federal charges have been filed against two Chicago police officers already accused of lying to judges to obtain search warrants and then stealing cash and drugs from the properties they searched. The indictment on Wednesday accuses Xavier Elizondo and David Salgado of conspiracy to violate civil rights and obstruction of justice. Elizondo is also accused of trying to persuade Salgado to conceal evidence. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "Federal judge blocks 2nd Kentucky abortion law within days," Bruce Schreiner, March 20, 2019, 7:11 PM

For the second time in days, a federal judge on Wednesday issued an order temporarily blocking a new Kentucky law aimed at imposing more restrictions on abortion. U.S. District Judge David J. Hale granted another temporary restraining order sought by the American Civil Liberties Union in its legal feud with the state over abortion. The latest order temporarily halted a measure that would ban abortion for women seeking to end their pregnancies because of the gender, race or disability of the fetus. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: "Disabled residents in the D.C. region face obstacles when searching for housing, report says," Justin Wm. Moyer, March 20, 2019, 4:00 PM

On a sunny afternoon on the first day of spring, Deepa Goraya opened her laptop and sat at her dining-room table in the bright D.C. condominium she has never seen. Goraya, 34, a disability rights lawyer who is blind, prepared to do a Google search with screen-reader software — a program that reads each word on a website at blistering speed in a robotlike monotone. While unintelligible to the uninitiated, the reader is a vast improvement over research methods available to Goraya years ago, which included finding her mom or someone else willing to read to her. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Hartford Courant (Hartford, CT): "Former Bridgeport assistant school superintendent sues claiming reverse discrimination," David Owens, March 20, 2019, 5:09 PM

A former assistant superintendent of schools in Bridgeport has sued the school board, claiming she was the victim of reverse discrimination when her job was eliminated last year. Deborah Santacapita, 60, of Fairfield, claims she was terminated by the Bridgeport schools system because she is white and because she has is physically disabled because of back ailments. She initially filed complaints with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "West Virginia trooper indicted in excessive force case," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 5:16 PM

A former West Virginia state trooper who was fired after an investigation into a traffic stop beating has been indicted in federal court. A grand jury indicted 29-year-old Michael Kennedy of Morgantown on Wednesday on one count of deprivation of rights under color of law — language used to describe crimes committed by police officers while on duty. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Mineral Daily News-Tribune \(Keyser, WV\)](#)

NJ.com (Trenton, NJ): "Paterson cop hit with civil rights indictment in alleged scheme by rogue group of officers to rob cash from drivers," Chris Sheldon, March 20, 2019, 7:35 PM

A Paterson police officer was indicted Wednesday on federal charges that accuse him and four other officers of pulling over drivers and robbing them of cash, and then splitting the proceeds in a scheme that included coded text messages and falsifying reports, federal prosecutors said. Eudy Ramos, 28, of Paterson, was charged in a nine-count indictment with conspiring to violate the civil rights of individuals in Paterson, and with filing multiple false reports to conceal his actions, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpetino announced. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NorthJersey \(Patterson, NY\)](#), [Paterson Times \(Paterson, NJ\)](#)

WaPo: "Fairfax school district launches review of seclusion and restraint policies," Debbie Truong, March 20, 2019, 8:00 PM

Fairfax County Public Schools is investigating the system's seclusion and restraint procedures, following a report that use of the controversial practices is underreported. Students at some schools in Fairfax, home of Virginia's largest school system, are routinely secluded, or involuntarily confined, according to a report on WAMU-FM. The station identified hundreds of cases that school system officials failed to report to the federal government. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Oakland Press (Oakland County, MI): "Lawsuit against Detroit Country Day School claims racial discrimination," Anne Runkle, March 20, 2019, 3:00 PM

An African-American family has filed a lawsuit in federal court in Detroit against Detroit Country Day School, alleging civil rights violations, harassment, corrupt intent and gross negligence based on a former student's race. The family claims their son, LaNard Graham Jr., who attended high school at the private school in Beverly Hills, was asked to withdraw enrollment or face being expelled from the school after an incident from which he was cleared of wrongdoing. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

National Law Review: "Antitrust Claims Against Sutter Health Move Forward in Consolidated State Actions," Bruce D. Sokler and Farrah Short, March 21, 2019, 7:00 AM

On March 14, 2019, a California state court denied Sutter Health's motion for summary judgment on claims of alleged price tampering and combination to monopolize under California's Cartwright Act, the state's principal antitrust law, in two consolidated cases. UFCW & Employers Benefit Trust v. Sutter Health, case no. CGC-14-538451 (Cal. Supr., filed Apr. 7, 2014), and California v. Sutter Health, case no. CGC-18-565398 (Cal. Supr., filed Mar. 29, 2018). [[Continue Reading](#)]

Seattle Times: "Labor groups petition FTC to prohibit noncompete clauses," Josh Eidelson, March 20, 2019, 4:02 PM

The Federal Trade Commission finds itself under increasing pressure to ban noncompete clauses, with unions, advocacy groups and politicians complaining that the agreements hobble workers' rights and fair competition. The AFL-CIO, Service Employees International Union, and Public Citizen, among other organizations, are urging the agency — in a petition — to issue a new rule prohibiting employers across industries from requiring that their workers sign agreements limiting them from going to work for a competitor. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: "AT&T, Time Warner's Merger Win Stands At DC Circ.," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 10:32 AM

A D.C. Circuit panel on Tuesday rejected the U.S. Department of Justice's bid to block AT&T's \$85.4 billion purchase of Time Warner, likely dealing the final blow to the Trump administration's efforts to undo the blockbuster media merger. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Journal News (Lower Hudson Valley, NY): "Feds settle another lawsuit against companies affiliated with Rye Brook superfund site," Colleen Wilson, March 20, 2019, 9:00 PM

Three companies that improperly disposed of mercury at a two-story garage in Rye Brook agreed Wednesday to a settlement to be paid back to the federal government. Over a nearly 20-year period in the 1970s through the early 1990s, three companies sent scrap mercury to Rye Brook-based Port Refining Inc., which operated a refinery business in a residential area of the village near Blind Brook High School. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Daily Voice: "Three Responsible For Release Of Mercury In Westchester Village Settle Case," Zack Khalifa, March 20, 2019, 6:00 PM

Three companies have reached a settlement with the United States Attorney's Office to clean up mercury at a Westchester County Superfund Site. Robert Khuzami, an Attorney for the United States announced that they have reached an agreement with Columbia Gas Transmission LLC, Henry Schein, Inc., and Union Carbide Corporation, to recoup funds the EPA incurred for more than a decade in connection with its clean-up of mercury at the Port Refinery Superfund Site in Rye Brook. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "US judge blocks oil, gas drilling over climate change," Matthew Brown and Mead Gruver, March 20, 2019, 4:30 PM

judge blocked oil and gas drilling on almost 500 square miles (1,295 sq. kilometers) in Wyoming and said the federal government must consider the cumulative climate change impact of leasing broad swaths of U.S. public land for oil and gas exploration. The order marks the latest in a string of court rulings over the past decade — including one last month in Montana — that have faulted the U.S. for inadequate consideration of greenhouse gas emissions when approving oil, gas and coal projects on federal land. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

See also: [Bloomberg](#), [E&E](#), [The Hill](#), [Reuters](#), [WaPo](#), [Wyoming Public Media](#)

CORRUPTION, FRAUD & WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

AP: "'Full House' to big house in college scheme? Experts differ," Allana Durkin Risher, March 21, 2019, 1:00 AM

Could Aunt Becky be headed to prison? It could go either way, experts say. Some of the wealthy parents accused of paying bribes to get their kids into top universities may get short stints behind bars, if convicted, to send a message that the privileged are not above the law, some lawyers say. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: "Lithuanian Man Pleads Guilty to \$100 Million Fraud Against Google, Facebook," Kristin Broughton, March 20, 2019, 8:57 PM

A Lithuanian man pleaded guilty to his role in a complex wire fraud scheme that resulted in the theft of over \$100 million from Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Facebook Inc., prosecutors said Wednesday. Evaldas

Rimasauskas, 50, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud in connection with a scheme that duped the two tech giants into wiring millions of dollars into foreign bank accounts between 2013 and 2015, according to prosecutors in the Southern District of New York. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [AP](#), [Bloomberg](#), [KFGO-CBS \(Fargo, ND\)](#), [LAT](#), [Reuters](#),

The Atlantic: "There Is No Way to Prevent the Next Cheating Scandal," Jeffrey Selingo, March 20, 2019, 6:32 PM

The college-admissions scandal that led to federal bribery charges against dozens of parents last week unfolded at selective universities that pride themselves on “holistic” evaluations of their applicants. This process typically means that several admissions officers review a file and consider factors beyond grades and test scores, often intangible qualities that aren’t quantifiable and are usually gleaned from an applicant’s extracurricular activities, essays, and recommendations. This approach is nearly ubiquitous among selective schools. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KTLA (Los Angeles, CA): “Long Beach Accountant Admits to Running \$27.5M Ponzi Scheme,” Brian Day, March 20, 2019, 6:24 PM

A certified public accountant admitted to a federal wire charge Wednesday for running a Ponzi scheme that bilked victims out of more than \$27.5 million over more than two decades, authorities said. Carol Ann Pedersen, 66, of Long Beach is scheduled to return to federal court in Los Angeles for sentencing on July 10, U.S. Attorneys’ Office spokesman Ciaran McEvoy said in a written statement. She faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison. [[Continue Reading](#)] See also: [Press-Telegram \(Long Beach, CA\)](#)

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (Pittsburgh, PA): "Latrobe woman admits participating in money laundering conspiracy," Paul Peirce, March 20, 2019, 5:54 PM

A Latrobe woman pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh Wednesday to participating in a “mystery shoppers” money laundering scheme for five years. Susan Rings, 63, pleaded guilty to a charge of money laundering conspiracy before Judge David S. Cercone, according to U.S. Attorney The Honorable Scott W. Brady. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WFAE-NPR (Charlotte, NC): "Charlotte Man Pleads Guilty To \$3 Million Tech Support Scheme," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 4:40 PM

A Charlotte man pleaded guilty Wednesday for his role in a tech support scam that defrauded hundreds of victims — including many seniors — of more than \$3 million. According to a Department of Justice release sent out Wednesday, 24-year-old Bishap Mittal pleaded guilty to being part of a conspiracy that placed fake pop-up ads on people's computers to convince them that they had a serious computer problem. The scam then convinced people to pay for a made up technical support service to resolve the issue. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (Pittsburgh, PA): "McKees Rocks man sentenced to federal probation for Nigerian marriage sham," Madasyn Czebiniak, March 20, 2019, 4:28 PM

A McKees Rocks man was sentenced in federal court to one year of probation after his conviction on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States and to commit offenses against the United States. U.S. Attorney Scott W. Brady said Norman Lee McCullough, 59, conspired with two other individuals to defraud the Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Providence Journal (Providence, RI): “Husband of R.I. state representative indicted in Connecticut,” Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 4:00 PM

A grand jury in Connecticut has returned an indictment charging the husband of a Rhode Island state representative with credit-card fraud and identity theft. Henry Fellela Jr., 61, of Johnston, is accused of stealing credit cards from Connecticut residents between September 2018 and March of this year, and using the cards to make thousands of dollars in purchases at retail stores. Fellela had been on supervised release after serving a federal prison sentence for credit-card fraud, aggravated identity theft and other offenses. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Courier-Express: "Dubois-area doctor pleads guilty to health care fraud," Corey Vallas, March 20, 2019, 3:38 PM

A DuBois resident pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of health care fraud, according to United States Attorney Scott W. Brady. David James Girardi, 41, pleaded guilty to one count before United States District Judge Kim R. Gibson, a press release from Brady said. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Boston Herald (Boston, MA): "Judge grants Felicity Huffman brief delay for initial Boston appearance," Laurel J. Sweet, March 20, 2019, 2:54 PM

A federal judge is allowing Felicity Huffman to postpone her initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Boston on fraud charges stemming from the explosive college exam-scam scandal from March 29 to April 3. Magistrate Judge M. Page Kelley granted the brief delay today at the request of the Academy Award-nominated actress' legal team because her Boston-based counsel, Martin F. Murphy, will be out of state on the original date set. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "SC woman charged with taking \$530,000 from company," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 2:44 PM

A former employee at a warehouse business in South Carolina is pleading guilty to taking more than \$530,000 from the company over five years. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported that Jennifer S. Godin worked for Trans-Hold of North Charleston, which stores cargo containers and provides logistical services for shippers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WKRP-CBS (Cincinnati, OH): "3 Tri-State men indicted in nationwide foreclosure scam," Walter Smith-Randolph, March 20, 2019, 2:32 PM

Imagine trying to save your home from foreclosure only to lose your money and your house. Federal authorities say three Tri-State men were involved in the nationwide scam for five years. Eight of the 11 people allegedly involved have been arrested across the nation. While three of the men are from the Tri-State, there are at least 50 victims in Ohio. The United States attorney says instead of helping struggling homeowners, the alleged conspirators pocketed the money, and, in some cases, convinced homeowners to file for bankruptcy. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [The Enquirer \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#), [Journal News \(Liberty Township, OH\)](#)

WCPO-ABC (Cincinnati, OH): "11 indicted in national foreclosure relief scam, feds say," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 2:10 PM

A federal grand jury charged 11 people in five states in connection to a scheme to defraud homeowners by making phony promises about being able to negotiate with mortgage lenders and protect homes from foreclosure, according to an indictment unsealed Wednesday. The indictment named MVP Home Solutions, aka Stay In or Walk Away; Bolden Pinnacle Group Corp., aka Home Advisory Services Network and Home Advisory Services Group; and Silverstein & Wolf Corp. as the companies in the scheme. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

News Democrat (Belleville, IL) "Prison sentence extended for woman who prepared \$769,000 worth of false tax returns," Hana Muslic, March 20, 2019, 6:11 PM

A federal judge has extended the prison sentence for Evelyn Johnson, an East St. Louis tax preparer who pleaded guilty to filing \$769,000 in false tax returns in 2015, citing her "courtroom antics" as a reason. In February 2018, federal prosecutors charged Johnson, 57, with failure to surrender for service of sentence after she refused to go to prison to serve the 18 months in prison she was sentenced to in January 2018. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "2 church leaders admit to operating tax fraud scheme," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 5:00 PM

Two high-ranking members of a New York-based church pleaded guilty Wednesday to a scheme to siphon millions of dollars from church members for personal use and not pay taxes on the money. Jermaine Grant and Lincoln Warrington, both of New Jersey, each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States. An indictment alleged Grant, leader of the Israelite Church of God in Jesus Christ, took nearly

\$3 million in church money with the help of Warrington, the church's primary treasurer. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)
See also: [Asbury Park Press \(Monmouth, NJ\)](#), [Law360](#), [Patch](#)

Daily Times (Upper Darby Township, PA): "Yeadon tax preparer gets prison time for fraud," Alex Rose, March 20, 2019, 4:20 PM

The owner of a Yeadon tax preparation business who was convicted last year on fraud charges was sentenced to one year plus a day in federal prison Tuesday. Deron Joe, owner of Edron Tax Preparation Services, was also given three years of supervised release and ordered to pay a \$1,200 special assessment under the sentence handed down by U.S. District Judge Petrese B. Tucker of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

WaPo: "Guest Post: Reduce prison populations by reducing life sentences," Daniel Nagin, March 21, 2019, 6:30 AM

In his State of the Union address, President Trump praised the First Step Act, a set of reforms aimed in part at winding down mass incarceration and reducing recidivism. A aptly named, the legislation is only a first step toward criminal justice reform, and a modest one at that. It affects only the federal prison system, which accounts for less than 15 percent of the nation's total prison population, and even within the federal system, First Step's impact on the prison population will be limited. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "Ex-congressional candidate says she'll run again from prison," Unattributed, March 21, 2019, 4:26 AM

A former congressional candidate in Virginia says she running for Congress again even though she'll be in federal prison. Shaun Brown revealed her plans to reporters Wednesday before turning herself into authorities outside a federal courthouse in Norfolk. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: "Parents caught in the college admissions scandal are turning to this convicted felon for advice on life in prison," Peter Holley, March 20, 2019, 4:22 PM

Justin Paperny, wearing his luckiest pair of golfing slacks, was about to tee off at Calabasas Country Club in Calabasas, Calif., last Tuesday morning when his phone began buzzing. On the other line was a familiar voice, a well-known lawyer whose client had recently been charged by the Justice Department for their role in a sprawling admissions scandal involving dozens of parents and name-brand schools like Yale, Georgetown and the University of Southern California. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Tucson Weekly: "Vanishing Act: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women," Kathleen B. Kunz, March 21, 2019, 4:00 AM

Last Wednesday, the Arizona House of Representatives unanimously passed House Bill 2570, which intends to create the first study committee on violence against Indigenous women and girls in the state. If passed by the Senate and approved by the governor, a committee of statewide experts and stakeholders will conduct a comprehensive study to identify causes of systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls and establish methods for tracking and collecting data. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: "Gorsuch's Take On Treaty And Tax Bodes Well For Tribes" Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 9:44 PM

The U.S. Supreme Court bolstered the Yakama Nation's rights Tuesday when it ruled that a tribal company is shielded from a Washington state fuel tax by the Yakamas' federal treaty, but Justice Neil Gorsuch's robust concurrence could prove of greater long-term consequence as it shows the justice poised to become a swing vote in tribal cases. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: "Native children benefit from knowing their heritage. Why attack a system that helps them?," Bob Ferguson and Fawn Sharp, March 20, 2019, 6:46 PM

If an American child is abused or neglected while living overseas, we expect our government to get involved. If an American couple chooses to adopt a child from another country, it's no surprise to anyone when that government wants to be engaged in the process to ensure fairness, equity and safety for their children.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law360: "Calif. Tribes Seek \$900K After Salmon Protection Win," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 5:34 PM

The Yurok and Hoopa Valley tribes have asked a California federal court for more than \$900,000 in combined fees after succeeding in their bid to force the federal government to take action to help protect a threatened salmon species in the Klamath River. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "Dakotas tribes seek more crime-fighting help from feds," Blake Nicholson, March 20, 2019, 5:12 PM

American Indian reservations in the Dakotas need more resources and cooperation from the federal government to combat crime and improve safety, tribal leaders told members of Congress on Wednesday as they detailed a range of problems including drug trafficking, sex crimes, and missing and murdered indigenous women. Officials with federal law enforcement agencies testified during the field hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs that they're boosting efforts to combat crime in Indian Country but have limited resources. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KSTP-ABC (Saint Paul, MN): "Department of Justice awards \$719,962 to Leech Lake Band," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 4:36 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe were one of 10 tribes selected to receive \$5.7 million in grants to support crime victims in Native American communities.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Wahkiakum County Eagle (Washington): "Law signed for Native American voting rights," Emma Epperly, March 20, 2019, 4:20 PM

The Native American Voting Rights act was signed by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee at a widely attended ceremony on March 14. "We believe these three steps will allow tribal members to help us form a more perfect union and make good decisions about our destiny," Inslee said of the changes the bill makes.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

The Recorder: "Hogan Lovells Joins Ninth Circuit Fight Over Seized Hemp," Cheryl Miller, March 21, 2019, 12:21 AM

Hogan Lovells partners Neal Katyal and Sean Marotta have joined the legal team of a Colorado company trying to recover a truck-trailer full of industrial hemp that Idaho police seized as contraband in January.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Washington Examiner: "John Hickenlooper: 'The federal government should get out of the way' of marijuana legalization," Naomi Lim, March 20, 2019, 11:21 PM

John Hickenlooper, the former Colorado governor now vying to be the Democratic 2020 presidential nominee, believes the federal government should have a minimal role in the marijuana trade. "I would not ask the federal government to legalize it for everyone, but I think where states do legalize marijuana, with the voters or through the general assembly, the federal government should get out of the way," Hickenlooper said during a CNN town hall in Atlanta, Ga. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

National Law Review: "Michigan Court of Appeals Rules in Favor of Employer in Medical Marijuana Case," Alexis Martin, March 20, 2019, 4:30 PM

On February 19, 2019, the Michigan Court of Appeals issued a ruling in *Eplee v. City of Lansing*, clarifying that the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA) does not create “an independent right protecting the medical use of marijuana in all circumstances, nor does it create a protected class for users of medical marijuana.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

OPIOID CRISIS

AP: "Oklahoma's top court hearing request to delay opioid lawsuit," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 5:56 PM

Drugmakers are trying to persuade Oklahoma's top court to postpone the trial in the state's lawsuit accusing them of fueling the opioid epidemic. The Oklahoma Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday, a week after rejecting drugmakers' request to immediately postpone the scheduled May 28 start. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WBUR-NPR (Boston, MA): "Fentanyl-Linked Deaths: The U.S. Opioid Epidemic's Third Wave," Martha Bebinger, March 21, 2019, 12:30 AM

Men are dying after opioid overdoses at nearly three times the rate of women in the United States. Overdose deaths are increasing faster among black and Latino Americans than among whites. And there's an especially steep rise in the number of young adults ages 25 to 34 whose death certificates include some version of the drug fentanyl. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Star Tribune (Casper, WY): "Rock Springs files federal suit against opioid companies, becomes latest Wyoming entity to join sprawling litigation," Seth Klamann, March 20, 2019, 9:30 PM

The city of Rock Springs filed a federal lawsuit against Purdue Pharma and a dozen other companies on Tuesday over the companies' alleged roles in exacerbating the opioid crisis. The southwest Wyoming town joins Casper, Cheyenne, Carbon County and the Northern Arapaho Tribe in filing federal suits against companies tied to the opioid pharmaceutical industry. The state of Wyoming filed its own litigation against Purdue, which created OxyContin, last year. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: "Sackler Family Accused in New Suit of Causing Opioid Crisis," Jef Feeley, March 20, 2019, 2:34 PM

The billionaire family that owns opioid-maker Purdue Pharma LP has been accused by local governments in a new lawsuit of causing the nationwide public-health crisis involving pain-killing medicines that has left hundreds of thousands of Americans dead from overdoses. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

SPECIAL COUNSEL OFFICE INVESTIGATION

Time: "Preet Bharara on What Should Worry Donald Trump Even More Than the Mueller Report," Tessa Berenson, March 21, 2019, 5:30 AM

Your old office is handling multiple investigations into Donald Trump. Should that worry him more than Robert Mueller? Yes. Unlike the special counsel's office, the Southern District does not have any kind of circumscribed mandate. They are not limited to issues related to collusion or obstruction or interference with the election of 2016. They can look at everything. And that includes bank fraud, tax fraud, money laundering, you name it. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

NYT: "Trump Says Mueller Report Should Be Made Public: 'Let People See It'," Liam Stack, March 20, 2019, 8:00 PM

President Trump said Wednesday that he would support the public release of the special counsel report on possible Russian ties to his 2016 campaign, telling reporters that Attorney General William P. Barr should “let it come out.” [\[Continue Reading\]](#) See also: [AP](#), [NPR](#), [Quartz](#), [Time](#)

Politico: "Your guide to the end of the Mueller probe," Josh Gerstein and Darren Samuelsohn, March 20, 2019, 7:18 PM

It's a moment nearly two years in the making, and it's almost here. Any day now, Attorney General William Barr is expected to announce the conclusion of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe. When that happens, the heated interest in the investigation into whether President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign conspired with the Kremlin will boil over. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: "Unsealed documents shed new light on depth of the Cohen probe," Jacqueline Thomsen, March 20, 2019, 6:23 PM

A trove of newly released documents from the federal raids on Michael Cohen's home and office are offering new insights on how investigators built their case against President Trump's former fixer. The nearly 900 pages of redacted documents show that investigators examined nearly all aspects of Cohen's life, first as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe and then as federal prosecutors in New York took hold of the case. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

ADMINISTRATION

WaPo: [OPINION] "Charles Kushner: Here's the truth about my family and our business," Charles Kushner, March 20, 2019, 7:09 PM

Charles Kushner is a founder and principal of the Kushner Companies, a diversified real estate company. Over the past two years, the news media have told a story about my family and our business with little regard for nuance, logic or even facts. A familiar story line suggested that Kushner Companies was on the brink of collapse, about to be brought down by an over-leveraged building. Though I am a private person and prefer to keep the details of my family's business as private as possible, I want to set the record straight. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [The Hill](#), [Newsweek](#), [USA Today](#)

RFE/RL: "Pompeo, Netanyahu Discuss How To Counter 'Iranian Aggression'," Unattributed, March 20, 2019, 8:55 PM

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have discussed ways to "roll back Iranian aggression" in the region and around the world, the Israeli leader said after the two met in Jerusalem. "There is no limitation to our freedom of action, and we appreciate very much the fact that the United States backs up our actions," Netanyahu said on March 20, speaking alongside Pompeo. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WSJ: "Trump to Issue Order Tying Federal Grants to Free Speech on Campus," Michelle Hackman, March 20, 2019, 8:13 PM

President Trump is expected to issue an executive order Thursday directing federal agencies to tie research and education grants made to colleges and universities to more aggressive enforcement of the First Amendment, according to a draft of the order viewed by The Wall Street Journal. The order instructs agencies including the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services and Defense to ensure that public educational institutions comply with the First Amendment, and that private institutions live up to their own stated free-speech standards. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Politico](#)

NYT: "Pentagon Opens Internal Inquiry of Acting Defense Chief's Ties to Boeing," Helene Cooper and Thomas Gibbons-Neff, March 20, 2019, 4:30 PM

The Defense Department's inspector general said on Wednesday that it was investigating complaints that the acting defense secretary, Patrick M. Shanahan, had been promoting his former employer, Boeing, and disparaging its military contractor competitors. The investigation will examine complaints filed last week by a watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Forbes: "Trump Says China Tariffs Will Remain In Place After Trade Deal," Charles Wallace, March 20, 2019, 4:30 PM

President Trump roiled global markets on Wednesday when he said that tariffs on Chinese imports will be left in place for a "substantial period" after a trade deal is reached with Beijing. "We're not talking about removing [tariffs], we're talking about leaving them for a substantial period of time, because we have to make sure that

if we do the deal with China that China lives by the deal," Trump told reporters at the White House as he departed for Ohio. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US CONGRESS

KCAL-CBS (Los Angeles, CA): [VIDEO] "Congress To Hold Hearings Regarding Two Deadly Boeing Plane Crashes," March 21, 2019

While the FBI supports a criminal investigation, Congress and other government entities will hold hearings to determine why the Boeing airplanes were approved to fly in the first place. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: "Florida spa founder denies wrongdoing after Dems ask FBI to investigate her Trump connections," Kate Sullivan, March 21, 2019, 1:42 AM

The former owner of a Florida massage parlor on Wednesday denied any wrongdoing after allegations she had sold access to President Donald Trump to Chinese clients. In an interview with NBC, Cindy Yang -- the founder and former owner of a chain of Florida massage parlors that was the target of a months-long police sting operation investigating a prostitution and sex trafficking ring -- denied she has done "anything wrong" and said she believes people take issue with her being a "Chinese Republican." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: [EDITORIAL] "Why Devin Nunes's laughable cow lawsuit is no laughing matter," Editorial Board, March 20, 2019, 6:50 PM

Devin Nunes is mad about a cow — and now he is suing Twitter. A lawsuit filed by the Republican California congressman alleging that the platform failed to suspend accounts that shared defamatory content is absurd. But it still deserves attention as part of a dangerous trend. Mr. Nunes's complaint takes aim at an account named "Devin Nunes' cow," an account named "Devin Nunes' Mom" and a Republican strategist. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Business Insider: "Trump's former communications director Hope Hicks will cooperate with House Democrats' investigation into the president," John Haltiwanger, March 20, 2019, 6:39 PM

Former White House communications director Hope Hicks will cooperate with a House Judiciary Committee probe into President Donald Trump and allegations of obstruction of justice, CNN reported on Wednesday. Hicks, who had a close working relationship with Trump, is set to turn over documents to the committee related to the investigation, a spokesman for House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [The Hill](#), [Washington Times](#)

WSJ: House Judiciary Committee Eyes Additional Document Requests to Trump Associates," Dustin Volz and Rebecca Ballhaus, March 20, 2019, 6:40 PM

The House Judiciary Committee is eyeing additional document requests to associates of President Trump, including Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, and a former lawyer for Michael Cohen who last year sought a pardon on his client's behalf, according to a person familiar with the committee's plans. Other individuals likely to be sent requests include former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Gary Cohn, an investment banker who served as Mr. Trump's top economic adviser until he stepped down one year ago. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WaPo: "House Democrats to question former business associate of Trump as part of probe," Rachael Bade and Tom Hamburger, March 20, 2019, 5:40 PM

The House Judiciary Committee plans to question the point person for the controversial 2016 Trump Tower Moscow project in what will be Democrats' second session next week with the onetime business associate of President Trump. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CBS: "The parody cow Twitter account Devin Nunes is suing now has more followers than he does," Kathryn Watson, March 20, 2019, 3:50 PM

A parody cow Twitter account Rep. Devin Nunes is suing has now surpassed him in followers. Earlier this week, the Republican ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee filed a lawsuit against Twitter and

against a handful of its users — including "Devin Nunes' mom" and "Devin Nunes' cow" for defamation, negligence, and conspiracy because the accounts incessantly mocked him. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [NYT](#), [USA Today](#)

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03/21/2019 08:04 AM EDT

By MELANIE ZANONA (mzanona@politico.com; [@MZanona](https://twitter.com/MZanona))

KEEPING A FEUD ALIVE -- President Donald Trump continues to put the Senate GOP in an uncomfortable spot with his sustained attacks on the late Sen. John McCain (R Ariz.). During a

jobs event in Ohio, Trump went on an extended diatribe where he ripped McCain for his health care vote, bashed the war hero's legacy on veterans issue and complained he was never thanked for approving the senator's funeral. Trump's trash talking has Republicans begging him to stop and smacking their heads in disbelief, but few have been willing to publicly stand up to the president.

The most forceful rebuke, however, came from an unexpected place: Sen. Johnny Isakson. The Georgia Republican, who slammed Trump for his "deplorable" behavior, is not someone who typically makes waves in the party. But Isakson may have a longer leash than some of his GOP colleagues, since he just voted in support of Trump's wall emergency. And Isakson isn't up for reelection until 2022, and it's unclear whether he will run again. (Also punching back: conservative freshman [Rep. Chip Roy](#) of Texas.)

But most other Republicans have opted to focus their responses on offering praises for McCain, while completely avoiding calling out Trump. That includes Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) and Arizona Sen. Martha McSally. Meanwhile, Democrats are seizing on the moment, with Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (N.Y.) vowing to reintroduce his bill to rename a Senate office building after McCain. Burgess with the dispatch: <https://politi.co/2OeQwzN>.

Related Senate read: "Senate's sluggish start reflects the Republicans' narrow policy agenda," by Paul Kane of The Washington Post: <https://wapo.st/2FnAf7o>.

DRIP, DRIP -- More details are flowing in about which documents Democratic investigators have and don't have in their hands. Former Trump campaign adviser Rick Gates has been advised not to cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee's sweeping probe into Trump world, report Kyle and Anita Kumar. Meanwhile, former national security adviser Michael Flynn's lobbying firm supplied thousands of pages of records, while the National Enquirer's parent company and former White House communications director Hope Hicks have both agreed to cooperate. But other top targets say they don't have the documents being sought by the committee or will simply refuse to cooperate. It's clear the panel is hitting some roadblocks in their investigation, which may need to be resolved through subpoenas and court battles. Much more: <https://politi.co/2JrLYY3>.

Related: "Trump on Mueller report: 'Let it come out,'" from Rebecca Morin: <https://politi.co/2FhpseZ>.

GOOD MORNING! Welcome to Huddle, the play by play guide to all things Capitol Hill, on this Thursday, March 21, where your host is thrilled to have a new favorite Twitter account: [@CapitolHillDogs](#) (move over, [@DevinCow](#)).

IT'S MARCH MADNESS: HAVE YOU FILLED OUT YOUR PLAYBOOK POOL

BRACKET? Compete against your friends, Playbookers, top political insiders and VIPs to win great prizes, not to mention some legit bragging rights in our **3rd Annual Playbook Pool College Basketball Bracket Challenge!** Submit your bracket before noon on Thursday, March 21. Governors, senators, House members and mayors, as well as some of the biggest names in politics and media, are already in the game, click [HERE](#) to take them on!

WEDNESDAY'S MOST CLICKED: USA TODAY's [report](#) on Pelosi pushing back against liberal critics over her impeachment stance was the big winner.

KAMALA'S POWER PLAY - Sen. Kamala Harris is coming for Texas. The California Democrat will meet with Tarrant County Democrats outside Dallas on Friday, hold a big rally at Texas Southern University in Houston and has already been courting support from Texas members of the powerful Congressional Black Caucus. Harris's effort to win delegates in the Lone Star State is sending an unmistakable signal in the presidential race: that she isn't afraid to take on former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke in his home state. "There is no state in America we will cede to anyone," a senior Harris campaign official told POLITICO. "We see a lot of opportunity to deepen support with African American and Latino communities and to expand into suburban areas where Democrats are resurgent." More from Christopher Cadelago and David Siders: <https://politi.co/2OeX4y8>.

Related: "O'Rourke's sprint out of the gate leaves Democratic field gasping," from David Siders and Christopher Cadelago: <https://politi.co/2Y6U4bT>.

PAY GAP PROBLEMS The House will vote on legislation to help close the gender wage gap next week, but Congress is facing a pay gap problem in its own background: its congressional committees. Women who work for committees, which have tremendous power over policymaking and investigations, tend to be paid less than male staffers, reports The Huffington Post. The biggest salary discrepancy was found in the communications field, where men make around \$15,000 more per year than their female counterparts. Not only are women being outearned by men, but they are also underrepresented on some of the most powerful committees. The banking and financial services committees, science, foreign relations, and armed services committees are all dominated by men. Molly Redden with the dispatch: <http://bit.ly/2TOIqUh>.

MORE BOEING FALLOUT Boeing's legal and political troubles are starting to pile up. The

Department of Transportation's inspector general will audit the FAA's certification of the beleaguered Boeing 737 MAX, which was involved in two recent deadly crashes, while the DOJ has issued subpoenas to probe how Boeing was regulated. On the congressional front, House Transportation Chairman Peter DeFazio (D Ore.) said he is "actively pursuing" an investigation into how the aircraft was certified and why extra pilot training wasn't required. And a Senate Commerce subcommittee will hold a hearing on airline safety next week, though the panel will not haul in witnesses from Boeing to testify just yet. The committee, however, did say it intends to hold a second hearing "in the near future" to put Boeing and other stakeholders in the hot seat.

MORNING MONEY AT #MIGLOBAL : POLITICO is partnering with the Milken Institute on this year's global conference in Beverly Hills, California from April 28 May 1. Ben White will once write a special edition "Morning Money" newsletter for the specifically for the conference, detailing all of the happenings, highlights, big conversations, evening festivities, and buzzy VIP gatherings. [Sign up today](#) to receive exclusive coverage and everything you need to know from the scene of #MIGlobal in this special edition pop up newsletter.

NO NEED TO IMPEACH -- Democratic support for impeaching Trump is waning, according to a new CNN poll. Just 36 percent of Democrats favor removing Trump from office, down from 43 percent in December and 47 percent in September. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D Calif.) has been working overtime to convince Democrats that the best way to kick Trump out of office is not through impeachment, which is dead on arrival in the Senate and could fire up Trump's base, but through the ballot box in 2020. More on the poll: <https://cnn.it/2UOuKFh>.

TRANSITIONS

Matt Sifert has started as legislative assistant at Bipartisan Policy Center Action. He previously was legislative assistant for former Sen. Jeff Flake (R Ariz.), handling tax, banking, and budget issues.

Aaron Fisher, executive director of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus, has been hired as a senior strategist for Bergman Zwerdling Direct.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

The House and Senate are OUT until the week of [March 25](#).

AROUND THE HILL

Not a whole lot.

TRIVIA

WEDNESDAY'S WINNER -- Eli Schechner was the first to correctly guess that FDR's beloved dog and one of the most famous presidential pets was a Scottish Terrier named Fala.

TODAY'S QUESTION -- From yours truly: Who was the only U.S. president to have zero turnover in his cabinet? First person to correctly guess gets a mention in the next edition of Huddle. Send your best guess my way: mzanona@politico.com.

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Trump brings TMZ politics to Washington. And he likes it that way.



Trump: 'I didn't get a thank you,' for approving McCain's funeral



BY JAMES HOHMANN

with Joanie Greve and Mariana Alfaro

THE BIG IDEA: Donald Trump's attacks on George Conway and

John McCain are a feature, not a bug, of his reality television presidency.

Holding court with reporters on the South Lawn of the White House on Wednesday afternoon, Trump called the husband of one of his top aides “[a whack job](#).” That was a few hours after the president tweeted that “Mr. Kellyanne Conway” is a “stone cold LOSER” and “husband from hell.” He had ripped him on Tuesday, as well.

Then Trump flew to a tank factory in Ohio, where he went on a five-minute rant against McCain, [accusing](#) the former POW of failing veterans and suggesting that he’s to blame for America’s entanglement in the Middle East. Trump claimed that he “gave” McCain “the kind of funeral he wanted,” a reference to approving the use of a military transport to carry the late senator’s body from Arizona to Washington. “I didn’t get a thank-you,” Trump grumbled.

Just spit balling here, but perhaps that was because McCain had shuffled off this mortal coil?

We’ve grown collectively numb to so much of this drama. But try to imagine George W. Bush ripping into the husband of Karen Hughes, who played a role similar to Kellayne in his White House. Or Barack Obama mocking George McGovern after he died in 2012. It’s inconceivable.

This week’s beefing speaks volumes about not just Trump but the coarser and crueler era he’s ushered in. If denizens of official Washington thought being here would change Donald Trump, Trump has changed Washington. It’s also inconceivable, for example, to imagine Hughes’s husband Jerry publicly attacking Bush while she

worked in the White House, as George Conway continues to slam Trump on Twitter, or McGovern putting out a posthumous statement attacking Obama like the one McCain's family released last summer.



Trump calls George Conway 'a whack job'

This president is plainly more at ease talking about personalities than policies. The president relishes having foils. He lets basically nothing roll off his back. He routinely ignores pleas by senior staffers

to restrain himself, and he doesn't mind making things deeply personal. Just ask Rafael Cruz, Michael Cohen, Mika Brzezinski, Megyn Kelly, [Stormy Daniels](#), Carly Fiorina or [the slew](#) of other people whom Trump has insulted in recent years.

Trump has supercharged [the celebrification of American politics](#), as a cast of characters you couldn't dream up cycle through this tragicomedy. TMZ videographers are now a fixture of DCA, staking out the departures level of the airport with cameras as they wait for people who have become famous in the Trump era.

Trump has [hired](#) former Fox News personalities and executives for top jobs. He lunched with Kanye West and trashed Taylor Swift in [back-to-back days last October](#). Paparazzi followed Hope Hicks, a 20-something former model, when she was White House communications director and dating then-White House staff secretary Rob Porter, who subsequently resigned after both of his ex-wives accused him of domestic violence.

The list goes on and on, and the soap-opera storylines are hard to keep up with. Remember when Michael Avenatti was exploring a bid for president? It feels like four years ago. In fact, it was [four months ago](#). And he's no longer representing Stormy.



Ivanka Trump and Kellyanne Conway listen as President Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting last month. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

-- Kellyanne Conway publicly defended her boss yesterday for attacking her husband, praising the president as a “counterpuncher” during [an interview with Politico](#): “You think he shouldn’t respond when somebody, a nonmedical professional accuses him of having a mental disorder? You think he should just

take that sitting down?”

Indeed, to her point, Trump seems acutely sensitive to any intimation that he’s mentally ill. The president memorably described himself as “a very stable genius” after Michael Wolff questioned his mental fitness and acuity in his book “Fire and Fury.”

George Conway responded to the president’s latest insults with a stream of tweets, including: “You. Are. Nuts.” Which only appeared to make Trump angrier.

-- **“Aides say the new round of frustrations over McCain was fueled by a news report Trump saw recently about McCain’s role in handing over a copy of an intelligence dossier to the FBI after the 2016 election,”** [Josh Dawsey, Ashley Parker, Felicia Sonmez and Alex Horton report](#). “Trump inaccurately blames the disputed document for kicking off the FBI’s investigation into Russian interference in the campaign to help Trump. ... Exasperated advisers have encouraged him repeatedly to drop the issue, but his grudge against McCain is particularly visceral, according to current and former aides. The president also fumed about the wall-to-wall news coverage of McCain’s death and that he was not invited to the funeral at Washington National Cathedral, current and former administration officials said.”

-- **“Some people close to Trump speculated that he might be consciously trying to remake the news environment** — creating a bizarre spectacle to displace criticism of his tepid response to the massacre of dozens of Muslims in New Zealand, the timing of the administration’s decision to ground Boeing’s 737 Max jets, and frenzied anticipation around the expected release of special counsel

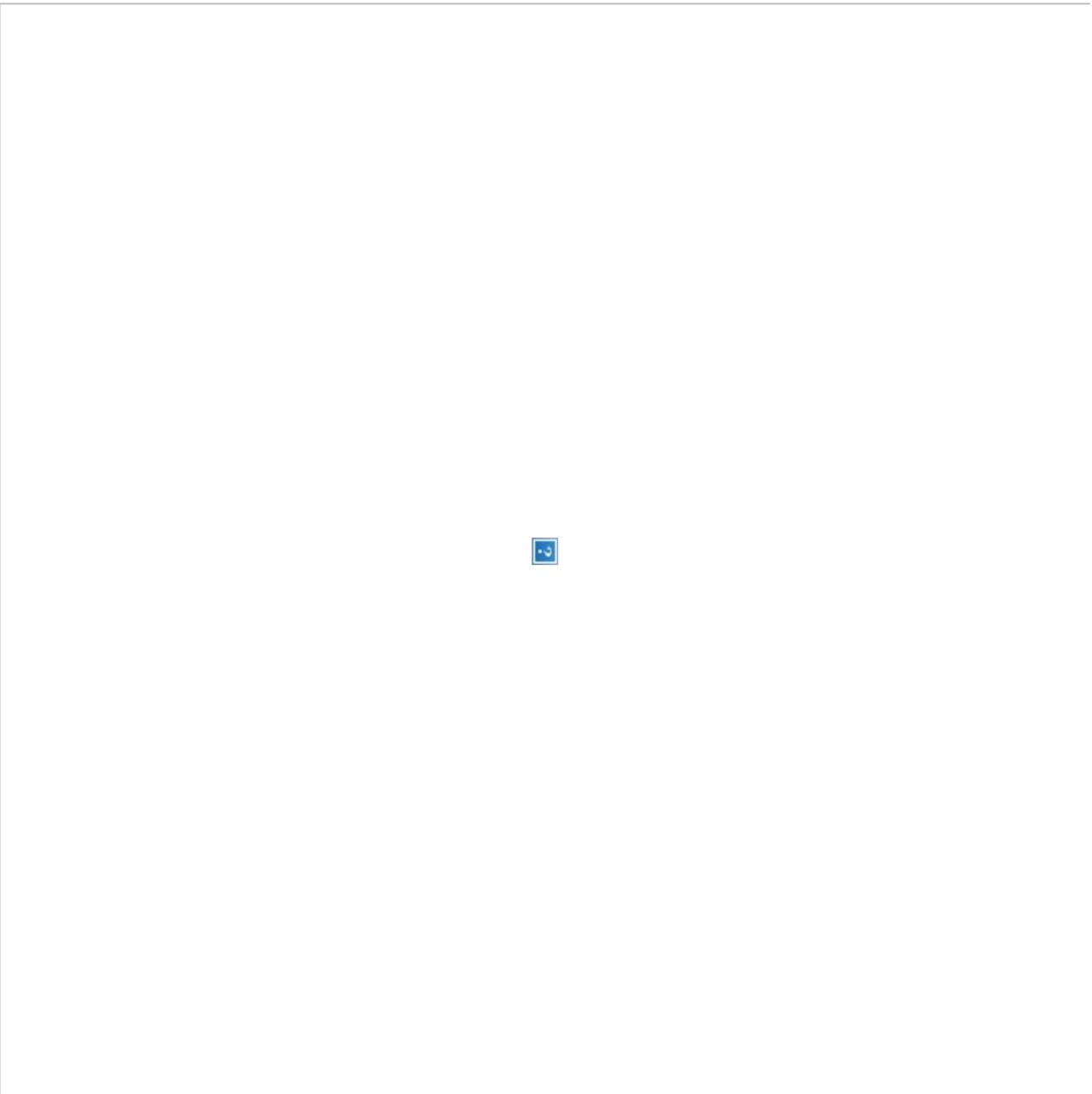
Robert Mueller’s final report,” [Politico’s Eliana Johnson and Daniel Lippman report](#). “‘For the most part, most people internally don’t want to touch this with a 10-foot pole,’ said one former senior White House official. A current senior White House official said White House aides are making an effort ‘not to discuss it in polite company.’ Another current White House official bemoaned the tawdry distraction. ... ‘Why are we doing this?’”



Trump on Dukakis’s visit to a tank plant: 'The helmet was bigger than he was'

-- **“His posthumous attacks have been cheered at the president’s Make America Great rallies. But at the army tank plant in Lima, where Mr. Trump said a third of the work force is made up of veterans, the denunciations drew no cheers,”** the New York Times’s [Maggie Haberman reports](#) from Ohio.

-- **Trump’s attacks on McCain have once again squeezed Republican lawmakers, who by and large [remain afraid to cross him](#).** Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), campaigning for reelection in South Carolina yesterday, emphasized that he likes Trump and that they have “a good working relationship” before defending McCain. “I don’t like when he says things about my friend John McCain,” Graham [told reporters](#). “And the best thing that can happen for all of us is to move forward and focus on the challenges like North Korea, Venezuela, our growing economy, fixing a broken immigration system and on and on and on.”



4 times politician's kids criticized Trump

-- Ronald Reagan's daughter, Patti Davis, was asked this week what her father would make of the Trump era. "I think he would be horrified," she said. "I think he would be heartbroken."

Promoting a new novel, she gave [an interview](#) to Yahoo News for its web show "[Through Her Eyes](#)." The host, Zainab Salbi, asked Davis about a blog post she wrote in the summer of 2016 that said watching

Trump supporters chant “Lock her up!” about Hillary Clinton reminded her of former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu’s famous quote: “You can do whatever you want if you keep the people frightened enough.”

“Are you suggesting this is what President Trump is doing?” Salbi asked. “I think it’s very obvious it’s what he is doing,” Davis replied. “If you stir up fear in people, you weaken them. If you divide people, you weaken them. Everything he says is divisive. Look at his rallies.”

“Are you suggesting President Trump is endangering our democracy?” Salbi asked.

“Of course I am,” Davis said. “I mean, he is.”

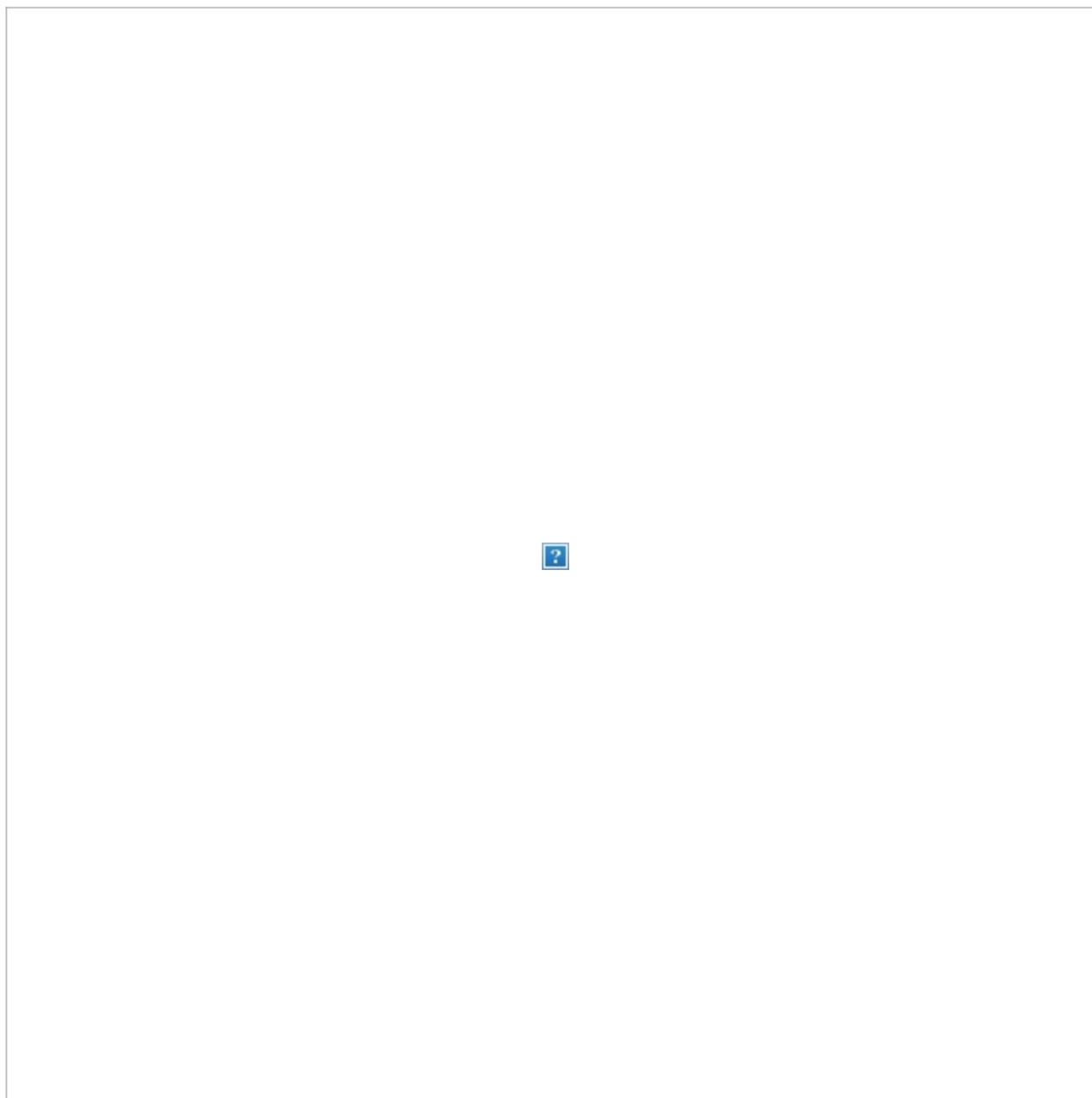


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WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



Police stand guard in anticipation of a march called by opposition forces in Caracas, Venezuela, on Tuesday. (Fernando Llano/AP)

-- Venezuelan intelligence forces have detained the chief of staff of opposition leader Juan Guaidó. The detention of Roberto Marrero could signal a new crackdown on the opposition by embattled President Nicolás Maduro. The detention came after a pre-

dawn raid in which Marrero claimed government forces planted weapons at his home. ([Developing.](#))



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that the country will ban all military-style semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles. (Hagen Hopkins/Getty Images)

-- New Zealand officially banned military-style semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles, just six days after the attacks on two mosques. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the country will launch

a buyback program to take existing weapons out of circulation while those who don't comply will be subject to fines, [Anna Fifield reports](#): “On 15 March, our history changed forever. Now, our laws will, too,’ Ardern said. ... New Zealand has a tradition of hunting and shooting as sport, but there is no legal provision to own weapons for self-defense. Ardern has said there is no reason for New Zealanders to own these kinds of weapons, and there is broad consensus on that argument. **The center-right opposition National Party supported the ban.**”

-- In the wake of the shootings, New Zealanders are asking themselves: “Are we as open minded as we think we are?” Anna, our Beijing bureau chief and a native New Zealander, [has been on the ground this week](#): “1 in 4 New Zealand citizens was born outside the country. There are more than 200 ethnicities represented in a population of 4.8 million people — more ethnicities than the number of countries represented at the United Nations. As Trump was capping refugee numbers, Ardern was increasing New Zealand’s refugee quota. In a world of growing anti-immigrant populism, many in New Zealand feel like they’re heading in the right direction. ...

“New Zealand does have its white nationalist movements, and they have traditionally been concentrated in Christchurch, a city that has long been notably whiter than the other parts of the country, particularly the North Island. **Christchurch has long had an ugly underbelly of skinheads with swastika tattoos.** They belong to groups with names like Right Wing Resistance and National Front and occasionally hold rallies.”

-- Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and other militant groups have

seized on the massacre to push the narrative that the West is at war with Islam in fresh appeals to supporters and potential recruits. [Souad Mekhennet reports](#): “In a sense, the Christchurch attacker has done a giant favor for the global jihadist movement,’ said Rita Katz, executive director at SITE Intelligence Group, a private firm that monitors extremist activity online. ... Intelligence officials say the video of the killing of Muslim worshipers inside a mosque is an especially powerful way for the groups to spread extremist propaganda. ... The groups have highlighted the reactions of leaders and politicians in Western countries, describing what they say is a lack of empathy for Muslim victims in general and a double standard in the way terrorism is defined.”



Acting defense secretary Patrick Shanahan has denied that he favored Boeing, his former employer, since arriving at the Pentagon. (Andrew Harnik/AP)

-- The Defense Department's independent watchdog has opened an investigation into allegations that acting defense secretary Patrick Shanahan violated ethics rules by taking actions to promote Boeing after leaving the aerospace company and accepting a top job at the Pentagon. [Paul Sonne reports](#): "The

Department of Defense Office of Inspector General has decided to investigate complaints we recently received that [Shanahan] allegedly took actions to promote his former employer, Boeing, and disparage its competitors, allegedly in violation of ethics rules,' the [inspector general's] statement said. Shanahan, who spent more than three decades at Boeing before joining the Trump administration in 2017, has denied favoring Boeing during his time as deputy defense secretary — the No. 2 post at the Pentagon, which oversees acquisitions, procurement and technology development across the military.”

Shanahan has been angling aggressively for Trump to appoint him as the permanent replacement for Jim Mattis, who resigned in December. It's unclear how this IG probe will impact his prospects for getting the nod and/or being confirmed by the Senate. Shanahan's spokesman says he'll fully cooperate with the investigation.

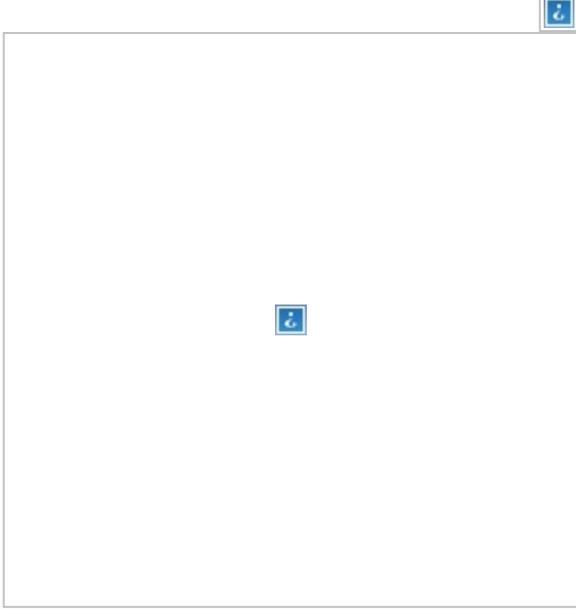


Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference in Washington on Wednesday. (Susan Walsh/AP)

-- Waving a caution flag, the Federal Reserve signaled that it will not raise interest rates again in 2019, a dramatic about-face that indicates the central bank's worries about the economy are intensifying. "Growth is slowing somewhat more than expected," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said at a news conference, adding that the

uncertainty from the trade wars and what will happen with Brexit are muddling the outlook.

“The Fed entered the year expecting growth of 2.3 percent and that two rate hikes would be necessary to keep the economy from overheating, but on Wednesday it cut its growth forecast to 2.1 percent for 2019 and signaled it was done hiking rates for the year,” [Heather Long reports](#). “The Fed’s new projections widened the already large gap between its growth estimates and those coming from the White House, which is predicting 3.2 percent this year and 3.1 percent the next. ... The Fed pulled back ... as Europe and China deteriorated economically and U.S. consumers and businesses showed worrying signs of lower spending.”





How Trump is hindering the fight against climate change

GET SMART FAST:

1. **A federal judge temporarily blocked oil drilling on about 300,000 acres of federal land in Wyoming.** The judge ruled that the Interior Department “did not sufficiently consider climate change” when deciding whether to auction off the mineral rights. The decision could force the Trump administration to account for

the climate impact of its plans to boost fossil fuel production. ([Juliet Eilperin](#))

2. **Parts of the Midwest are beginning to clean up after last week's devastating floods, but residents of downstream regions are now preparing for inundation caused by the water's southward flow.** Three-quarters of Nebraska's counties are under states of emergency as well as other areas of Iowa, Wisconsin and Mississippi. ([Ted Genoways and Frances Stead Sellers](#))
3. **Thousands are still in need of rescue after a cyclone swept through Mozambique.** Aid agencies are struggling to keep up with the damage left by Cyclone Idai, affecting half a million people. ([Max Bearak](#))
4. **Overdose deaths caused by the synthetic opioid fentanyl have been rising most sharply among the nation's African American population.** Overdoses related to the opioid remain more common among non-Hispanic whites, but rates among African Americans rose on average 141 percent each year between 2011 and 2016. ([Joel Achenbach](#))
5. **Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas asked a question during oral arguments for the first time in three years.** The case that sparked him to speak up involves a Mississippi prosecutor who has repeatedly tried an African American man for a quadruple murder and has blocked most potential black jurors. The answer to Thomas's question revealed that most of the jurors blocked by Curtis Flowers's defense attorneys were white.

([Robert Barnes](#))

6. **Health officials are downgrading Zika-related travel warnings for pregnant women.** The CDC had previously told women who were pregnant or might become pregnant to avoid nearly 100 countries or regions where they might encounter the virus, which can cause severe birth defects. ([Lena H. Sun](#))
7. **A senior DEA official who testified before Congress about the government's efforts to address the opioid epidemic now does consulting work for OxyContin producer Purdue Pharma.** Demetra Ashley told the Senate in 2017 that the government needed a “robust regulatory program” to prevent the diversion of opioids. ([NBC News](#))
8. **Harvard University is at the center of a lawsuit over the ownership rights of images of slaves.** In the lawsuit, plaintiff Tamara Lanier argues the university is profiting from 19th-century daguerreotypes of her enslaved ancestors that were originally acquired for the university by a professor who used them to assert that black people were biologically inferior to other races. ([Susan Svrluga and Mara Reinstein](#))
9. **Rep. Max Rose (D-N.Y.) apologized to his Jewish constituents for Rep. Ilhan Omar's (D-Minn.) rhetoric.** Rose said he was “horrified” when he heard Omar's comments and told constituents he was sorry for not being able to prevent her from making them. ([Fox News](#))
10. **Peloton was sued for \$150 million in damages over complaints that the exercise bike company used songs for**

its streaming workout classes without obtaining proper licenses. The president of the National Music Publishers' Association, which filed the lawsuit, called it “unimaginable” that the well known company had used the unlicensed music for so long. ([CNET](#))

11. **Police in Arizona arrested a mother who allegedly starved and beat her children, who were also the stars of her YouTube comedy series.** Authorities said Machel Hackney, whose seven adoptive children were the faces of the popular series “Fantastic Adventures,” would often force them to stay in a closet with a bare tile floor for days at a time. ([Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))

12. **A felon and federal prison consultant who prepares people for life behind bars has a new batch of customers: the parents caught in the college admissions scandal.** Justin Paperny, himself a University of Southern California alum, has been getting a lot of calls from parents interested in answers to some prison-related questions, going from the most basic (“How do I use the bathroom in federal prison?”) to the more complicated (“Will I ever work again?”). ([Peter Holley](#))



Trump on Mueller report: 'Let people see it, that's up to the attorney general'

THERE'S A BEAR IN THE WOODS:

-- Trump said he would support publicly releasing special counsel Bob Mueller's report. "I don't mind," the president told reporters when asked whether the report should be released. "I mean, frankly, I told the House if you want, let them see it. ... Let it come out. Let people see it." **But he added, "That's up to the**

attorney general. And we'll see what happens.” ([Aaron Blake](#))

-- **The House Judiciary Committee will meet privately today with Felix Sater, who was the point person for the potential construction of Trump Tower Moscow.** [Rachael Bade and Tom Hamburger report](#): Sater “could be asked about whether he was ever instructed to lie or mislead to protect Trump regarding the timing of the 2016 Trump Tower Moscow talks. In early March, the Judiciary Committee asked Sater for any documents related to Trump Tower Moscow as well as to foreign governments participating in or being solicited for business transactions with Trump, his company, his children’s companies or the presidential inaugural committee.”

-- **Trump’s former communications director Hope Hicks intends to provide documents for the House Judiciary investigation into whether the president obstructed justice.** [CNN’s Manu Raju, Jeremy Herb and Kara Scannell report](#): “Rep. Jerry Nadler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, sent Hicks a detailed letter earlier this month, asking for documents on a wide-range of topics ... The request included documents from ‘any personal or work diary, journal or other book containing notes, a record or a description of daily events’ about Trump, the Trump campaign, the Trump Organization and the executive office of the President. ... **While she has agreed to cooperate, it's unclear how much information Hicks will ultimately provide the committee.**”

-- **A lawyer for former Trump campaign adviser Rick Gates said he has been advised by prosecutors not to cooperate with the congressional investigation. “But Gates’ lawyer, Thomas Green, left open the possibility of assisting the panel ‘in the coming**

months," [Politico's Kyle Cheney and Anita Kumar report](#). "The decision to delay immediate cooperation with the Democrat-led investigation comes days after Mueller signaled that Gates is still cooperating in multiple investigations. Gates was a key witness in the Virginia trial of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort last summer."

-- **The House Judiciary panel is also considering sending additional document requests to Trump associates, including Rudy Giuliani.** [The Wall Street Journal's Dustin Volz and Rebecca Ballhaus report](#): "**Other individuals likely to be sent requests include former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Gary Cohn** ... The committee has also expressed interest in reaching out to a former lawyer for Michael Cohen who sought a pardon last year for his client."



FOLLOW THE MONEY:

-- [In an op-ed for today's Washington Post](#), Jared Kushner's father, real estate magnate Charles Kushner, seeks to “set the record straight” about the family's business practices: “In 2007, the Kushner Companies bought 666 Fifth Ave. in New York City for a then-record \$1.8 billion. ... But then came the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. ... Critics and media reports suggested that the Kushner Companies itself was somehow jeopardized by 666 Fifth

Ave. — and that the company had been forced to seek illicit or inappropriate foreign investors. Both narratives are false. ... **[T]rophy assets in New York often appeal to foreign investors — that’s a legal and appropriate stream of funding.”**

-- The president's personal businesses have charged his reelection campaign \$1.3 million for food, rent and other services since he took office, effectively transferring campaign contributions into Trump's own pockets. [Forbes's Dan Alexander reports](#): “In December, Forbes reported on the first \$1.1 million that President Trump moved from his campaign into his business. Since then, his campaign filed additional documentation showing that it spent another \$180,000 at Trump-owned properties in the final three months of 2018. ... **The campaign has paid \$54,000 to Trump Plaza LLC, which controls a property that includes two brownstone apartment buildings in New York City. The reason for those payments, which are listed as 'rent,' remains unclear. ... A person working behind the front desk couldn’t make sense of it ... **Six residents also said they had never seen any indication of the campaign in the buildings. A 2016 campaign staffer, however, said people sometimes crashed at an apartment there when they were in town.”****

-- Cindy Yang, the former massage parlor owner in Florida who has been tangled in the prostitution case against Bob Kraft, denied allegations that she's tried to sell access to Trump or peddle influence at Mar-a-Lago. Democrats have asked the FBI to launch a criminal and counterintelligence investigation into her, but Yang told ABC News that she supports the president because she believes he will “make America great again.” [From Tara Palmeri, Lee](#)

[Ferran and Nery Ynclan](#): **“Yang [said] she is not a Chinese spy or intelligence threat ...** Yang said she is ‘scared’ and feels the Democrats are pushing ‘fake news.’ She said she is Chinese, doesn't speak English well and said she is ‘scared [to] talk.’ ... Yang also said she never sold access to the president or the Trump family, despite a website that advertised access to the president.”

-- In a separate interview with NBC News, Yang claimed that Democrats are scrutinizing her just because she's a Chinese Republican. [Cynthia McFadden, Anna Schechter, Lisa Cavazuti and Rich Schapiro report](#): “Yang added that over her roughly 20 years living in the U.S. she has never had any contact with members of the Chinese government. ... Yang said she sold her spa business roughly seven years ago and no longer has anything to do with the salon that's now at the center of a human trafficking investigation. ... **Yang insisted that no prostitution ever took place at her facilities when she was still operating them.** ... Yang dismissed the allegations that she could be an unwitting agent of the Chinese government. She said she has attended events at Mar-a-Lago and elsewhere to be social and to give to charity. ‘Nothing to do with politics, just like business networking,’ she said.”

-- It wasn't just Yang who touted access to the president and Mar-a-Lago on social media. Royals, felons and pop stars have also shared images from the president's Florida retreat online. [The Palm Beach Post's Christine Stapleton reports](#): “Although the identity of Mar-a-Lago's members is a carefully guarded secret and the Secret Service claims not to keep lists of visitors, a quick search on Instagram for photos geotagged at Mar-a-Lago or with #maralago returns tens of thousands of posts, with

many of the photos taken inside the club. Among those posting: Royals, Russian celebs, hedge-funders, Fox News personalities along with two Brits dubbed the 'Bad Boys of Brexit' who caught the attention of investigators in the U.K. and special counsel Robert Mueller III probing Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election and Brexit vote.”

-- The Republican National Committee listed a financier charged in the prostitution ring bust in its February donors list. Billionaire John Childs made a total donation of \$50,000 to the RNC last month, three days after news broke that he was charged with soliciting prostitution, an accusation he denies. ([Politico](#))

-- Trump still wants Bob Kraft to visit the White House with the Patriots for a Super Bowl celebration party. White House officials said they think this is a bad idea, given the nature of the charges against Kraft, but they believe Trump will invite Kraft regardless of their advice, per [Politico](#).



Then-Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar talks with reporters in 2003 in Minneapolis after former Minnesota Twins play Kirby Puckett was found not guilty in the alleged sexual assault of a woman in a restaurant bathroom. (Bill Alkofer/AP)

GET TO KNOW THE 2020 CANDIDATES:

-- Amy Klobuchar was a tough-on-crime prosecutor. Will a diverse Democratic base accept her record? [Elise Viebeck and Michelle Ye Hee Lee report](#): “Christopher Burns, a 44-year-old black

man, was unarmed and at home in Minneapolis with his fiancée and three young children when the police arrived in response to a domestic violence call. The officers put him in a chokehold, and he died on the scene, according to the medical examiner. The 2002 incident marked the third killing of a black person by the city's police department that year, prompting local activists to stage rallies and demand that the two officers involved in Burns's death face charges. The focus of the community's anger was Klobuchar, the up-and-coming attorney of Hennepin County. ... Klobuchar, then 42, declined to bring charges against the officers, and a grand jury she convened did not indict them.

“As chief prosecutor for Minnesota’s most populous county from 1999 to 2007, Klobuchar declined to bring charges in more than two dozen cases where people were killed in encounters with police. At the same time, she aggressively prosecuted smaller offenses such as vandalism and routinely sought longer-than-recommended sentences, including for minors. Such prosecutions, done with the aim of curbing more serious crimes, have had mixed results and been criticized for their disproportionate effect on poor and minority communities.

“In her first in-depth comments as a presidential candidate about this period of her career, Klobuchar said she reserved her most aggressive actions for repeat offenders. ‘When I first came into the office, the major thing I heard from the African American community, bar none, was that there were a bunch of their kids that were killed by gangsters,’ she said in an interview with The Washington Post. ‘We simply went in and did our jobs.’”

-- In an awkward moment during his CNN town hall last night, former Colorado governor John Hickenlooper recalled going to see the 1972 adult movie “Deep Throat” with his mother. [Fox News’ Joseph A. Wulfsohn reports](#): “Hickenlooper began describing how lonely his mother became after he went off to college because his father had passed away during his childhood. One night he came home from college to a feast of a dinner -- the same night he had promised a friend he’d go see a movie with him. The Democrat then recalled asking his mother if she wanted to join them, which he admitted was a ‘mistake.’ ‘I didn’t know what an X-movie was,’ Hickenlooper said. ‘We thought it was a little naughty, but we didn’t think it was that bad. You have to understand, I was eighteen years old.’”

-- Hickenlooper also said he would not declare a national emergency for gun violence. “I don’t think that that is the purpose of declaring national emergencies,” he said on [CNN](#). “I think what the president has done on the border diminishes our military efforts at creating processes by which you establish what is a national emergency.”



Bernie Sanders visited UCLA and hired an aide who had worked on Hillary Clinton's campaign.
(Richard Vogel/AP)

-- Bernie Sanders hired as his new research director the former Hillary Clinton staffer who built the opposition research book on him four years ago. [New York magazine's Gabriel Debenedetti reports](#): "Tyson Brody, Clinton's deputy research director during the last election cycle, will direct Sanders's research operation. ... Brody,

who worked on Clinton's self-research as well as the Sanders oppo files last cycle, is the first Democrat to go from Clinton's camp to Sanders's 2020 campaign after their bitter primary fight."

-- The Vermont senator visited UCLA during his first visit to California as a 2020 candidate — not for a campaign rally but to speak to union picketers who were demanding better wages from the school. Sanders told union members America is at war against working people and highlighted his longtime support for organized labor. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

-- Bernie announced this morning that his campaign will pay to offset all carbon emissions produced from campaign-related travel to show he's serious about climate change. Last week, he announced this campaign will be the first to unionize.

-- A CNN poll shows that Sanders's popularity has taken a hit among all voter groups. [CNN's Harry Enten reports:](#) "Our new CNN poll puts Sanders favorable rating at 46% compared to an unfavorable rating of 45% among registered voters ... An average of all recent polls put Sanders' net favorability at about -1 points. Compare that to where Sanders was at the end of his 2016 presidential bid. Sanders had a 59% favorable rating to 36% unfavorable rating among all voters in a CNN poll taken in June 2016. ... So, what's changed? I'd argue that Sanders was benefiting from not being in a competitive campaign."

-- Former vice president Joe Biden's advisers are considering packaging his campaign announcement with the promise that he will pick Stacey Abrams as his vice president. [From Axios's Mike Allen:](#) "The decision poses considerable risk, and some advisers are

flatly opposed. Some have pointed out that in a Democratic debate, he could be asked why no one on the stage would be a worthy running mate. Advisers also know that the move would be perceived as a gimmick.”

-- South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who has embraced lefty ideas like court packing and abolishing the electoral college, said slavery reparations are a bridge too far. “I’ve never seen a specific, workable proposal. But what I do think is convincing is the idea that we have to be intentional about addressing or reversing harms and inequities that didn’t just happen on their own,” Buttigieg [said](#) in an interview with Esquire. “The cleanest way I can think of to do it are through policies. ... I’ve just not seen a cash transfer mechanism that’s been laid out that you can envision working that most people would think is fair.”

-- Beto O’Rourke denounced Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying he has “openly sided with racists.” During an appearance at Keene State College in New Hampshire, O’Rourke also said donations from supporters of Israel had not influenced his approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. ([The Intercept](#))

-- A California man was charged with wire fraud and identity theft for allegedly taking \$250,000 from people who thought they were donating to the campaigns of candidates like Sanders and O’Rourke. John Pierre Dupont, who has been repeatedly convicted of fraud and even once escaped from prison while serving time for those crimes, allegedly used the fake campaign donations to purchase a Mercedes-Benz and pay his rent. ([Kayla Epstein](#))

-- The GOP-controlled Senate’s slow start this year points to

challenges that Republicans will face in presenting a policy agenda for 2020. [Paul Kane reports](#): “When senators return Monday night for a vote on a judicial nominee, it will be just their 50th roll call of the year, and with only a couple of other votes likely for the week, the Senate will hit the three-month mark of 2019 about 50 percent behind the pace that [Mitch McConnell] set in early 2017 after [Trump] took office. ... Some GOP strategists are warning that Republicans need a broader agenda on domestic policy issues or else they will remain in the House minority and put their Senate majority in peril next year.”

-- A growing movement among state legislatures to require presidential candidates to release their tax returns could keep Trump’s name off some ballots in 2020. [Kayla Epstein reports](#): “Eighteen states have considered legislation this year that would require presidential and vice presidential candidates to post their tax returns to appear on the ballot during a primary or general election, according to data from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). ... Democratic lawmakers behind some of the legislation have admitted they are ... very much about Trump, which raises legal and political questions about how far states can — or should — go in regulating who appears on their ballot, especially in a hyperpartisan climate.”

-- Former Tallahassee mayor Andrew Gillum is not running for president, but he promises to do all he can to help Democrats carry Florida in 2020. [The Times’s Astead Herndon reports that Gillum](#) wants to build a voter mobilization network in Florida to support the eventual nominee. “Florida is tired of being a cheap date. You can’t just come in when it’s a presidential election and we’ve got

a nominee and then do a few months of organizing,” he said. “And having just come from two years on the campaign trail, and having looked very critically at my own race, there’s some things I learned that I recognize that we can do better at. ... Given the migration patterns in our state, and given the challenges we have around producing an electorate that’s favorable to Democrats to get out and vote — we’ve got to put more people in the game.”

-- Gillum's goal is to register 1 million new Democratic voters in Florida. “We’ve got over 3 million people eligible to vote, and that’s to say nothing of the 1.4 million returning citizens,” [he told Politico](#), referring to the former felons in line to have their voting rights restored under an amendment approved by Florida voters last year.



Lachlan and Sarah Murdoch attend last month's Vanity Fair Oscar party in Beverly Hills. (Dia Dipasupil/Getty Images)

THE PRESIDENT'S FAVORITE CHANNEL:

-- Lachlan Murdoch is now the leader of the newly formed Fox Corp. but, unlike his father, he doesn't have a close relationship with Trump. He's never even spoken to him on the phone. [Sarah Ellison reports](#): "Without its legacy film and television business, Fox

Corp.'s most-high-profile division is Fox News, which is in a symbiotic relationship with the president of the United States. That relationship is already challenging Lachlan to deal with what one Hollywood executive called 'the elephant in the room' for Fox — the toxic identity of Fox News in a mostly liberal entertainment industry.” Fox News staffers fear the younger Murdoch is less loyal to the network than his father while the opinionated, Trump-supporting faction of the company is already testing his authority. **Lachlan, however, is “politically conservative and defends Fox News even as his left-leaning brother James privately professes embarrassment about the channel.** Lachlan has told colleagues that a news operation, be it Fox News or the Wall Street Journal, can hew to political principles, but it should not rely on loyalty to a single politician.”

-- **[“Donna Brazile Explains Why She’s Working for Fox News,”](#)** by the New Yorker's Isaac Chotiner: “On Monday, Brazile announced that she would be joining Fox News as a contributor, writing, in a piece on the network’s Web site, that she is ‘excited to join the honest and passionate debate at Fox News about our future.’ She described the decision as ‘rooted in the belief that you cannot make progress, let alone reach compromise, without first listening to, and understanding those who disagree with you on critical issues.’”

-- **Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) sued Twitter over an account pretending to be an imaginary cow of his and now the fake bovine has more followers than him.** The parody account, @DevinCow, only had 1,200 followers when Nunes brought attention to it. Now it has more than 500,000. He discussed his suit with Sean Hannity on Fox News. ([New York Times](#))



National security adviser John Bolton prepares for an interview at the White House. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- Following the example of Donald Trump Jr., national security adviser John Bolton used British media to criticize British lawmakers for how they've handled Brexit. [Anne Gearan reports](#): "Bolton gave an interview to British broadcaster Sky News, accusing

political leaders in London of failing voters who chose more than two years ago to quit the European Union and its collective trade policy. Bolton dangled a separate trade deal between Britain and the United States once Britain rids itself of the E.U., saying 'we are ready to go.' The commentary from members of Trump's inner circle was an extraordinary departure from the diplomatic norm, in which close allies such as the United States and Britain are careful not to appear to be meddling in each other's business."

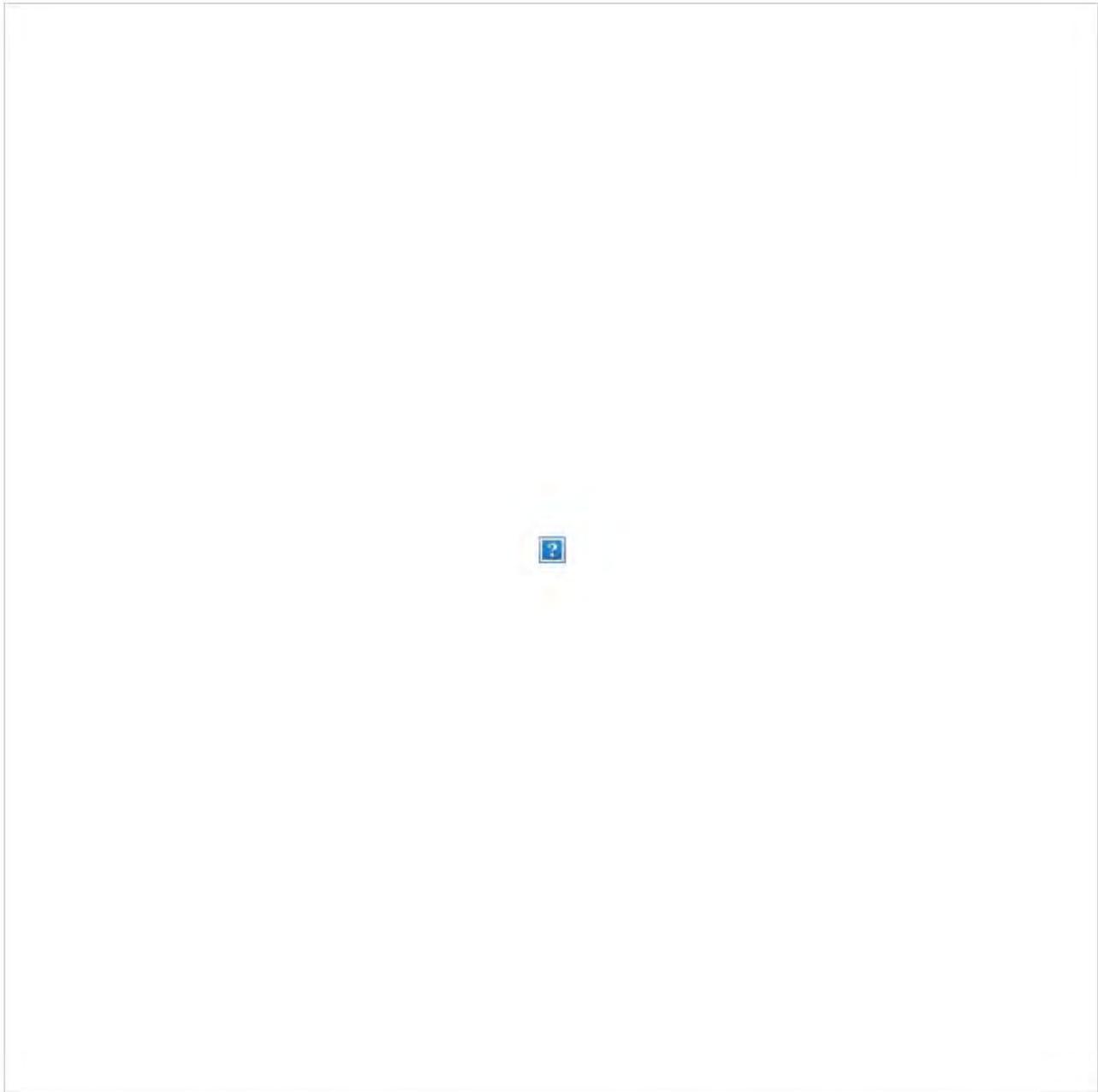
-- British Prime Minister Theresa May's request for a three-month delay on Brexit once again illustrated how she has been left with few allies in the struggle to reach an agreement on exiting the European Union. [Dan Balz writes](#): "May has absorbed the criticism from all sides. She is pummeled on editorial pages and by members of her own party, even her own cabinet. In other times, her government probably would have fallen. Still she has soldiered on, unwilling to admit ultimate defeat, unwilling to step aside, constantly scratching and clawing for more time and more tweaks to an exit agreement in the hope of gaining a majority vote before the deadline."

-- Trump said he would not immediately lift tariffs against Chinese goods, even if a trade deal is reached, to ensure Beijing "lives by the deal." [Damian Paletta and Felicia Sonmez report](#): "His comments came as talks between the two countries have reached a critical stage. They raise the prospect that the tariffs could remain in place for years, as it could take a long time to determine whether China is complying with new rules. Some White House officials had hoped that Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping would be able to meet and ratify a sweeping new trade deal later this month. But

negotiations have bogged down amid a dispute over what would happen if China did not abide by the terms of any new deal.”

-- Trump will host Netanyahu at the White House next week. The Israeli leader is traveling to Washington to attend AIPAC’s annual policy conference, a visit that comes as Netanyahu faces a difficult reelection bid next month and allegations of corruption. [John Wagner notes](#): “During a 2015 visit by Netanyahu to Washington to address a joint session of Congress, then-President Barack Obama declined to meet with him ahead of an Israeli election. A spokesman cited a long-standing policy of avoiding the appearance of influencing a democratic election in a foreign country.”

-- During a visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Netanyahu again pressed the U.S. to recognize Israeli sovereignty over most of the Golan Heights. [The Times’s Edward Wong reports](#): “There are recent signs that the Trump administration could be moving in Mr. Netanyahu’s direction. An annual human rights report released last Wednesday by the State Department used the phrase ‘Israeli-controlled’ rather than ‘Israeli-occupied’ to describe the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza, counter to the tradition. The Trump administration has also pushed back against United Nations condemnations of Israel’s occupation. ... Mr. Netanyahu could press the issue of the Golan Heights with Mr. Trump when he meets with him on Monday and Tuesday. Any big gesture by Mr. Trump could help Mr. Netanyahu in his bid for a fifth term.”



A mother and her son talk with U.S. Border Patrol agents to seek asylum after crossing the Rio Grande in El Paso on Tuesday. (Paul Ratje/AFP/Getty Images)

THE IMMIGRATION WARS:

-- Border Patrol facilities in Texas are overflowing, forcing authorities to release migrants onto the streets of border cities. [The Times's Manny Fernandez and Mitchell Ferman report:](#) "They're as stressed as we are,' Jim Darling, mayor of the South Texas border

city of McAllen, said of Border Patrol officials. The officials have released more than 2,200 people from government processing facilities in the Rio Grande Valley since Monday, setting aside once again the Trump administration's vow to end what it calls 'catch and release' of those who cross the border without authorization. ... The primary migrant-services facility in the region, a former nursing home in McAllen now used by Catholic Charities as an immigrant respite center, is already reaching capacity, with nearly every inch of the low-slung red-brick building occupied. ... In El Paso, the sudden release of about 150 migrants on Tuesday set in motion a flurry to try to accommodate them."

-- The Trump administration is expanding its controversial Migrant Protection Protocols policy that makes asylum seekers wait for their immigration court hearing in Mexico. [BuzzFeed's Hamed Aleaziz reports](#): "The expansion of the policy ... represents the administration's latest move to dissuade asylum-seekers by instituting sweeping policy changes. Already, the administration has rolled out the policy along other portions of the southwestern border, including in the San Diego region and the Calexico port of entry. The rollout comes just two days before a federal court judge in San Francisco is set to hear an ACLU request to block the policy from continuing to be enforced. Returns of migrants back to Mexico are expected to begin later this week at the El Paso port of entry, according to a Department of Homeland Security official."

-- A new report by the American Civil Liberties Union found that more than 80 U.S. citizens have been wrongfully targeted for detention and deportation by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement officials at a Miami jail. [From the Orlando Sentinel's](#)

[Bianca Padro Ocasio](#): “The agency then issues notices, known as ‘detainers,’ to jails indicating that ICE is interested in taking custody of a local inmate they believe to be in the country illegally. Local jails choose whether to honor the detainer by holding the inmate for 48 hours after the inmate has served his or her time for local criminal charges. ... The ACLU identified 420 cases between February 2017 and February 2019 in which ICE issued detainers for people who were listed in jail records as U.S. citizens. In 83 cases, ICE later canceled its request for the person to be held — likely because they had been determined to be citizens, the ACLU argues.”

-- The United States denied visas to dozens of women from Africa and Middle Eastern nations affected by Trump’s travel ban who planned to attend a major United Nations conference in New York. [BuzzFeed’s Nishita Jha reports](#): “The US is obliged under a 70-year-old treaty to not restrict people or NGOs from attending the UN headquarters. In protest, women’s rights campaigners are petitioning the US Mission to the UN to streamline visa procedures for those traveling to the UN. ... The International Service for Human Rights, a UN-affiliated organization, said it was aware of at least 41 women who have been denied visas to attend the conference this year — but this figure is said to be only ‘the tip of the iceberg’ and likely to increase.”

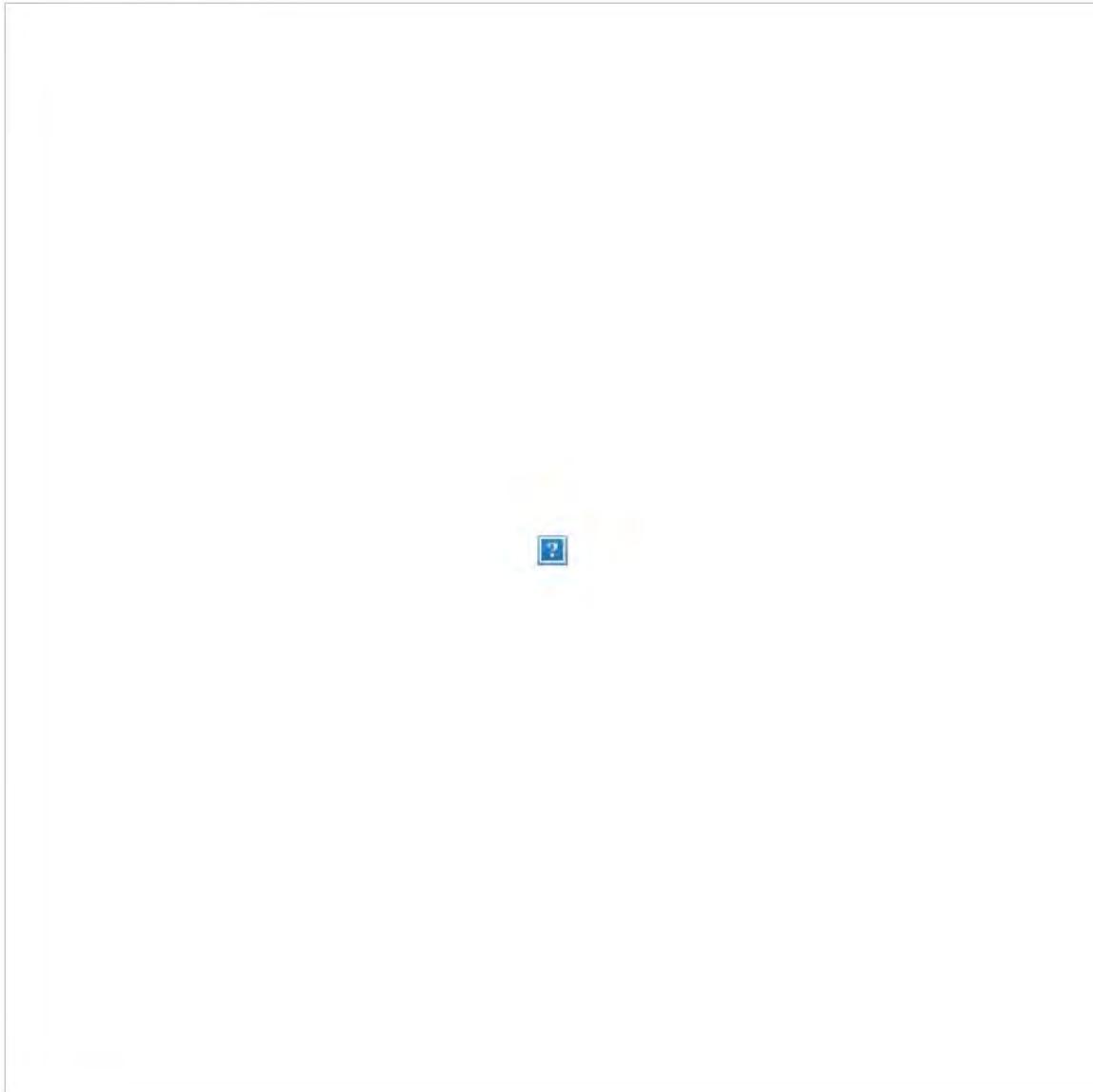
-- A new poll shows most Americans want immigration to stay the same. Recently released data collected in 2018 by the General Social Survey shows that 34 percent of Americans want immigration levels to be reduced, down from 41 percent in 2016, while 23 percent of Americans want more immigration, up from 16 percent in 2016.

Forty-one percent of Americans say they want immigration

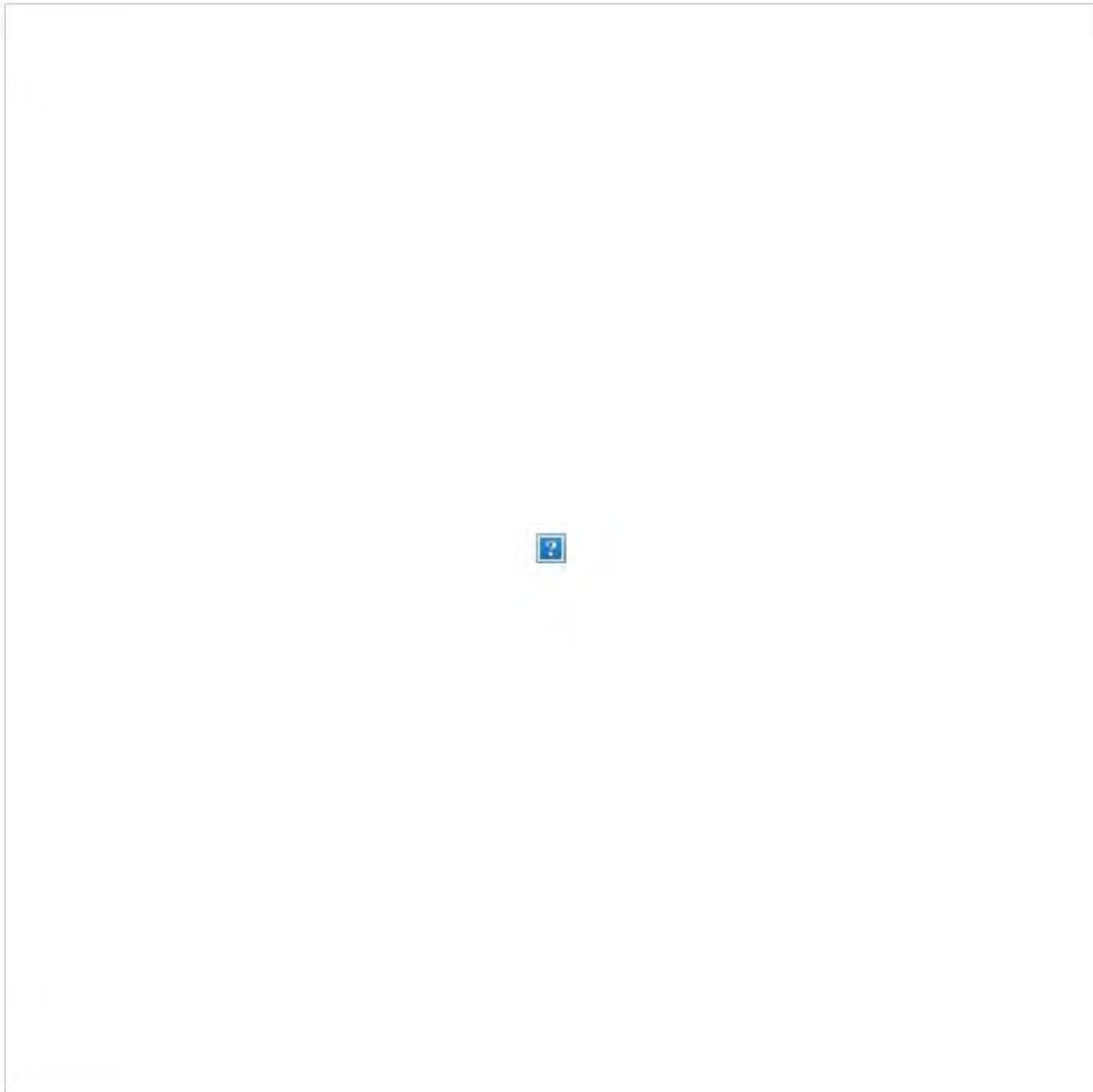
levels to stay the same. ([AP](#))

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

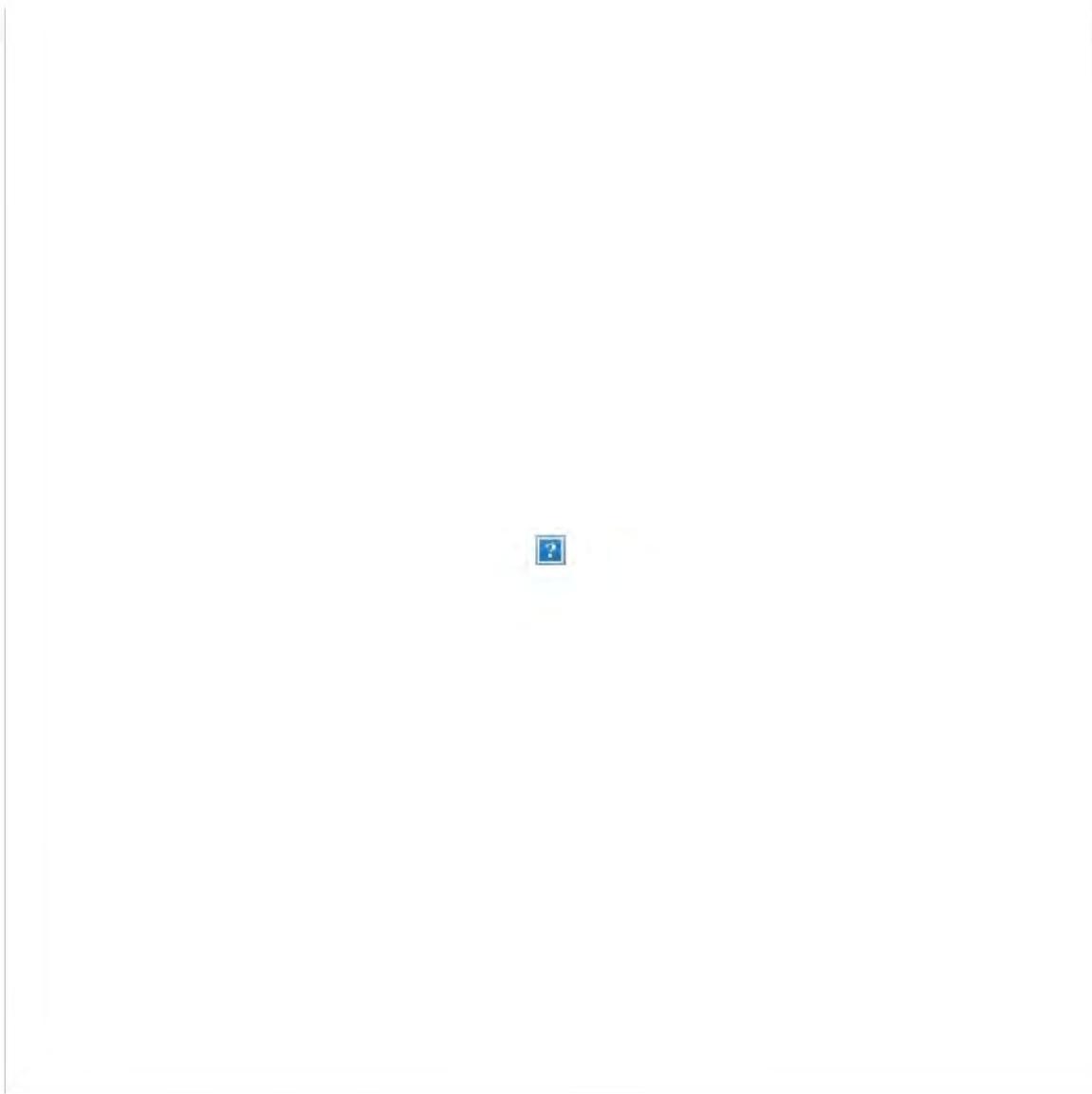
A Post reporter posed this question amid Trump's escalating feud with George Conway:



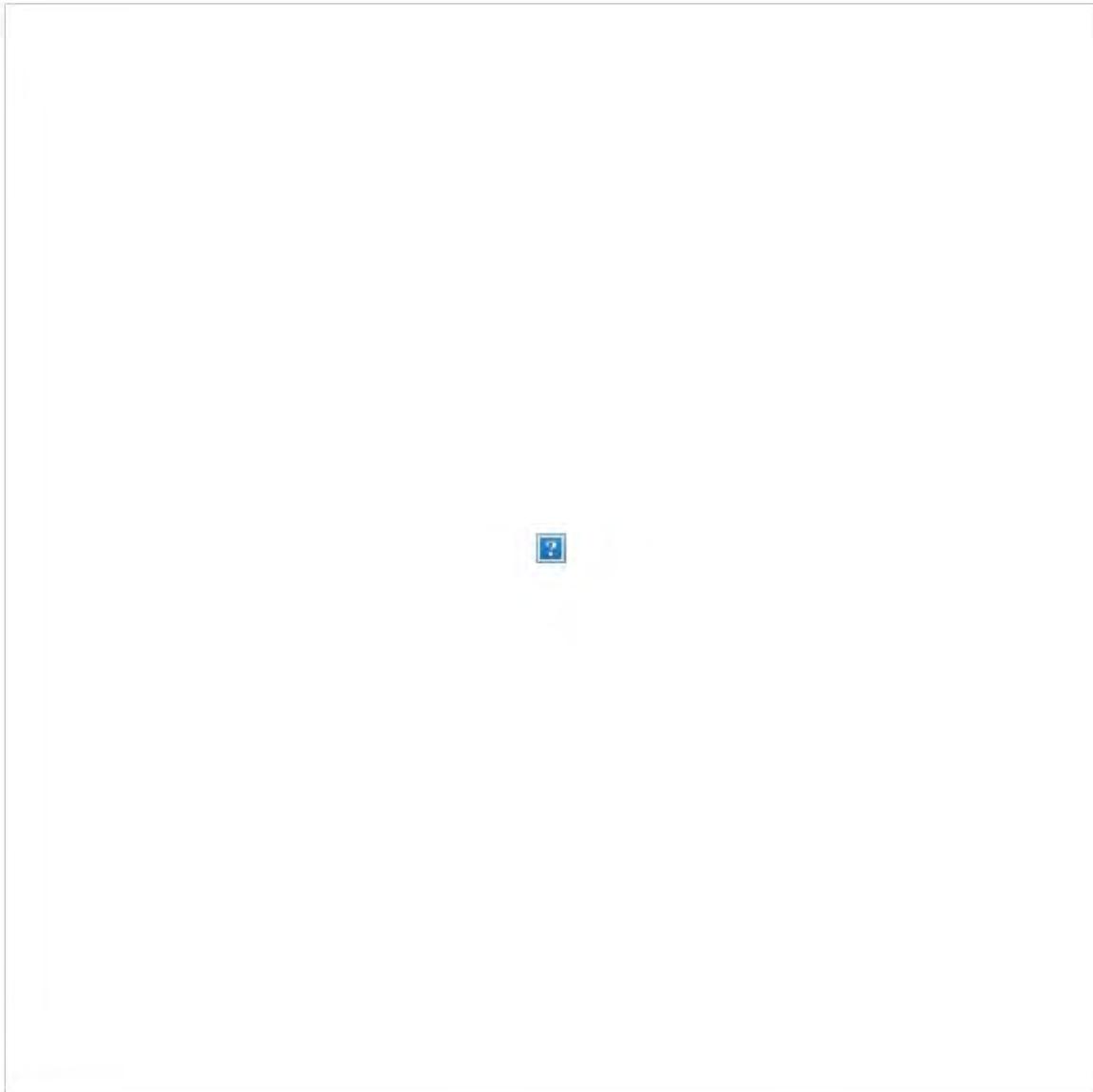
Conway responded with a dig at Trump's alleged ties to Michael Cohen's legal troubles:



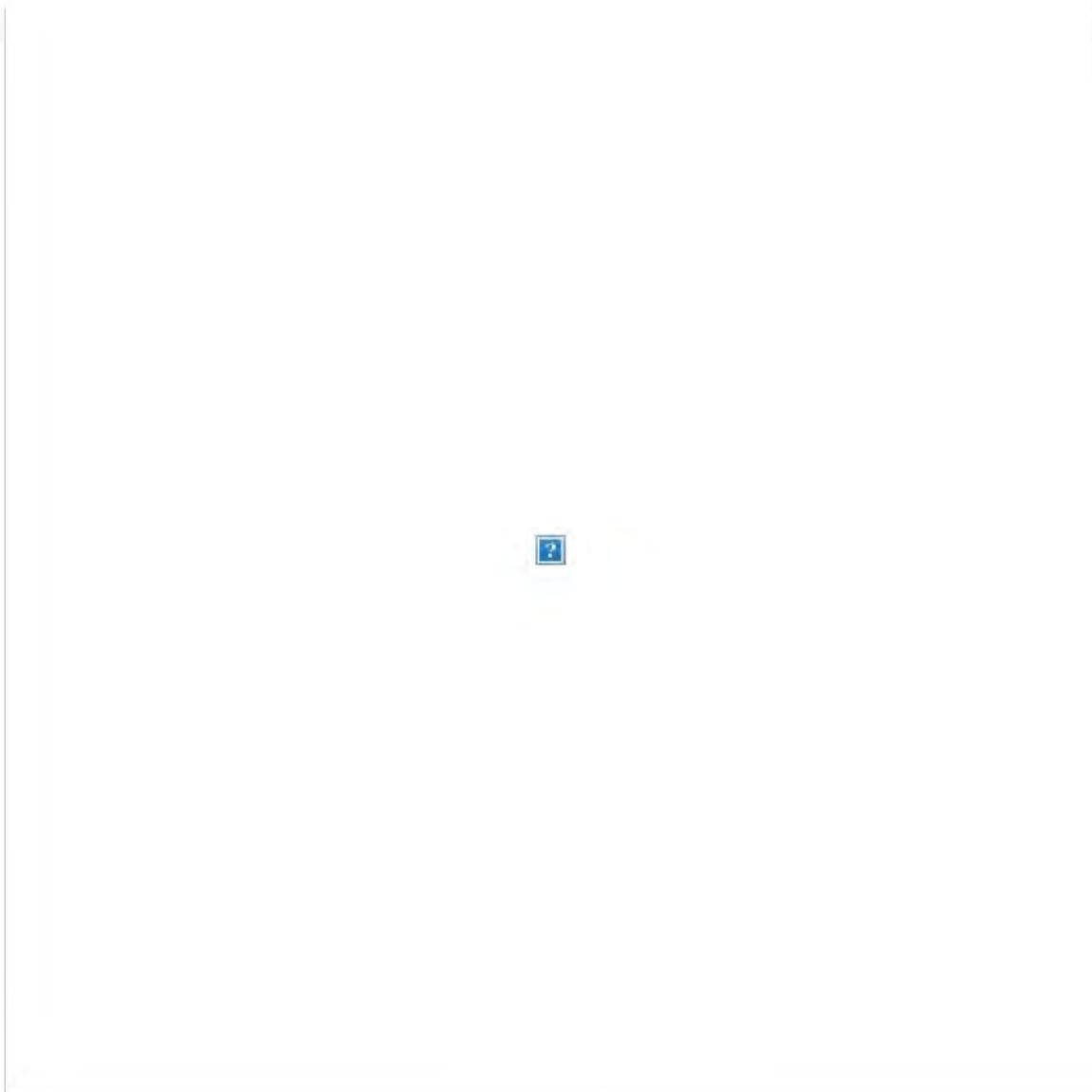
A Post reporter who recently spoke to George Conway contradicted the president's claim that the two don't know each other:



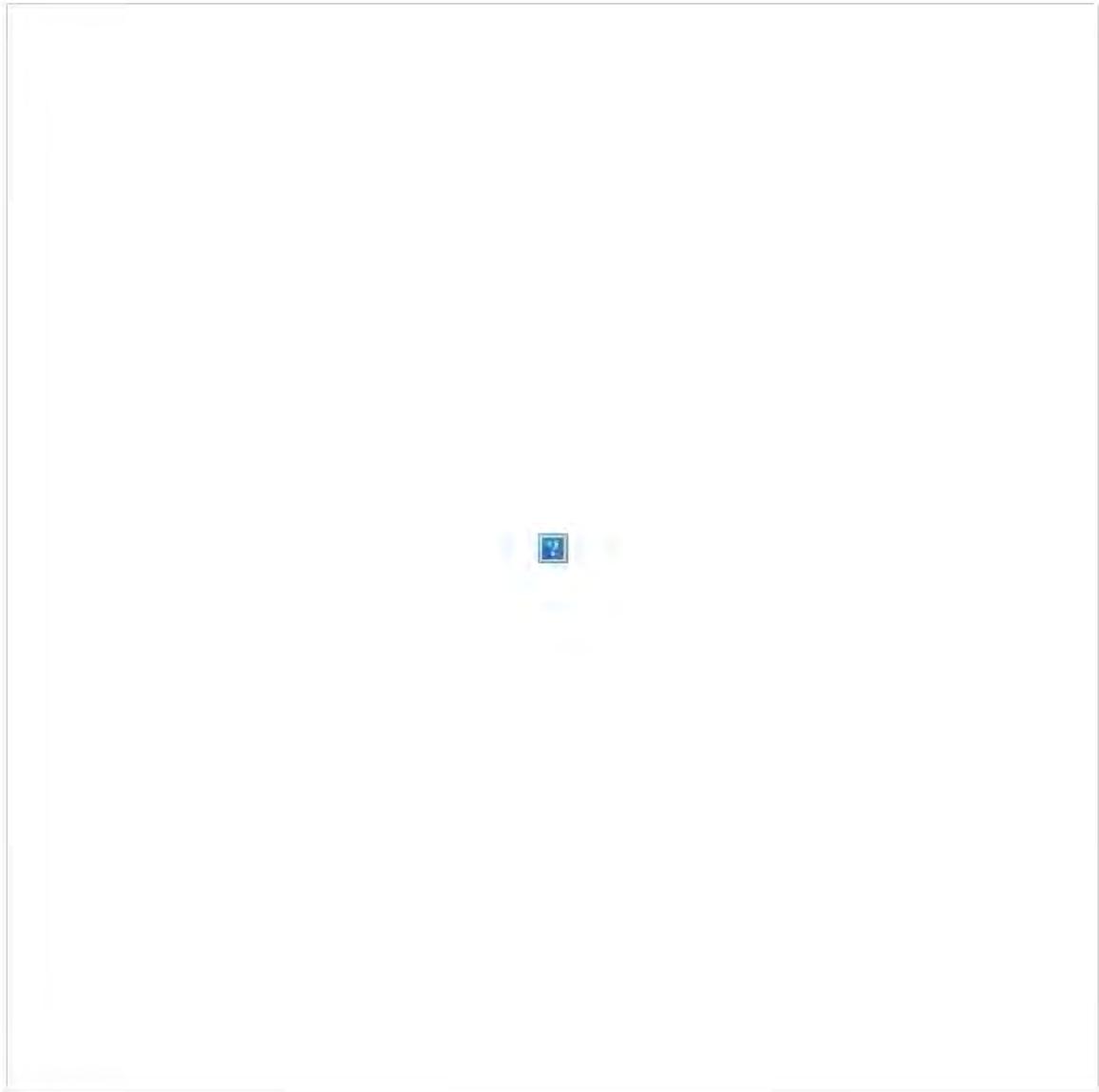
A Daily Beast columnist reflected on the very public family tension:



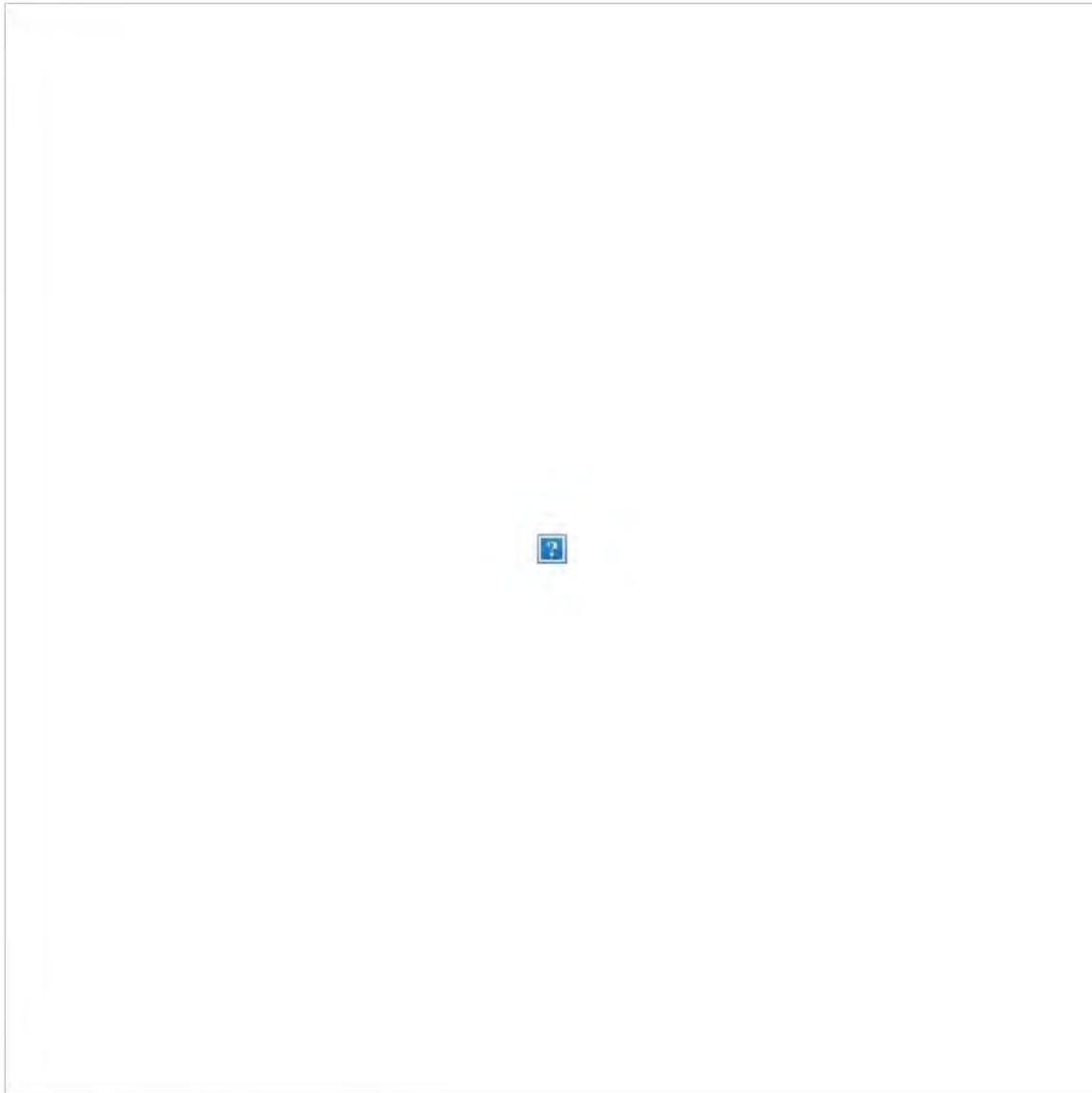
The Senate minority leader brought up this issue again in the wake of Trump's latest insults against John McCain:



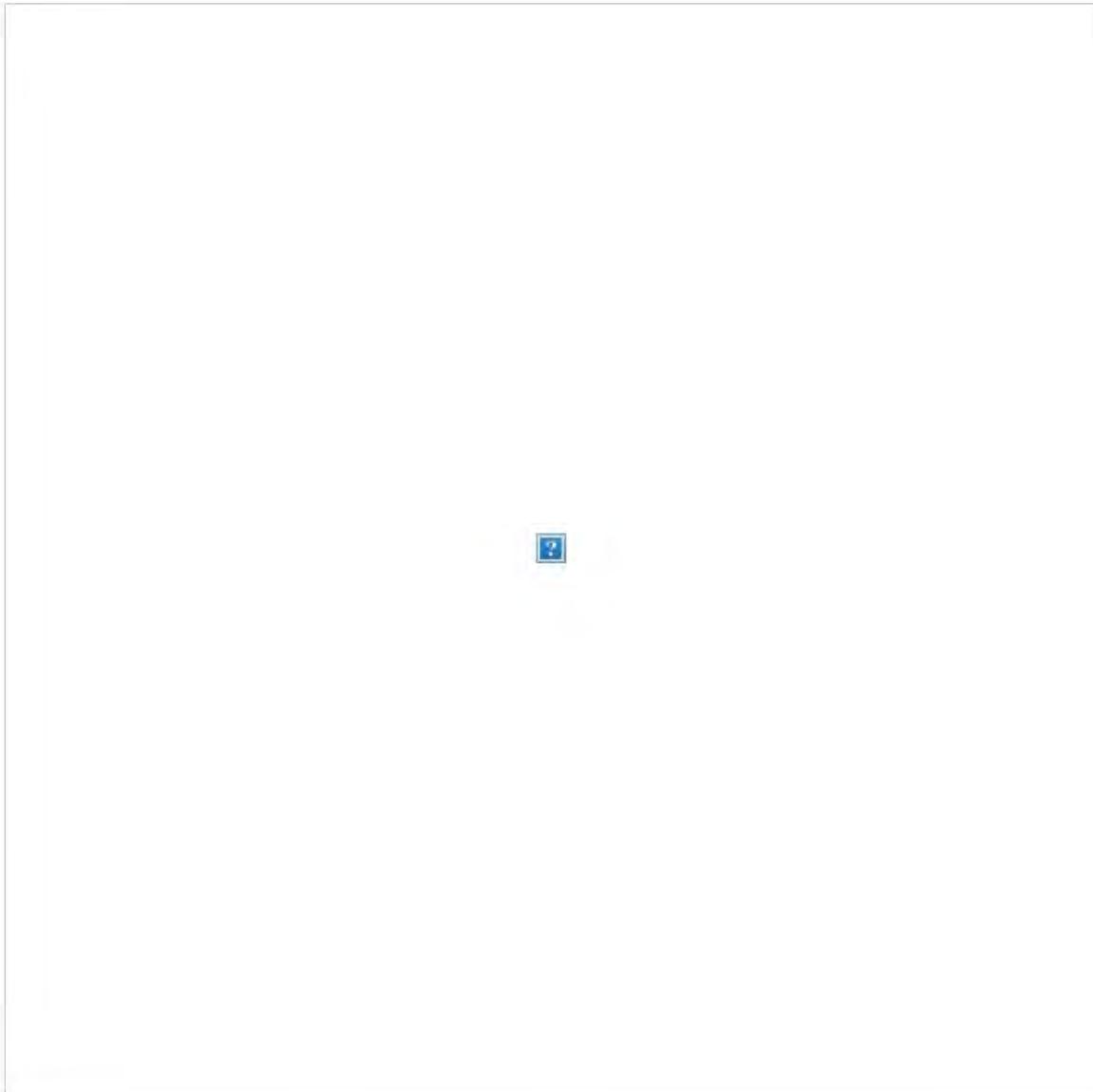
A Post reporter corrected Trump's assertion about McCain's funeral:



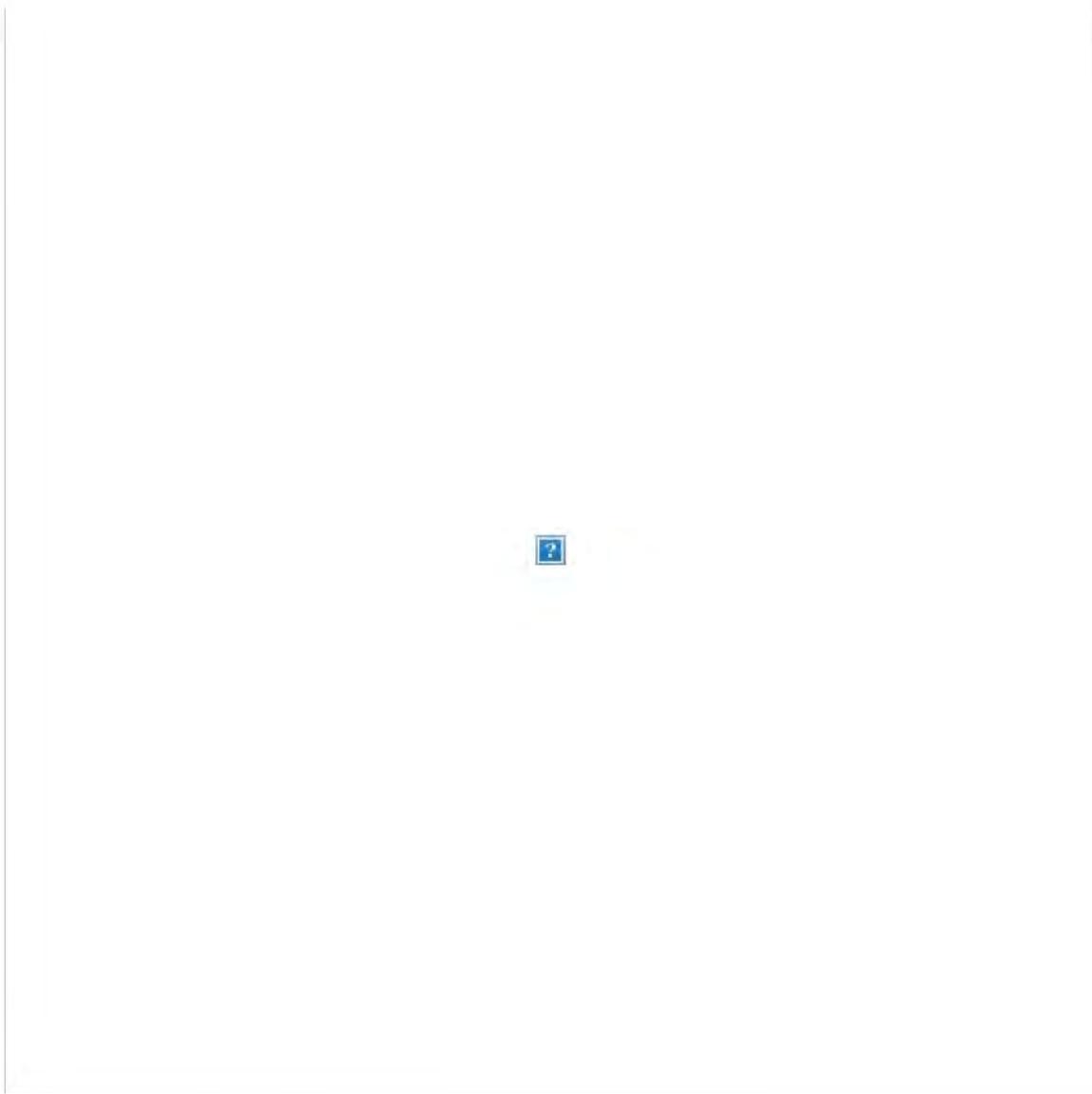
A New York Times reporter noted this from Trump's trip to Ohio:



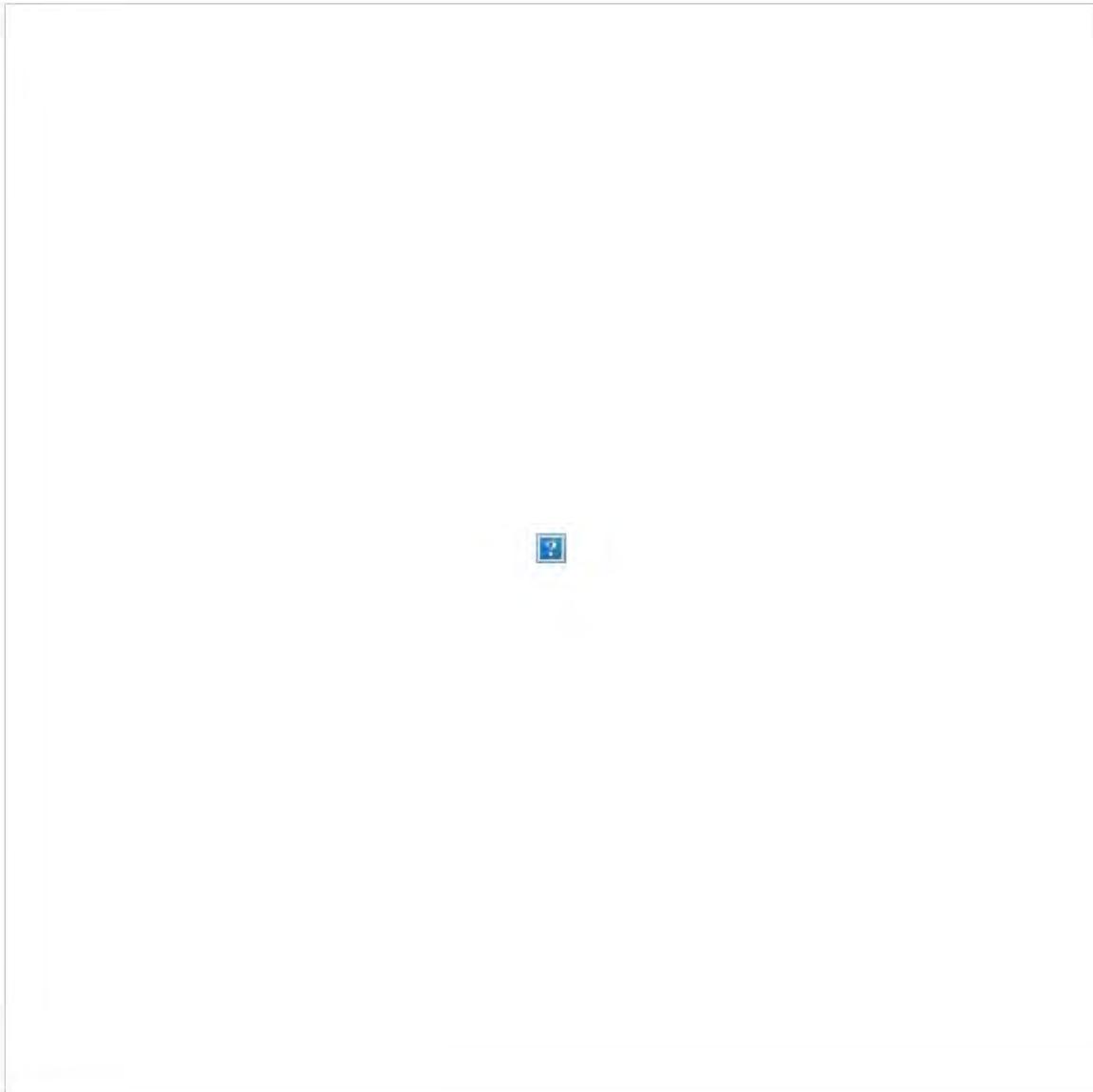
A CNN host shared this text:



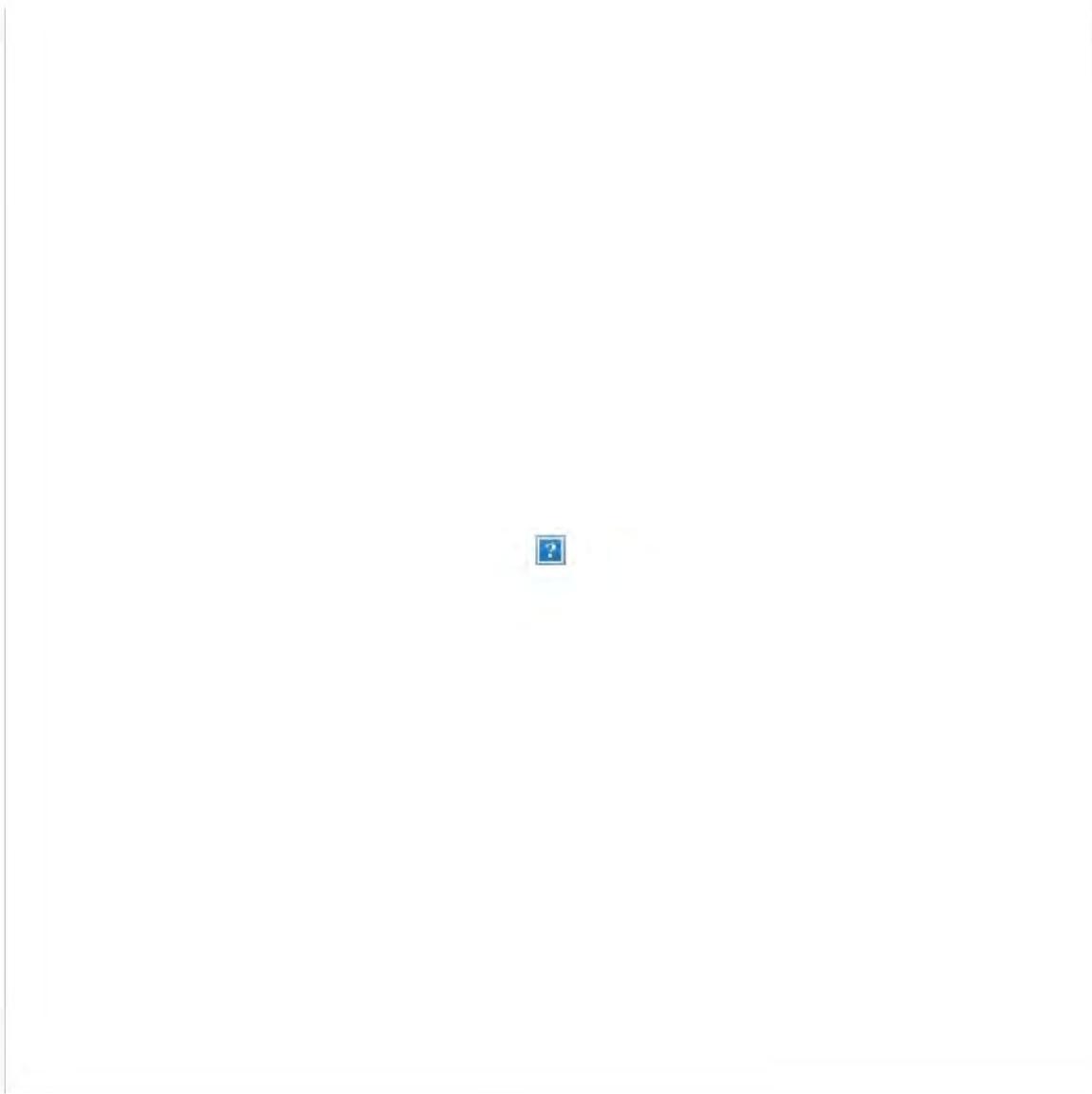
A Post editor captured the state of affairs on the Mueller investigation:



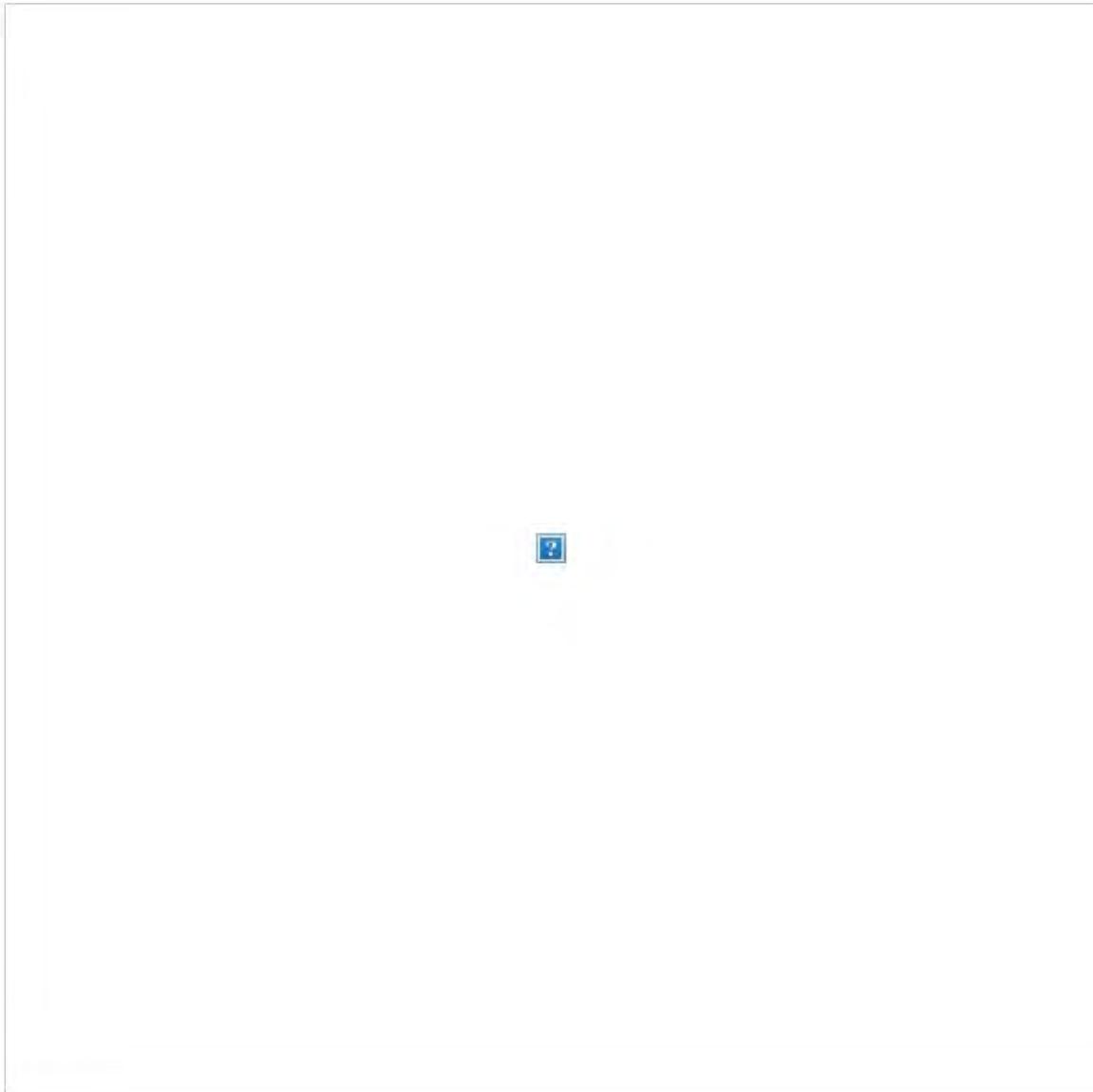
George W. Bush's press secretary defended the administration's decision to enter Iraq:



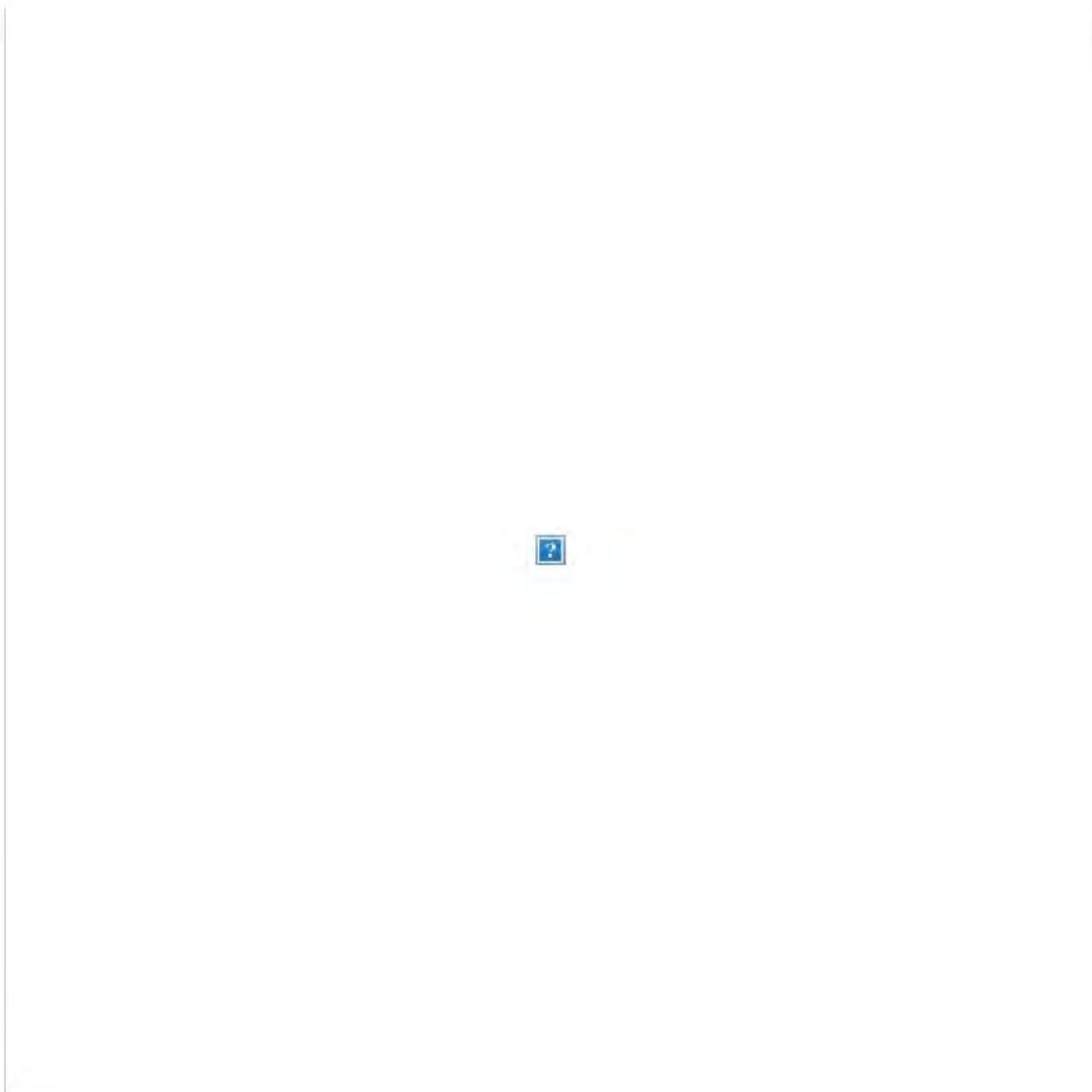
A former CIA analyst replied:



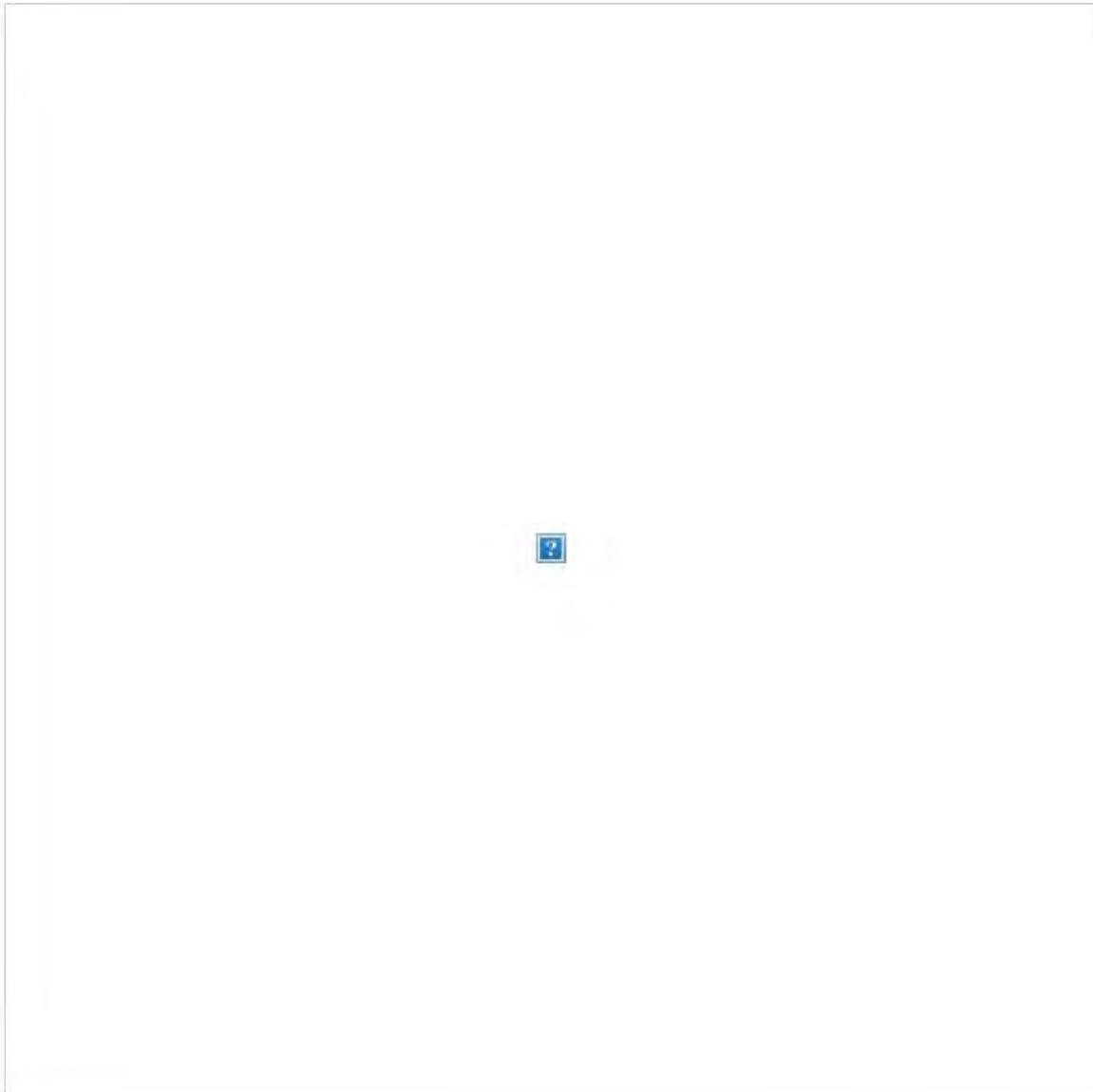
Meanwhile, Bush scored a hole in one:



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) returned to Iowa, where one of her previous campaign stops [was interrupted](#) by a college student who was “on a mission” for ranch dressing:



The host of “Morning Joe” gushed about Mayor Pete Buttigieg:



And the National Weather Service shared a little science lesson:



HOT ON THE LEFT:

“Bevin exposed his 9 kids to chickenpox, says vaccine not for everyone,” from [the Louisville Courier Journal](#): “In a move experts say is medically unsound — and can be

HOT ON THE RIGHT:

“Support for impeachment falls among Democrats,” from [CNN](#): “Support for impeaching [Trump] has fallen 7 points since December, a CNN Poll conducted by SSRS finds ... The decline — from

dangerous — Gov. Matt Bevin [R] said in a radio interview Tuesday that he deliberately exposed all nine of his children to chickenpox so they would catch the disease and become immune. ‘Every single one of my kids had the chickenpox,’ Bevin said in an interview with WKCT, a Bowling Green talk radio station. ‘They got the chickenpox on purpose because we found a neighbor that had it and I went and made sure every one of my kids was exposed to it, and they got it. They had it as children. They were miserable for a few days, and they all turned out fine.’ Three medical experts called the practice unsafe and unwise.”

43% in favor in December to 36% now — stems largely from a change in Democratic views on impeaching the President. In December, 80% of self-identified Democrats said they were in favor of impeachment — that now stands at 68%, a 12-point dip. ... The only major subgroup among which the decline was larger than among Democrats is college graduates: 50% backed impeachment in December, 35% do so now. Combining the two to look at Democrats with college degrees, support for impeachment fell 17 points from 79% in December to 62% now.”

DAYBOOK:

Trump will participate in a business roundtable and later sign an executive order.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) was asked during a town hall whether he considers white society superior to nonwhite society. “I don’t have an answer for that,” King replied. “That’s so hypothetical.” ([Eugene Scott](#))

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

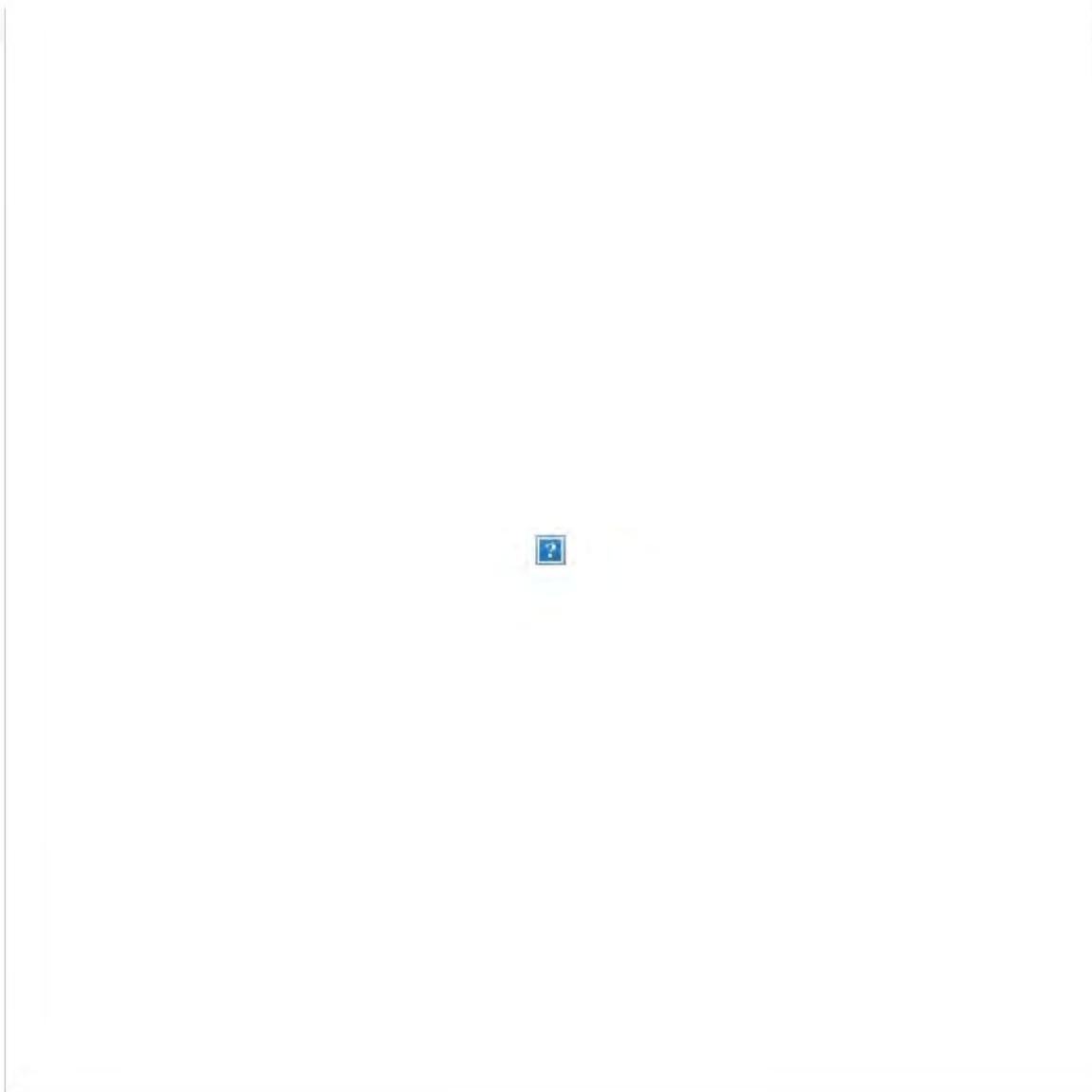
- **Don’t forget your umbrella because it will be soaking wet today and a flood watch is in effect.** [The Capital Weather Gang forecasts](#): “Today’s storm strengthens quickly, keeping rain going into the evening. Once we are through the wash cycle, the back side of this storm spins up some pretty gusty winds for Friday. And this strong cold surge behind the storm is likely to set off a few more scattered showers Friday afternoon. The weekend is not a loss, with plenty of sun and finally some warmth Sunday.”
- **The Wizards lost 126-120 in overtime to the Bulls.** ([Candace Buckner](#))
- **The Capitals fell to the Lightning 5-4.** ([Isabelle Khurshudyan](#))

-- Starbucks will debut its new, straw-free lids in six markets, including D.C., this summer. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

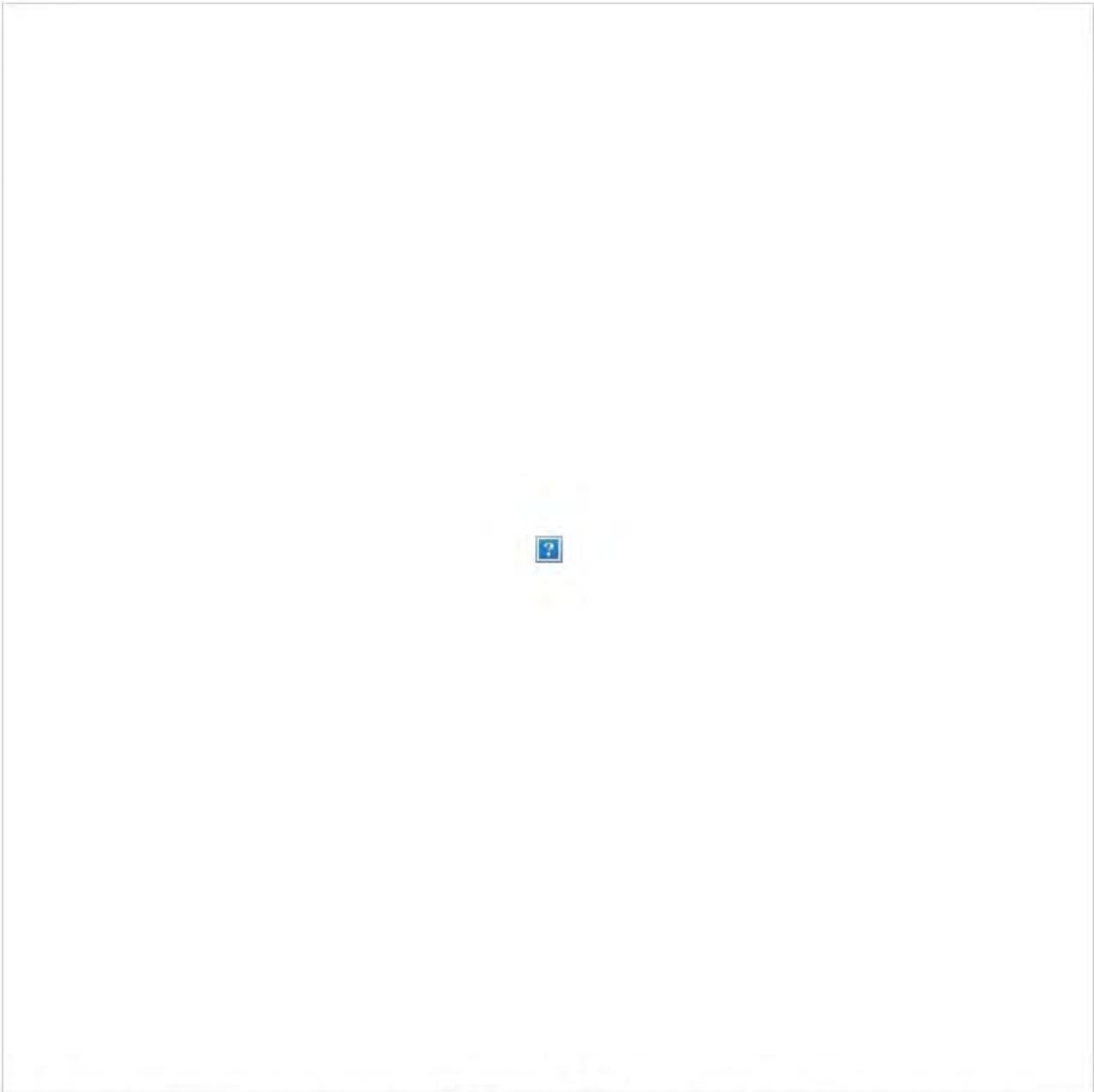
-- The Fairfax County schools system has launched a review of its seclusion and restraint procedures, following a report that use of the controversial practices is underreported. [Debbie Truong reports](#): “The practices have resulted in injury and, in the most severe cases, death, according to a 2009 federal study that examined the measures dating to 1990. Last year, The Washington Post reported instances of seclusion in Loudoun County Public Schools that parents say endangered their children. The Virginia Department of Education reviewed the Loudoun system’s seclusion and restraint policies and found 'no evidence of systemic failure' to comply with those guidelines ... Parents maintained that the treatment their children were subjected to in Loudoun was indefensible.”

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Former Colorado governor John Hickenlooper offered this head-scratching answer during last night's CNN town hall:



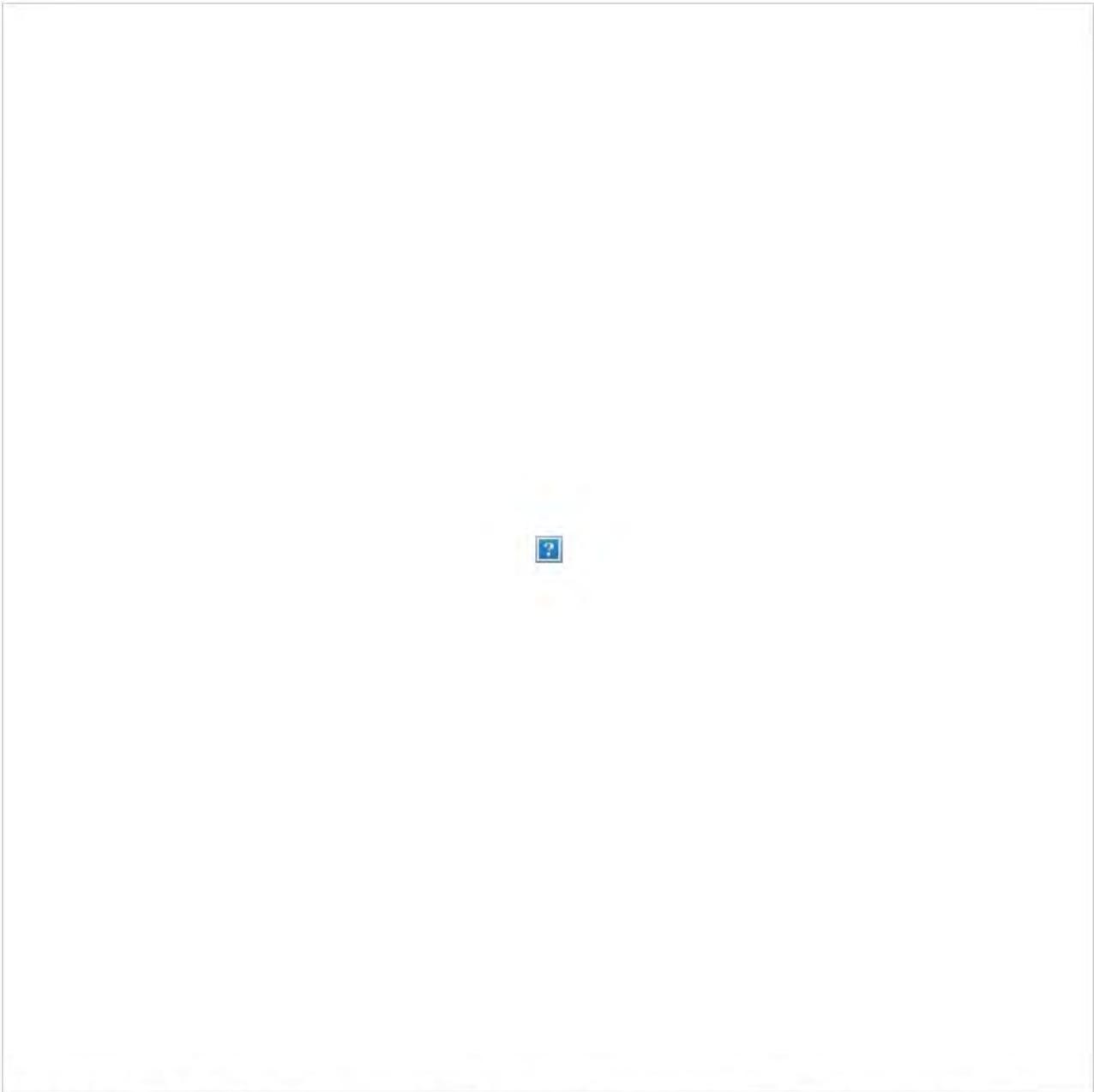
Samantha Bee introduced a new game for the 2020 race, "Guess Who's Running?":



She also reminded viewers that the Muslim ban is still happening:



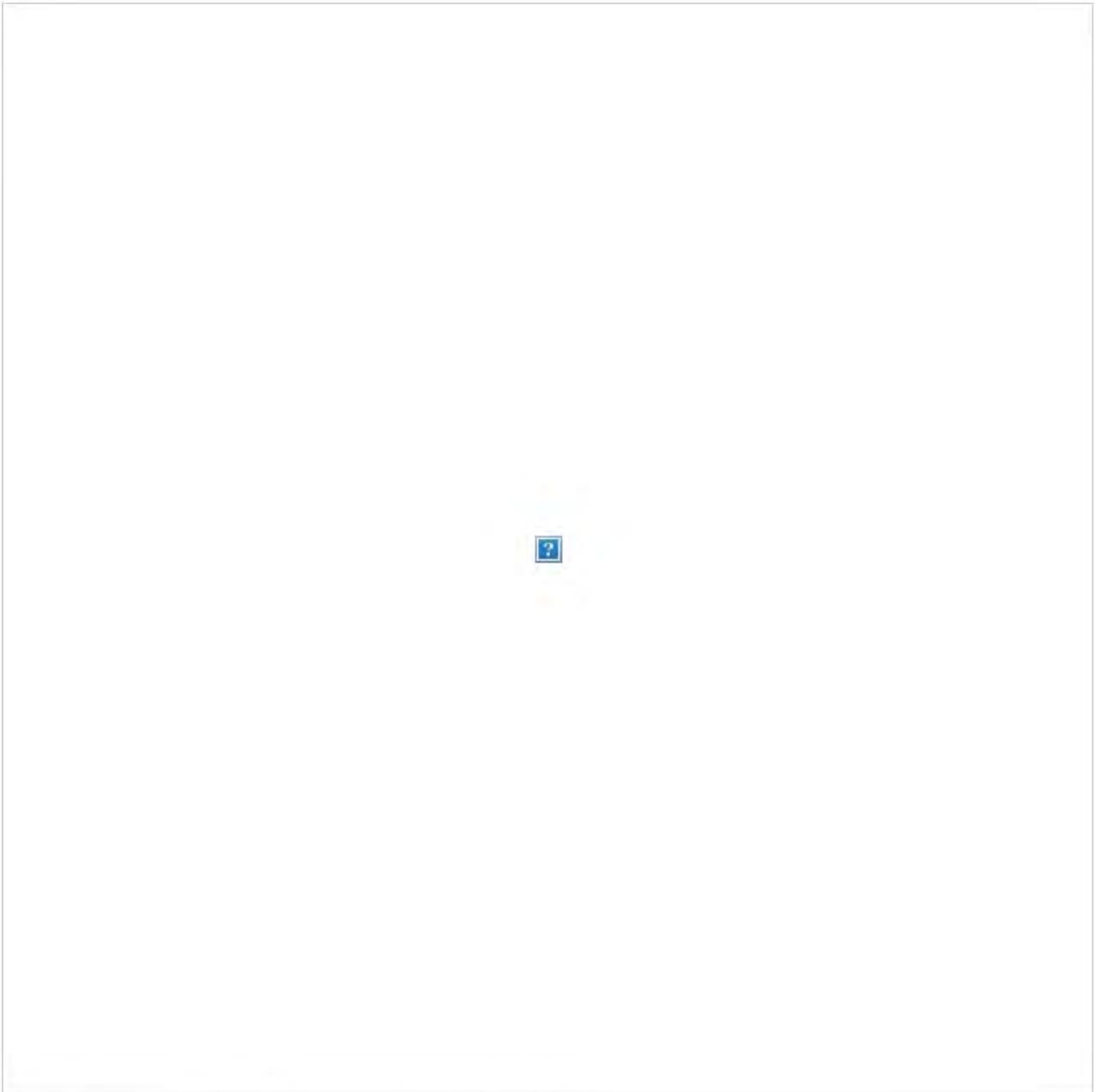
Trevor Noah checked in on Trump's fight with George Conway:



Hasan Minhaj thinks parents who paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to get their children into USC got scammed:



Trump showed a map to reporters to make the argument that his administration has defeated the Islamic State:



Trump claims credit for ISIS's territorial losses in Syria

Fox News contributor Katie Pavlich [sparked outrage](#) with comments about slavery:



[Meagan Flynn reports](#): “Pavlich later tweeted a further explanation for her comments, saying she misspoke. She meant to say that America was ‘one of’ the first countries to end slavery within 150 years ‘from the point of its founding.’ ‘My argument stands,’ she said in response to journalist Soledad O’Brien, who called her a ‘complete moron.’”

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Law.com Afternoon Update

From: Law.com Afternoon Update
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Pandya, Brian (OASG)
Subject: Incoming Batch of Law Deans Is More Diverse Than Ever

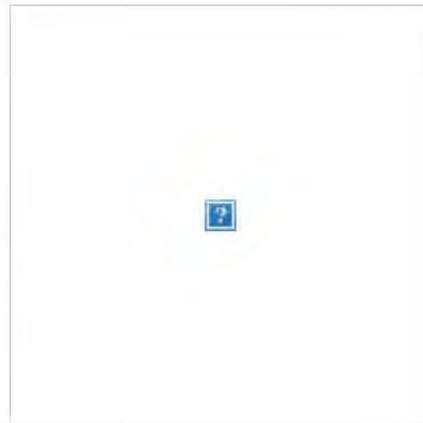


DIVERSITY | NEWS

Incoming Batch of Law Deans Is More Diverse Than Ever

By Karen Sloan

The number of women and minorities stepping into law dean roles this summer is on track to outpace the number of white men taking on those top administrative positions. [Read More](#)



Senior DOJ Appellate Lawyer Jumps to US House General Counsel's Office

CIVIL APPEALS | NEWS

Hogan Lovells partners Neal Katyal and Sean Marotta have signed on to represent a Colorado company trying to recover industrial hemp that Idaho police seized as contraband in January.

[Read More](#)

By Cheryl Miller

Hogan Lovells Joins Ninth Circuit Fight Over Seized Hemp

CIVIL APPEALS | NEWS

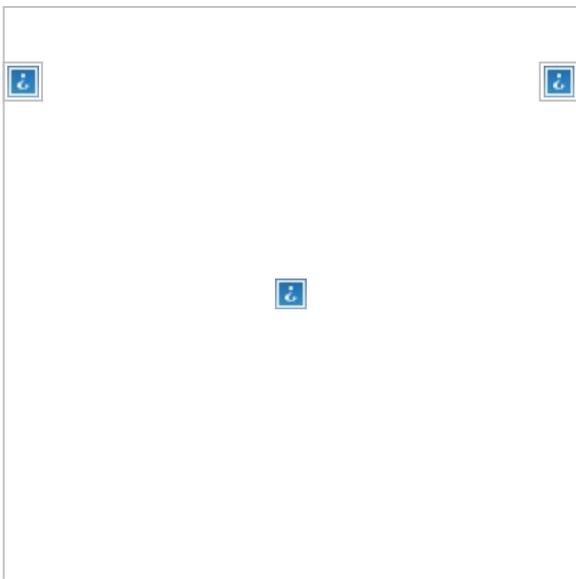
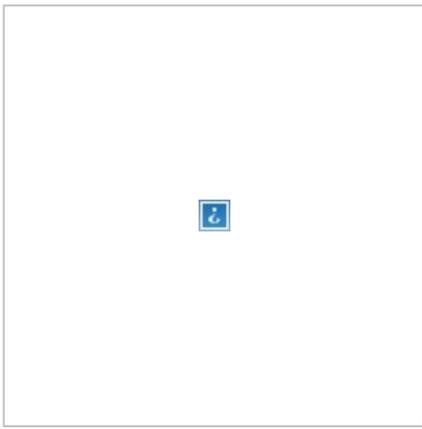
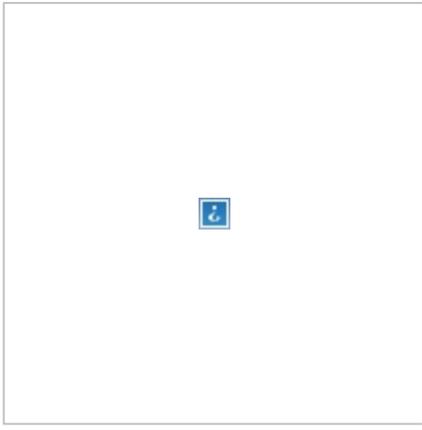
Venable has brought over Kelley Dye & Warren's Los Angeles entertainment and media group.

[Read More](#)

By Xiumei Dong

Venable Nabs Nine-Lawyer Team From Kelley Dye in LA

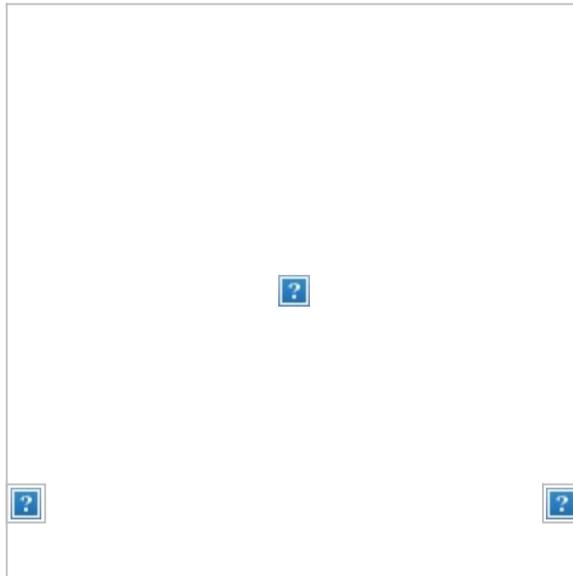
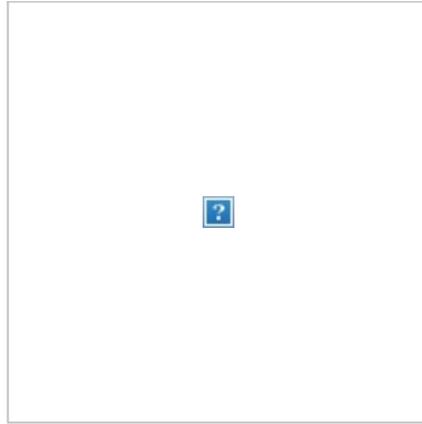
LAW FIRM HIRING



By C. Ryan Barber

Megan Barbero joined General Counsel Douglas Letter's office this month as an associate general counsel, after spending five years with the Justice Department's civil appellate team.

[Read More](#)



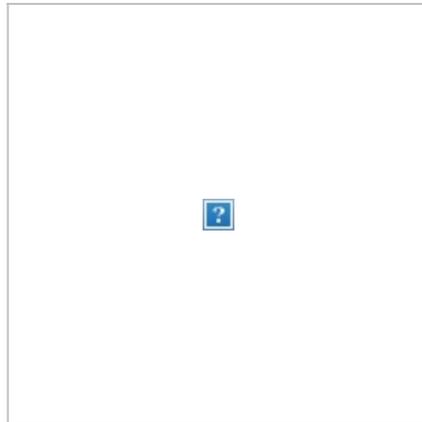
GENERAL COUNSEL AND IN HOUSE COUNSEL | NEWS

Growing Restaurant Group Serves Up Longtime Jones Day Litigator as General Counsel

By Kristen Rasmussen

Jacqueline “Jaci Lee was promoted to general counsel at Flynn Restaurant Group, which owns and operates more than 1,200 restaurants nationwide, including Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, Arby's, Taco Bell and Yum Brands restaurants, as well as Panera Bread.

[Read More](#)



GOVERNMENT | Q&A

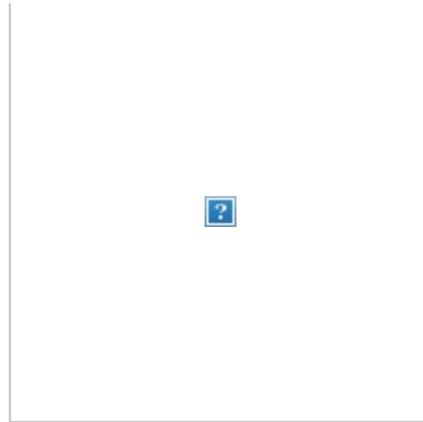
Who Is Devin Nunes' Cow?

By Leigh Jones

The Republican congressman's defamation



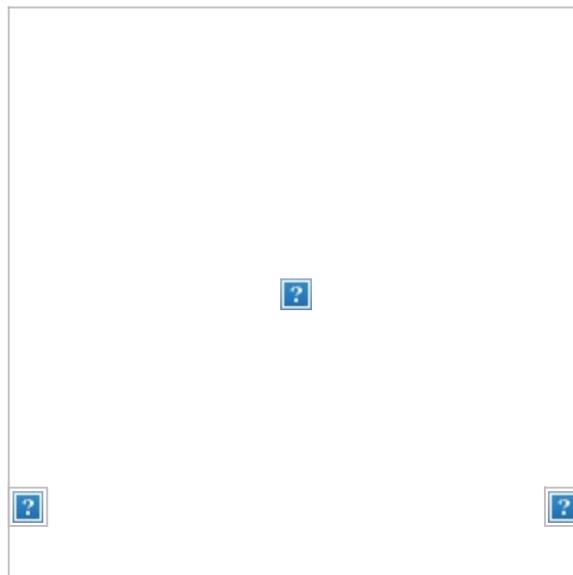
lawsuit against Twitter involving the parody social media accounts may have more meat to it than one might expect. [Read More](#)



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POLITICO Huddle

From: POLITICO Huddle
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:07 AM
To: Hankey, Mary Blanche (OLA)
Subject: POLITICO Huddle: HOUSE DEMS REVEAL NEW DETAILS IN TRUMP PROBE -- U.S.-Israeli relations in the spotlight -- OBAMA TO MINGLE WITH FRESHMAN DEMS -- Senator Bennet flirts with 2020 bid

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Huddle logo



03/22/2019 08:05 AM EDT

By MELANIE ZANONA (mzanona@politico.com; [@MZanona](https://twitter.com/MZanona))

with an assist from Sarah Ferris

INVESTIGATION STATION -- Buckle up, because there's been a dizzying amount of news on the congressional oversight and investigations front over the last 24 hours. Here's the Huddle breakdown to get you up to speed:

- **House Democrats say White House officials used personal accounts** to conduct official business, with lawmakers raising concerns about newly revealed information that Trump's adviser and son in law Jared Kushner used the encrypted messaging service WhatsApp to reach out to foreign contacts. House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings (D Md.) is now demanding that Kushner and other officials hand over all related documents by April 4, teeing up a subpoena battle if the Trump administration refuses to comply, [report](#) Andrew and Kyle.
- **The White House rejected a Democratic request to hand over records** pertaining to Trump's private talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In a [letter](#) obtained by Andrew, White House Counsel Pat Cipollone argues that Congress lacks the authority to demand one on one conversations between the president and a foreign leader, adding that such a request could jeopardize similar discussions involving future American presidents.
- **Two more key figures are refusing to comply with a sweeping probe** being conducted by the House Judiciary Committee, [reports](#) Kyle. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has declined to supply documents, with his attorney saying Assange is protected by the First Amendment. Longtime Trump confidant Roger Stone, meanwhile, is invoking his Fifth Amendment protection against self incrimination to rebuff the panel's request for information.

Related read: "James Comey: What I Want From the Mueller Report," via The New York Times: <https://nyti.ms/2TZi9SO>.

IT'S COMPLICATED -- The thorny politics of Israel are in the spotlight in Washington, with Trump recognizing Israeli control over the disputed Golan Heights on Thursday and the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference taking place this weekend. But this year's AIPAC gathering, where several congressional leaders are scheduled to speak, comes at a fraught moment in U.S. Israeli relations.

The top Democratic 2020 candidates are expected to skip the conference, while the House Democratic caucus was embroiled in an anti-Semitism controversy sparked by one of its freshman members earlier this month. The House's new generation of Democrats have openly criticized U.S. support for Israel — a sacrosanct position that had long been unquestioned in both parties. Now, Republicans are eager to seize on the emerging Democratic divisions that cut across racial, religious and generational lines. Much more from Bres and Andrew Restuccia: <https://politi.co/2Yg6jCL>.

Related: "House Dems push resolution to condemn global anti Israel boycotts ahead of AIPAC," by Sarah: <https://politi.co/2Fld6m6>.

T.G.I.F.! Welcome to Huddle, the play by play guide to all things Capitol Hill, on this March 22, where the thrill of March Madness is in the air (and everyone in D.C. is just hoping it's not cut

short by Mueller Madness.)

THURSDAY'S MOST CLICKED: The Huffington Post's [report](#) on female committee staffers being outearned by men was the big winner.

Opioid Abuse, Hepatitis C and HIV: An Emerging Crisis: [Join POLITICO](#) for a deep dive into how state and federal policymakers, the private sector, public health advocates and community leaders can alleviate public health threats posed by these infectious diseases.

THE MOTHER HEN OF THE HOUSE -- In barely three years in Congress, Rep. Pramila Jayapal has gone from a liberal backbencher to a progressive star with a seat at Nancy Pelosi's leadership table. She's won some fights, like demanding some of Trump's tax returns, but has shied away from others, like a floor vote on Medicare for All — a balancing act that's made her a trusted ally to both leadership and her pack of new freshmen.

For the House's most diverse freshman class ever, Jayapal has become the go to source of advice personal and professional for dozens of new Democrats. It's particularly true for freshmen women of color, like Reps. Ilhan Omar (D Minn.) and Rashida Tlaib (D Mich.), who can relate to Jayapal's stories of dealing with discrimination and even death threats in her decades as an activist. "If you took on every single thing that drove you crazy, or was racist or sexist or unfair, you would be exhausted and you wouldn't be able to get the work done that you need to get done," Jayapal said she tells freshmen. Heather and Sarah with the latest:

<https://politi.co/2JvXDVy>.

Related read: "Some Democrats want more than just Trump's personal tax returns," from Brian Faler: <https://politi.co/2TSFAO4>.

FROSH FACES -- Former President Barack Obama will attend a meet and greet on Monday evening to get to know the House's new class of Democrats, scoops Heather. The reception, which is being hosted by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D Calif.) and held at the home of a well known figure in the Washington social scene, was put together to "celebrate the freshman class of the 116th Congress." Some of the new freshmen, including Reps. Andy Kim (N.J.), Tom Malinowski (N.J.) and Lauren Underwood (Ill.), actually worked in the Obama administration. And while Obama kept a relatively low profile during the start of Trump's presidency, he re emerged as a visible player in the 2018 midterms. The dispatch: <https://politi.co/2UNxQcT>.

BENNET MULLS BID -- Stop me if you've heard this before: another Democratic Senator may be running for president. According to The Denver Post, Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet is

"taking the final steps" toward announcing a formal bid, which could come within the next month. That would make him the second 2020 hopeful hailing from Colorado, joining former Gov. John Hickenlooper. Bennet sparked buzz about a potential run earlier this year when he ripped into Sen. Ted Cruz (R Texas) during a fiery Senate floor speech that went viral. While Bennet has generally kept a low profile, the senator has a reputation for being a work horse on Capitol Hill. More from Nic Garcia: <https://dpo.st/2UT2LEM>.

Related: "Republicans resigned to Trump losing 2020 popular vote but confident about Electoral College," by David Drucker of The Washington Examiner: <https://washex.am/2OlheXg>.

BEGGING AND PLEADING Republicans are desperately urging Trump to stop attacking the late Sen. John McCain (R Ariz.). Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, who was pressed on the issue during a town hall, said Trump "does need to stop" with the trash talking. Freshman Rep. Dan Crenshaw of Texas, a rising star in the GOP, tweeted that "there is just no reason" for Trump to be ripping into the deceased war hero. And Arizona GOP Sen. Martha McSally said she spoke privately to Trump about his comments. The GOP, which has been mostly silent on the one sided feud, has come under increasing pressure to push back against the president's rhetoric. Burgess with the latest: <https://politi.co/2JKjXez>.

The Future of Prosperity: To conclude the series, [join POLITICO](#) for three conversations on policies to help all Americans gain access to economic opportunity and how Washington, communities, the private sector and individual workers can help realize these policies.

WEEKLY WINNERS AND LOSERS It may be recess, but there was no shortage of hits and misses in Washington this week. Here are our picks for who came out on top and who landed on the bottom.

W: Former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke , whose 2020 bid is off to a hot start following his massive, first day fundraising haul of \$6 million that has other White House hopefuls sweating.

L: Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.), whose defamation lawsuit against Twitter not only stands little chance in court, but also drew unwanted attention to the parody account @DevinCow (which now has more followers than the congressman and became a punchline on late night talk shows.)



TRANSITIONS

Jared Roscoe has joined SoftBank Group Corp. as counsel and senior director for public policy. Roscoe most recently served as senior banking counsel to Sen. Mark Warner (D Va.).

Kip Talley has left the Hill to join Federal Advocates as senior director of government affairs. He was previously chief of staff to Rep. Matt Gaetz (R Fla.).

Jennifer Cox will manage Democrat Mark Kelly's Arizona Senate campaign. Cox was most recently chief of staff to Michigan Rep. [Dan Kildee](#), and was also previously deputy campaign manager and deputy chief of staff for Kelly's wife, former Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

One more glorious day of recess. **The House and Senate** are OUT until Monday.

AROUND THE HILL

Nada.

TRIVIA

THURSDAY'S WINNER -- Patricia Bieze was the first to correctly guess that Franklin Pierce had zero cabinet turnover during his entire term as president (though shoutout to Bruce Mehlman, who pointed out that William Henry Harrison Sr. technically had no turnover since he was only president for 31 days!)

TODAY'S QUESTION -- From Patricia: George Carlin's seven dirty words routine and coverage of Wilt Chamberlain's 100 point game are among 25 sound recordings that have recently been selected for preservation at the Library of Congress. A recording of a Secretary of State giving a major policy address (for which he later received the Nobel Peace Prize) was also selected.

What was the speech and where was it delivered? First person to correctly guess gets a mention in the next edition of Huddle. Send your best guess my way: mzanona@politico.com.

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The Daily 202



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Listen to The Big Idea



Trump is teeing up stress tests for several institutions, from DHS to DOJ and the IRS



Why Kirstjen Nielsen's loyalty to Trump wasn't enough



BY JAMES HOHMANN

with Joanie Greve and Mariana Alfaro

THE BIG IDEA: To work, the American system of checks and balances requires that the executive branch respect the [prerogatives](#) of Congress, from appropriations to oversight, and the interpretations by judges of the law and the Constitution. That's what [the rule of law](#) requires. That's what President Trump swore an oath 27 months ago to preserve, protect and defend. All government employees, from civil servants to political appointees, take a [similar](#) oath.

That's why it's such a big deal that any U.S. president would suggest to armed law enforcement officers that they should disregard court orders. During his visit Friday to Calexico, Calif., Trump told Border Patrol agents not to allow any migrants in, two sources who were present [told CNN's Jake Tapper](#): "Tell them we don't have the capacity, he said. If judges give you trouble, say, 'Sorry, judge, I can't do it. We don't have the room.' **After the president left the room, agents sought further advice from their leaders, who told them they were not giving them that direction and if they did what the president said they would take on personal liability.** You have to follow the law, they were told."

This is reminiscent of a likely apocryphal quote that's often attributed to [Trump's favorite president](#). After the Supreme Court recognized tribal sovereignty in [1832](#) with [Worcester v. Georgia](#), Andrew Jackson purportedly said this of the chief justice: "John Marshall has made his decision. Now let him enforce it." Indeed, while Jackson [forged](#) ahead with his demonization of the Cherokee and the Trail of Tears, the state of Georgia complied with the court's order.

-- Trump is systematically purging the upper echelons of the Department of Homeland Security, raising fears that he'll install loyalists who won't feel so constrained by legal strictures. The White House announced the removal of Secret Service Director Tex Alles. He dumped ICE chief Ron Vitiello on Friday and [ousted DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Sunday](#). "L. Francis Cissna, the director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and DHS General Counsel John Mitnick could be the next to go," [sources tell Nick Miroff, Toluse Olorunnipa, Josh Dawsey and Carol Leonnig](#). "Nielsen has told confidants that she felt uncomfortable with some of the president's requests, particularly closing the border, and thought that the president did not understand many of the laws governing immigration. ...

"Trump has suggested to aides in recent weeks that the administration's previous policy of separating families at the border could be used to deter crossings and that a version of the policy could be reinstated ... Some aides have resisted the idea of family separations ... [Doing this] without lawmakers' approval risks another court injunction. ...

"No president before Trump has pushed the country's security agencies into such a state of churning confusion, current and former DHS officials said. ... 'The president doesn't like the news he's getting on immigration and has blamed leadership at DHS, but this is not something leadership at the department can fix,' said Stewart Baker, a top DHS adviser to President George W. Bush. 'This needs to be fixed in Congress, and there doesn't seem to be any appetite for that.'"

-- The courts and Congress continue trying to check the zealousness of Trump's immigration agenda: A federal judge last night [blocked the administration's experimental program](#) to make asylum seekers at the southern border wait in Mexico as their cases are processed. U.S. District Judge Richard Seeborg in San Francisco enjoined the policy, which began in January and was about to be expanded, with a preliminary injunction. [In a 27-page ruling](#), Seeborg said the question before him was not whether it's a "wise, intelligent, or humane policy." Rather, he said, Trump's move probably violates the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Administrative Procedure Act and other legal protections to ensure immigrants "are not returned to unduly dangerous circumstances."

After 11 p.m., Trump retweeted Fox News host Laura Ingraham describing it as "tyranny of [the] judiciary."



-- There's also a fresh push from leading Senate Republicans to protect certain conservatives from becoming victims of the Trump purge. Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) warned Trump against dismissing Cissna in an interview with The Post last night. "He's pulling the rug out from the very people that are trying to help him accomplish his goal," Grassley complained. "Grassley said he texted Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, to relay his concerns," [Seung Min Kim reports](#). "Grassley also said he was going on Fox News — Trump's favored cable news channel — to make his case publicly."



Outgoing DHS secretary: 'I share the president's goal of securing the border'

THE PRICE OF LOYALTY:

-- **“Nobody debased herself quite as often as Nielsen did in her quest to keep the job,” [Dana Milbank writes](#)**, “defending Trump after the ‘s---hole countries’ and Charlottesville scandals, enduring frequent rebukes from Trump and leaks about her imminent firing, embracing his incendiary language and enduring his extralegal

instincts, swallowing her moral misgivings to embrace the family-separation policy (while denying any such policy existed), and implausibly claiming that children weren't being put in cages.”

-- **“The ouster of [Nielsen] — the implementer of some of the most unjust immigration policies since the internment of citizens and noncitizens of Japanese descent during World War II — is further proof of President Trump’s ratchet-wrench theory of loyalty. It goes only in his direction,” [writes Michael Gerson](#), a chief speechwriter in Bush 43’s White House.** “But the separation of crying migrant children from their parents as a deterrent, and the housing of children in prisonlike conditions, will be some of the most enduring political images of the Trump era. It says something about Nielsen that she took part in such practices. It says something about Trump that such actions were apparently too moderate and restrained for his taste.”



William Barr takes questions at his confirmation hearing in January. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

THE OTHER STRESS TESTS:

-- But it's not just DHS. Trump's desire to keep concealed from Congress both his personal tax returns and Bob Mueller's full report creates looming tests for other key institutions. The Justice and the Treasury departments are facing stress tests – akin to

what the Federal Reserve does to make sure banks can stay solvent in a crisis – that may define the legacies of the political appointees who lead them.

Trump quoted and retweeted several allies yesterday who criticized Democratic efforts to obtain the Mueller report and his tax filings. “In one tweet, Trump quoted Katie Pavlich, editor of Townhall.com, saying that Nadler was ‘not entitled’ to the full report and underlying documents produced by Mueller,” [John Wagner reports](#). “In another instance, Trump retweeted Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), a frequent ally and the top Republican on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, saying that ‘Dems want President’s tax returns for purely political purposes!’”

Harvard professor Larry Summers, who served as Bill Clinton’s treasury secretary from 1999 to 2001, says that the IRS chief is legally obligated to release Trump’s returns, whether he wants to or not, and that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has no business getting in the way. “The appropriate response of the treasury secretary is very clear: Under a long-standing delegation order, the secretary does not get involved in taxpayer-specific matters and has delegated to the IRS commissioner,” Summers [writes in an op-ed for today’s Post](#). “Moreover, this is not a delegation that is readily revocable. Federal law provides that if the secretary determines not to delegate a power, such determination may not take effect until 30 days after the secretary notifies the tax-writing (and other specified) committees. So for the secretary to seek to decide whether to pass on the president’s tax return to Congress would surely be inappropriate and probably illegal. I would surely not have done it.”

Philip Allen Lacovara, a counsel to the Watergate special prosecutor, and Larry Tribe, a constitutional scholar at Harvard Law School, lay out one possible way that the House might be able to get the special counsel’s report if Attorney General William Barr redacts too heavily: by opening a preliminary impeachment inquiry. “One of the exceptions to grand jury secrecy is disclosure ‘preliminary to or in connection with a judicial proceeding,’” they write in [an op-ed for today’s paper](#). “To authorize disclosure of the Watergate grand jury information, the special prosecutor’s office argued that the House had authorized its Judiciary Committee to conduct a formal impeachment inquiry and that such an inquiry could be fairly analogized to a ‘grand jury’ investigation and thus a judicial proceeding. Both the district court and the court of appeals agreed, and the Judiciary Committee obtained both the report and the underlying evidence.”



– **Speaking of the Mueller report, billionaire activist Tom Steyer is launching a \$3 million ad buy today calling on Barr to put out the full Mueller report.** “If you think we have a right to read the report for ourselves, you can call the attorney general at this number,” Steyer says, speaking to the camera. “Our tax dollars paid for the report. Don’t let him cover up the truth.” Earlier this year, Steyer committed an additional \$40 million in 2019 toward impeaching Trump, though this commercial doesn’t call for that.

-- The top-ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee said yesterday that he supports Mueller coming to testify on the Hill. Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.) said that he would like to see Mueller testify during the week of April 22. The Democratic chairman, Jerry Nadler, said that he agrees Mueller should appear but that his members need to read the full report and hear from Barr first so they can ask “the right questions.”



House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) walks to his office. (Mandel Ngan/AFP)

THE NAME-CALLER IN CHIEF:

-- Speaking of Nadler, Trump went on a tirade against the congressman he calls “Fat Jerry” during recent private remarks to GOP lawmakers. The feud between the two men dates to 1985, when Nadler, as a New York state assemblyman, proved to be a major obstacle for Trump’s plans to build a vast development project on the west side of Manhattan, [Rachael Bade and Josh Dawsey report](#): “I’ve been battling Nadler for years,’ Trump told the GOP lawmakers, who were embarrassed by the outburst ... Trump never forgave Nadler, and privately he has simmered about the chairman and his investigation, calling him an irritant who has long been out to get him and recounting their New York run-ins to aides.”

-- Separately, we learned yesterday that Trump has been referring to the now-ousted director of the Secret Service as “Dumbo” because he has big ears. (That’s according to [the New York Times](#).)

Rondell Henry, 28, of Germantown, Md. (Montgomery County Police)



Rondell Henry, 28, of Germantown, Md. (Montgomery County Police)

A TIMELY REMINDER OF THE STAKES:

-- Here's the bottom line: Homeland security is no laughing matter, and our safety depends on law enforcement professionals doing their jobs effectively and legally. As the White House was consumed by drama and the president tried to fat-shame

an opponent, prosecutors revealed in court filings that local police officers in Prince George's County, Md., thwarted what could have been a truly heinous terrorist attack on American soil.

A Maryland man allegedly planned to run down crowds at National Harbor in an Islamic State-inspired attack. [Lynh Bui reports](#): "Rondell Henry, 28, of Germantown was arrested March 28 at the waterfront complex in Prince George's County with a U-Haul he had stolen from a parking garage in Alexandria, Va., two days earlier, according to a newly unsealed charging document. **Henry harbored 'hatred' for 'disbelievers' who didn't practice Islam and admitted to the plot in interviews with authorities**, according to court documents filed in U.S. District Court for Maryland asking that he be detained in jail until trial. ...

"Before he arrived at the Maryland complex, he spent nearly two hours at Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia on March 27 assessing crowds there but finding too few people for the scale of attack he envisioned, court documents contend. 'He had no escape plan, intending to die while killing others for his cause,' the government said in the detention memo. The government said that **Henry sought out videos of terrorists beheading civilians and fighting overseas.**

"The government asserts in its filings that because Henry, a computer engineer, had no weapons training, **he planned an attack using a vehicle, inspired by the terrorist truck attack in Nice, France, that killed 84 people and left dozens more injured.** Henry drove around the Washington area looking for a vehicle to steal, dumping his cellphone along an interstate highway to 'destroy evidence of the

inspiration behind his attack,' court documents alleged. The phone was recovered by law enforcement agents and included images of armed ISIS fighters, the ISIS flag and the Pulse nightclub shooter, prosecutors said.”



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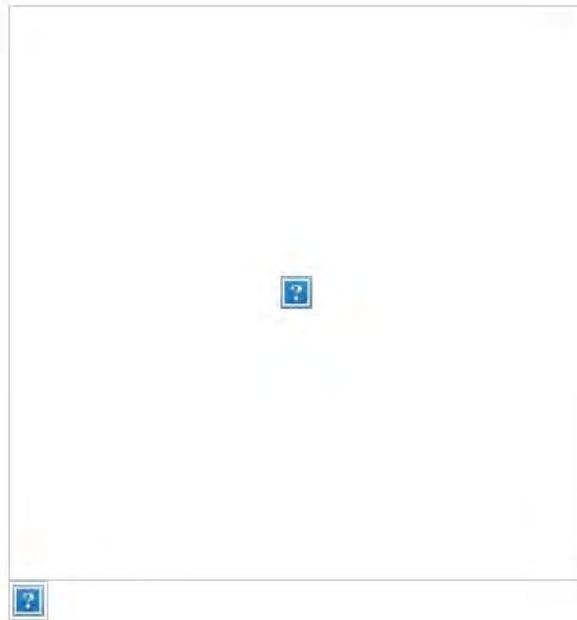
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WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



Virginia Cavaliers guard Kyle Guy celebrates last night after winning the national championship at U.S.

Bank Stadium. (Jonathan Newton/The Washington Post)



-- The University of Virginia won the March Madness tournament, defeating Texas Tech 85-77 in overtime. [Chuck Culpepper and Des Bieler report from Minneapolis](#): “Virginia, a fine tortoise of a program with a warmish 114-year history, a knack for deliberative basketball and an unthinkable splat of 13 months ago, spent Monday night climbing the last jagged rungs to a pinnacle. When finally it made the last few agonizing steps ... it knew a feeling long associated only with others such as Duke or North Carolina, the neighboring hares that always left it among the overshadowed.”

-- Just when Virginia fans had grown used to seeing their team choking and turning their No. 1 seeds into comedy, they flipped the perception, [writes columnist Jerry Brewer](#): “They turned their entire story into a redemption tale ... They tossed the monkey on their backs, their demons and their haters to the rafters of U.S. Bank

Stadium. And then white, silver and gold confetti rained on the Cavaliers. If all those lost Marches over the past six years had soiled them, they now bathed in triumph. In the most incredible turnaround in tournament history, the Team That Lost To A No. 16 Seed last season returned the next year — not angry, not broken but transformed through humility and introspection — and won six straight games to claim the program’s first national title.”

-- Charlottesville exploded in cheers and disbelief, giving the close-knit college town a chance to rewrite its story. [Moriah](#)

[Balingit reports](#): “For a town beset by controversy and tragedy, it was about more than just the basketball team. Nearly 20 months ago, white supremacists descended on the town to protest the proposed removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee ... Like so many other small communities that become settings for tragedies, the word Charlottesville became not just a place, but a single event. That event came to signify the terrifying rise of white supremacists. It came to signify many things that people who love the community say it is not. ‘It’s a lovely small town,’ said Larry J. Sabato, director of U-Va.’s Center for Politics. He has lived in Charlottesville since 1970. ‘It’s heaven to live in.’ Sabato said the game signified a chance for the world to get to know Charlottesville beyond the headlines.”



Cheating, lies and bribes: Details of the DOJ's largest college admissions scam ever prosecuted

GET SMART FAST:

1. **More than a dozen parents, including actress Felicity Huffman, agreed to plead guilty to charges stemming from the college admissions scandal, as did a former University of Texas tennis coach.** Huffman expressed “deep regret and shame over what I have done” and said her daughter did not

know of her fraud. ([Susan Svrluga](#))

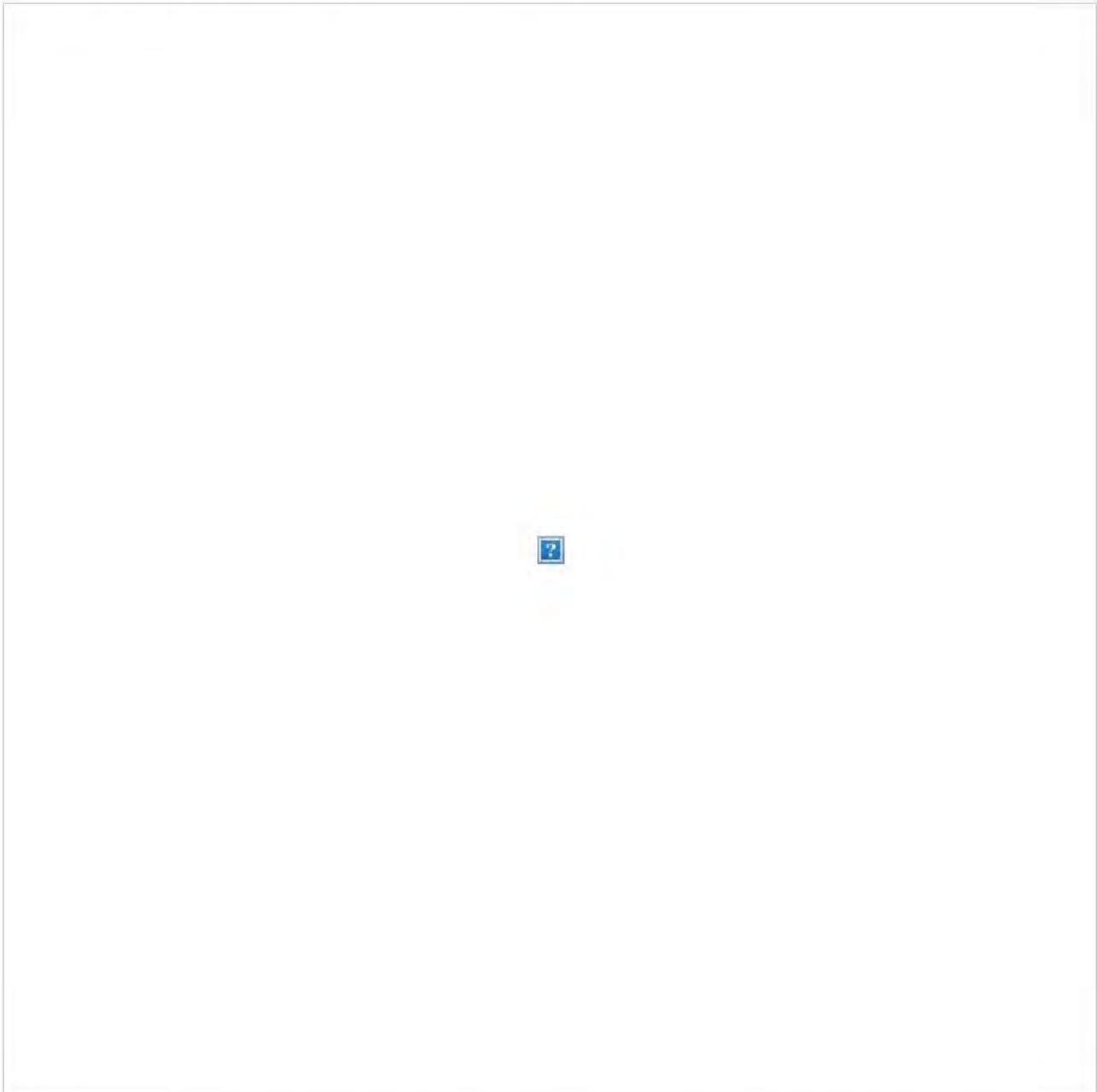
2. **U.S. health officials found 78 new measles cases, bringing this year's total to 465, the highest number in the past five years.** Measles cases have now been reported in more than a third of U.S. states, with most of the illnesses occurring in children. There was a worrisome spike in the first week of April, and experts blame the anti-vaccination movement. ([Reis Thebault](#))
3. **A huge spring storm is expected to unleash a blizzard and flooding in the Central U.S. this week.** Like its predecessor, the March "bomb cyclone," this storm is expected to leave behind a heavy blanket of snow from South Dakota to southern Minnesota and Wisconsin while potentially whipping up fires in the Great Plains and thunderstorms in Kansas and Nebraska. ([Ian Livingston](#))
4. **A Post analysis finds that communities affected by mass shootings have not changed their voting patterns much after the attacks.** Looking at seven such communities, we found that the majority of them showed a single-digit shift toward Democratic candidates in the wake of the tragedies. ([Tim Craig and Scott Clement](#))
5. **The number of children and teenagers going to the emergency room for suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts has doubled in the past decade.** According to new research, diagnoses of suicidal ideation or attempts increased from 580,000 in 2007 to 1.12 million in 2015. Nearly half of the visits came from children between ages 5 and 11. ([CNN](#))
6. **The family of an American man who died in the Ethiopian Airplanes crash last month sued Boeing, accusing the**

company of putting profits over people with its 737 Max plane. The suit, filed in Chicago, is one of a growing list of claims against the company. ([Lori Aratani](#))

7. **Students at George Mason University are protesting the school's decision to hire Brett Kavanaugh.** The Supreme Court justice, who was confirmed despite allegations of sexual assault, plans to teach a summer course in England for students at the Antonin Scalia Law School, but many at the main campus want the university to rescind its offer. ([Isaac Stanley-Becker](#))
8. **Taylor Swift donated \$113,000 to the Tennessee Equality Project, an LGBTQ advocacy group.** The pop star, who has been taking more political stands after being criticized for not doing so during the 2016 election, said the money will be used to fight anti-LGBTQ bills. ([Billboard](#))
9. **Trump signed legislation giving Bob Dole a promotion in his military rank from captain to colonel.** The former Republican presidential nominee, who is 95, served in the Army during World War II, earning two Purple Hearts and two awards of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. ([John Wagner](#))
10. **A West Virginia woman falsely accused an Egyptian man visiting the U.S. of attempting to abduct her child, calling the cops on him and posting a viral Facebook post about the experience.** Police later determined that the man had never even interacted with the woman or her children. She's been charged with falsely reporting an emergency. ([Antonia Noori Farzan](#))
11. **The trial for the murder of Bonnie Haim, who disappeared in 1993 but whose remains were discovered in 2014, began in Florida.** Haim's husband, Michael, was arrested shortly after the pair's son excavated his mother's skull from the backyard of his

old home. ([Kyle Swenson](#))

12. **Scientists believe a Revolutionary War hero who served with George Washington may have been intersex.** The pelvic bone found with the remains of Gen. Casimir Pulaski, who is considered the “father of the American cavalry,” appeared to be that of a woman. ([Kayla Epstein](#))



Yujing Zhang, charged with bluffing her way into Mar-a-Lago, awaits the start of her detention hearing on Monday in this courtroom sketch from West Palm Beach, Fla. (Daniel Pontet/Reuters)

THERE'S A BEAR IN THE WOODS:

-- The Chinese woman detained at Mar-a-Lago, Yujing Zhang, will remain in jail at least one more week after prosecutors said she “lies to everyone” and authorities found more suspicious electronics in her hotel room. [Lori Rozsa and Devlin Barrett report:](#)

When the 32-year-old was arrested, “she was carrying a thumb drive with malicious software on it, four phones, a laptop and a separate hard drive, authorities said. A subsequent search of her hotel room turned up more that alarmed investigators: nine thumb drives, five SIM cards for cellphones, about \$8,000 in cash, several credit and debit cards, and a device used to detect hidden cameras ...

Prosecutors argued that Zhang was a flight risk and therefore should remain in custody. Her defense lawyer, Robert Adler, asked for more time to gather family and financial support for a release on bond. ...

“Secret Service agent Samuel Ivanovich testified about his questioning of Zhang and acknowledged a major misstep in the investigation’s early hours. The agent said he documented about four hours of questioning on video, but when investigators played it back, they realized audio of the conversation had not recorded.

Ivanovich also testified that when the thumb drive they recovered from Zhang at the club was inserted into another agent’s computer, ‘a file immediately began to install itself.’ The agent, Ivanovich said, had never seen that happen before. ‘He knew it was something out of the ordinary,’ Ivanovich said. ‘He had to immediately stop his analysis and shut down his computer in order to stop it.’ A law enforcement official said the computer was not part of a government data network, and no sensitive information was put at risk.”

-- The Treasury Department allowed influential Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska to satisfy the terms of his divorce by transferring millions of dollars in stock to his children as part of a deal to lift U.S. sanctions on his corporation. [The New York Times's Kenneth P. Vogel and Andrew E. Kramer report](#): “The deal, announced by the Trump administration in December without publicly disclosing its details, included a clause providing for the completion of a transfer of 10.5 million shares of Mr. Deripaska’s main holding company, EN+, to a trust fund for the two teenage children he had with his former wife, Polina Yumasheva. ... When the Treasury Department announced the deal with Mr. Deripaska’s companies to lift the sanctions, it cast the move as an effort to stabilize global aluminum markets roiled by the sanctions. ... Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle blasted the deal as soft on Russia, and unsuccessfully tried to block it from going into effect.”

-- A federal investigative agency is probing how the Trump administration pursued a nuclear deal with Saudi Arabia. [The Daily Beast's Erin Banco reports](#): The Office of the Special Counsel, which is separate from special counsel Bob Mueller’s office, “is looking at whether officials were retaliated against for raising concerns about the administration’s work related to a Saudi nuclear deal. As part of that investigation, OSC has also reviewed allegations about potentially improper dealings by senior members of the Trump administration in their attempt to map out a nuclear deal with Riyadh, according to two sources with knowledge of OSC’s work. The details of the OSC probe ... are the first indication that a government body other than Congress is investigating matters related to a potential nuclear deal between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.”

-- **House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)** signaled that he has no intention of helping Michael Cohen delay the start of his three-year prison sentence, even after the president's former lawyer claimed he discovered troves of new records that could be useful to investigators. [CNN's Manu Raju and Jeremy Herb report](#): "I don't get involved in sentencing matters as a practice. I never have in Congress and that's been my policy,' he said. ... Schiff (added) that he was nevertheless interested in receiving any new information from Cohen, regardless of his prison sentence."

-- **Lawmakers in New York state, where Democrats control the legislature and the governor's mansion, are attempting to get Trump's state-level tax returns another way.** "Under a bill that is scheduled to be introduced this week, the commissioner of the New York Department of Taxation and Finance would be permitted to release any state tax return requested by leaders of three congressional committees for any 'specific and legitimate legislative purpose,'" [the New York Times's Jesse McKinley reports](#). Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) [threw his weight](#) behind the measure last night.



A pregnant migrant woman climbs the border fence before jumping into the U.S. from Tijuana, Mexico, to San Diego on Dec. 27. (Daniel Ochoa de Olza/AP)

MORE FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE IMMIGRATION WARS:

-- Sixteen Democratic senators sent a letter to ICE and CBP urging them to restore the policy of presumptive release "for all pregnant women" in immigrant detention. Trump reversed the

Obama-era directive last year, but the lawmakers pointed to a recent stillbirth in government detention as evidence of the need to bring back the policy. ([NBC News](#))

-- Many of the employees at Trump's private clubs in Florida have foreign passports. Some are foreign guest workers, but others are undocumented staff members the president's private business continues to quietly remove. [The New York Times's Miriam Jordan, Annie Correal and Patricia Mazzei report](#): "Facing growing questions about its employment of undocumented workers, the [Trump Organization] has quietly begun to take steps to eliminate any remaining undocumented workers from its labor pool in South Florida. In March, seven veteran maintenance workers at Trump National Jupiter ... were informed that the work force was being reorganized. Workers had until March 22 to provide proof that they were legally eligible to work in the United States, they were told. One by one, the workers — from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico — began to depart. Only one of the seven was a legal resident."

-- An undocumented couple working in Texas's booming construction industry was owed \$11,000, but instead of paying them, the man who employed them called the authorities. Claudia and Alex Golinelli's case highlights the exploitative nature of the construction industry in Texas, where the undocumented workforce remains largely unprotected from wage theft and unsafe working conditions. [Timothy Bella reports](#): "The employer finally said they would be paid on Feb. 28, 2014, if the Golinellis came to the job site to pick up the money. Yet when they pulled up to the supermarket in Roanoke, Tex., the couple saw the building's superintendent had

called the police and accused the couple of stealing materials and tools. ... The couple's story is highlighted in 'Building the American Dream,' a documentary [in which] undocumented workers in Texas talk about how their lives have been affected by an under-regulated industry, all while facing an uncertain future amid the Trump administration's ongoing immigration crackdown."



What is the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps?

THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- Trump moved to designate the Iranian military group **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization.** [Anne Gearan and Carol Morello report](#): “The designation marks the first time Washington has branded a foreign government entity a terrorist group and came despite warnings from U.S. military and intelligence officials that other nations could use the designation as a precedent against U.S. action abroad. The [announcement](#) also comes one day before Israeli elections in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking a fifth term by highlighting his close ties to the Trump administration and hawkish promises to battle threatening Iranian behavior across the Middle East. ... Trump’s critics warn that the administration is flirting with a potential military conflict in the region. The Iranian government immediately condemned the designation Monday and alleged that it was done to boost Netanyahu’s electoral chances.”

-- **The State Department banned 16 Saudi individuals from the U.S. for their roles in connection with the murder of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi.** Among those banned is Saud al-Qahtani, an adviser to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is widely considered to have ordered the assassination. Mohammed, however, is not among those banned. ([NBC News](#))

-- **Israelis began casting their votes this morning in the contentious election that has Netanyahu battling former military chief Benny Gantz. Polls are set to close today at 3 p.m. Eastern time.** [Loveday Morris and Ruth Eglash report](#): “For many Israelis it

boils down to one question: Should Netanyahu stay or go? ‘Let’s make this happen,’ said Gantz, as he voted in his hometown of Rosh Haayin, near Tel Aviv. ... Both Gantz and Netanyahu have ramped up their campaigns as they try to win over the undecided. For Gantz, that means telling supporters he’s on the cusp of victory. **Netanyahu’s strategy has been to whip up fears that he might lose.** ... ‘It’s not in our pocket,’ he warned. ‘Some of our people are complacent and believe the media, which is trying to put them to sleep.’ In Israel’s fragmented political landscape, with about 40 separate parties fielding candidates, what matters most is who can garner enough support in the 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, to form a majority of at least 61 seats.”

-- **The Trump administration canceled a Major League Baseball deal with Cuba that would have allowed Cuban athletes to play in the U.S. without having to defect.** [Karen DeYoung reports](#): “The announcement came less than two weeks after the start of the 2019 baseball season and just days after the federation released the names of 34 Cuban players it said were eligible to sign with Major League Baseball. Some of those players were expected to be signed and playing this year. The agreement was intended to prevent players from undertaking risky escapes from Cuba, often with paid smugglers, and having to give up their citizenship to play in the United States. Under its terms, similar to deals with foreign players from Japan and other countries, the U.S. baseball clubs would pay a fee — equivalent to 25 percent of the player signing bonus — to the federation.”

-- **Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), James Risch (R-Idaho) and Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) — leaders of the Senate Armed Services and**

Foreign Relations committees — say Turkey will have to choose between getting F-35 advanced fighter aircraft or taking a Russian S-400 missile defense system. [They say they won't tolerate Ankara getting both in an op-ed for today's New York Times.](#)

-- Threatened by Chinese and Russian technologies, the U.S. is stepping up preparations for potential wars in space. [Walter Pincus reports in his Cyber Brief column:](#) “Among such new space threats described by the Defense Intelligence Agency are: ‘Orbital or space-based ... satellites that can deliver temporary or permanent effects against other spacecraft. These systems could include payloads such as kinetic kill vehicles, radio-frequency jammers, lasers, chemical sprayers, high-power microwaves, and robotic mechanisms. Some of these systems, such as robotic technology for satellite servicing and repair and debris removal, have peaceful uses but can also be used for military purposes.’”

-- A recent poll found that British voters are increasingly frustrated with the chaos of Brexit and that their estimation of Prime Minister Theresa May has fallen. [Jennifer Hassan and Rick Noack report:](#) “Confidence in the British political system in general is at a 15-year low — the first time it has fallen this far since the Iraq War, which led to a major backlash nationwide. 71 percent of respondents agreed that British parties are so divided ‘within themselves that they cannot serve the best interests of the country.’ ... The poll findings are likely to concern democracy researchers, however, as they indicate that a majority of respondents — 54 percent — would approve of a leader willing to break the rules.”



2020 WATCH:

-- The latest in what is becoming a long list of long shots: Rep. **Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) entered the Democratic presidential field.** [Annie Linskey reports](#): “Swalwell, 38, formally announced his campaign during an appearance on CBS’s ‘Late Show With Stephen Colbert’ on Monday evening. ... Swalwell is set to hold a town hall meeting on ending gun violence Tuesday in Sunrise, Fla. The location is not far from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where 17 students and school staff were killed in a shooting last year. ‘I’m

making sure gun violence is front and center in our national policy debate,' Swalwell, who represents Northern California's East Bay, said in a statement announcing the town hall."

-- Amy Klobuchar announced that she raised \$5.2 million during her first seven weeks in the presidential race. The Democrat from Minnesota has \$7 million cash on hand because she transferred money from her Senate account. It remains unclear how much of Klobuchar's total is for the general election and how much is for the primary. Other candidates are raising only primary money. The figure puts Klobuchar at just over \$8 million total raised. ([Felicia Sonmez](#))

-- Two former staffers for Beto O'Rourke's failed Senate bid joined Bernie Sanders's campaign because they don't think Beto is liberal enough. [The Texas Tribune's Jay Root reports](#): "Bryant Young and Autumn Lanning ... [grew] disillusioned with O'Rourke and convinced he was not the true progressive they had imagined. ... From oil policy to health care, these two young Beto exes said they never took the time to pore over votes and policy positions. Once they did — and O'Rourke went from Senate hopeful to presidential wannabe — they abandoned him and are now supporting reliable liberal Bernie Sanders in the race for the White House."

-- Support for former vice president Joe Biden remains strong in early states. [Politico's Natasha Korecki and Christopher Cadelago report](#): Sam Lieberman, former chair of the Nevada State Democratic Party, said Biden's physical touching is part of who he is as a politician and not sexual harassment, a view more than a dozen operatives, party leaders and county chairs in the four early presidential states shared. "Among these gatekeepers — many of

whom have met Biden during his previous runs for president or in his capacity as Barack Obama's running mate — the prevailing view is that the current controversy isn't enough to seriously damage his candidacy should he choose to run."

-- Trump and his team are hoping that he can win again in 2020 by promising to overhaul the same systems, including health care and immigration, that he railed against in 2016. But Trump's dark warnings pose a central conundrum for his reelection effort: Can he win the White House a second time by railing against the very problems he promised to fix? [From Ashley Parker and Toluse Olorunnipa](#): "Trump allies are betting the strategy will work again by bolstering enthusiasm among his most avid supporters, particularly older white voters in the upper Midwest who clinched his victory the last time. But the approach also risks alienating moderate suburban voters, including those who took a chance on Trump's candidacy in hopes that his dealmaker persona would overcome Washington gridlock."

-- Not a single session scheduled for this week's House Democratic Caucus retreat will focus on oversight of the president — an intentional move that prioritizes policies that resonate with voters. [Rachael Bade reports](#): "As they huddle for a three-day session to discuss their top priorities in Leesburg, Democrats will focus on pocketbook issues that helped them win the majority in the 2018 midterm elections, including health care and infrastructure, said [a] person who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the planning. ... Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell, the Democrats' guest speaker, will brief the caucus on the economy, an unusual appearance by a Trump appointee. Powell has

been criticized by Trump, who has considered firing him, for raising interest rates four times last year.”

-- The retreat’s stage, which is often graced by big names in politics, will this year feature celebrity couple John Legend and Chrissy Teigen, who have been outspoken critics of the president in the past three years. ([The Hill](#))

-- Only 15 Maine residents have given Republican Sen. Susan Collins's reelection campaign \$200 or more. The four-term senator, who will face perhaps her toughest reelection campaign next year, has raised \$1.1 million this year, but less than a percent of that money came from her home state. ([Roll Call](#))



Drilling rigs outside Douglas, Wyo. (Leah Millis/Casper Star-Tribune/AP)

THE REST OF THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA:

-- Even though the White House is working on a report meant to question the causes and effects of climate change, the U.S. military is still functioning under the assumption that the change is happening. [Juliet Eilperin, Brady Dennis and Missy Ryan report:](#)

“Jon Powers, an Iraq War veteran who served as federal chief sustainability officer, said the military has become attuned to climate change given its global footprint and massive energy consumption. ‘People are acting on climate not for political reasons, but [because] it really affects their mission,’ said Powers ... Several agencies — including the Defense and State departments, along with the EPA and Office of the Director of National Intelligence — have yet to offer experts for the White House effort ... An official at NASA said Friday the agency was unaware of any White House panel to reexamine climate change. A spokeswoman for Interior, which also conducts climate research, said the department had not been contacted about it and was not involved in any such effort.”

-- The Interior Department recently published updated versions of secretary nominee David Bernhardt’s calendars, which show some instances of the former lobbyist meeting with people connected to his former clients. [CNN’s Ellie Kaufman reports](#): “In the 439 pages now available on Interior’s website of Bernhardt’s daily schedule, a cursory comparison reveals several discrepancies between the previously released calendars found on the same page of Interior’s website and the documents published this week. In some instances, meetings that included little detailed information in the older version now say who Bernhardt met with or the topic of an internal meeting. ... When comparing April 2018 between the previously released version and the new version of the calendars, there are two instances where Bernhardt met with people who work with or for his previous clients that are listed on his ethics agreement as entities he has recused himself from.”

-- Republicans are warning pharmaceutical companies not to

comply with a House Oversight Committee investigation into drug prices. The committee requested information from 12 drug companies as part of a broad investigation into how firms set prices, but Republican Reps. Mark Meadows (N.C.) and Jim Jordan (Ohio) argued that sharing such information could bring down the industry's stock prices. ([BuzzFeed News](#))

-- Only 17 percent of Americans believe they received a tax cut from the 2017 Republican overhaul, according to a new NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll. The figure may help explain why the measure has proved so unpopular, with a recent Pew poll putting approval of the legislation at 36 percent. ([CNBC](#))

-- A survey of nearly 50 fund managers, economists and strategists found that a majority of respondents do not want the Senate to approve the nominations of Stephen Moore and Herman Cain to the Fed board. [CNBC's Steve Liesman reports](#): "In a survey taken Friday through Sunday, 60% of respondents said the Senate should not confirm former Wall Street Journal editorial writer Moore, and 53% called for the Senate to reject the prospective nomination of businessman and former Republican president candidate Herman Cain. ... Although not asked in this survey, approval of the president's handling of the economy in the CNBC Fed Survey has nearly always been at 50% or above, making the current criticism more noteworthy."

-- Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) filed a \$150 million defamation suit against McClatchy and a Virginia communications consultant he describes as a "digital terrorist for hire." The lawsuit comes weeks after Nunes sued Twitter and a parody account known as

“Devin Nunes’ Cow” and alleges that reporting by the McClatchy-owned Fresno Bee is part of a scheme to ruin the congressman's reputation. Legal experts don't expect the suit to succeed.

([Sacramento Bee](#))

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) celebrated his home team's win at the NCAA championship:

