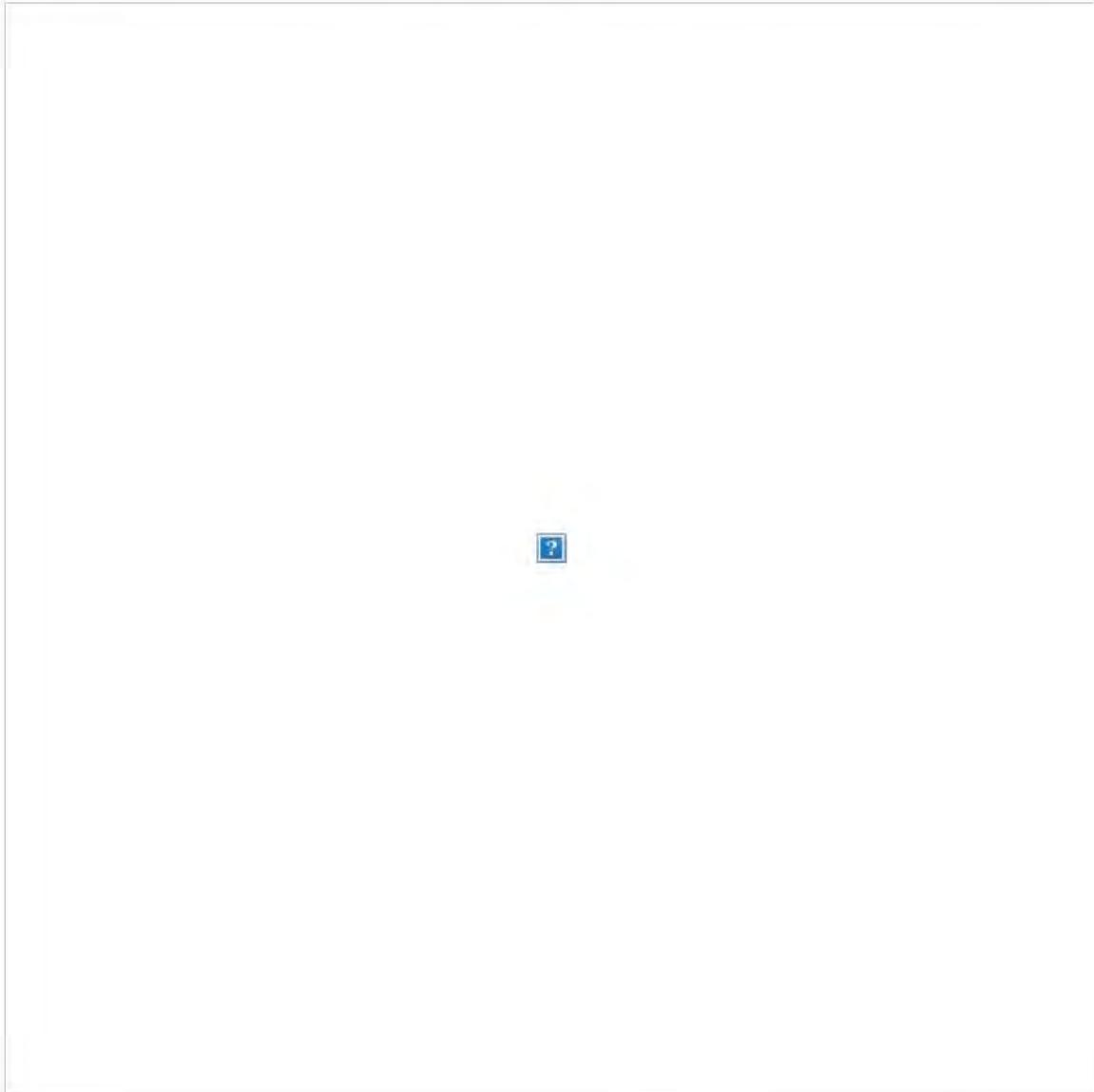
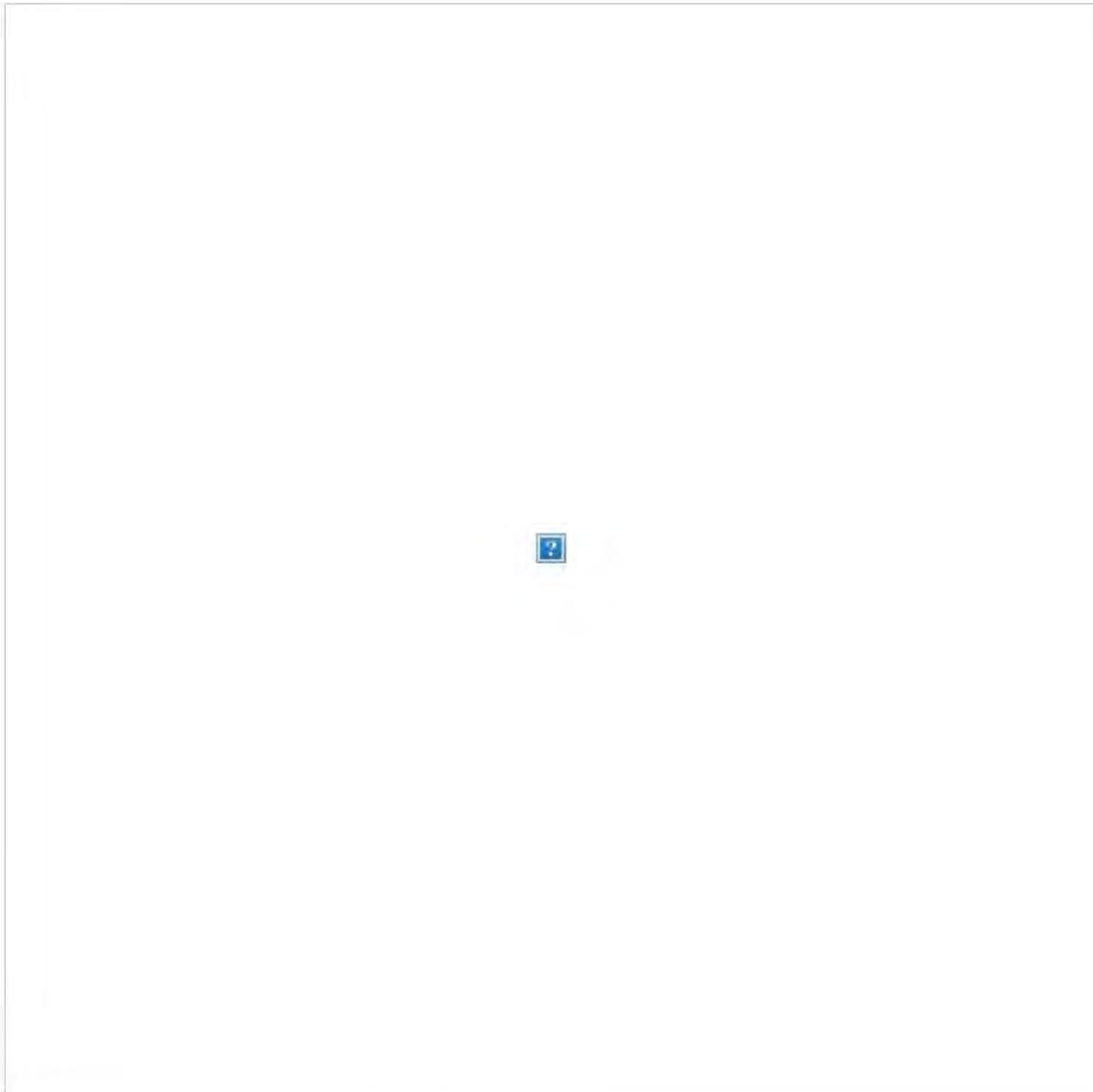


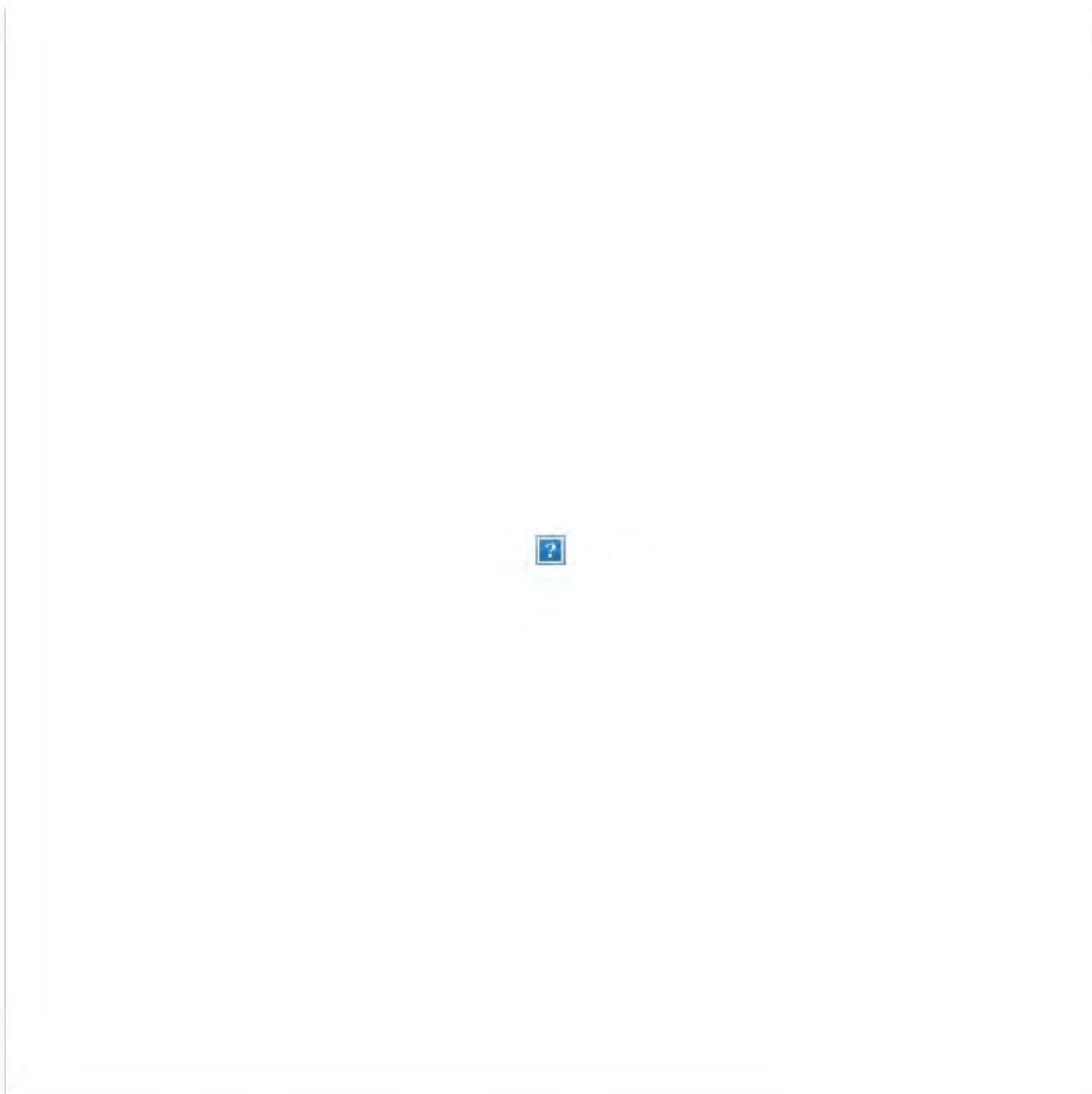
So did Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.), but for a different reason:



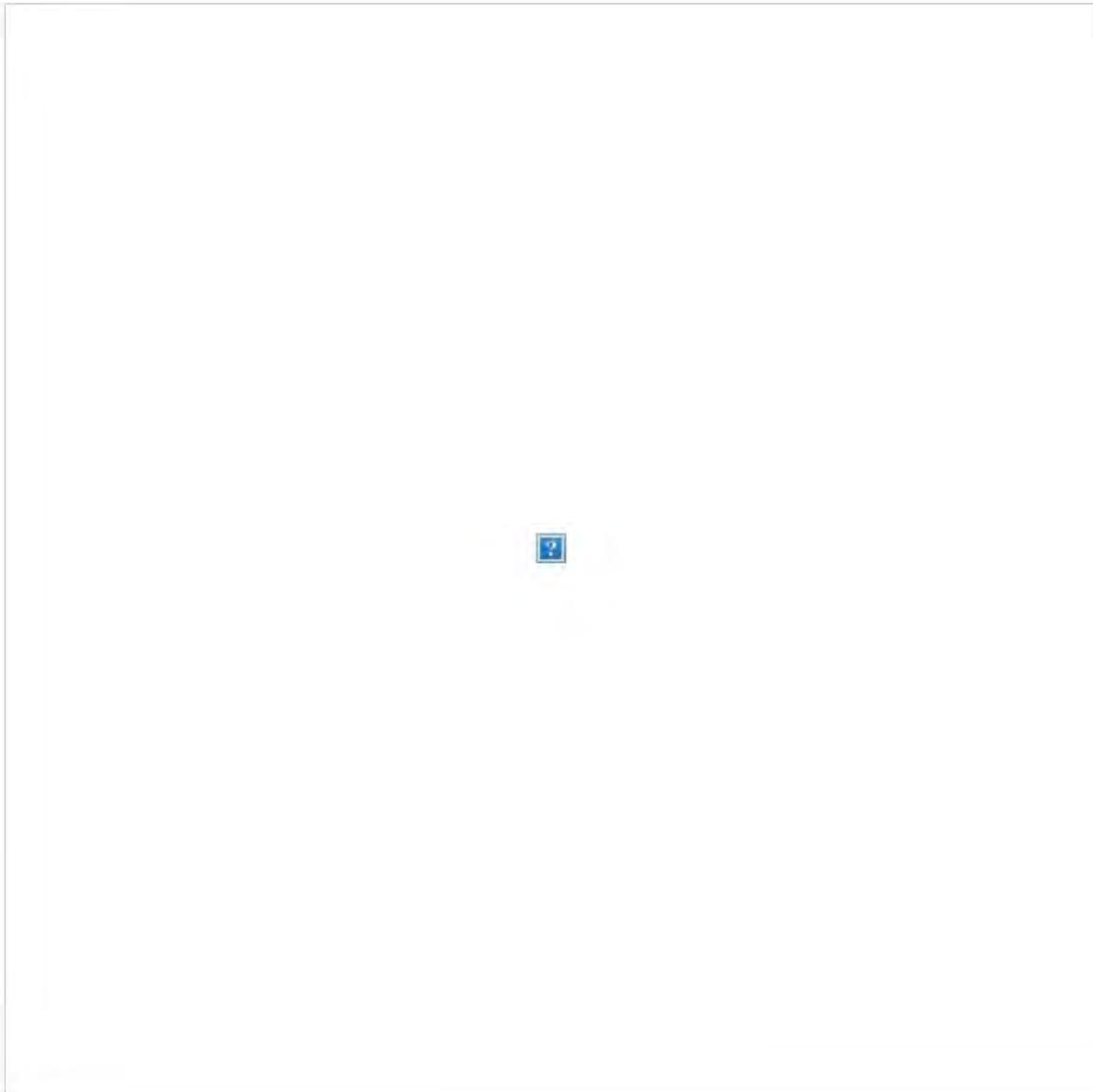
After the Cavaliers' win, the director of the U-Va. Center for Politics floated another possible 2020 candidate:



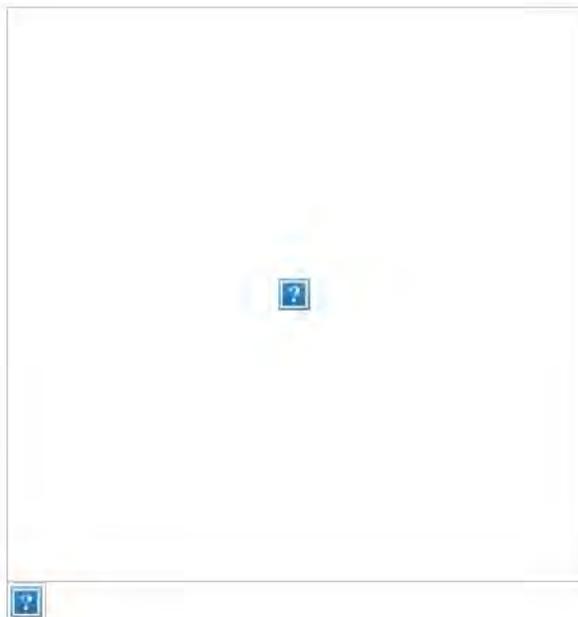
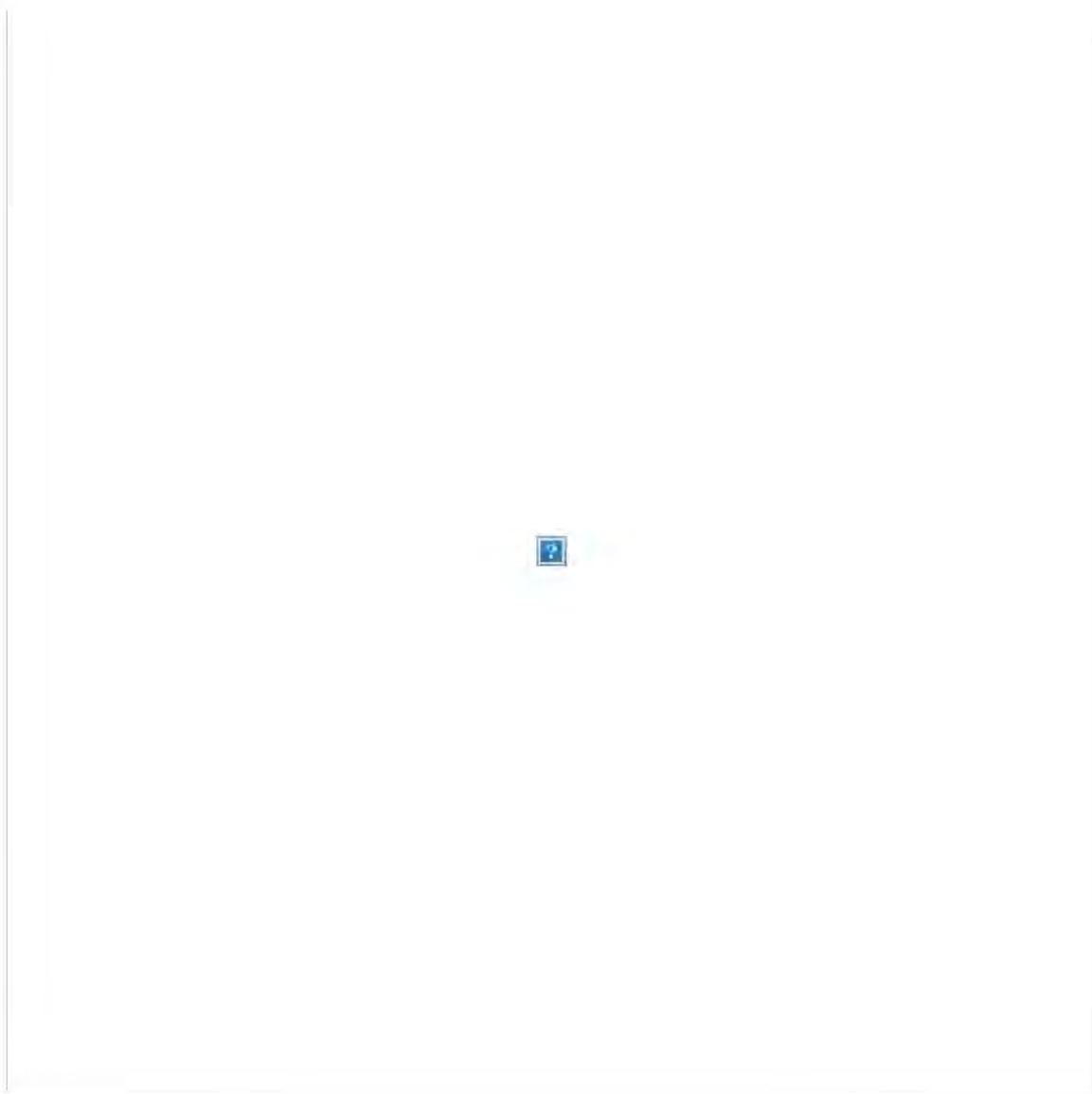
Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) flew to Minneapolis to cheer on Texas Tech:



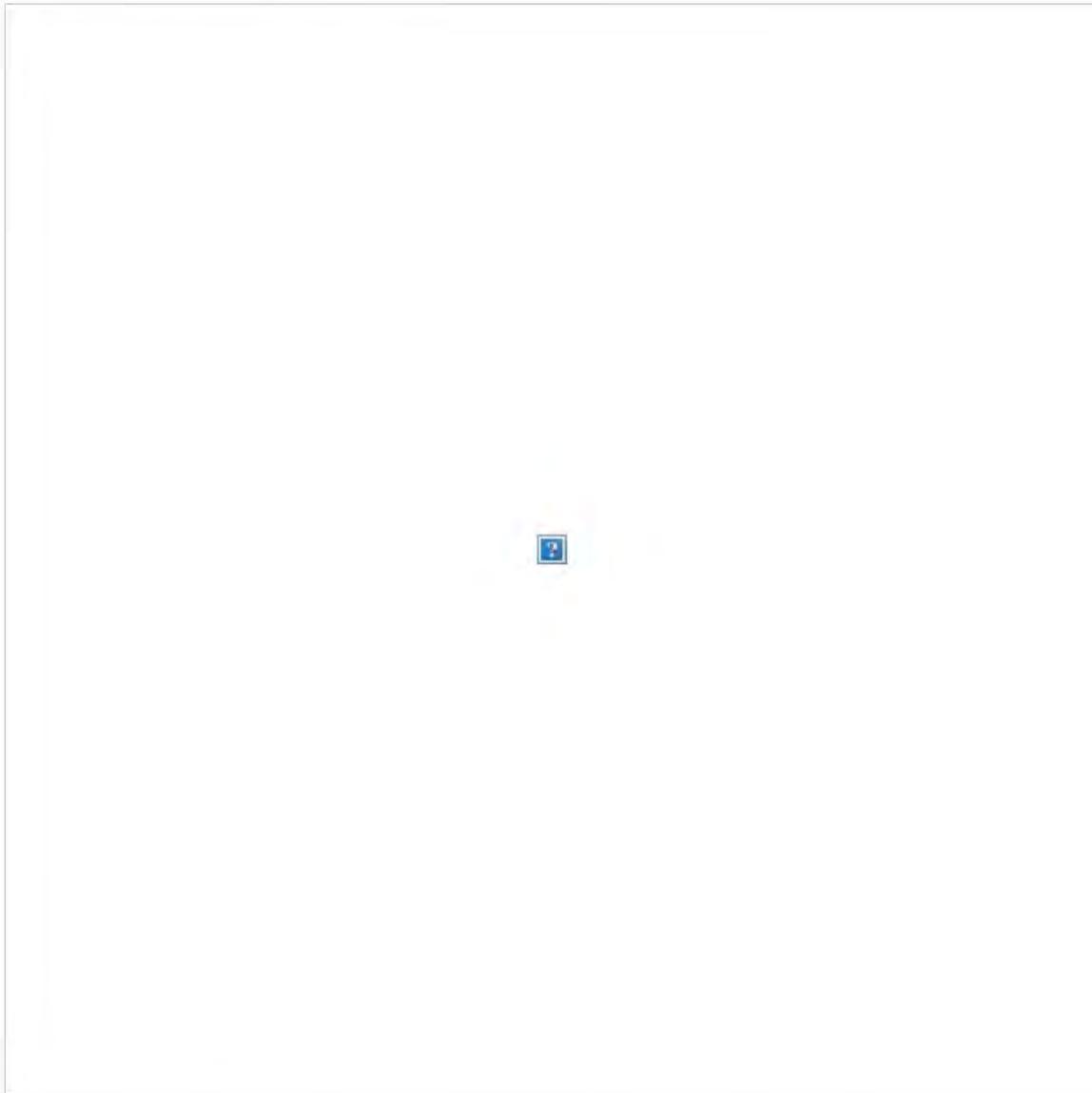
A SiriusXM reporter reflected on the departure of senior Homeland Security officials:



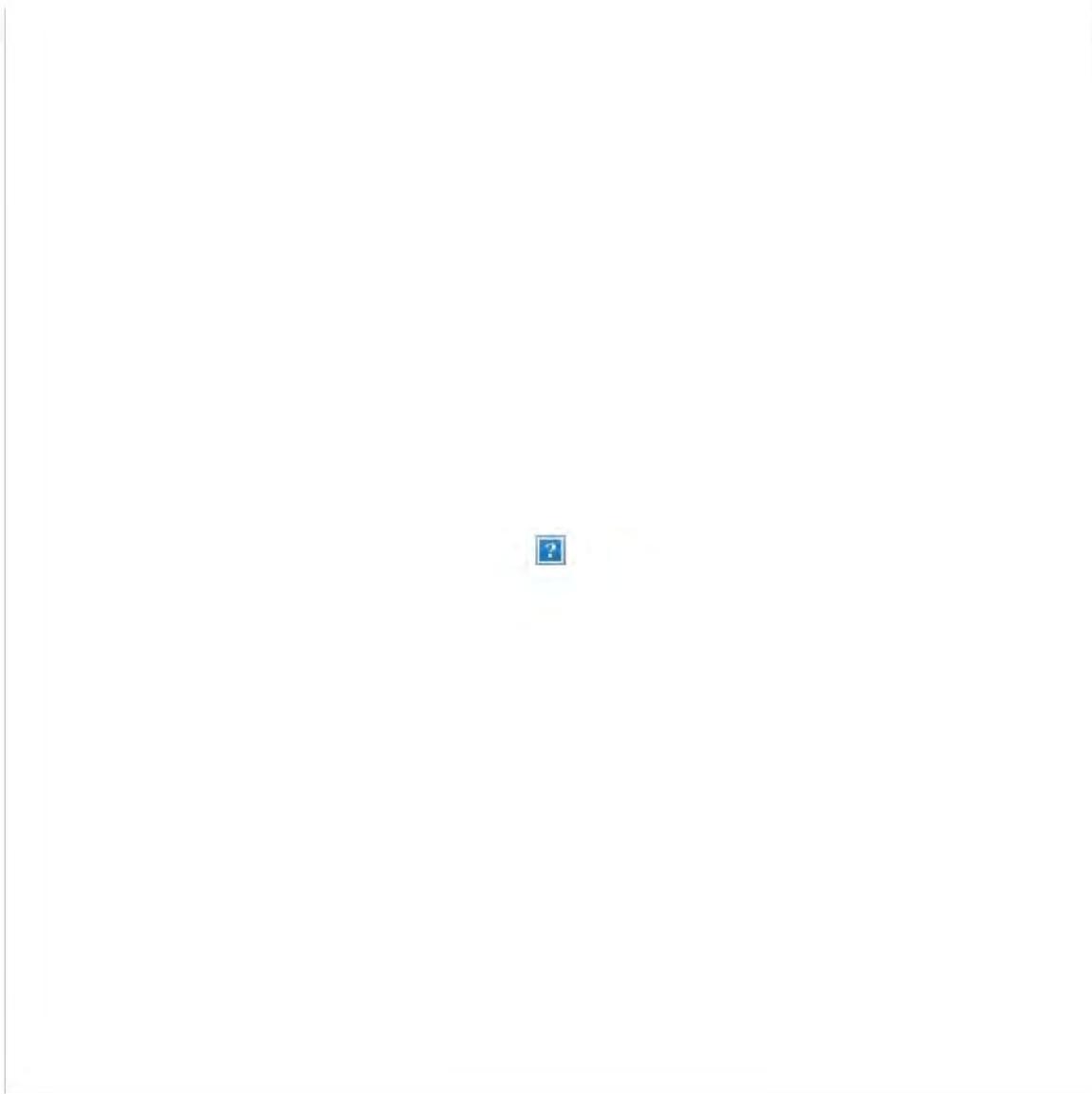
From a University of Texas law professor:



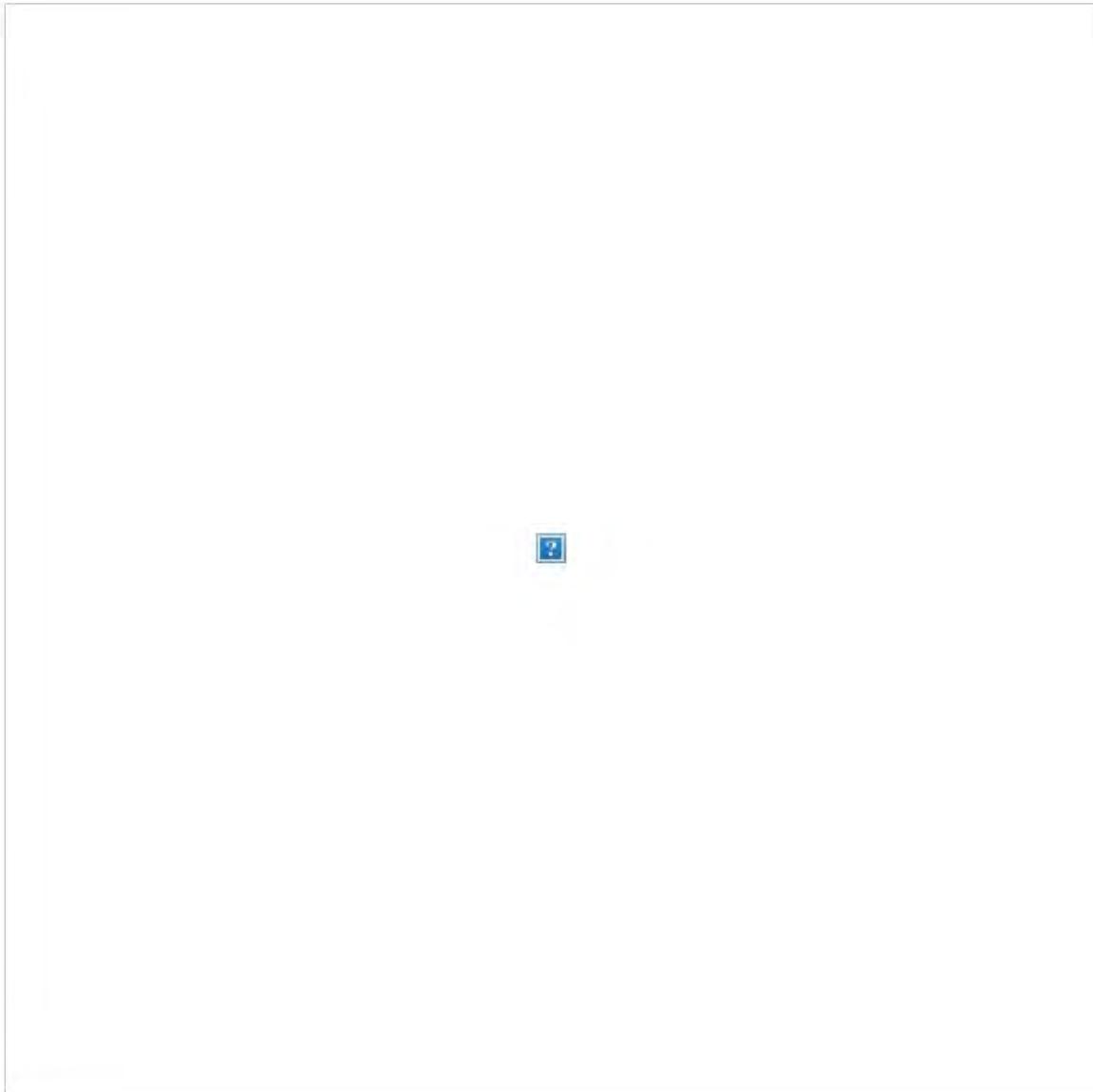
A Post columnist tweeted this about Trump referring to the head of the Secret Service as “Dumbo”:



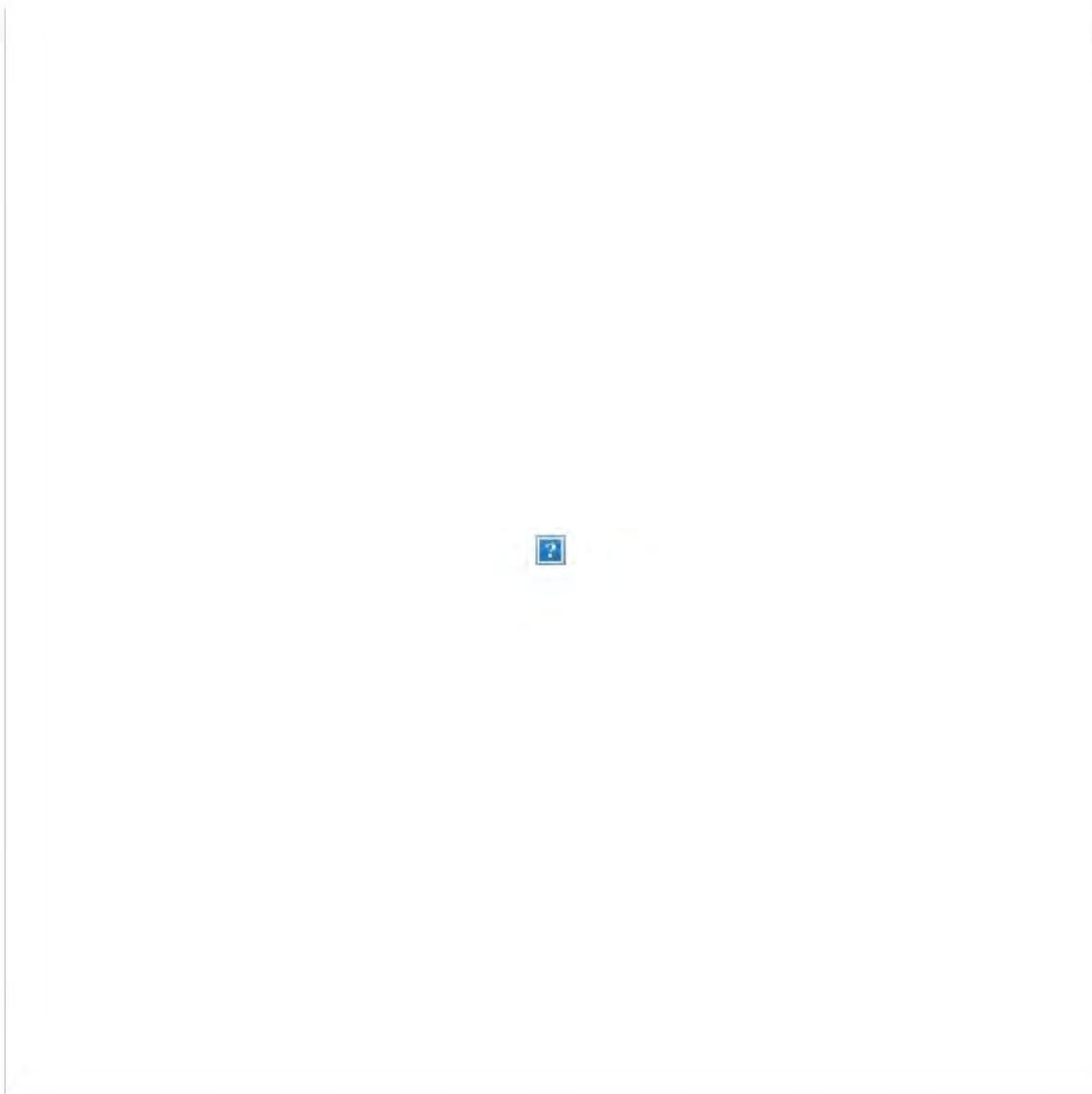
A former Secret Service agent told a former White House counsel that agents will still take a bullet for their protectees, even when they're disrespected:



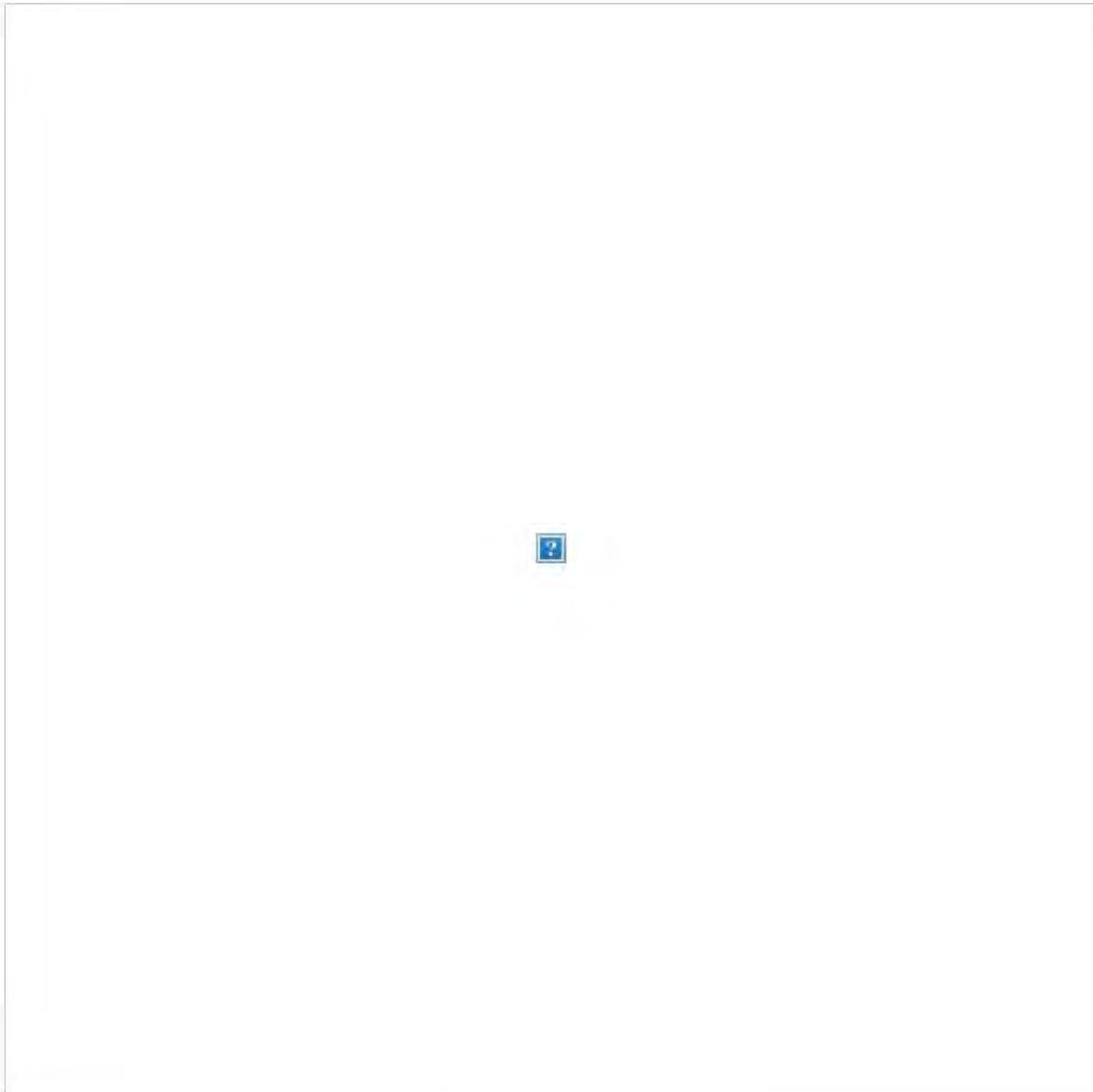
Many people commented on the “for sale” sign that was behind Nielsen when she spoke to reporters in Alexandria:



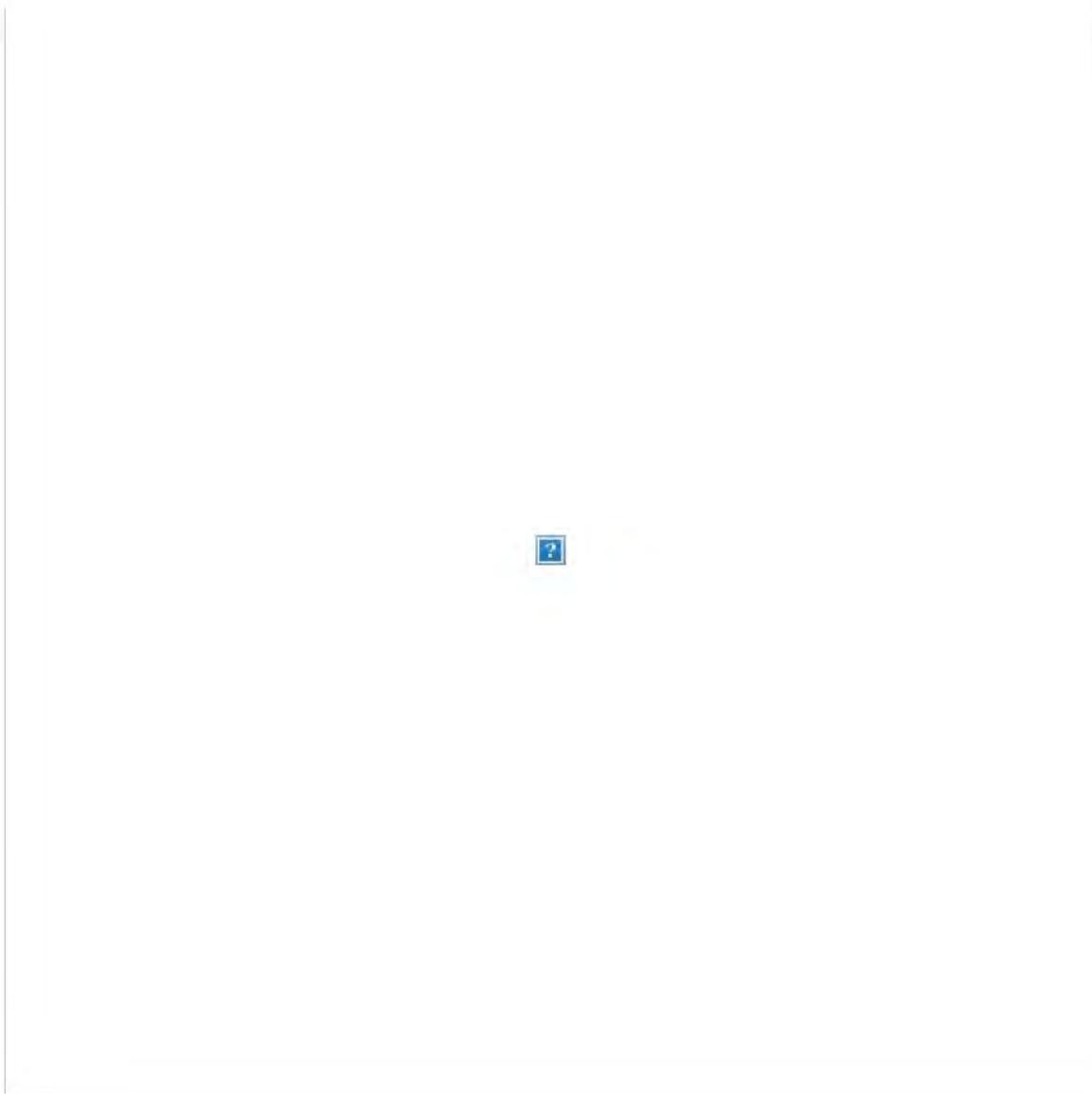
Barack Obama's 2012 finance director expressed anxiety about how much money 2020 Democrats are raising:



Three presidential candidates were in the same freshman House class:

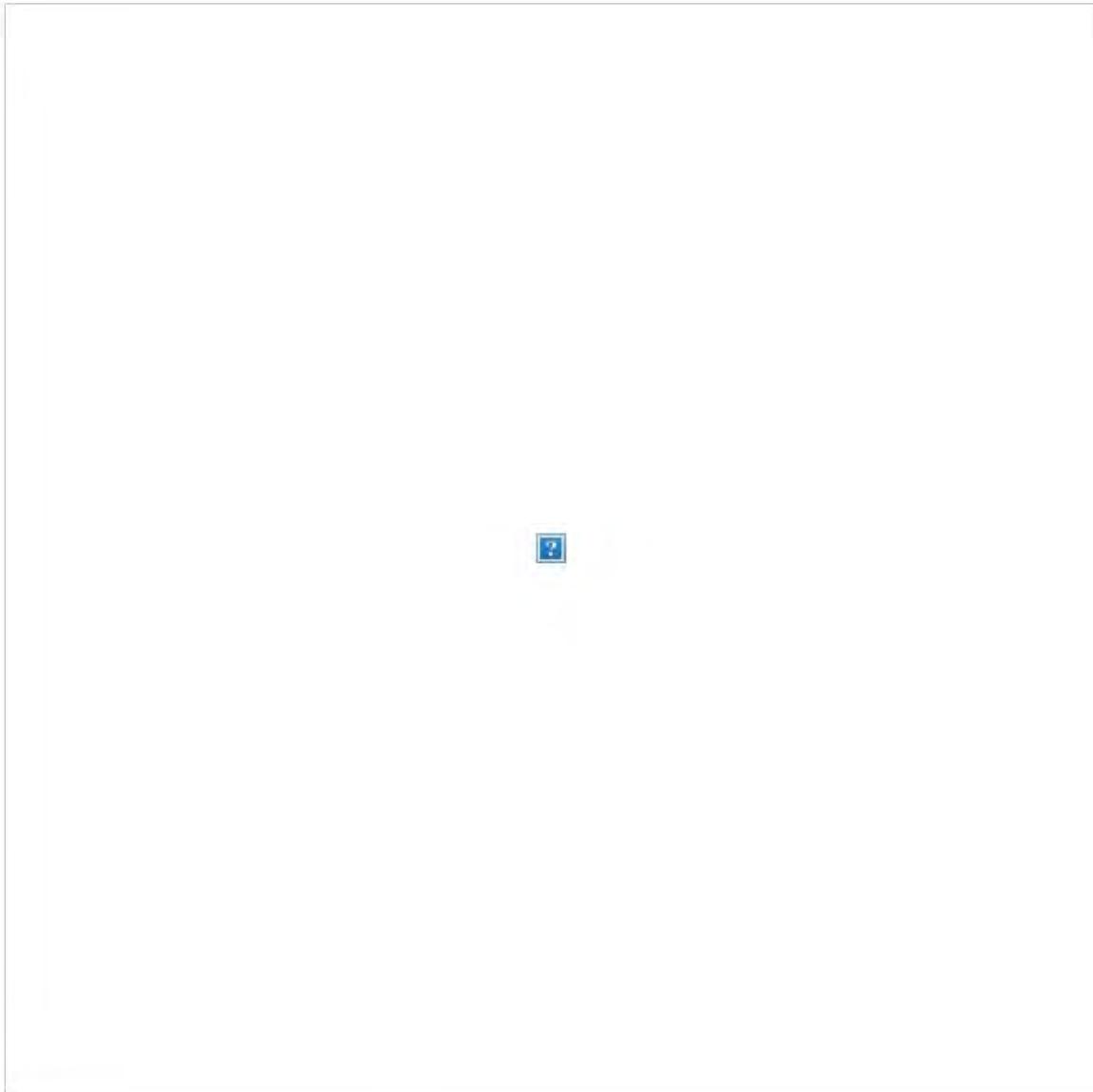


The McCain family mourned the loss of Burma, their beloved family pet:



The Chesapeake Bay retriever was given to late senator John McCain as a birthday gift years ago. ([Arizona Republic](#))

A Yahoo News reporter spotted this license plate:



And D.C. residents had some notes for one congresswoman's admiration of the city's public transit system:



A GOOD READ FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- **FiveThirtyEight**, "[A Tale of Two Suburbs](#)," by **Clare Malone**: She looks at two cities outside Cleveland: Parma and Shaker Heights. One is racially mixed, and the other is homogenous. And she says they're a reference point for a cultural fissure in the Democratic Party that gaped open with the election of Trump: "White Americans have split politically along class lines, and their alienation from each other following 2016 seems utter and complete. But the split that's happening isn't just between residents of rural and urban

places. It's also apparent in some suburbs, among people whose lives aren't, at least on the surface, all that different from one another's."

HOT ON THE LEFT:

"Massachusetts Bans Controversial 'Gay Conversion' Therapy For Minors," from [HuffPost](#):

"Therapists in Massachusetts can no longer practice so-called conversion therapy on minors, thanks to a new bill signed into law by the state's Republican governor. Gov. Charlie Baker signed legislation on Monday that prohibits licensed health care professionals from providing conversion therapy to patients under 18. ... With the new law, Massachusetts joins 15 other states and Washington, D.C., in banning the dangerous and discredited practice that

HOT ON THE RIGHT:

"Clinton, Trump investigations show Democrats' double standard, Grassley says," from [Fox News](#):

Grassley "said Monday that Democrats pushing for the release of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's full report on the Russia investigation should also insist on making public all information related to the Justice Department's investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state and other controversies dating back to the Obama administration. 'The Democrats want all the Mueller information, but seem to be turning a blind eye to other investigations

attempts to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Colorado will likely follow suit, with lawmakers there sending a bill to Gov. Jared Polis (D-Colo.) last Friday for signing.”

where Congress and the public have yet to see every bit of information that's out there,' Grassley said on the Senate floor. ' ... That leads me to believe their request for Mueller-related documents is a political ploy.’”

DAYBOOK:

Trump will meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi at the White House.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Donald Trump supports the ending of the filibuster. So you should be a little bit nervous if Donald Trump supports it.”
— Bernie Sanders on why he does not want to scrap the Senate's legislative filibuster. ([HuffPost](#))

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

-- **We could reach highs near 80 degrees today, but it may rain this evening.** [The Capital Weather Gang forecasts](#): “Part two of our warmest weather so far this season could get highs to near 80 again today as skies turn partly sunny. We’re cooler tomorrow, but those 60s are still reasonable for spring standards despite the pesky, allergy-enhancing breeze. Thursday could be the pick of the week before some complications on Friday. The weekend is a mixed message with a nicer Saturday before an unsettled Sunday.”

-- **The Nationals fell to the Phillies 4-3.** ([Jesse Dougherty](#))

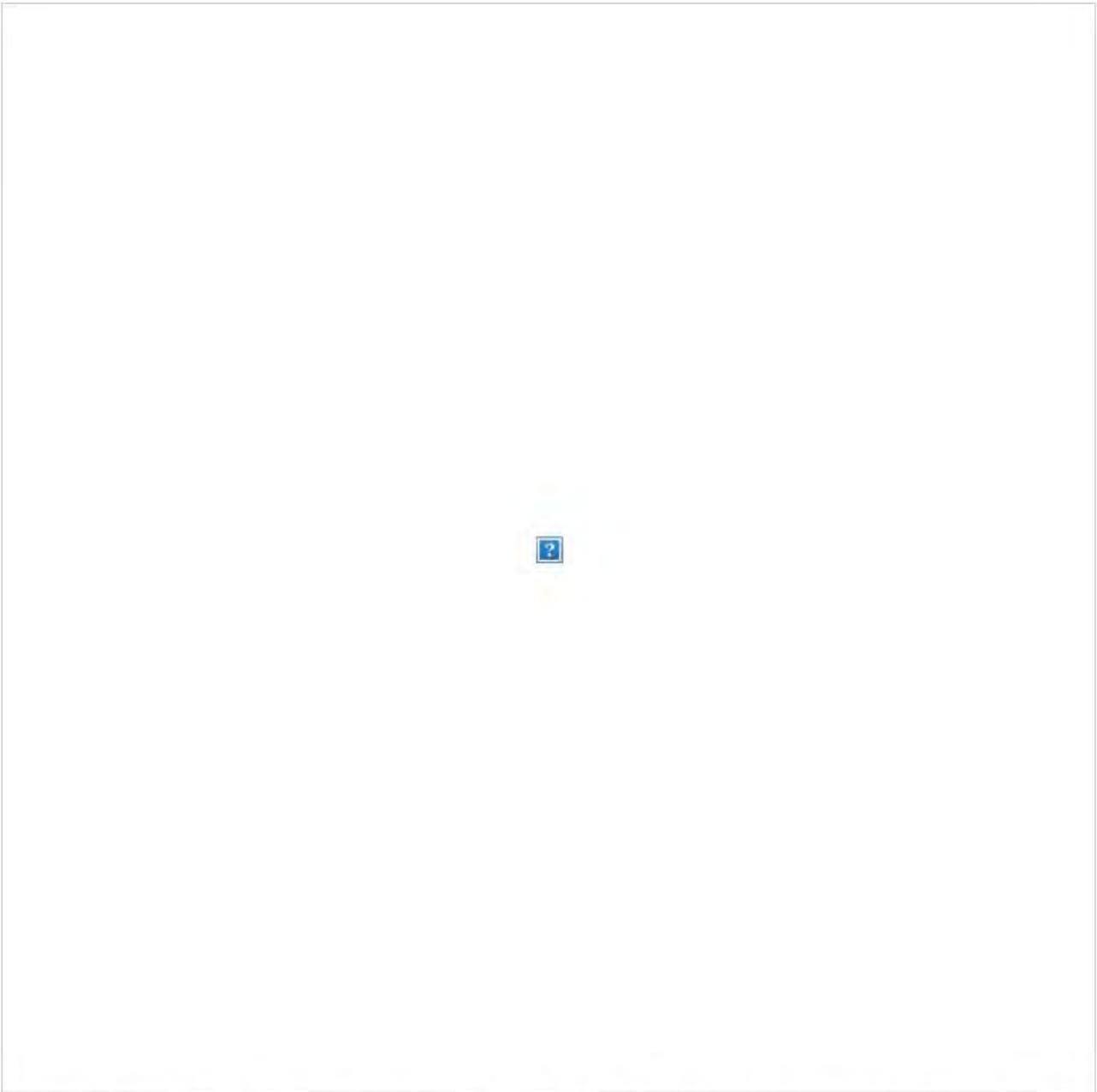
-- **D.C. residents took to Twitter to express their dismay with the Metro PCS in Shaw being asked to silence the go-go music it has played outside its store since 1995.** Store owner Donald Campbell said that T-Mobile, which owns Metro PCS, informed him that a nearby resident had threatened the company with a lawsuit unless the music was silenced. Angered city residents protested the decision by tweeting with the hashtag #DontMuteDC, which started trending locally. ([DCist](#))

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert said that, unlike the winners of the NCAA tournament, Kirstjen Nielsen must not be feeling like a champion:



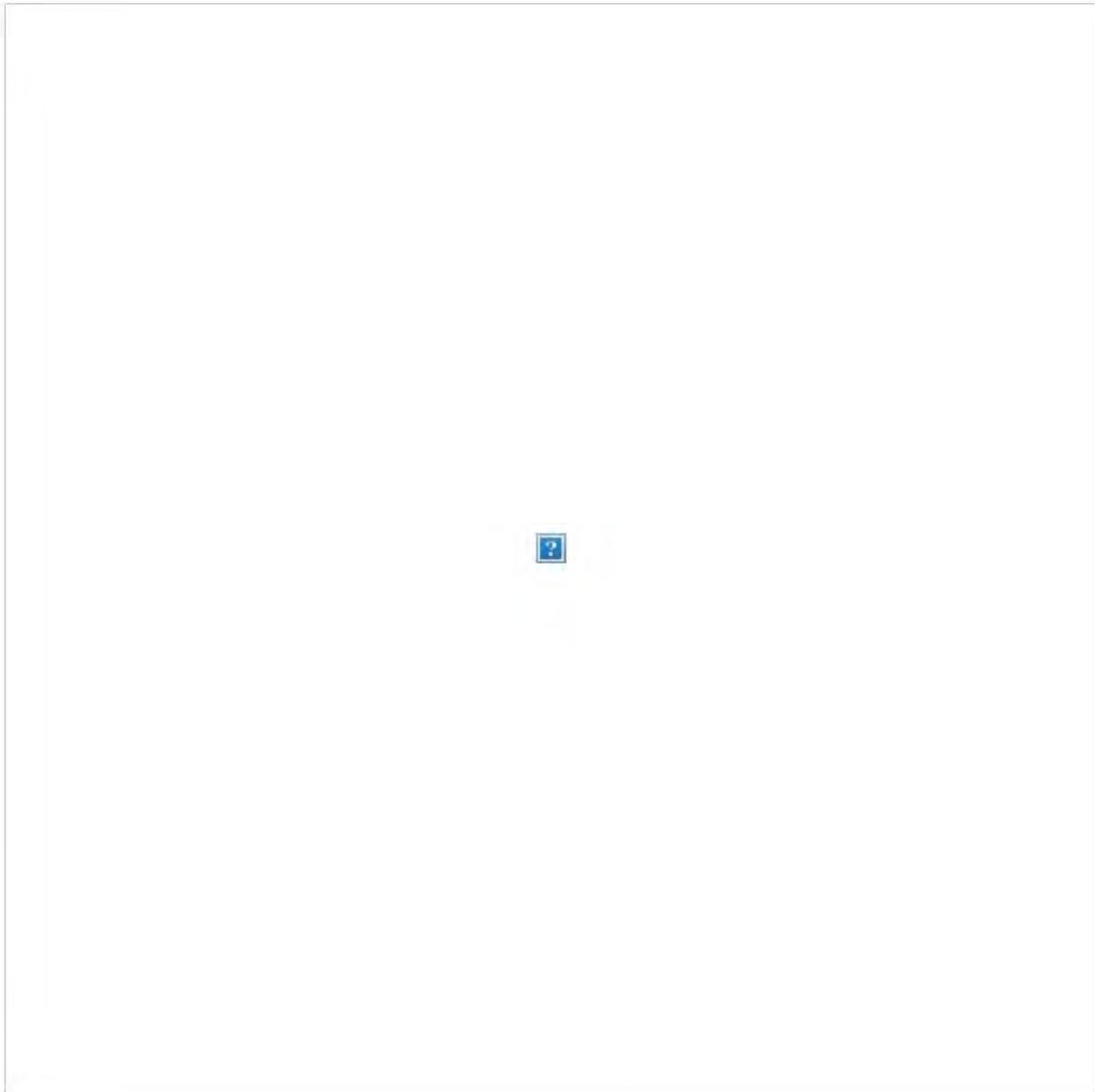
Seth Meyers reminded viewers that Trump seems to think he's above the law:



Mike Gravel, a former senator from Alaska, formally announced his presidential candidacy, which is [centered](#) on pushing the crowded 2020 field to the left by appearing in the primary debates:



CNN assembled clips from the past five years of Trump promising to release his tax returns:



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The Washington Post

From: The Washington Post
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)
Subject: The Daily 202: Tax records show how Trump profited off spreading rumors — until investors stopped believing him

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The Daily 202



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Tax records show how Trump profited off spreading rumors — until investors stopped believing him



Donald Trump waves to reporters with his wife at the time, Ivana, as they board their yacht, the Trump Princess, in New York on July 4, 1988. (Marty Lederhandler/AP)

THE BIG IDEA: President Trump is the personification of [the new Gilded Age](#).

with Joanie Greve and Mariana Alfaro

BY JAMES HOHMANN



Mark Twain coined that term to describe America in the late 19th century. His point was that the country appeared to be glittering, but it was a facade.

Tax numbers published last night by [the New York Times](#) highlight a jarring contrast between Trump's self-created mythology as a master dealmaker and a litany of [cold, hard financial facts](#) that he's kept concealed until now.

A source leaked 10 years of figures from Trump's 1985 through 1994 federal income tax forms. The transcripts show that the president paid no federal income tax for eight of those 10 years. He reported a net \$1.17 billion of losses over that stretch. In multiple years, Trump reportedly lost more money than nearly any other individual taxpayer in the United States. His \$418 million of losses in 1991 alone represented 1 percent of all losses declared by individual taxpayers in the entire country that year.

The most fascinating passage of the lengthy Times article, deep in the second half, focuses on the three years Trump spent "posing as a corporate raider" from 1986 through 1988. He had overleveraged himself by taking out huge loans at high interest rates and making questionable spending decisions. **Two weeks before the stock market crashed in October 1987, for example, Trump bought a 282-foot yacht for \$29 million.**

The president recognized as a relatively young man – still in his early 40s – that he could profit off his celebrity and perceived business acumen. This was around the time that his book [“The Art of the Deal”](#) came out in 1987. He didn’t have the assets to purchase large publicly traded companies, but he knew that other people didn’t know that – especially after he successfully [bamboozled](#) Forbes Magazine into wildly overestimating his wealth. **He expressed interest and spread rumors that he was looking to acquire companies he knew he couldn’t and wouldn’t.**

“Trump made a total of \$57 million by briefly presenting himself as a takeover threat to, among others, Hilton Hotels, the Gillette razor company and Federated Department Stores ... In all, from 1986 through 1989, Mr. Trump declared \$67.3 million in gains from stocks and other assets bought and sold within one year,” [Russ Buettner and Susanne Craig report](#). “As with many things Trump, his adventures in the stock market were more image than substance, helped greatly by news reports quoting anonymous sources said to have knowledge of Mr. Trump’s actions. An occasional quote from an associate — including his stockbroker, Alan C. Greenberg — helped burnish the myth. ‘He has an appetite like a Rocky Mountain vulture,’ Mr. Greenberg, the legendary chairman of Bear Stearns, told the Wall Street Journal in 1987. ‘He’d like to own the world.’ In his actions, Mr. Trump was more like a peacock.”

Investors grew wise to Trump’s game – eventually – so it caught up with him and stopped working. In 1989, Trump bought up American Airlines stock and then announced he was thinking about buying the huge company. “I’m very skeptical of everything this man does,” Andrew Geller, then an airline analyst at Provident National

Bank in Philadelphia, told the Associated Press.

“Mr. Trump was rebuffed, and the stock price fell sharply. Though at the time his losses were reported to be modest, the new tax return figures show that in 1990, the year he sold his American Airlines stake, Mr. Trump lost \$34.9 million on short-term trades, wiping out half his gains from the previous four years,” per Buettner and Craig.

The bluffer in chief had overplayed his hand.



Donald and Melania Trump celebrate the anniversary on Tuesday of the first lady's anti-bullying Be Best initiative in the Rose Garden. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

-- Reacting to the Times story, Trump said this morning that claiming massive losses to minimize his tax bill was “sport.” The president [tweeted](#) that it was routine for all real estate developers in the 1980s and 1990s to claim “massive write offs” and depreciation. “You always wanted to show losses for tax purposes ... and often re-negotiate with banks, it was sport,” Trump tweeted. “Additionally, the very old information put out is a highly inaccurate Fake News hit job!”

-- Trump didn’t face the personal consequences that most people would for losing so much money. The lenders were largely left holding the bag, and he could always count on his father, Fred, for a bailout. The Times reporters who wrote this story [won the Pulitzer Price](#) last month for revealing that Trump received at least \$413 million in today’s dollars from his dad. This backstop meant that the president’s standard of living didn’t decline even in the face of repeated failure. This allowed him to project the image that he was winning, which allowed him to borrow more money and bounce back.

-- The Times also reports there are no itemized deductions for [charitable giving](#) in the records obtained by the paper: “Because Mr. Trump reported a negative adjusted gross income in each of the 10 years, he was not allowed to deduct any charitable contributions. So while he has boasted of making large donations at the time, the information ... shows no such itemized deductions. Potential deductions could have been carried over to a future year, should Mr. Trump have reported a positive income.”

-- In this era of Theranos, the Fyre Festival and Trump University, the story is a good reminder that not all that glitters is gold.

-- Congressional Democrats say these records from three decades ago show the need to see more, especially to understand how he climbed out of the hole he dug himself into and the extent to which he has depended on foreign investors.

“As these records make clear, Trump was perhaps the worst businessman in the world. His entire campaign was a lie,” Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.) said in a statement. “He didn’t pay taxes for years and lost over \$1 billion dollars. How is that possible? How did he keep getting more money and where on Earth was it all going? We need to know now. Second, we must still see Trump's actual returns over the last generation. The IRS must abide by the legal requirement to provide them as requested under Section 6103(f). We now have another part of the truth. We need a lot more.”

-- House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richie Neal suggested last night that he will soon go to court to pursue the last six years of Trump’s personal and business returns, now that [the administration formally rejected his request](#) to turn over the president’s records voluntarily. The Democrat from Massachusetts has scheduled a meeting with the House counsel for Thursday to discuss next steps. “I was never naive about it,” Neal [told Erica Werner](#), “and I thought that it would end up in the courts.”



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WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



A powerful bomb exploded near security forces guarding a famous Sufi shrine in Pakistan. (K.M. Chaudary/AP)

-- At least eight people were killed in an explosion outside the Data Darbar Sufi shrine in Pakistan, one of the oldest Muslim shrines in South Asia, during Ramadan. [From the AP's Zaheer](#)

[Babar](#): “Officials said it was not clear if the target was the shrine itself ... or police outside guarding it. Hundreds of pilgrims were inside and outside the shrine, where a local Sufi saint is buried, when the blast took place. ... Lahore police chief Ghazanfar Ali said five police and three passers-by were killed in the attack, adding that the toll could rise as some of the wounded were in critical condition. ... Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, the governor of Punjab province, told reporters that those who carried out Wednesday’s attack were the ‘enemy of Islam and humanity.’ No group has claimed responsibility yet for the attack in the Muslim-majority country, the [BBC](#) notes.

At least 7 students injured in Colorado school shooting

-- An 18-year-old student was killed in a shooting at a suburban school in Denver, and eight other students were injured. [Susan Svrluga, Perry Stein and Nick Anderson report](#): “Two suspects, both students at the school, are in custody ... The adult suspect was named late Tuesday as 18-year-old Devon Erickson. ... The shooting happened shortly before 2 p.m. Tuesday local time at the STEM School Highlands Ranch — a charter school campus with more than

1,800 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The shooters were able to walk in and get deep inside the school, Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said. ... The injured students were 15 years old or older, he said. ... A handgun was used, he said, but he did not have other information about weapons. No teachers or staff members were injured, to his knowledge.”



Georgia signs 'heartbeat bill' into law, banning most abortions

GET SMART FAST:

1. **Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) signed the “heartbeat bill,” which would outlaw most abortions six weeks into pregnancy, teeing up a challenge to *Roe v. Wade* that could end up before the Supreme Court.** Kemp acknowledged the bill — which would largely ban abortions once a doctor detects “a fetal heartbeat in the womb” — was likely to be challenged in court. ([Emily Wax-Thibodeaux and Ariana Eunjung Cha](#))
2. **The CDC says hundreds of American women die each year because of complications from pregnancy that could be prevented.** About 700 women die annually from cardiovascular conditions, infections, hemorrhages and other complications up to a year after delivering their babies. In about 60 percent of the cases, the deaths could have been prevented, in part with proper medical intervention, as well as better access to it. ([Lindsey Bever](#))
3. **Drawing charges of voter suppression, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) will sign a measure requiring repayment of all financial obligations before felons can get their voting rights restored.** Voters overwhelmingly passed Amendment 4 in November, which restores voting rights to felons who’ve completed their sentences. But some Republicans worry this could hurt them in 2020 and have been looking for ways to minimize the number of new voters. ([CBS Miami](#))
4. **Thousands of Uber and Lyft drivers are expected to strike today in eight major U.S. cities, including Washington.** The

drivers plan to hold rallies outside company headquarters and regional offices to highlight what they say are unfair wages and poor working conditions as Uber and Lyft head toward the public market. Experts said delays, as well as fare increases, are likely with fewer drivers on the road. ([Luz Lazo](#))

5. **Google promised greater privacy for users at its annual conference for developers.** The move could have implications for the search giant's business model, which depends on user data to make advertising sales. ([Greg Bensinger](#))
6. **A Navy leader who directed sailors to “clap like we’re at a strip club” when Vice President Pence arrived at an event has resigned.** Command Master Chief Jonas Carter stepped down from his post and will retire after the remark was picked up by multiple news outlets. ([Military.com](#))
7. **Barack Obama’s book will no longer be released this year.** The publisher alerted foreign partners about the delay, raising the likelihood the former president's memoir will drop in the heat of the 2020 campaign. ([AP](#))
8. **CBS censored a segment in the legal drama “The Good Fight” that, ironically, talked about censorship in China.** While some viewers took the censorship as satire, one of the showrunners said CBS itself requested the eight-second scene be pulled from the show. ([New York Times](#))
9. **The Salt Lake Tribune is seeking federal approval to become a nonprofit operation that will be sustained by donations from the public.** This would be the first time a privately owned legacy newspaper switches to nonprofit status. ([Salt Lake](#))

[Tribune](#))

10. **Dave Chappelle will receive the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.** The gala, always fun, will be on Oct. 27. ([Elahe Izadi](#))

11. **Kim Kardashian is still a ways off from becoming a lawyer, but she's funding a legal team that has, so far, freed 17 inmates.** The reality TV star is bankrolling a group of lawyers that is helping secure the release of inmates set to serve life sentences for low-level drug offenses. ([Emily Heil](#))



McConnell on Mueller report: 'Case closed'

THERE'S A BEAR IN THE WOODS:

-- The Justice Department informed the House Judiciary Committee late last night that it would ask Trump to assert executive privilege over all of the underlying evidence in Bob Mueller's report, a hostile move that all but assures Attorney General Bill Barr will be held in contempt of Congress later

today. [Rachael Bade and Matt Zapotosky report](#): “In a late-night letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), assistant attorney general Stephen E. Boyd argued that the Justice Department had tried to accommodate Democrats’ demands for the release of the full Mueller report, which the Judiciary panel subpoenaed for its investigation into the president. But Boyd said that Democrats — who made a counteroffer to the Justice Department in a last-ditch negotiation session to stave off a scheduled contempt vote for Barr Wednesday morning — ‘has responded to our accommodation efforts by escalating its unreasonable demands.’”

-- House Democrats threatened to hold Don McGahn in contempt after Trump invoked executive privilege to block the former White House counsel from complying with a subpoena to turn over documents. [Rachael Bade, Carol D. Leonnig and Josh Dawsey report](#): “In a letter to the House Judiciary Committee, White House counsel Pat A. Cipollone said McGahn does not have the legal right to comply with its subpoena for 36 types of documents — most related to Mueller’s nearly two-year probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. ... Democrats rejected the White House moves as illegitimate, arguing that the Trump administration hadn’t officially completed the paperwork to assert privilege. And even if it had, the committee continued, it would not apply because the White House waived privilege for McGahn long ago.”

-- FBI Director Chris Wray distanced himself from Trump and Barr’s use of the term “spying” to describe the investigation into Trump’s 2016 campaign. [Devlin Barrett reports](#): “‘That’s not the term I would use,’ Wray said in response to a question from Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) during a congressional hearing about the FBI’s

budget. Wray, who took over the bureau in 2017, urged lawmakers to wait for the findings from Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz, who is expected to issue a report in a month or two about the origins of the FBI investigation into the Trump campaign, and the law enforcement tools that were used, including foreign intelligence surveillance court orders.”

-- House Oversight Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) threatened to withhold the salaries of Interior, Commerce and Justice Department staffers who block committee investigations. The committee called for eight current and former Trump administration officials to provide information for two investigations, one into the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, and one into whether Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and his staff complied with record-keeping laws. ([The Hill](#))

-- Some of the former federal prosecutors who signed the open letter saying that Trump would have faced criminal charges if he weren't president sought to clarify they are not endorsing impeachment. [Matt Zapotosky reports](#): “The signers included some left-leaning lawyers who have gained prominence from their frequent TV appearances, but also a significant number of career prosecutors and high-profile conservatives who bristle at the suggestion they were motivated by anti-Trump bias. **A handful interviewed by The Post on Tuesday said they hoped for little else than to [make public their view](#) that Barr had mischaracterized [Mueller's report](#) in asserting it laid out insufficient evidence to make an obstruction case.** They said they did not sign hoping to spark impeachment proceedings.”

-- Mueller and his prosecutors sought to block the public release of James Comey's memos last year because they feared Trump and other witnesses would change their stories after reading the former FBI director's full version of events. [CNN's Katelyn Polantz reports](#): "A court order on Tuesday forced the Justice Department to provide a transcript of the hearing to CNN as part of a lawsuit over access to the Comey memos. The Justice Department implored a federal judge to keep the memos under seal after CNN and other news organizations asked for their release. Mueller's plea to keep the memos under seal coincided with negotiations with Trump's legal team over a potential interview with the President at Camp David, planned for the days following the court hearing and which ultimately fell through."

-- Nothing to see here! Mitch McConnell joined fellow Republicans in saying "case closed" and demanding an end to the congressional probe of Russia and its interference to help Trump win in 2016. [Mike DeBonis, Rachael Bade and Matt Zapotosky report](#): "Inside the Capitol, Republicans stood with Trump, as they have repeatedly since the start of his presidency. **Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who frequently talks about the Constitution, said he was not concerned about the precedent the White House was setting in ignoring congressional subpoenas. ... GOP Sens. Susan Collins (Maine) and Cory Gardner (Colo.), both seeking reelection next year in states Trump lost in 2016, declined to challenge McConnell's view, with Gardner using Trump's oft-repeated assessment. 'The report talks about no collusion, no cooperation, so what are you talking about?' Gardner said."**

-- Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence

Committee, promised that his panel's forthcoming report will divulge more details on Russian election interference than Mueller included in his telling. [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): "We're addressing two different lanes,' [Burr said]. 'The tough thing is, everything that we're going to report on already has a narrative.' ... Burr and the committee's vice chairman, Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.), have managed to shield their panel's work from much of the partisan pressure that splintered other probes ... In the process, they collected what several members and aides described as a 'mountain' of evidence exposing the degree to which Russia exploited social media and weaknesses in U.S. election systems."

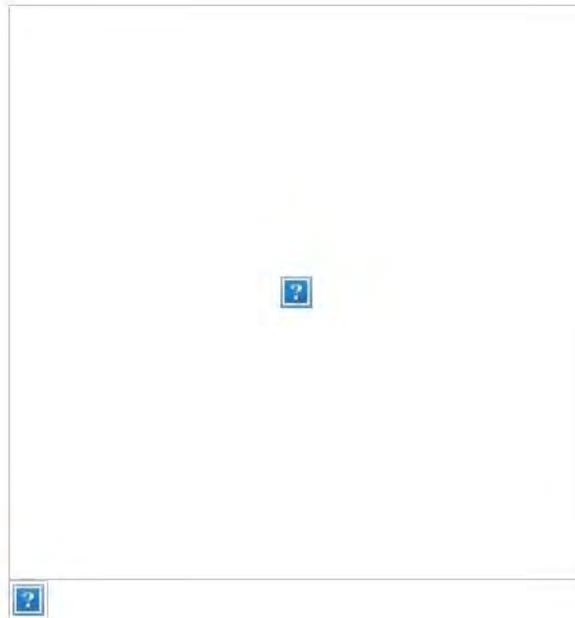
-- The Pentagon's Cyber Command probed the networks of other countries to explore threats and gain insights that could help the U.S. thwart foreign interferences during the 2020 campaign. [Ellen Nakashima reports](#): "Code-named Synthetic Theology, last year's operation leveraged new authorities, granted by the president and Congress, enabling U.S. agencies to become more aggressive in foreign cyberspace in defense of the nation. Though the operation has ended, Cybercom is continuing its close relationship with the National Security Agency and working to build partnerships with other nations ... Aided by NSA intelligence, Cybercom's midterm operation successfully blocked Russian trolls working at the infamous Internet Research Agency from posting divisive messages on U.S. social media in an effort to sow discord among Americans as they went to the polls in November."

-- After Donald Trump Jr. targeted her on social media, the White House recalled the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, ahead of her scheduled departure. [Josh Rogin](#)

[writes](#): “Yovanovitch will leave her post permanently on May 20, with no replacement in place and no nominations to fill that position. ... The House Democratic leadership thinks that Yovanovitch’s early departure under pressure is a clear sign that the White House is responding to calls from Trump allies, Trump family members and conservative media sites that have accused Yovanovitch, without firm evidence, of being part of a conspiracy that involves anti-corruption probes in Ukraine.”



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on May 6 in New York. (Spencer Platt/Getty Images)



THE TRADE WARS:

-- Trump's ongoing trade war with China has caused a rift inside his administration, as top officials like Steven Mnuchin and economic adviser Larry Kudlow have urged the president to abandon the tariffs that threaten to drag down his reelection prospects. [Toluse Olorunnipa and Seung Min Kim report](#): "As Trump prepares to run on the economy, his threat to increase tariffs on imports from China has sent the stock market diving and undercut a stretch of positive economic news. U.S. farmers and exporters, already bearing the brunt of China's retaliatory tariffs, now face the prospect of an escalated trade war in which states that Trump needs to win reelection will be in the crosshairs. ... White House officials said Trump is prepared to take a hard line with China going into 2020

in part because he intends to keep his 2016 campaign promise to fix what he views as bad trade deals. ... Trump's trade agenda is likely to play a central role in the 2020 race, as Democrats seek to challenge his economic message and compete with him in export-reliant states such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania."

-- Nonpartisan career economists at the Agriculture Department say they are quitting after suffering retaliation for publishing reports detailing how badly American farmers have been hurt by Trump's policies, especially his tariffs. [Politico's Ryan McCrimmon reports](#): "The Economic Research Service — a source of closely read reports on farm income and other topics that can shape federal policy, planting decisions and commodity markets — has run afoul of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue with its findings on how farmers have been financially harmed by [Trump's] trade feuds, the Republican tax code rewrite and other sensitive issues, according to current and former agency employees. The reports highlight the continued decline under Trump's watch in farm income, which has dropped about 50 percent since 2013."

-- Experts at the nonpartisan Peterson Institute estimate that every job saved or created by Trump's steel tariffs cost U.S. consumers more than \$900,000. [Heather Long reports](#): "The cost is more than 13 times the typical salary of a steelworker, according to Labor Department data, and it is similar to other economists' estimates that Trump's tariffs on washing machines are costing consumers \$815,000 per job created. ... Many economists and business leaders point out that jobs in steel-using industries outnumber those in steel production by about 80 to 1, according to experts at Harvard University and the University of California at

Davis.”

-- Americans could soon pay 40 percent to 85 percent more for tomatoes after Trump's new 17.5 percent tariff on Mexican tomato imports went into effect yesterday. [Laura Reiley reports](#): “The tariffs follow a breakdown of a 22-year-old agreement that had attempted to maintain the peace between American and Mexican tomato growers. ... Mexican imports account for about 54 percent of the U.S. tomato market. ... [An Arizona State] study found that American consumers will pay the lion’s share of the tariff impact because the demand for fresh tomatoes is relatively steady.”

-- Trump’s brinkmanship with China this week represents a test of his administration’s tougher stance as he attempts to secure a trade deal with Beijing while preserving its cooperation on North Korea. [David Nakamura and Ashley Parker report](#): “The specter of escalating tensions illustrated the risks of Trump’s China strategy as he has simultaneously pursued denuclearization talks with North Korea, which have rested in part on Beijing’s enforcement of sweeping international economic sanctions on its neighbor. Analysts said Beijing has not directly linked the two issues, but they warned that mounting hostilities with Washington could complicate the picture at a time when nuclear negotiations have stalled.”

-- The Pentagon has given up hope of recovering any more remains of American troops killed in the Korean War, at least in the near future. [Reuters’s Josh Smith reports](#): “The U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which works to recover missing American troops around the world, said on Wednesday that it had not heard from North Korean officials since the second U.S.-

North Korea summit, held in Hanoi in February, ended with no agreement.”



Pompeo talks to reporters after his unannounced trip to Baghdad

SABER RATTLING AND ESCALATION OVER IRAN:

-- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced today that his country is taking steps to halt its compliance with elements of a landmark nuclear deal in response to Trump pulling out of the

accord and stiffening sanctions on Tehran. [Tamer El-Ghobashy reports](#): “In a televised speech, Rouhani said that Iran would keep stockpiles of excess uranium and heavy water that is used in nuclear reactors. He gave a 60-day deadline for new terms to the nuclear accord, after which Tehran would resume higher uranium enrichment. The speech coincided with the anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal last year. ... On Friday, the State Department announced new restrictions on Iran’s civil nuclear program, despite protests by European allies.”

-- The U.S. Navy announced it has canceled a planned port visit in Croatia for an aircraft carrier group because its deployment to the Middle East was expedited in response to “recent and clear indications” that Iran is preparing to attack U.S. troops in the region. [Dan Lamothe reports](#): “The USS Abraham Lincoln, traveling with a fleet of escort ships, will make way for the Middle East as part of a deployment announced Sunday by White House national security adviser John Bolton. The Lincoln already was due to ‘spend a significant amount of time’ in the Middle East, but it will now arrive earlier than initially planned, the Pentagon said in an emailed statement responding to questions from numerous reporters.”

-- After abruptly breaking away from a European trip and canceling a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made an unannounced visit to Iraq to discuss Iran. [Carol Morello and Missy Ryan report](#): “After flying out of Baghdad late at night, Pompeo said he had told Iraqi President Barham Salih and Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi that they are responsible for protecting Americans in their country and briefed them on intelligence suggesting Iran is posing a greater

threat. 'We wanted to let them know about the increased threat stream that we had seen and give them a little bit more background on that so they could ensure that they were doing all they could to provide protection for our team,' Pompeo told reporters. 'They understood, too, it's important for their country. We don't want anyone interfering in their country and there was complete agreement.'"

-- Deja vu? Some U.S. officials worry the Trump administration is overreacting to or otherwise overhyping intelligence on Iran, which they fear could lead to unplanned hostilities. [The Daily Beast's Betsy Woodruff and Adam Rawnsley report](#): "It's not that the administration is mischaracterizing the intelligence, so much as overreacting to it,' said one U.S. government official briefed on it. Another source familiar with the situation agreed that the Trump administration's response was an 'overreaction' but didn't dispute that a threat exists. ... 'I would characterize the current situation as shaping operations on both sides to tilt the field in preparation for a possible coming conflict,' continued the second source, who is also a U.S. government official. 'The risk is a low-level proxy unit miscalculating and escalating things. We're sending a message with this reaction to the intelligence, even though the threat might not be as imminent as portrayed.'"



Listen: Cohen claims to have helped prevent release of damaging photos of Jerry Falwell Jr.

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN:

-- Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal attorney who is now in prison, said he helped prevent the release of embarrassing personal photographs of Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. shortly before the evangelical leader endorsed Trump for president in 2016. [Felicia Sonmez and Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#)

[report](#): “Cohen made the assertion, which was first reported by Reuters, in a phone call in March with actor Tom Arnold. Arnold provided The Washington Post with a recording of the call Tuesday night. [Click the image above to listen.] ‘There’s a bunch of photographs — you know, personal photographs — that somehow, the guy ended up getting,’ Cohen said on the call. The person who had the photos, who is not identified on the call, was demanding money from the Falwells, and Cohen threatened to report the person to legal authorities, according to Reuters. ... A statement released by an attorney for the Falwells called the account ‘not accurate.’”

-- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin addressed a group of “bundlers for Trump’s reelection campaign during a fundraising event last night at the Trump hotel in D.C., a highly unusual political appearance at a gathering that included industry executives he is charged with regulating. [Michelle Ye Hee Lee, Josh Dawsey and Damian Paletta report](#): “Mnuchin’s attendance at the kickoff event for the Trump Victory Committee came a day after he rejected a request from House Democrats for Trump’s tax returns. ... Treasury secretaries in recent years have avoided attending fundraiser events with people they could be tasked with regulating, in part because of their unique role in overseeing a broad swath of companies in the financial system. His presence would be acutely noted by industry executives in attendance, said legal experts, who noted that the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law gave Mnuchin tremendous power over a broad swath of companies.”

Flashback: A political firestorm erupted in 1996 when then-Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin attended a fundraiser for Bill Clinton’s reelection campaign. Republicans seized on the event

and highlighted the conflicts of interest. Clinton later said the optics were poor and that “mistakes were made.”

-- Trump's appointees at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau proposed new rules to debt collectors to deliver an unlimited number of text messages and emails to consumers.

[Renae Merle reports](#): “The proposal is a victory for debt collectors such as San Francisco-based TrueAccord. Instead of making a barrage of phone calls, TrueAccord sends out millions of emails and texts every month. Next, it hopes to contact delinquent consumers through chat programs such as WhatsApp. ... But this digital-first approach has alarmed consumer advocates who worry that the CFPB could give an industry known for high pressure tactics a new way to violate consumers’ privacy.”

-- Trump wants to shut down the Office of Personnel Management, but the president's nominee to lead the agency had almost nothing to say about its potential demise during her confirmation hearing. [Joe Davidson reports](#): Virginia Dale Cabaniss

“promised transparency and to work with Congress, as all nominees do. She had no specifics to offer on the future of OPM, which has about 5,500 employees. If the Trump administration succeeds at dismantling OPM, it would be the first major federal agency eliminated since the World War II era. ... Sen. Gary Peters (Mich.), the top Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, was clearly frustrated with the administration’s inability or refusal to provide Congress information on the reorganization.”

-- Betsy DeVos testified that her top priority is expanding charter

schools and other alternatives to traditional public schools. In response, Democratic lawmakers are slashing federal funding for charters. They're citing concerns over DeVos's ability to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars flowing into the programs. [Valerie Strauss reports](#): “The House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday released its proposed 2020 budget for the Education Department and is seeking \$75.9 billion. That is \$11.9 billion more than [the Trump budget request], and \$4.4 billion more than what was enacted in 2019. There are big boosts for Title 1 — a program intended to help children from low-income families — and special education. The section on charter schools is seeking \$400 million for the federal Charter Schools Program, which is \$40 million less than what was given last year and \$100 million less than Trump’s proposed budget.”



Marlen Xiomara Moya cries as she embraces her sons in polyester-film blankets while they wait to be processed and transported to a holding facility in El Paso. The Guatemalan family was seeking asylum in the U.S. (Carolyn Van Houten/The Washington Post)

THE IMMIGRATION WARS:

-- The Trump administration sent new guidelines to asylum officers that direct them to take a more confrontational approach during interviews with migrants seeking refuge. [Nick Miroff](#)

[reports](#): “The asylum officers will more aggressively challenge applicants whose claims of persecution contain discrepancies, and they will need to provide detailed justifications before concluding that an applicant has a well-founded fear of harm if deported to their home country. The changes require officers to zero in on any gaps between what migrants say to U.S. border agents after they are taken into custody and testimony they provide during the interview process with a trained asylum officer.”

-- No group has been more hurt than Syrians by the U.S. curtailing refugees. [Katie Zezima reports](#): “Under the Trump administration, the number of refugees allowed into the United States has fallen to its lowest level since the resettlement program began in 1980. And few groups have been as affected as Syrians, who have been fleeing a brutal civil war that has left hundreds of thousands of people dead since it began in 2011. The number of Syrian refugees allowed into the United States in fiscal 2016 was 12,587. In fiscal 2018, the United States admitted 62.”

-- “Self-deportation” rates among undocumented immigrants have increased under Trump. [Politico’s Christie Thompson and the Marshall Project’s Andrew R. Calderon report](#): “The number of immigrants who have applied for voluntary departure has soared since the election of [Trump], according to new Justice Department data obtained by The Marshall Project. In fiscal year 2018, the number of applications doubled from the previous fiscal year—rising much faster than the 17 percent increase in overall immigration cases, according to data from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University.”

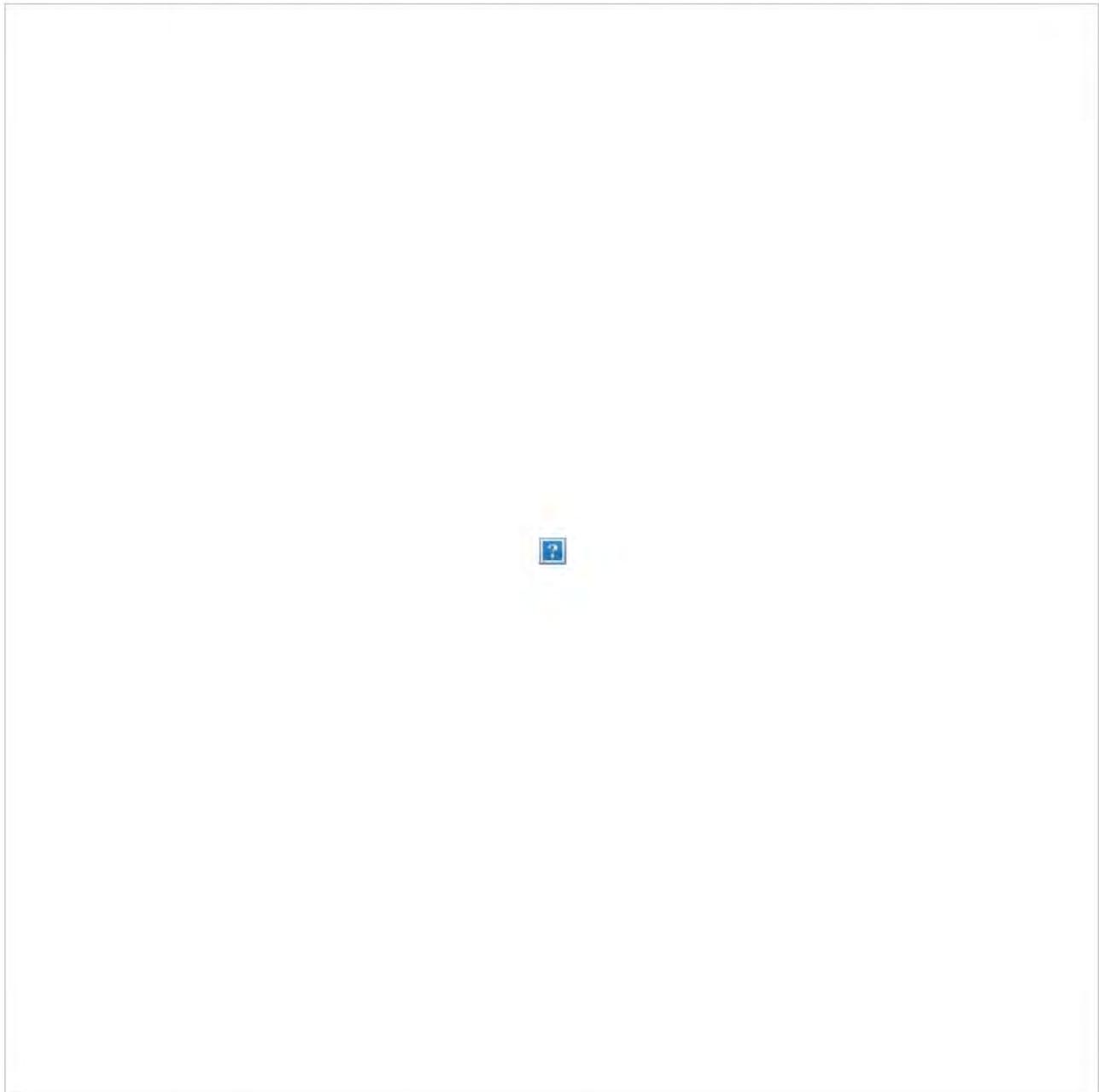
-- An Oregon man was sentenced to four months in prison for trying and failing to bribe an ICE officer into deporting his wife. Antonio Oswaldo Burgos and his wife were going through a divorce when authorities say he followed an ICE employee from the agency's Portland office to a parking lot, where Burgos offered the officer money to deport his wife. The officer declined and reported Burgos, who was then prosecuted. ([Katie Mettler](#))

-- Negotiations over a multibillion-dollar disaster aid bill in the Senate have grown more complicated now that the Trump administration wants to add emergency spending for the border. [Erica Werner reports](#): "But with the \$17 billion disaster aid bill among the few legislative vehicles expected to move through Congress anytime soon, administration officials have begun eyeing it to carry some or all of a separate \$4.5 billion emergency spending request for the border they sent to Congress last week."

-- Trump briefed a dozen Republican senators on the broad contours of his son-in-law Jared Kushner's plan to transform the legal immigration system. [Seung Min Kim reports](#): The proposal is expected to prioritize "immigrants based on their ability to immediately contribute to the economy. ... Republicans in touch with the White House in recent weeks also said the administration has also looked at modernizing the visa system for temporary guest workers ... and tightening asylum policy ... But changing asylum policy and temporary guest worker programs barely came up in the hour-long meeting at the White House on Tuesday."

-- The Republican senators appeared receptive. [The AP's Jill Colvin reports](#): "A senior administration official told reporters after the

meeting that the president had approved the effort to overhaul America's immigration system and increase border security last week and that it should now be considered 'the President Trump plan.' ... The White House is also working with Sen. Lindsey Graham on additional legislation that would address the nation's asylum system in an effort to stem the flow of migrants across the border."



Elizabeth Warren, then a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, poses for a portrait in Philadelphia in the early 1990s. (Leif Skoogfors/Corbis/Getty Images)

2020 WATCH:

-- **While researching bankruptcy in the late 1980s, Elizabeth Warren was criticized by fellow academics for overstating her findings.** [Annie Linskey reports](#): “Warren, who with two co-authors had spent six years digging into court files on real-world cases, laid out a provocative argument that Americans were going broke at a faster rate due to predatory credit card companies — not, as many experts long argued, because of their own irresponsible spending. ... A scathing article by a Rutgers University bankruptcy scholar, Philip Shuchman, appearing in the school’s law review, accused Warren and her co-authors of engaging in ‘repeated instances of scientific misconduct,’ making ‘extravagant and false claims’ and adopting ‘high-level populist theorizing that bears no relation to their research.’ ... [The episode] foreshadowed a recurring dynamic in Warren’s career as professor, then politician: She introduced pioneering ideas that reshaped views of the middle class, drew criticism that she was overstating her findings to make ideological points, and seemed to relish punching back.”

-- **“Amy Klobuchar’s complicated political inheritance,”** [by Ben Terris](#): “It’s been something of a theme over the course of Amy’s life; both an evolving kinship with her father and being mortified by things he put in the paper. For decades, Jim Klobuchar was a daily columnist for the Minneapolis Star Tribune; part sportswriter, raconteur-adventurer, voice for the voiceless, and needler of the ruling class. Little in his life, or Amy’s, was off limits. ... Friends of Jim’s say they see a lot of him in Amy: the populist streak, the humor, and yes, the reports of a fierce temper. Intentionally or not, being the

daughter of an alcoholic has become central to Amy's presidential run."

-- Jill Biden said it was "time to move on" from her husband's mishandling of Anita Hill's sexual harassment allegation against Clarence Thomas. "I watched the hearings like most other Americans, and so I mean Joe said, as I did, we believed Anita Hill. He voted against Clarence Thomas," the former second lady [told NPR](#). "And as he has said, I mean he's called Anita Hill, they've talked, they've spoken, and he said, you know, he feels badly. He apologized for the way the hearings were run. And so now it's kind of — it's time to move on." She also defended her husband against allegations of inappropriate touching, saying, "Joe realizes these are different times. And believe me — he's very conscious of, you know, how he interacts with men and women today."

-- The Trump campaign rebuked "dishonest fundraising groups" in a veiled swipe at the president's former deputy campaign manager David Bossie, who's been accused of running a fundraising group that misleads donors about how it is using their money. [Felicia Sonmez and Josh Dawsey report](#): "President Trump's campaign condemns any organization that deceptively uses the President's name, likeness, trademarks, or branding and confuses voters,' Trump's campaign said in the message ... The statement includes an appeal to the 'appropriate authorities' to 'investigate all alleged scam groups for potential illegal activities.' ... Despite its stated goal of supporting conservative candidates who back Trump, just 3 percent of the \$15.4 million that [Bossie's group] Presidential Coalition spent in 2017 and 2018 went toward direct political activity."

-- House Democrats are raking in money from corporate political groups and registered lobbyists, even as their more left-wing members increasingly attempt to distance themselves from those traditional sources of financial support. [The Daily Beast's Jackie Kucinich and Lachlan Markay report](#): “The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee raised about \$1.93 million from 143 corporate political action committees in the first quarter of 2019, according to a Daily Beast review of campaign finance records. That’s up substantially from the past two election cycles. ... Lobbyist fundraisers are also ponying up for the DCCC. In the first three months of the year, eight registered federal lobbyists ‘bundled’ more than \$1.2 million in contributions for the committee. That’s nearly double the total during the same period last cycle.”



How Trump talks about Charlottesville's white nationalist rally

DIVIDED AMERICA:

-- **[“The racial divide in the Red Sox’ visit to Trump’s White House is impossible to ignore,”](#)** by **Dave Sheinin**: Boston Red Sox Manager Alex Cora will not be attending a visit to the White House, and he “is not the only uniformed Red Sox personnel to opt out of the trip. Among players ... David Price, Christian Vazquez and Hector

Velazquez have said they would be declining the invitation. The other roughly 20 players ... have either announced their intention to attend or were presumed to be attending. It was impossible not to notice one significant difference between the two groups: Those opting out of the trip are all people of color, while those planning to attend (with the exception of designated hitter J.D. Martinez, who is of Cuban descent) are white. **This dichotomy was highlighted by a tweet from longtime Boston sports columnist Steve Buckley, who noted, ‘Basically, it’s the white Sox who’ll be going.’ The racial divide was further underscored when Price, who is African American, retweeted Buckley’s tweet to his nearly 1.8 million followers, adding, ‘I just feel like more than 38k should see this tweet ...’** Price’s retweet led to rampant speculation Monday that the racial divide of the White House visit had become a clubhouse problem for the team.”

-- **The Chicago Cubs are investigating a fan who appeared to flash a white-supremacist sign on-air.** The fan, in the background of a camera cut to a game analyst, flashed an upside-down “okay” sign, a hand gesture that’s been adopted as a symbol of white power. ([Tim Elfrink](#))

-- **A group of white supremacists interrupted a Holocaust remembrance event in Arkansas carrying Nazi flags and shouting racial slurs.** The group, named Shield Wall Network, said it was protesting the controversy surrounding a scholarship at Arkansas Tech University named after a professor who’s been accused of being a Holocaust denier. ([Courier News](#))

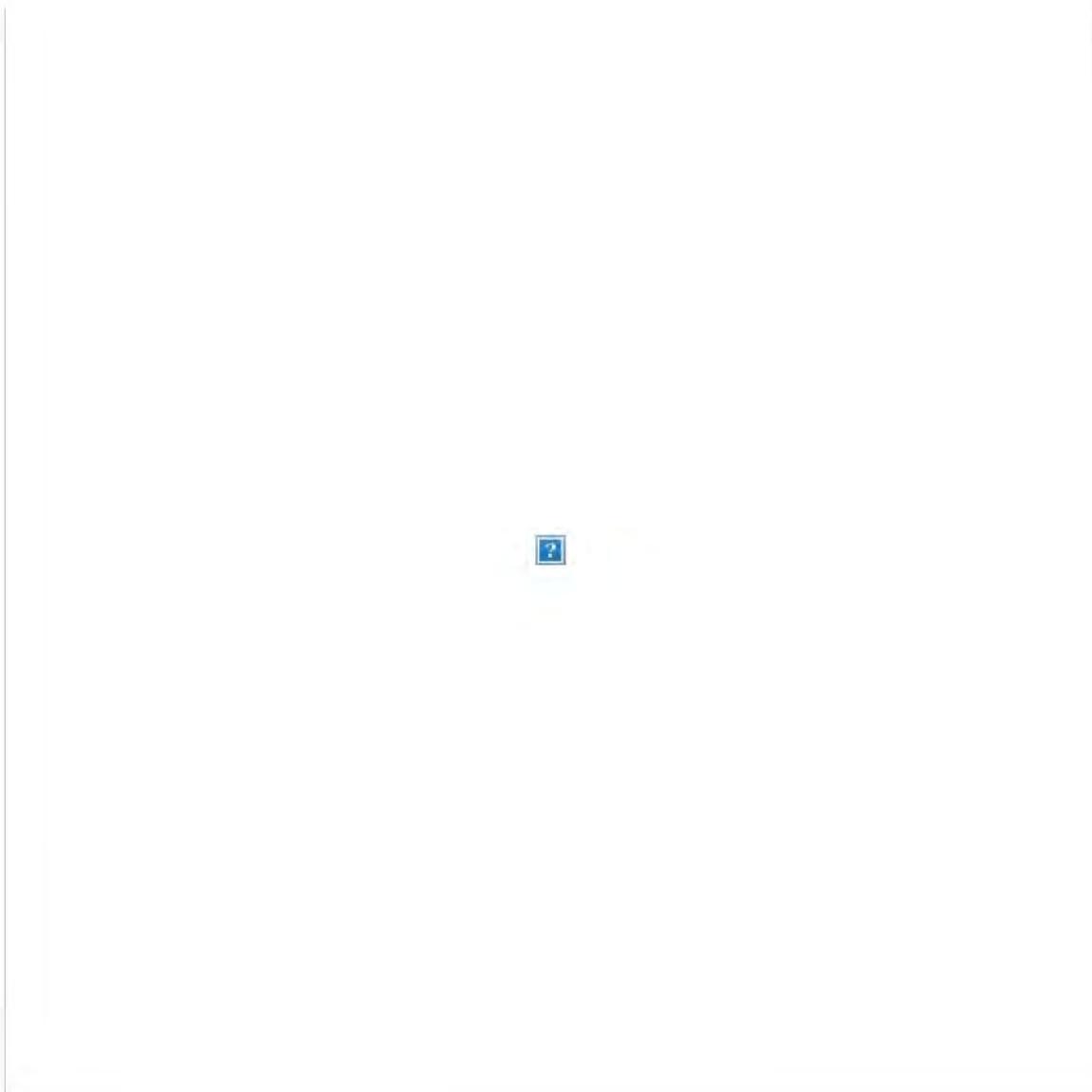
-- **Footage from an Oklahoma police officer’s body camera has**

raised new questions about the shooting of a black teenager who had been playing with a replica gun. Sgt. Kyle Holcomb, who is back at work after being cleared of criminal charges in the March incident, can be heard in the video saying, “I think it’s a cap gun, but they are shooting something off.” Moments later, he directed the group of boys to drop their toy weapons just before firing off four shots — two of which hit Lorenzo Clerkley Jr., an eighth-grader who survived the shooting. ([Eli Rosenberg](#))

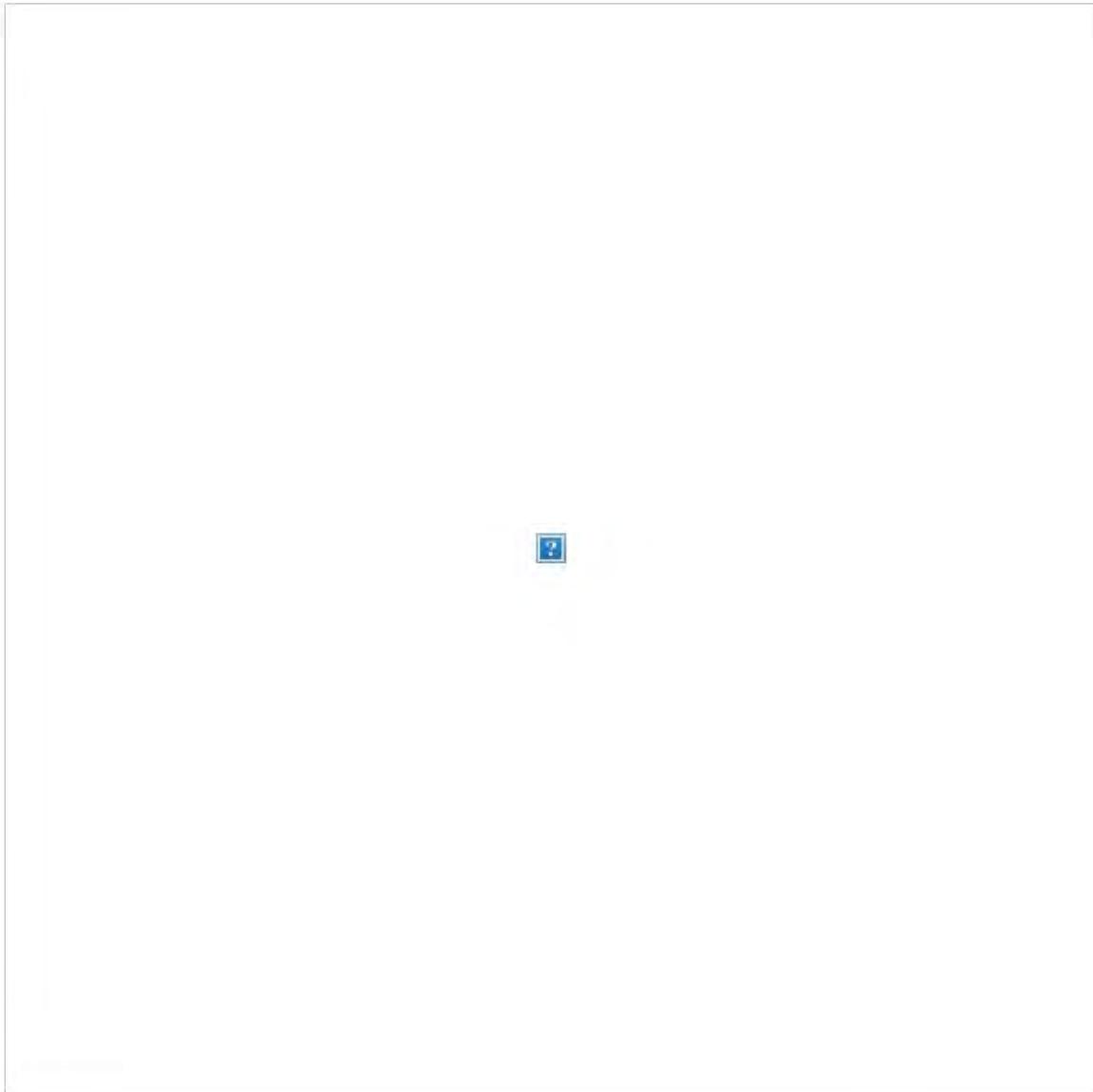
-- Right-wing agitator Jacob Wohl, the mastermind of the baseless sexual assault smear attempt against Pete Buttigieg, tried to create a fake protest against himself. Wohl and Jack Burkman, one of his allies, were planning on holding a news conference to push the fake allegations against Buttigieg, but the event was canceled after they claimed a protest was being organized against them. A reporter then found that the email account behind the Eventbrite invitation for the protest belongs to Wohl himself. ([The Daily Beast](#))

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

The president of the liberal Center for American Progress had this observation about the NYT's tax story:



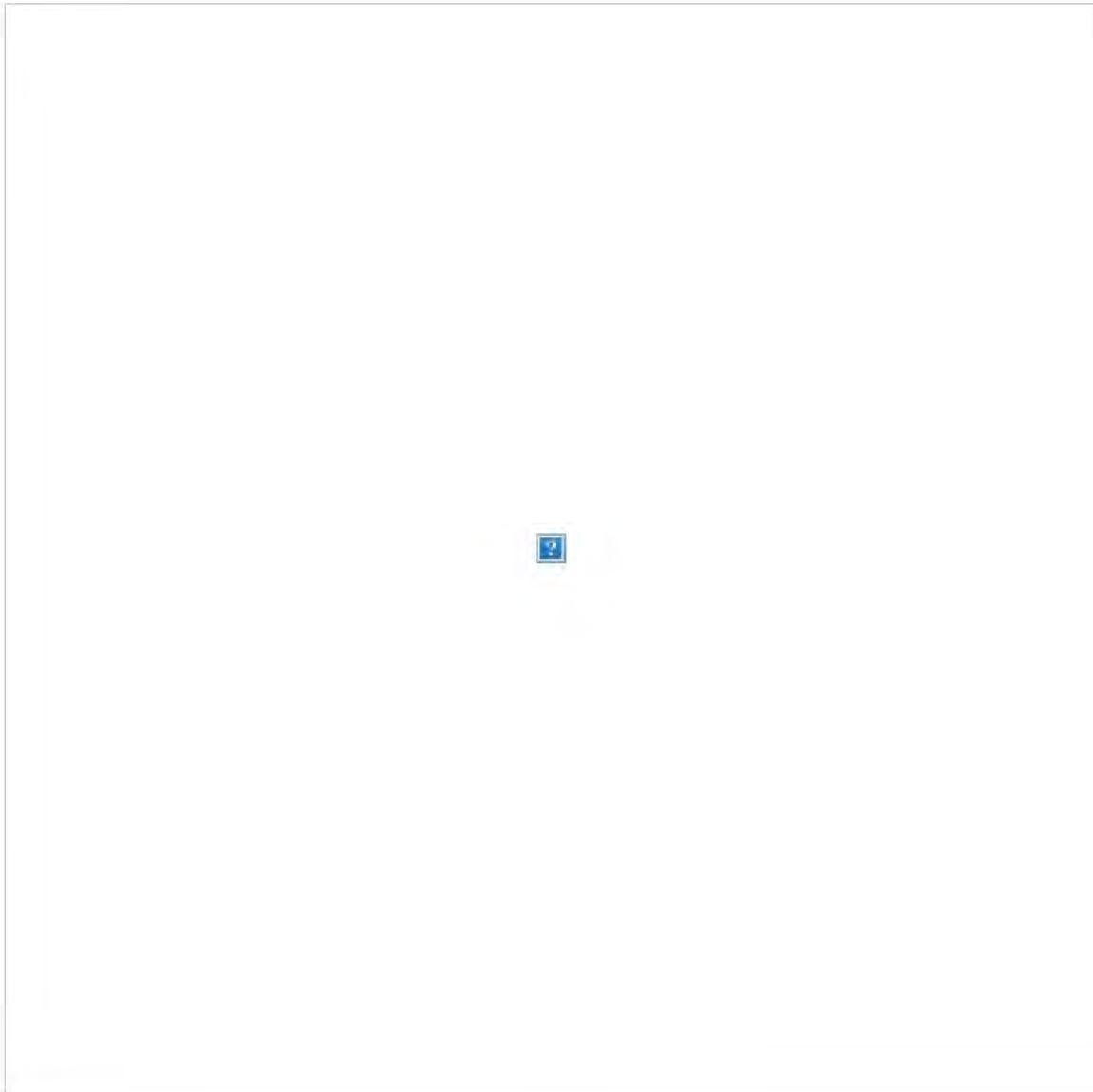
One of Trump's congressional allies took issue with the FBI director's comments on spying, and a former senior CIA official fired back:



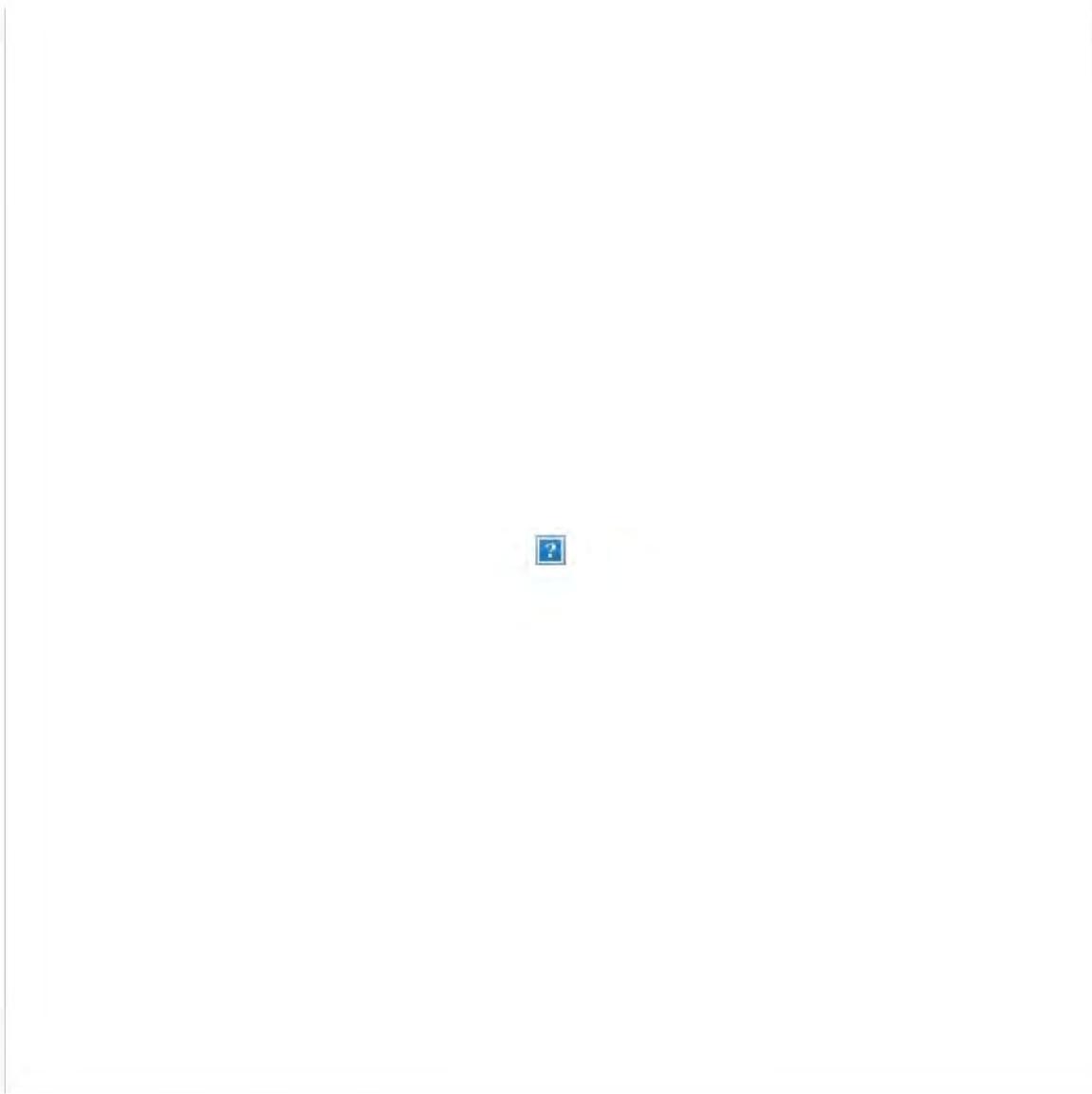
A reporter on the intelligence beat looked back on the Senate majority leader's handling of information on Russian election interference:



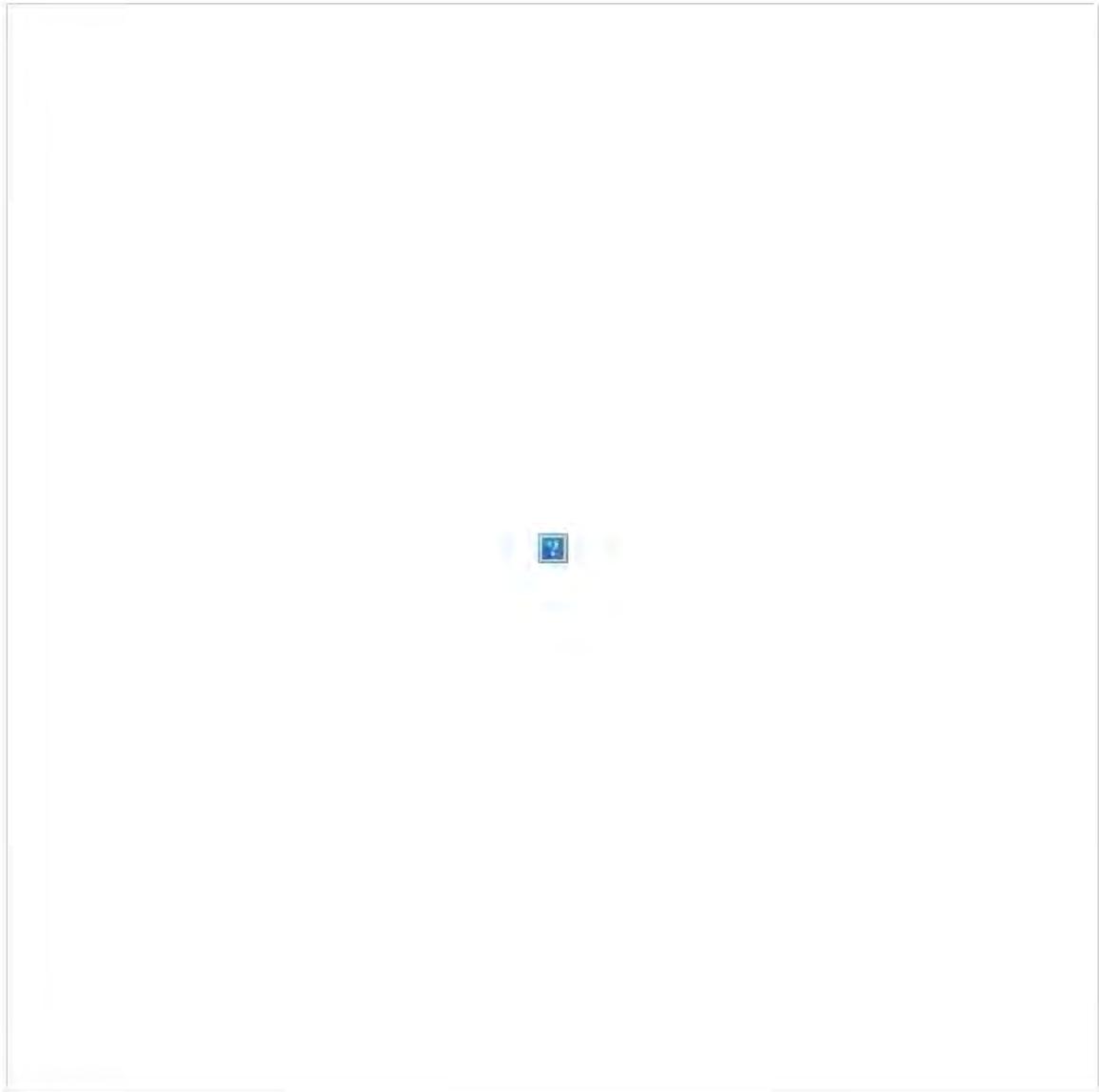
A Democratic senator tried to draw attention to the lack of a permanent defense secretary:



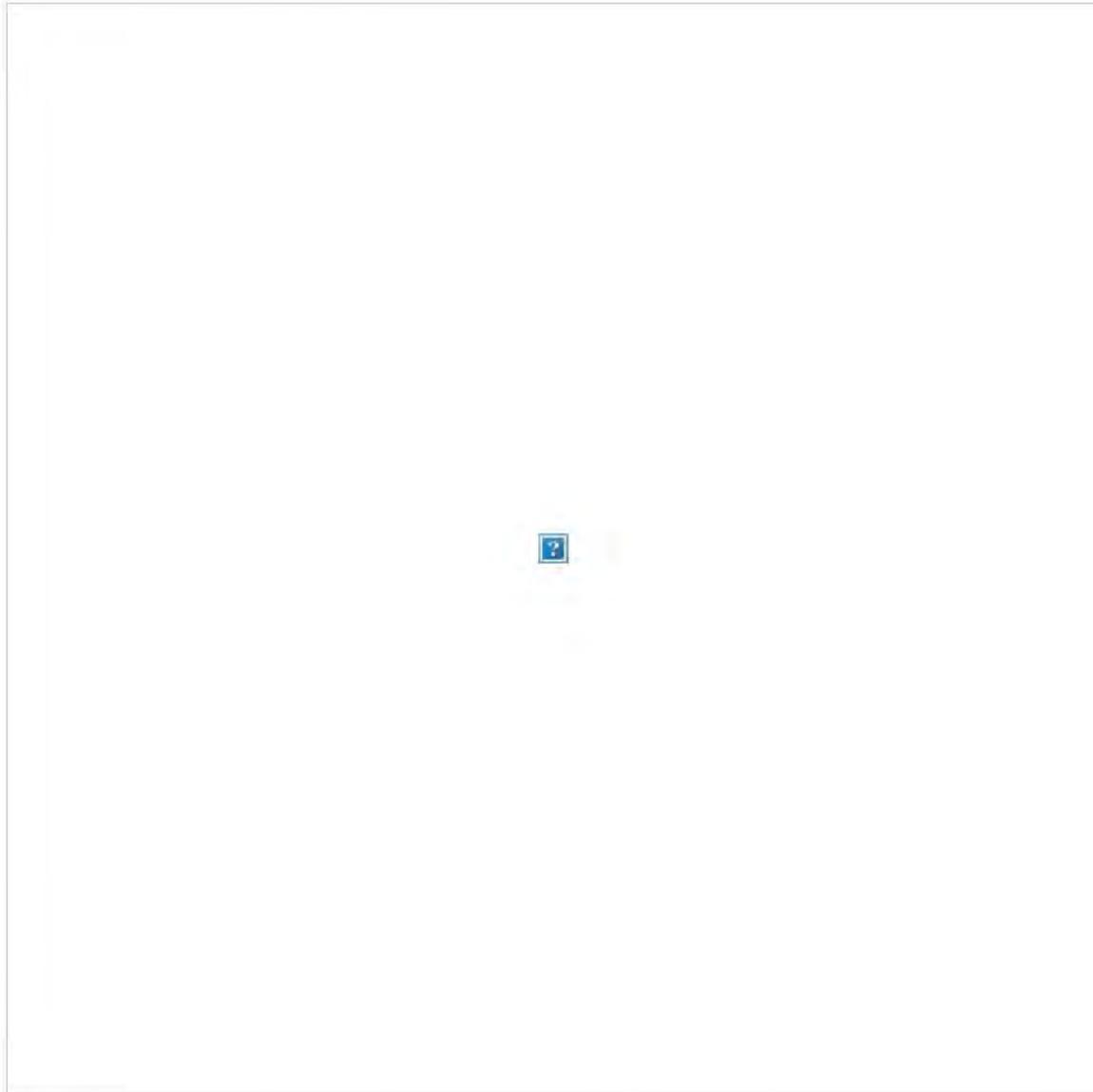
A Times reporter connected the dots:



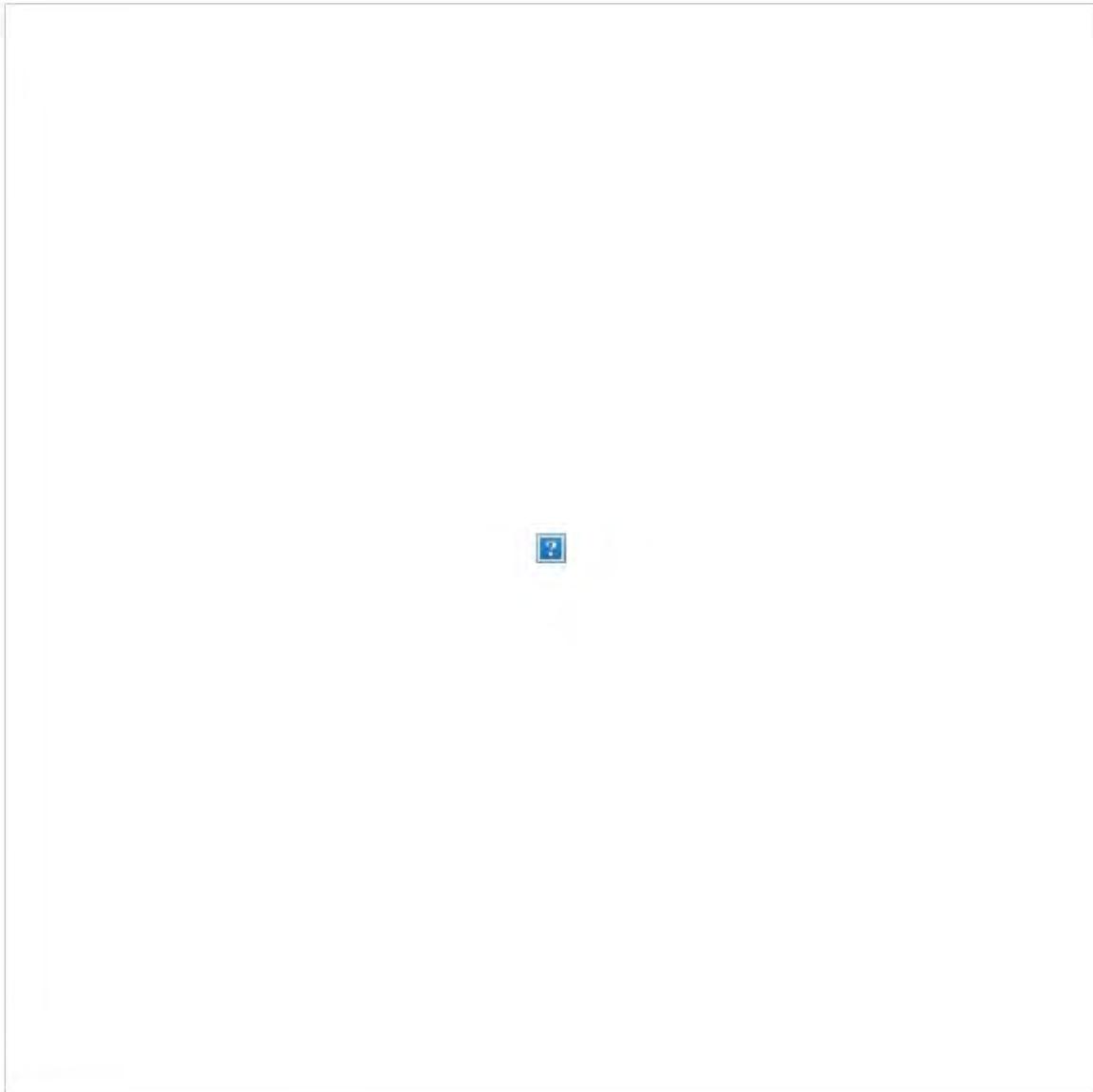
A Democratic strategist pointed to the swampy career paths of former Trump administration officials:



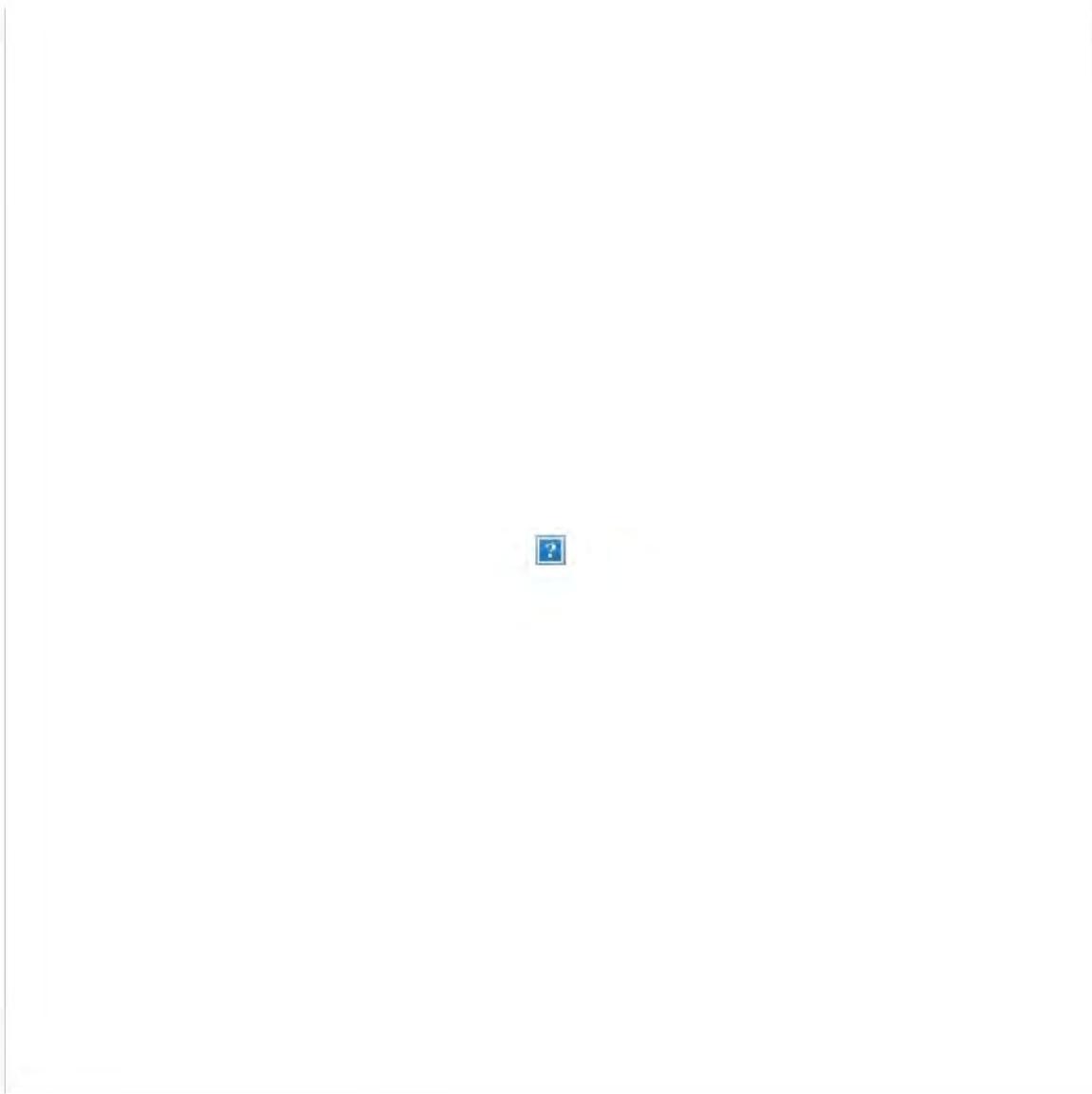
An NBC reporter flagged that the president just nominated an Amtrak critic to the Amtrak board:



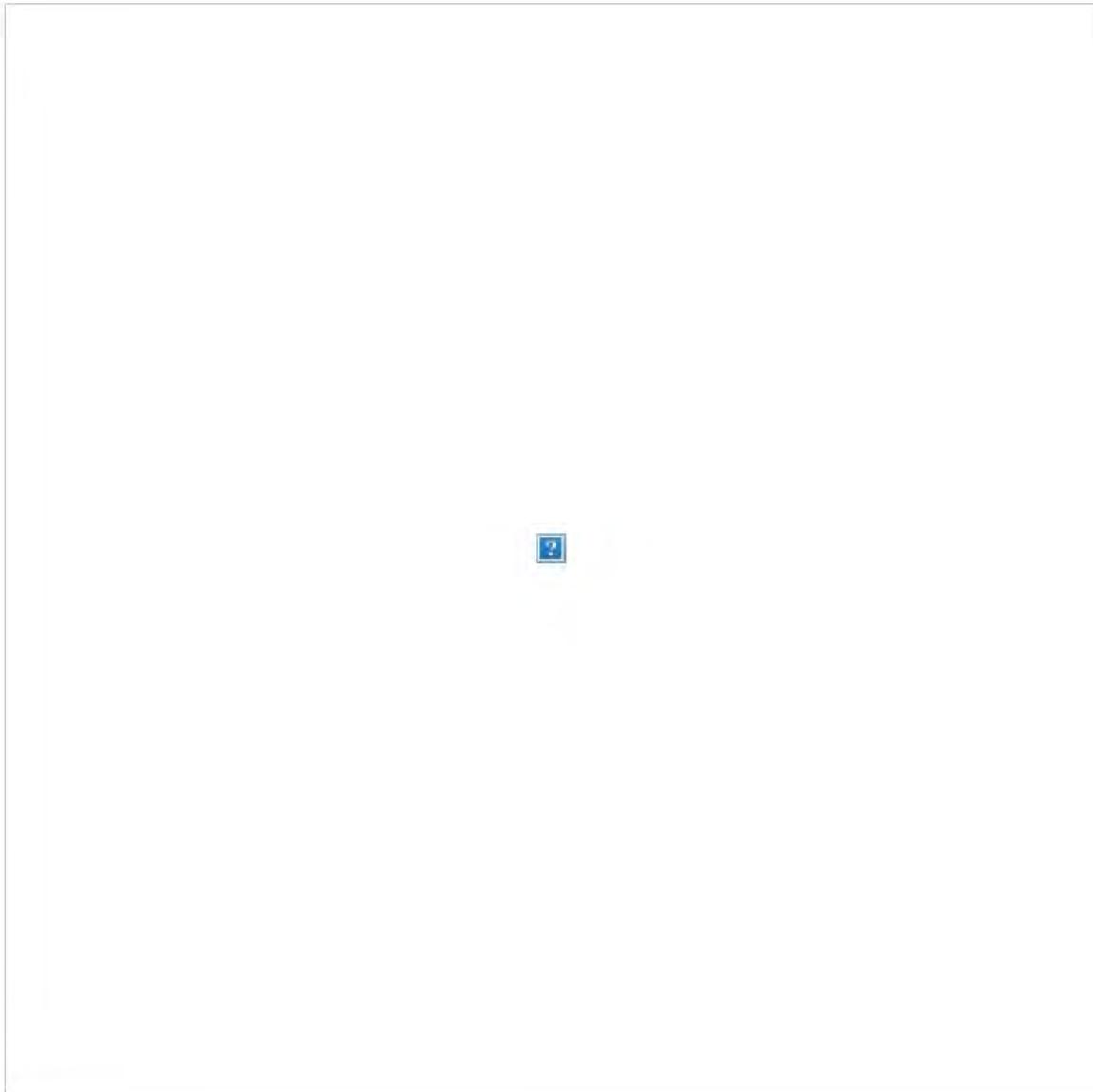
A Times reporter called out one of the Democratic presidential candidates for doing exactly what the left has long criticized the right for doing vis-a-vis abortion:



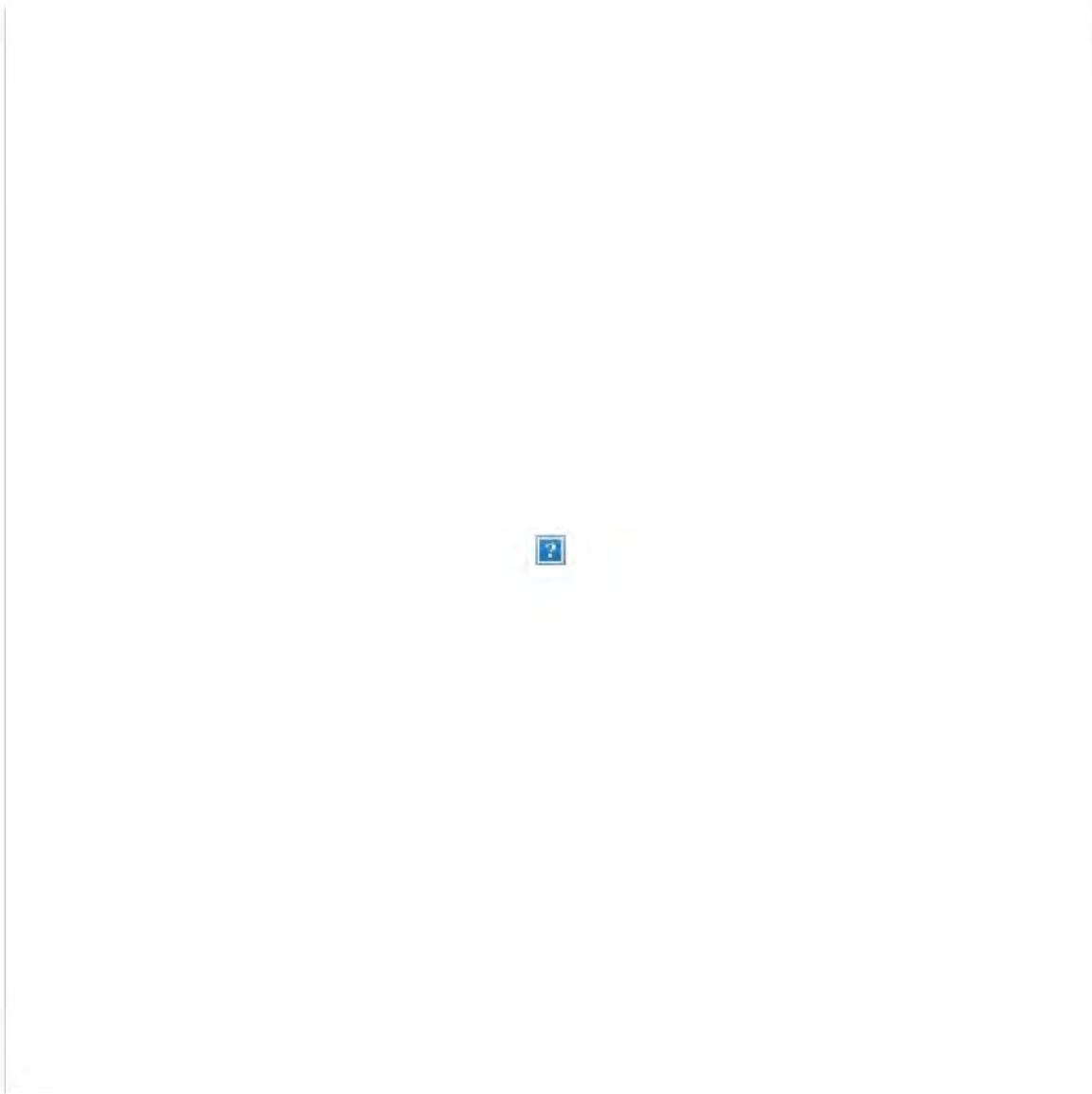
A Post reporter who used to cover the Nationals offered this baseball comparison for the “electability” argument:



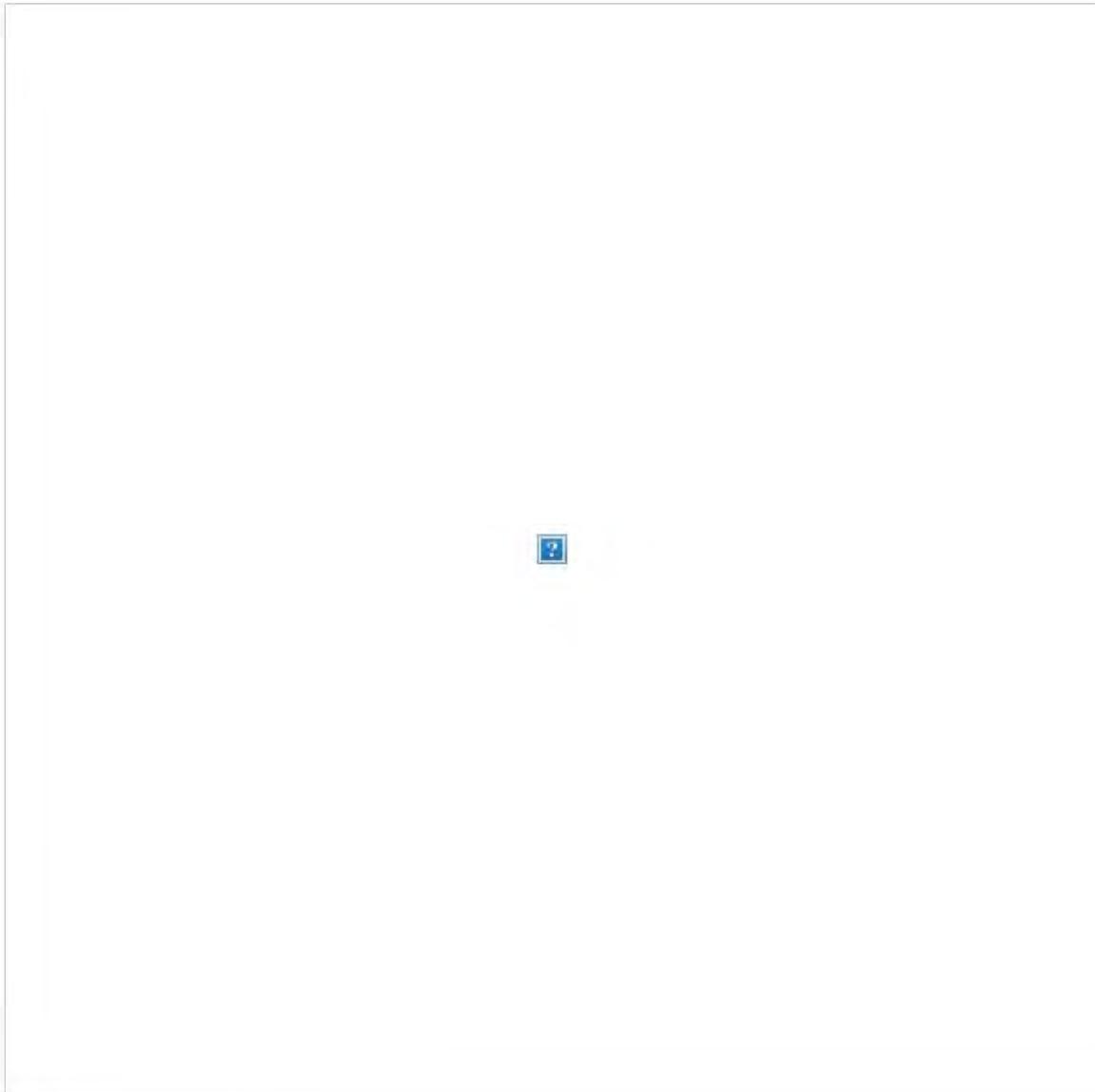
A HuffPost reporter highlighted an absurdity of the American system:



A Post reporter made this argument about the newly released video of Sandra Bland's arrest:



And Pamela Anderson visited the imprisoned WikiLeaks founder:



GOOD READS:

-- After last week's failed plot to oust President Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela's opposition is considering extending an offer to senior government and military officials to join a post-Maduro government while diplomats rush to defuse tensions over the growing concern of a U.S.-led intervention. [Anthony Faiola and Karen DeYoung report](#): "The European Union called on the Vatican and the United Nations to join talks to defuse tensions. Canada and another nations were seeking to enlist Cuba — one of Maduro's

closest allies — in finding a peaceful solution. The United States, in an attempt to lure more defectors, lifted sanctions Tuesday on Maduro's spy chief, who last week broke with the socialist leader and fled the country. In Caracas, meanwhile, Maduro's government began to fire back. A week after opposition leader Juan Guaidó's failed attempt to lead a military uprising — senior loyalists were said to be poised to move against Maduro — the pro-government Supreme Court charged six opposition lawmakers with treason, conspiracy and rebellion, and they were stripped of their parliamentary immunity from prosecution. Guaidó was not among them, suggesting Maduro is still reluctant to move against him.”

-- The New York Times, “[Australia's Politics May Be Changing With Its Climate](#),” by Somini Sengupta: “Australia is acutely vulnerable to climate change, just as it is also a culprit. The continent has warmed faster than the global average; its cherished Great Barrier Reef has been devastated by marine heat waves; and heat and drought this year took a bite out of the country's economy, according to a top official of the country's central bank. At the same time, central to its prosperity is the extraction of the dirtiest fossil fuel: Australia is the world's biggest exporter of coal for power generation. Against that backdrop, the governing conservative coalition, led by the Liberal Party, is under pressure in key districts as independents assail longstanding members of Parliament like Tony Abbott, a former Liberal leader and prime minister, over their climate positions.”

-- The Wall Street Journal, “[‘Chill, Chat, Eat.’ The Secret to Life Without Power](#),” by Simthandile Ntobela: “Africa's most developed economy can't manage to keep its lights on, but South Africans are trying to see the bright side anyway. In the weeks leading to national

elections on Wednesday, the nation has been enduring the worst blackouts in decades. The rolling power cuts, called load-shedding, occur throughout the day and night and last for hours at a time. They are meant to prevent a collapse of the national electricity grid. South Africans, ever resourceful, have been adjusting on the fly—and even discovering a few simple pleasures from being unplugged.”

-- **The New Yorker**, “[The Birth-Tissue Profiteers](#),” by **Caroline Chen**: “For more than half a century, the regenerative possibilities of stem cells—which the body stores to repair damaged tissue and organs and restore blood supply—have tantalized the medical community. Bone-marrow transplants for cancer patients, which rely on blood stem cells, fulfill this potential. But alongside legitimate, scientifically proven treatments, an industry has sprung up in which specialized clinics offer miracle remedies from poorly understood stem-cell products.”

HOT ON THE LEFT:

“Internet rallies to support Nunes cow parody Twitter account,” from [Roll Call](#):
“The Twitter account of the country’s most famous cow since Mrs. O’Leary’s is now under threat from people trying to get it shut down, according to [@DevinCow](#), a parody account currently

HOT ON THE RIGHT:

“Pete Buttigieg: God doesn’t belong to a political party, but ‘I can’t imagine’ God would be a Republican,” from [CNN](#):
“In an interview with NBC’s Today Show that aired on Tuesday, Buttigieg suggested that if God did have a political affiliation, it

being sued by Republican congressman Devin Nunes of California. 'So people are mass reporting me in protest that an account they like was shut down,' @DevinCow tweeted late Monday night. ... By Monday night #ProtectTheCow was trending on Twitter and still is as of Tuesday afternoon. ... The threat to @DevinCow is the latest battle in the Twitter parody wars. Mike Thompson, operator of popular parody account @AOCPress, recently told conservative news outlet Human Events that Twitter banned his account."

wouldn't 'be the one that sent the current president into the White House.' ... Buttigieg went on to say 'what we see (in the White House) is so different than what I hear in scripture when I am in church.' 'I hear about taking care of the marginalized and defending the weak and supporting the poor and visiting the prisoner and welcoming the stranger and humility and decency,' he said. ... 'And so the idea that that is the property of the Republican Party, especially this Republican Party and some of the choices they have made in recent years, it just doesn't add up to me.'"

DAYBOOK:

Trump will lead a Cabinet meeting before traveling to Florida, where

he will tour areas affected by Hurricane Michael and hold a campaign rally in Panama City Beach.



QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“We used to always have this debate: Are liberals just stupid or are they evil? ... After this, I think they're stupid *and* evil.” — Stephen Moore, whose hopes of joining the Federal Reserve Board failed

because GOP senators were disgusted by his decades of negative comments about women.

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

-- **We're back to cloudier, cooler days.** [The Capital Weather Gang forecasts](#): "After a pair of mostly sunny and relatively easy forecast days Monday and Tuesday, we revert back to a cloudier and more complicated pattern today through the weekend. The clouds keep us on the cooler side today, but it's a decent day nonetheless. Tomorrow is one of those tricky temperature forecast days with a front nearby, and then shower and storm chances lower the forecast confidence Friday into the weekend."

-- **The Nationals lost to the Brewers 6-0.** ([Sam Fortier](#))

-- **One person connected to former GOP congressman Scott Taylor's campaign has been charged with election fraud, but the Virginia Republican was not implicated.** [Gregory S. Schneider reports](#): "In an update released Monday afternoon, Donald S. Caldwell, the special prosecutor in the case, said he presented two indictments to a court against one unnamed individual but that a judge or a jury had not returned the indictments yet. Media in Hampton Roads reported that the person was a campaign staffer for Taylor. Last fall, a Richmond judge found that several staffers from Taylor's reelection campaign had submitted false signatures on petitions to help a rival, Shaun Brown, get on the ballot to run against him. ... The Democratic nominee, Elaine Luria, went on to defeat

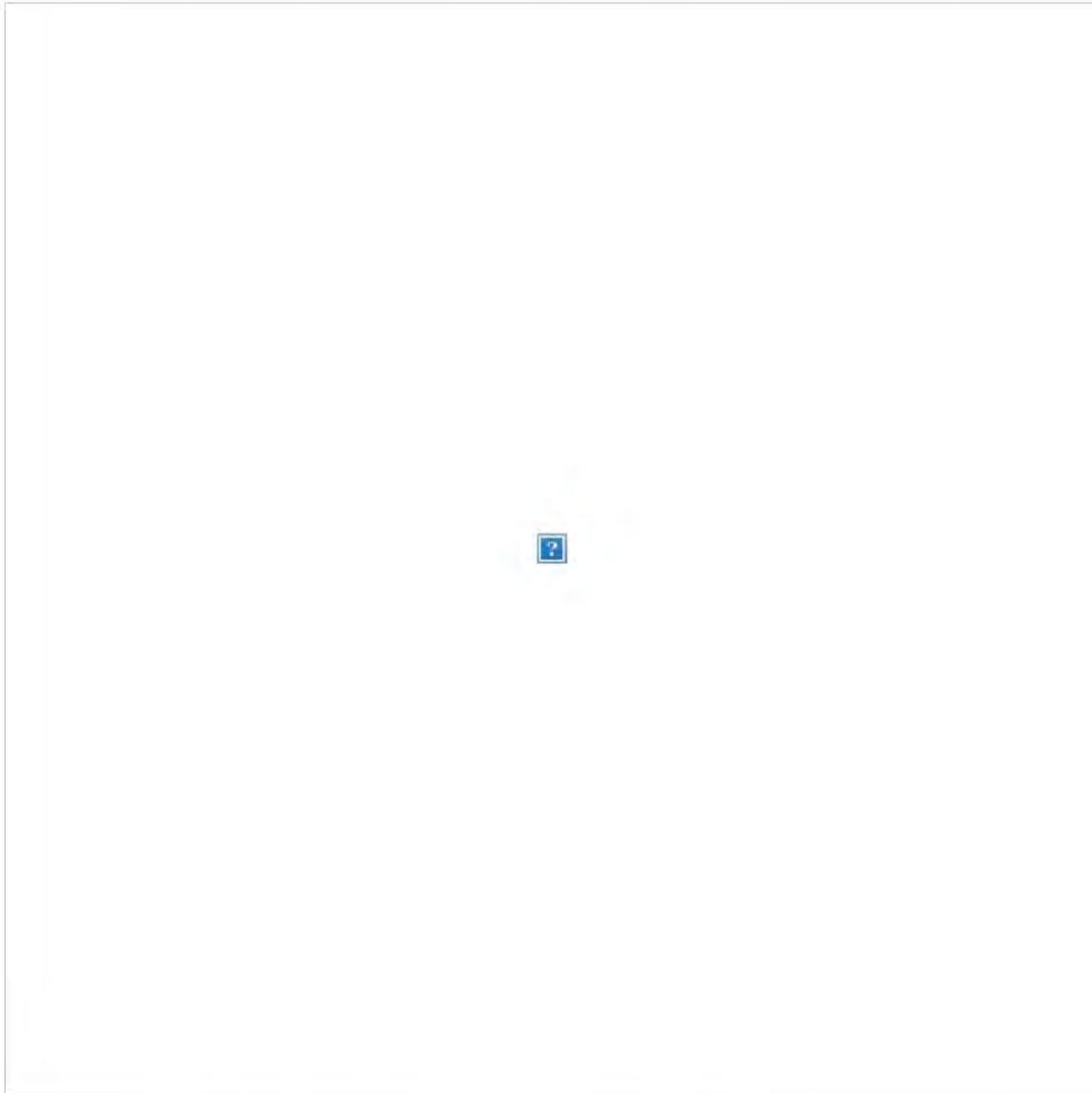
Taylor in the November election. ... Taylor called the findings 'a complete vindication . . . Today serves as a complete repudiation of the smears and lies leveled against me in the campaign last year,' he said in a statement distributed on social media."

-- A record 21.9 million people from across the country visited Washington last year, spending nearly \$8 billion here. [From Justin Wm. Moyer](#): "[Destination DC](#), a nonprofit funded by the city's hotel occupancy tax, said the number of domestic visitors was an increase of 1.1 million over 2017. The amount they spent was up 4.3 percent from the previous year, the organization said. ... Tourism in the District last year resulted in \$851 million paid in taxes to the city and helped to support more than 76,000 jobs, according to Destination DC."

-- A California man accused of paying \$400,000 to help his son get into Georgetown University pleaded guilty to fraud conspiracy. [Nick Anderson reports](#): "Stephen Semprevivo, 53, a business executive from Los Angeles, faces the possibility of prison after acknowledging in federal court in Boston that he committed a crime in his dealings with college admission consultant William 'Rick' Singer. Prosecutors are recommending 18 months of incarceration and a fine of \$95,000 under the terms of a plea agreement. Sentencing is scheduled for September. Of 33 parents accused in the investigation, Semprevivo is the third to plead guilty to conspiring to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud. He is the first with a Georgetown connection to do so."

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, presented their baby boy:



Seth Meyers criticized the secretary of state for suggesting that climate change could be beneficial to trade:



Meyers also interviewed Meghan McCain, John McCain's daughter, who got defensive about the statements she made about Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.). ([The Daily Beast](#))

Stephen Colbert raised the possibility that Trump might not actually know how tariffs work:



Jimmy Kimmel noted that former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen is imprisoned in a correctional facility that's been called one of the most cushy jails in America:



And Trevor Noah tried to make sense of all the news coming out of D.C. so far this week:



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Ramjee, Divya (CRM)

From: Ramjee, Divya (CRM)
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2019 2:57 PM
Subject: Today's News - August 8, 2019
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Please find attached today's popular news stories.

1. CoinDesk **“An Extortion Gone Bad: Inside Binance’s Negotiations With Its ‘KYC’ Hacker”** Prior to publishing details about real Binance customers online Wednesday, a hacker operating under the pseudonym “Bnatov Platon” had a month-long conversation with CoinDesk reporters. Platon and Binance would hold numerous talks, and reportedly struck a deal that was later aborted. CoinDesk has obtained full transcripts of these conversations.
2. Wall Street Journal **“High-Level Cyber Intrusions Hit Bahrain Amid Tensions With Iran”** On Monday, suspected Iranian hackers broke into the systems of Bahrain’s National Security Agency the country’s main criminal investigative authority as well as the Ministry of Interior and the first deputy prime minister’s office.
3. Business Insider **“Instagram's lax privacy practices let a trusted partner track millions of users' physical locations, secretly save their stories, and flout its rules”** The marketing firm Hyp3r has been scraping huge quantities of data off Instagram and using it to build up detailed profiles of people's movements and interests. Instagram has now issued Hyp3r a cease and desist letter, kicked it off its platform, and made changes to its platform to protect user data. Hyp3r created a tool that could "geofence" specific locations and then harvest every public post tagged with that location on Instagram. If a user made a post at one of these locations thousands of "hotels, casinos, cruise ships, airports, fitness clubs, stadiums and shopping destinations across the globe," as well as hospitals, bars, and restaurants -- unbeknownst to them, their data was saved to Hyp3r's systems indefinitely along with other information, including their profile picture, their profile bio, and their number of followers.
4. ZDNet News **“State Farm says hackers confirmed valid usernames and passwords in credentials stuffing attack”** Banking and insurance giant State Farm said it suffered a credential stuffing attack during which "a bad actor" was able to confirm valid usernames and passwords for State Farm online accounts.
5. St. Paul Pioneer Press **“Two Minnesota state web pages hacked, defaced with anti-government message”** A hacker or hackers early this week defaced two Minnesota government web pages, defacing them with anti-government images or messages, officials confirmed Wednesday. There is yet no reason to believe any sensitive information was compromised.
6. New York Times **“US Moves to Ban Huawei From Government Contracts”** The Trump administration on Wednesday took a tactical step in its trade confrontation with China, by releasing a rule that restricts government agencies from doing business with Huawei, the giant Chinese maker of telecommunications equipment and smartphones.
7. Law360 **“GOP Sens. Probe Google-Huawei Smart Speaker Project”** Sens. Cotton, Hawley, and Rubio are demanding answers from Google about its relationship with Huawei and a new smart speaker the two companies are collaborating on, according to a letter sent to Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

8. South China Morning Post **“Huawei set to unveil Hongmeng OS for smart displays as Android fate hangs in the balance”** Huawei will first equip its self-developed operating system, Hongmeng, on new smart display products to be launched by budget brand Honor Aug. 10.
9. CNet **“Huawei ban: Full timeline on how and why its phones are under fire”** Nice timeline of headlines from 2018+
10. BBC News **“Black Hat: GDPR privacy law exploited to reveal personal data”** GDPR is supposed to protect personal data, but this experiment used the law to achieve the opposite effect. The security expert contacted dozens of UK and US-based firms to test how they would handle a "right of access" request made in someone else's name.
11. CNet **“Lawmakers turn to hackers at Defcon for election security”** Wyden, Swalwell, Ted Lieu, and Jim Langevin will be visiting the Voting Village at Defcon.
12. The Hill **“GOP group targets McConnell over election security bills in new ad”** A group called Republicans for the Rule of Law is ramping up pressure on McConnell to take up election security legislation ahead of 2020.
13. BuzzFeed **“The El Paso And Dayton Shootings Show How Disinformation Spreads On Messaging Apps”** Fake messages are circulating on Telegram and in Facebook Messenger groups. The flow of disinformation across these private spaces is both harder to track and to counter. “There’s no metadata whatsoever. There’s nothing there to go back to, to be able to trace it,” said Claire Wardle, who heads First Draft News, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fact-checking worldwide.
14. CQ **“Disinformation moves from fringe sites to Facebook, YouTube”** A large online ecosystem helps domestic and foreign agents shape disinformation and launch adversarial campaigns, some violent, some not, e.g., fake health claims about 5G, according to The Global Disinformation Index released last week.
15. Politico **“Russia opens Apple probe after Kaspersky complaint”** Russia's competition authority announced today it had opened an investigation into Apple's treatment of a parental control app from Russian cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab.
16. Wall Street Journal **“Utilities Are Prime Target for Cyberattacks”** Electric utilities are particularly vulnerable to cyber threats to industrial equipment, experts say, because fixing security flaws can interrupt service, and few of their employees have security clearances that let them receive timely government alerts.
17. SecurityIntelligence.com **“Package Delivery! Cybercriminals at Your Doorstep”** Packages may be looking to steal personal or confidential information. And the proliferation of e-commerce-related package deliveries is exactly what cybercriminals can exploit with a tactic IBM X-Force Red is calling “warshipping.”
18. Forbes **“WhatsApp Hack Attack Can Change Your Messages”** During a briefing at the annual Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas on August 7, researchers from Israeli security company Check Point revealed how Facebook-owned WhatsApp could be hacked to change the text of a message and the identity of the sender.
19. Law360 **“Witness For The Prosecution: A Smart Speaker?”** Data policing and prosecution covers not only portable speakers, but almost any gizmo with “smart” capabilities. In addition to Alexa and Echo, recent prosecutions have retrieved data from smart home utility meters, Fitbits. Should people be entitled to a greater expectation of privacy?
20. Politico Morning Cybersecurity, Aug. 8, 2019

Divya Ramjee

U.S. Department of Justice | Criminal Division
Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section

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GDI

Global
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Adversarial Narratives: A New Model for Disinformation

www.disinformationindex.org

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GDI Global
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Executive summary

- Today's online threat landscape is significantly more complex and blended, which may lead to many abusive and harmful behaviours slipping through the gaps of current moderation models.
- Disinformation agents, both domestic and foreign, have a large library of content to draw from in crafting new adversarial narratives. In practice this means less overtly fabricated pieces of content.
- Adversarial narratives like "Stop 5G" are effective because they inflame social tensions by exploiting and amplifying perceived grievances of individuals, groups and institutions. The end game is to foster long-term conflict – social, political and economic.
- One key element of these disinformation campaigns is that they contain seeds of factual information that are planted throughout the process.
- As seen in the "Stop 5G" campaign, it is only later on, once you travel away from the original source, that the fabricated conspiracy elements start to be added on.
- Understanding and defending against adversarial narratives requires analysis of both the message's contents and context, and how they are spread through networks and across platforms.

Introduction

The landscape of today's disinformation conflicts online was envisaged over 40 years ago by visionary authors and thinkers.

In Marshall McLuhan's *Culture is Our Business*, the media scholar predicted that 'World War III is a guerrilla information war with no division between military and civilian participation.'¹

The seminal piece *Theory of Information Warfare: Preparing for 2020*, written in 1995 by retired Air Force Colonel Richard Szapranski, warned us that the more dependent an adversary is on information systems for decision making, the more vulnerable he is to the hostile manipulation of those systems. Szapranski had the foresight to predict that successful information warfare campaigns would rely on attacking both the knowledge and belief systems of their human targets.²

His ideas laid the foundations for the paradigm we know today as fifth generation warfare (5GW). In 2009, a [Wired](#) article by David Axe on fifth-generation wars offered additional insights which are chillingly accurate in retrospect: '[T]he next generation of war – the so-called "fifth-generation" – won't feature armies or clear ideas. It will be ... a "vortex of violence," a free-for-all of surprise destruction motivated more by frustration than by any coherent plans for the future. 5GW is what happens when the world's disaffected direct their desperation at the most obvious symbol of everything they lack.'³

Since then, we have seen bad faith actors of varying degrees of organisation realising these concepts with troubling success. At their worst, hybrid threat actors embody 5GW principles by combining the promulgation of adversarial narratives online with real world violence. They leverage and exploit network dynamics of platforms to continuously broadcast their message and recruit and radicalise new members through the 'digital influence machine'.⁴

This paper is an attempt to set out a theoretical model for understanding how this 'influence machine' operates and how disinformation is spread. We outline a novel approach for understanding the current state of digital warfare we are in – how adversarial and collective narratives are used for networked conflict. The last part of the paper provides a timely case study involving the adversarial narrative against fifth generation telecommunications networks and the genesis of this disinformation campaign.⁵

Setting out the model: Adversarial narratives

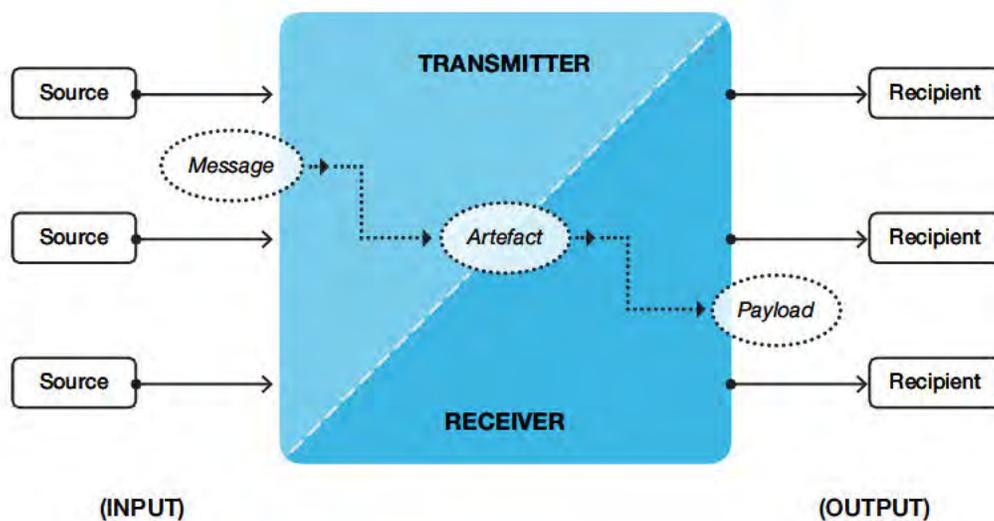
For this paper, we take an expanded definition of platforms to mean all modern online communications domains or platforms that typically function by connecting users to one another in a two-way relationship.

In this sense, platforms are not just the usual suspects like Google, Facebook and Twitter, but include PayPal, eBay, Etsy, LinkedIn and others.

Such a definitional approach is the best way to understand how disinformation is transmitted and received across platforms. For example, many followers of the QAnon conspiracy theory regularly consume content across anonymised message boards like 4chan, 8chan, Voat, and Reddit, post content to more open platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, and, in some cases, sell their own QAnon-related merchandise across ecommerce platforms like [Ebay](#), [Etsy](#) and [Amazon](#).⁶

Transmissions generally consist of user-generated content, or 'artefacts', hosted by the system. Moving from left to right in Figure 1, an actor ('source') posts a message on a platform, which is published as content ('artefact') and has the result ('payload') of influencing the behaviour of someone ('recipient').

Figure 1. The Communication Model: The basis for adversarial narratives



Source: Model developed by GDI

The various web artefacts (memes, videos, articles, polls) that are shared between individuals ('source' and 'recipient') fit into a communications framework (i.e. 'distributed narratives'), which can be defined and understood as "stories that can't be experienced in a single session or in a single space".⁷

While narratives can be defined as a series of chronological events with some causal relationship, distributed narratives are collections of connected events whose stories are distributed across several platforms in bits and pieces.⁸

Intentionally distributed narratives without a required chronology or sequence of web artefacts, and which seek to enrage and divide internet users, can be defined as adversarial narratives.

Adversarial narratives are rooted in, involve, or are strongly characterised by conflict or opposition between actors and their interests, and especially between a social in-group and an out-group. When adversarial narratives are deployed, they create a series of smaller conflicts played out across the internet.

Adversarial narratives are effective because they inflame social tensions by exploiting and amplifying perceived grievances of individuals, groups and institutions. In the development of the anti-5G narrative, there are kernels of factual legitimacy located throughout its lifecycle. It is only later on, once the narrative begins to travel downstream, that the fabricated conspiracy elements come into play. In many ways, the nature of adversarial narratives makes fact-checking efforts and true/false determinations less effective tools for any counter-messaging strategy. Fact-checks may not counteract the damage done by the original claims nor reach the intended audiences.

Adversarial narratives can be deconstructed into several components that fit within the platform model that we presented above:

- Claims and subclaims: the specific statements which allege 'facts' supportive of the narrative;
- Web artefacts: content that exhibits and transmits related claims and nuanced subclaims (these may be new or recycled); and
- Narrative payload: the overarching narrative that is driven home to the reader of any given artefact. These can be represented as memes, online polls, merchandise, ads and videos (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Different Elements of the Narrative Payload



Source: Model developed by GDI

With an understanding of the architecture of the narrative payload, we can begin to examine and unpack the tactics of persuasive manipulation that embody every meme included in the payload. By this we mean Limor Shifman's definition of a meme as 'cultural information that passes along from person to person, yet gradually scales into a shared social phenomenon'.

Therefore, the format of a meme is not limited to manipulated imagery with text overlay. Rather, it is expanded to include all web artefacts ranging from image to video, text, ads and polls, all the way to products sold online. In this context, adversarial memetic influence – the ability to induce a change in the behaviour of another through the use of agitprop or otherwise divisive content – exponentially increases the potential impact of the payload.⁹

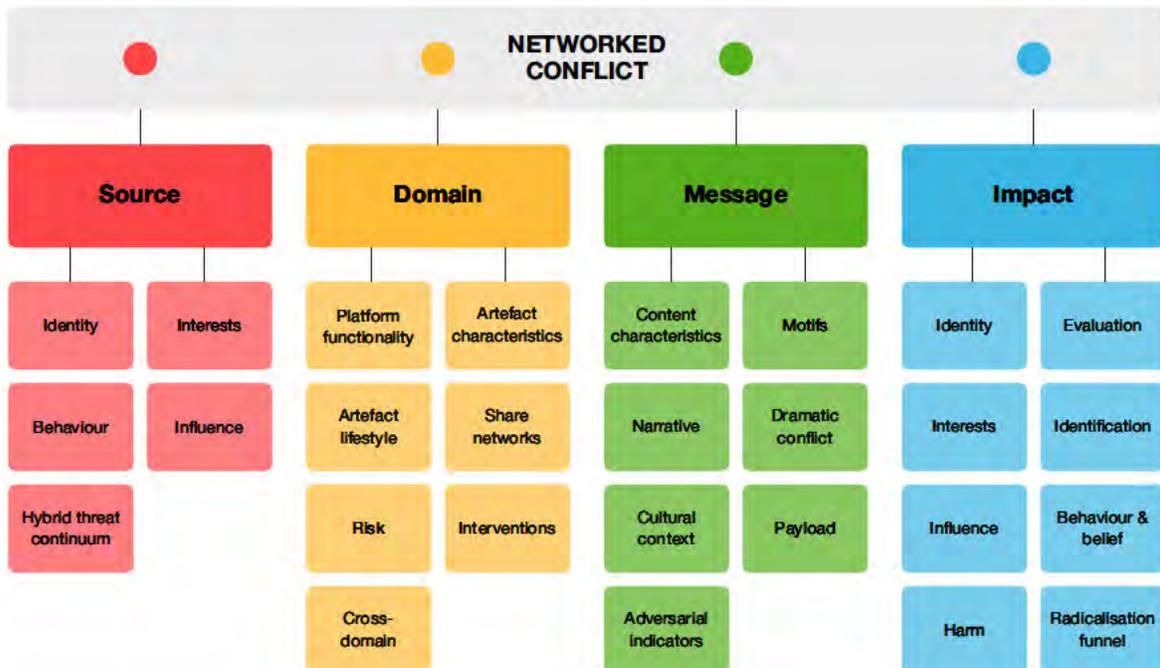
The model: Adversarial networked conflict

Adversarial narratives – which are mob-like and collective – create a networked conflict.

In this context, the conflict takes place over electronic communication networks and employs the tools and functionalities of those systems to influence behaviour. The winners and losers can be defined by the harms and setbacks experienced by one or many parties.

In a networked conflict, a source uses communication domains to transmit a message(s) intended to impact the behaviour of recipients and third parties. Networked conflicts can be usefully analysed by splitting them into four major aspects and multiple component sub-elements: source, domain, message, and impact (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Networked Conflict and its Components



Source: Model developed by GDI

- **The source** includes the identity, characteristics, interests, and behaviours of the source (whether known or inferred), and its elements may be mapped against hybrid threat model criteria. For example, a source can be a government, private individual(s), or a coordinated group.
- **The domain** includes the functional aspects of the communications platform, as well as the characteristics of artefacts published on and distributed through that system. It also addresses risks posed to the domain, and mitigating interventions which may be applied at the domain level. Here a domain can be an actual site as well as different platforms.
- **The message** includes the contents, motifs, narrative, and cultural context of the message(s) itself, and the payload of the message which influences recipient behaviour. It addresses adversarial uses of narrative and related indicators to drive polarising and divisive behaviours. The term ‘message’ takes on a new meaning since it looks at the range of different elements used – from posts to Tweets, from memes to videos.
- **The impact** includes the effects on the recipient and third parties of exposure to the message contents, which may include changes in behaviour (influence) as well as actual harms or potential risks of harm to persons. Here, this important distinction lays the groundwork for looking at policy responses – by governments and platforms – to mitigate and prevent such harms.

As we will show later in a case study discussion of the anti-5G movement, conspiracy theorists built up thousands of web artefacts linking mainstream conversations about 5G mobile networks to fringe concepts like the Flat Earth Movement and mind control experiments, by deploying a barrage of Google bombs. These are scores of web links that are used to elevate specific pages to the top of search rankings, exploiting the algorithms and deceiving the general user about the relevance of the search term.¹⁰

Disinformation agents, both domestic and foreign, have a large library of content from which to craft new adversarial narratives. In practice this means less overtly fabricated pieces of content. Rather, it is a slow and

steady diet of manipulated half-truths and veritable information that crescendos into a larger disinformation campaign when a news cycle opportunity appears on an issue that has already been seeded.¹¹

This is largely our area of focus: the exploitation and manipulation of algorithms to falsely create a sense that a narrative is more popular than it actually is.

An Adversarial Narrative: The Sepoy Rebellion

The Sepoy Rebellion provides one of the first pre-internet examples of a distributed narrative.

In 1857, Indian colonies grew increasingly concerned about the military, economic, and political control imposed by the British Empire and caught wind of a rumour that the British would impose Christianity on the subcontinent. The first layered narrative came in the form of bread, specifically chapati. In February 1857, a network of clandestine overnight delivery men began distributing chapati breads across India.¹²

Their networked existence began to spark rumours across the country. Some thought that the chapati represented a Christian wafer, and was a warning to the people of India about the British Empire's plans. Others presumed the chapatis had been coated in pork or cow fat and distributed by the British Empire as a means of forced conversion.¹³

The chapatis took on new meaning after the British Army began using a new type of ammunition cartridge for Enfield rifles that required tallow grease, made of beef and pork fat – but which were never given to local Hindu and Muslim conscripts, known as Sepoys.¹⁴

Historians credit Sepoys for adding to the larger adversarial narrative that the British were attacking the belief systems of Hinduism and Islam. The spread of this rumour among Sepoys sparked a widespread rebellion that lasted over a year. The Sepoy Rebellion highlights the ways in which spatially distributed narratives can be waged by, against, or between social groups of varied technomic capabilities.¹⁵

Online Narratives: Phenomenon and Effects

Interesting cultural examples that are helpful to understand how adversarial narratives play out in practice online include the Baader Meinhof phenomenon and the Nunes/Streisand effect.

The Baader Meinhof phenomenon, otherwise known as the frequency illusion, is when you learn about something and then it suddenly begins to appear everywhere with a heightened degree of frequency. It was first used in a 1990's online discussion thread on the St. Paul Pioneer Press, 'The first time you learn a new word, phrase or idea, you will see that word, phrase or idea again in print within 24 hours.'¹⁶

The Nunes/Streisand effect similarly demonstrates our human attraction towards certain types of information, particularly when some individuals prefer we not see it. In 2003, Barbara Streisand sued a California photographer for taking photos of her home in Malibu; however, the lawsuit ultimately drew far more attention to the photos. Streisand not only lost the lawsuit, she unintentionally motivated otherwise ignorant users to consume and share the photos.¹⁷

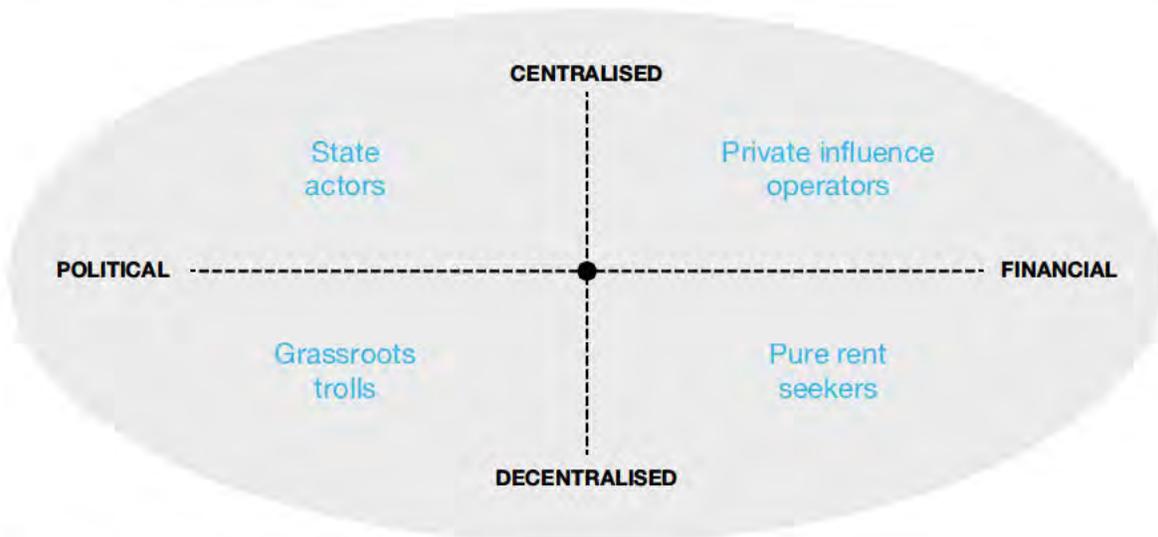
Fast forward to 2019 and it would not be wrong to consider renaming this phenomenon the Nunes effect. In March 2019, California Republican Rep. Devin Nunes sued Twitter, seeking US\$ 250 million in damages for what he alleged was defamatory content directed at him online. In the legal complaint, he specifically listed "Devin Nunes' Cow", @DevinCow, as one of the defendants. Before the filing, the Twitter account had less than 1,500 followers. Yet the news of Nunes' lawsuit led to a massive surge in followers, which now totals 621,000.¹⁸

The disinformation actors

By describing this paradigm as a conflict instead of a war, our definition can include a wider range of hybrid threat agents.

These disinformation actors include state actors, private influence operators, grassroots trolls and pure rent seekers. They can be organised by motivations (from political to financial) and degree of structure (from highly centralised to decentralised), yet they all abuse and exploit adversarial narratives across the web ecosystem.¹⁹

Figure 4. Disinformation Actors: Range of structure and motivations



Source: GDI and Grace McFadden

Hybrid threat actors intentionally obfuscate the architecture of their digital influence machines. They exhibit a diverse array of characteristics which can be best expressed through a non-binary continuum or gradient of factors. For example, in determining whether or not an adversarial narrative is deploying a Twitter bot network or a Google bomb, inferences about sources may be made based on observable characteristics of public artefacts (e.g., OSINT). The following list aggregates some of these common characteristics.

Hybrid threat actors: Common characteristics



Ephemeral: Threat actors may move very rapidly, and may leave only ephemeral artefacts of short duration (e.g., platform suspension, or self-deletion).



Global partnerships: Threat actors may themselves be geographically diverse and distributed. They may be state actors in origin (including from overtly hostile as well as allegedly 'friendly' allied nations).



Gradient of coordination: Coordination can range from little to none, through to active planning and coordination of activities as a group.



Tacit approval from state actors: Threat actors may receive a range of backing from tacit approval through to material support from states and quasi-state foreign powers.



Blended authenticity: Hybrid threat agents may combine authentic elements (identities, accounts, beliefs, grievances, real news stories, etc.) with inauthentic elements (fake accounts, satire, false news, etc).



Financial motivation: Threat actors or private influence networks for hire may run ad networks of distribution, sell merchandise, or receive financial support from their audiences.



Cross-platform distribution: Attacks may be distributed across multiple accounts and platforms, and where platform enforcement actions occur, they may migrate readily to other platforms to continue.



Online and offline activities: Activities may consist of a blend of both online and offline actions (e.g., an online campaign supported by allies for and against an issue; violent or threatening offline acts).



Peer-to-peer marketing: Threat actors make use of ads, social media posts with no placement cost, and peer-to-peer marketing (influencers).



Bypass moderation filters: Threat actors may operate just below the threshold of platform rules enforcement – usually intentionally – often through coded language and in-group references (e.g., dog-whistling).

Stop 5G

Our theoretical framework of an adversarial narrative conflict outlines a large marketplace of disinformation being driven by different threat actors.

However, it is often less difficult to talk about a meme or individual threat actor than it is to talk about a distributed network. In the next section, we will apply this model to the adversarial narrative against fifth generation (5G) telecommunications networks.²⁰

If we look beyond the news cycle and expand our search to include digital platforms, we can examine 5G through the lens of several digital media buckets:

1. web domains;
2. mainstream social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Reddit, Pinterest);
3. fringe social media (4chan, 8chan, Gab, Voat, Bitchute, etc);
4. ad-tech;
5. ecommerce sites (Etsy, Amazon, TeeSpring, RedBubble);
6. payment platforms (Patreon, GoFundMe, Stripe, Zelle, and PayPal); and
7. cloud and domain service providers.²¹

In examining the chronology of the development of the anti-5G narrative, it is not clear that there is any central unifying provenance. Since 2016, there has been a slow and gradual increase in narrative touch points, including a slew of YouTube uploads, hashtags, Facebook pages, Instagram memes, and web domains, in addition to conversations across fringe and anonymised social networks that include 4chan, 8chan, Gab, and Voat. Without re-creating the entire blueprint for a 5G disinformation narrative, it is important to highlight that conversations began by addressing relevant news topics and social concerns before spiralling out into conspiracy theories.

The initial claims focused on five themes: health, environment, big government, national security, and the economy (see Figure 5). These are all topic areas covered on a daily basis in mainstream and fringe media, which

also dominate the talking points amplified by politicians. By design, this framework creates frequent opportunities to weaponise both the news cycle and political rhetoric by inserting more polarising and fabricated talking points before pivoting into full-blown conspiracy theories.²²

Background

The conversation largely relies on two speeches made by former US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Tom Wheeler in June and July of 2016 regarding the rollout of 5G. Much of the criticism of the infrastructure plan hinged upon one theme: how the technology will come to define every vector of our lives.

At the National Press Club in June, Wheeler heralded the adoption of 5G networks and noted that 'Turning innovators loose is far preferable to expecting committees and regulators to define the future.'²³

Less than one month later, at a press hearing at FCC headquarters on July 14, ahead of the vote to adopt 5G, Wheeler was blitzed by a combination of health risk-related questions.

PHASE 1

Narrative Development (2016–2017)

The first phase, the narrative development, began in the summer of 2016 and spanned the entirety of 2017. Wheeler's quote about regulation became the exploitable piece of verifiable information preyed upon by anti-5G narrative participants.

- **July 26, 2016:** Twelve days after the FCC vote, InPower Movement, 'an open source and crowd-funded movement' with 9.3K YouTube subscribers, uploaded 'The Truth About 5G'. The video, which has been viewed over 112,000 times, asks YouTube users, 'Is there a clandestine force working behind the scenes in the United States, censoring truth about the "5G" rollout? Watch this — then decide.'²⁴

Figure 5. The 5G Narrative: Mapping of key themes



Source: Model developed by GDI

- **January 14, 2017:** Several months later, the Common Sense Show, a fringe influencer on YouTube with 122K subscribers, uploaded 'The New Wireless 5G is Lethal.'²⁵ The video, which has 44,878 views, featured pre-roll advertising at the time of viewing from Monday.com.
- **April 14, 2017:** On Twitter, the first use of #stop5G emerged and included a second fabricated quote from former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, '@Susan Foster: "The deal with 5G? Former FCC Chair Wheeler: 'No time to study health. Billions to be made.' C'mon. It's a 2b #carcinogen. #stop5G #CallReps".²⁶
- **April 22, 2017:** The first conspiracy claim emerged on #stop5G, '@purestar777, "The Role Of Utility Meters Is to be a Mass Surveillance system" the Internet of Things' #Stop5G <https://youtu.be/o7j1Qs01kjA> (video has since been deleted).²⁷
- **April – September 2017:** Over the next several months, search engine optimisation began to improve around anti-5G terms like radiation and cancer links, as fringe influencers increasingly probed open-ended questions relating to the FCC's roll-out of 5G broadband networks under the tutelage of new FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. One of the principal influencers during the incubation phase was conspiracy theorist Max Igan (see box).
- **October 2017:** The concept migrates to Reddit's r/conspiracy, a popular subreddit featuring 870,000 members, where it gained increasing toxicity in a post titled "5G and the smart grid is the New World Order".²⁸

PHASE 2

Narrative Expansion (2018)

The ultimate objectives guiding success in this phase were twofold: push the narrative payload into the mainstream conversation, and make money off its delivery.

While the #stop5G narrative may have been born in Washington DC, by 2018 it had expanded into a global conversation, leading to the creation of almost 200 Facebook pages and groups, hundreds of YouTube videos, dozens of domains, and a handful of merchandise available for purchase. Fuelling the growth of the narrative payload was no easy task, and involved hundreds of loosely connected or adjacent internet echo chambers. However, there are a few influencers worth highlighting.

- **January – February 2018:** John Kuhles, an 'independent "detective like" UFO researcher from the Netherlands, was an early cross-platform adopter of the Stop 5G narrative, creating a digital network that includes multiple web domains, a Facebook Page (13K followers) and Facebook Group (19,617 members), among others.³¹ After creating the Facebook page and group in January 2018, he began posting 'stop 5G' videos to YouTube in February and cross-posting to Bitchute, where he could solicit donations from viewers. His websites, stop5G.whynotnews.eu, and stop5G.net, posted daily cannon fodder for his new cross-platform amplification hub.

Who is Max Igan

- His YouTube channel boasts 177K subscribers, which he uses to stoke technology-related fears and concerns about 5G in videos like '5G and the AI Control Grid'.²⁹
- Outside of his anti-5G advocacy, Igan is a geopolitical commentator on Press TV, an alleged Iranian state-sponsored propaganda network, and his website, thecrowhouse.com, offers information on a range of conspiracy theories on such topics as China, Israel and 9/11.
- Igan, as his Patreon account would suggest, has a significant financial investment in these conspiracies, in that he is entirely reliant on supporter donations. *'I ask you to please consider that it is only your contribution that keeps me on air, keeps the Crowhouse website going and allows me to continue to produce informative material. I have managed to do the last 8 years mostly with my own funding but now, as much as it pains me to have to do so, the time has come for me to ask for assistance in order to continue.'*³⁰

- **March 2018:** In the United Kingdom, former footballer-turned-conspiracy theorist David Icke began weighing in, hosting an article on his website '5G: Harmful effects of a new technology',³² which featured meta tags like mind control and technology. The author of the article, Jon Rappoport,³³ would soon have a chance to traffic the narrative through another influential mouthpiece, Alex Jones.
- **April 2018:** Anti-5G websites like stop5G.net and 5Gexposed.com are both registered.
- **April 4, 2018:** The article '5G Wireless: A Ridiculous Front for Global Control' was reposted to InfoWars from Rappoport's own website nomorefakeneews.com.³⁴
- **May 2018:** InfoWars created a steady stream of content reinforcing the more threatening secondary narrative, aptly summed up by an Alex Jones Show segment (May 3, 2018): 'YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED: ELECTROMAGNETIC 5G CELL PHONE RADIATION IS DESIGNED TO DECIMATE THE POPULATION'.³⁵
- **May 2018:** Other conspiracy communities like QAnon began to echo concerns about the negative impacts of 5G smart grids on personal health and the environment.³⁶ Meanwhile, petitions like 'Stop the Attempted Genocide of the American People with 5G Radiation Cell Towers', posted to WhiteHouse.gov,³⁷ or 'Let's Make America SAFE Again! No Small Cells in our Neighborhoods',³⁸ posted to Change.org, and 'Stop 5G!',³⁹ posted to Avaaz.org, lent further credence to the notion that anti-5G sentiment was increasing in popularity in mainstream conversations.
- **May 31, 2018:** RT America broadcast the first of at least eight news segments preying upon concerns about 5G, 'Cancer risk? 5G Wireless speeds could be dangerous'.⁴⁰ For state-sponsored media operations like RT, the 5G narrative shows how countries like Russia can pick up on existing disinformation campaigns in an attempt to sow social discord and increase the perception of popularity of certain concepts or sentiments.⁴¹

PHASE 3

Narrative Deployment (2018-2019)

Over the next several months, a steady stream of content trickled through established networks of propagation, transitioning the narrative payload into its third and final stage, the outbreak. The outbreak can be largely defined by the metastasisation of the narrative payload into national and global media coverage.

- **October 2018:** When hundreds of birds died mysteriously at a park in The Hague, John Kuhles, the Dutch UFO researcher, posted on Facebook his own 'evidence-based' article of its link to 5G, which was quoted and shared in November, eventually reaching an estimated 5.7 million social media users.⁴² While the story was debunked eight days later,⁴³ the fact-checked finding reached only an estimated 1.3 million social media users – roughly five times less than the original story.
- **February 27, 2019:** TruNews (170K subscribers), whose YouTube channel pledges to offer Christians a positive alternative to the anti-Christian bigotry of the mainstream media, uploaded 'How is 5G Connected to the Mark of the Beast System?' (46,543 views), peppering in anti-Semitism and biblical apocalypse to the payload.⁴⁴
- **May 12, 2019:** The New York Times noted that RT had already run seven health-related 5G broadcasts in 2019, often casting it in apocalyptic terms with headlines that include 'A Dangerous Experiment on Humanity', '5G Tech is "Crime under International Law"', '"Totally Insane": Telecom Industry Ignores 5G Dangers', and 'Could 5G Put More Kids at Risk for Cancer?'.⁴⁵
- **May 21, 2019:** Fox News Host Tucker Carlson raises the question: 'Most of the debate over 5G is centred on China, whether its state-run companies have too much influence in this strategically important field. But there is another even more basic question that has yet to be answered, are 5G networks medically safe?'.⁴⁶

Once deployed, the global news cycle took the narrative payload to unexpected heights when, under the leadership of the US, countries began banning Chinese telecoms giant Huawei from cooperating on 5G network adoption under the veil of national security threats.

Analysis

As the blast radius of the payload expanded with every additional media mention, a loosely defined social media network supporting the 'Stop 5G' narrative used it as daily algorithmic cannon fodder across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Using the term 'Stop 5G', we were able to identify 124 Facebook Pages and 74 Groups.

The collective network of 124 Facebook Pages increased its post count from 211 posts/week to 1,019 posts/week during the week of May 19, 2019.

Not only did the post count increase, but the total number of followers swelled from 7,005 to 59,094 during the week of May 12–19 (see Figure 6).

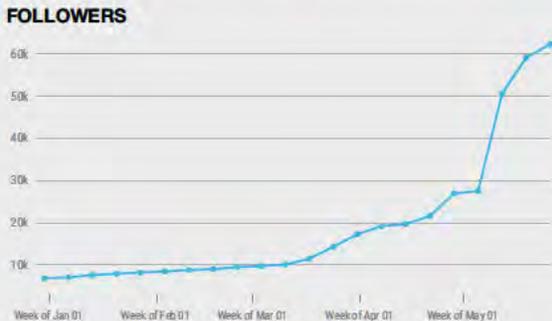
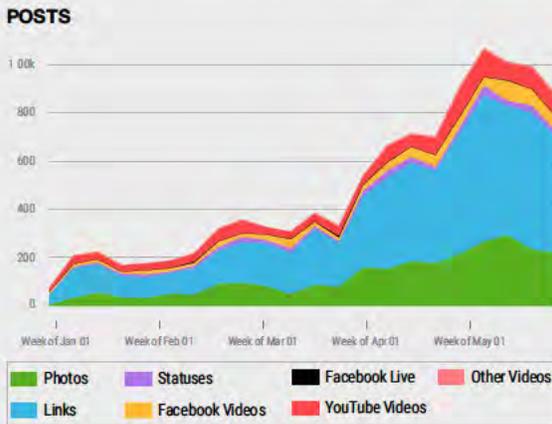
April 2019 was an important inflection point, as the post count began to climb aggressively, while the week of May 12–19 saw an 84 per cent increase in the total number of followers. In examining some of the names of the Facebook pages, the global network effect is

clear. Pages were created by groups and users in Australia, Denmark, UK, New Zealand, Scotland, Malta, Italy, Canada, Poland, Ireland, and the United States, among others.

The 74 Facebook Groups experienced similar growth patterns in 2019, with posts per week increasing from 568 posts/week to a total of 3,922 posts/week during the week of May 12–19. Furthermore, the network of Facebook Groups started 2019 with no followers, surging to 50,710 by the week of May 12–19 (see Figure 7).

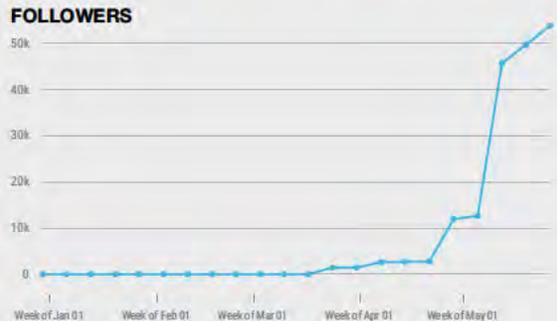
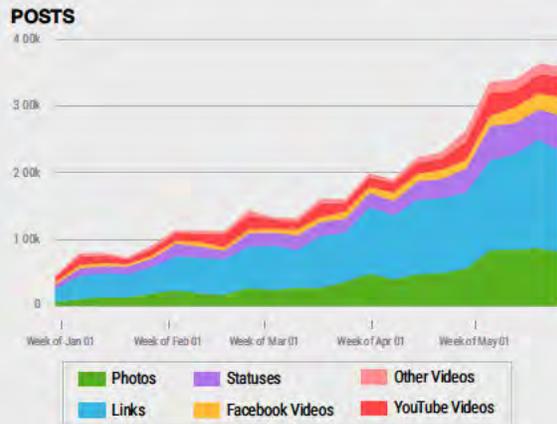
When comparing the arc of the two communities, the page and group audiences both experienced a major increase during the week of May 12–19. While limited access to Facebook data makes any further quantitative analysis an exhaustive manual task, there is a reasonable case to be made that this is more than a coincidence.

Figure 6. Evolution of 'Stop 5G' Facebook Pages – Posts and Followers (Dec – May 2019)



Source: CrowdTangle Intelligence Report 2019

Figure 7. Evolution of 'Stop 5G' Facebook Groups – Posts and Followers (Dec – May 2019)



Source: CrowdTangle Intelligence Report 2019

Outside of Facebook, we began tracking over 600 Twitter accounts using the hashtag #stop5G in 2019 either as a username or in a tweet. The data show markedly similar trends, with an increase in total tweets from 5,058 tweets/week at the beginning of the year, to 16,794 tweets/week during the week of May 12–19, 2019.

Furthermore, the number of followers, which began the year with 314,033, increased to 1.1 million during the week of May 12–19, 2019. Most interestingly, the network increased by 215 per cent during the week of May 12–19, comprising 765,900 Twitter users (see Figure 8).

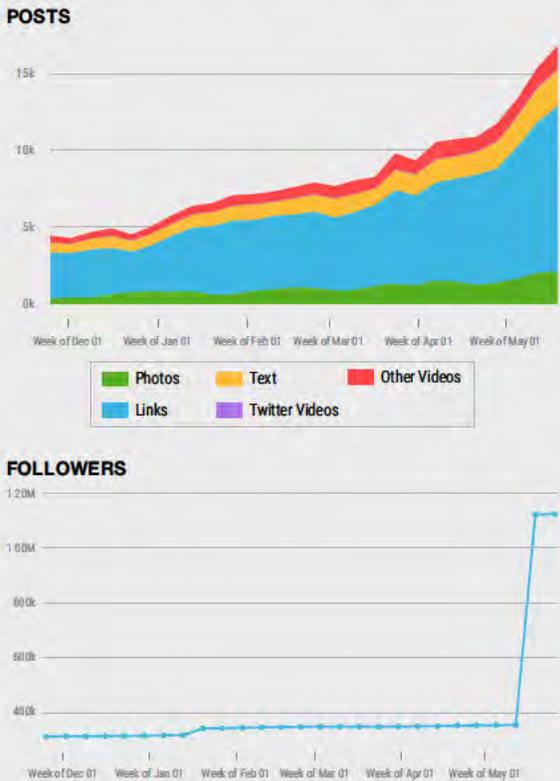
On Instagram, we tracked 43 different accounts featuring 'Stop 5G' in the username, and witnessed similar patterns. The network of accounts, all apparently new, had zero followers at the beginning of May 2019, and almost instantaneously amassed 19,027 followers between May 19–26, 2019 (see Figure 9).

While direct links between the accounts within each network, let alone the links between networks, remain difficult to discern, the suspicious surge in followers across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram came less than a week before Tucker Carlson's Fox News report, when the Google Trend Breakout Score for '5G Radiation' hit 100.

The collective growth point across the aforementioned platforms warrants further investigation, as suspicions of inorganic amplification are more than warranted.

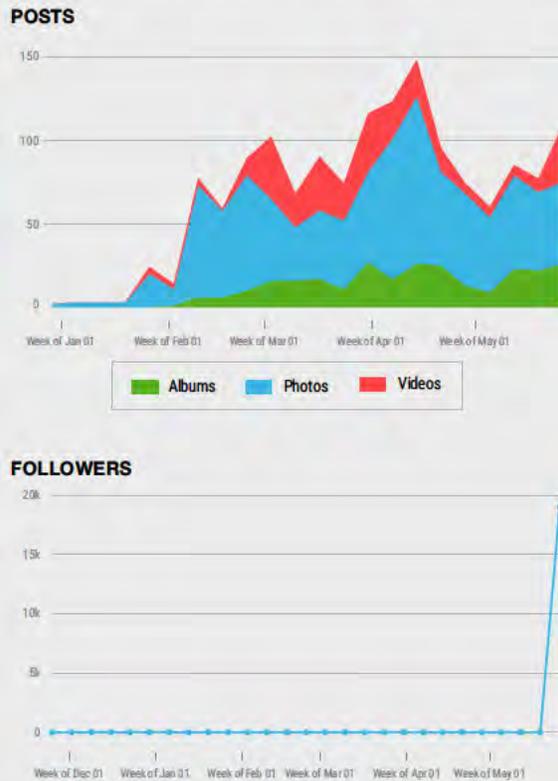
When the amplifiers of this type of content are most effective, they serve as a critical juncture along the path of conspiratorial "red-pilling", i.e. the recruitment of more mainstream and critically-minded individuals to repeat the same narrative.

Figure 8. Evolution of 'Stop 5G' on Twitter – Posts and Followers (Dec – May 2019)



Source: CrowdTangle Intelligence Report 2019

Figure 9. Evolution of 'Stop 5G' on Instagram – Posts and Followers (Dec – May 2019)



Source: CrowdTangle Intelligence Report 2019

Conclusions

Today's online threat landscape is significantly more complex and blended, which may lead to the majority of abusive and harmful behaviours slipping through the gaps of current content and platform moderation models.

Adversarial narratives like 'Stop 5G' are effective because they inflame social tensions by exploiting and amplifying perceived grievances of individuals, groups and institutions. The payload is agnostic to the truth. Rather, the end game is to foster an adversarial narrative conflict, which has become key to the networked disinformation landscape.

In this context, understanding and defending against adversarial narrative campaigns requires analysis of both the message's contents and the context of online information artefacts, and how they are propagated through networks. The need for new approaches to tackle this threat was recently addressed by the New Zealand government's Christchurch Call to Eliminate Terrorist & Violent Extremist Content Online, creating a window of opportunity for change.⁴⁷

Below are some preliminary recommendations for advancing work to diagnose, identify and prevent the new nature of disinformation campaigns:

Diagnose

- Work to define communally agreed-upon online harms arising from disinformation. Such harms include the rise of disinformation and other harmful borderline content leading to radicalisation and violent extremism.⁴⁸
- Agree to rapidly develop initial working definitions, examples, and frameworks for harmful online content for use by platforms and the public.
- Foster the development and implementation of more robust voluntary industry standards around good faith moderation of harmful content online.
- Establish a commission to collaborate on studying and addressing harmful content online.

Identify

- Detect polarising and divisive indicators in content. This approach can be used to detect and escalate potentially risky artefacts matching established criteria.
- Promote robust collaboration on content moderation across social media platforms, cloud service providers and ecommerce providers, among others.
- Share threat intelligence (using harmful content frameworks) with key stakeholders from the platforms, civil society and government (i.e. the ISAC/ISAO model).

Prevent

- Encourage the use of third-party counter-messaging campaigns that directly challenge the adversarial narratives being amplified across the internet on a daily basis.
- Get technology companies and governments to commit to fund, develop, and promote messaging campaigns through the consultation of former members of fringe communities.
- Promote confidential and secure intervention portals for non-profit organisations to proactively reach affected individuals.
- Ensure platforms, brands and ad exchanges work together to demonetise and de-fund disinformation actors and their domains.

The sooner we can come together in establishing shared standards for what constitutes both problematic content and problematic behaviour, the sooner we can approach our social problems head on.

As Sun Tzu once said, 'He who knows the enemy and himself will never in a hundred battles be at risk; he who does not know the enemy but knows himself will sometimes win and sometimes lose; he who knows neither the enemy nor himself will be at risk in every battle.'⁴⁹

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Hotline's Latest Edition

From: Hotline's Latest Edition
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA)
Subject: What Dreams May Cost

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[Hotline's Latest Edition](#)



Spotlight: What Dreams May Cost

Tom Steyer is showing what money can buy in the 2020 Democratic primary. He announced a bid for president 36 days ago. Most of his competitors have been in the race for months and, for one, even years. Yet he's nearly qualified for the third debate in September.

The mega-donor's campaign announced reaching the necessary 130,000 donors Tuesday, so

he needs just two more polling benchmarks after already locking up two qualifying polls—the latest [poll](#) in Iowa had Steyer at 3 percent, and Morning Consult had him at 6 percent in the early [primary states](#). He's polling better than the governors and a couple of senators.

How'd he do it? Meeting the thresholds has been costly.

Reports [suggest](#) it costs \$40 to \$75 to procure a \$1 donation. Steyer has poured \$7 million in TV ads and another \$2.5 million into digital ads, more than anybody in the race so far, including President Trump. He bought an eight-million-strong email list from Need to Impeach and voter data from NextGen America, two organizations he founded. He's said to have committed spending \$100 million of his own money on the race.

While he'll likely qualify for the third debate soon, the challenges Steyer faces are twofold: The field is still extremely crowded, with five candidates hogging some 75 percent of primary support, and he'll likely have to parry criticism of exactly how he got there.

— *Matt Holt*

Quote of the Day

"I appreciate the importance of that role. But I am not so arrogant as to believe I'm the only one who can win that."

—Stacey Abrams (D), on not running for GA SEN, [New York Times](#), 8/14.

Top News

[DEMOCRATS: On the Market](#)

Stacey Abrams (D) isn't running but is open to being vice president (cc the two dozen who are running).

[COLORADO SENATE: Time's Up](#)

Former Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) discussed leaving the presidential race and running for the Senate instead in a conversation with Sen. Michael Bennet (D) in Iowa on Friday.

[CALIFORNIA 50: That Can't Help](#)

Indicted Rep. Duncan Hunter's (R) corruption trial was delayed from Sept. 10 to Jan. 14, meaning it will likely end just weeks before the top-two primary.

[LOUISIANA GOVERNOR: On the Air](#)

Gumbo PAC launched its first negative ads against Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-05) and businessman Eddie Rispono (R).

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National

[FIELD OF DEMS](#): Biden's Bid Draws Comparisons to Romney 2012
Sanders walked back his criticism of the Washington Post.

[DEMOCRATS](#): Abrams Not Running, Will Focus on Voting Rights
The sprint to make the third debate continues.

[REPUBLICANS](#): Trump Turns Energy Policy Speech Into Campaign Rally
Evangelicals are sticking by him.

Senate

[BATTLE FOR THE SENATE](#): Dems Not Sweating Primary Season
Even in crowded fields, strategists said the money is aimed toward unseating Republicans.

[ARIZONA](#): McSally Pushes to Criminalize Domestic Terror
She's introducing a bill to make domestic terrorism a distinct federal crime.

[COLORADO](#): Hickenlooper Eyes Senate Bid
The Democrat discussed the possibility with Michael Bennet on Friday.

[KANSAS](#): GOP Field Would Clear for Pompeo
Derek Schmidt said he'd decide on a bid at or before the state GOP convention next year.

[NEW HAMPSHIRE](#): Poll: Lewandowski Leads Primary Field by Double-Digits
Corky Messner's campaign launched billboards welcoming Trump to the state.

[NEW MEXICO](#): Rich Running Again
He said he's not afraid to split with Trump on some issues.

[TEXAS](#): Tzintzún Ramirez Raises More Than \$200k on First Day
The Democrat said her campaign blew past its \$100,000 goal.

House

[RACE FOR THE HOUSE](#): House Panel to Cut Recess Short to Consider Gun Control Laws
Democrats don't agree on what measures they should advance.

[PRIMARY ROUNDUP](#): Ex-Yang Staffer to Primary Nadler in NY-10
In UT-01, the 2018 Utah mother of the year plans to launch a bid.

[ARIZONA](#): Trump Tweets Support for Possible Schilling House Bid

The ex-MLB player won't say in which district he is considering running.

[CALIFORNIA 50](#): Judge Delays Hunter's Trial to March 2020

His court case may not wrap up until weeks before the primary.

[FLORIDA 15](#): Carlson Won't Run, Backs Hattersley

She lost to Ross Spano by 6 points last year.

[INDIANA 05](#): State Treasurer Likely to Run for Brooks' Seat

Kelly Mitchell lives just outside the district but is looking for a home within its borders.

[NEW YORK 19](#): Ex-National Guard General to Challenge Delgado

Anthony German has helped respond to national disasters since 1990.

[NORTH CAROLINA 09](#): DCCC Places First TV Ad Buy

EDF Action reported spending another \$224,000 on TV ads to help McCready.

Governor

[INDIANA](#): Macer Won't Launch Bid

Myers is the only declared Democrat.

[LOUISIANA](#): Democratic Super PAC Launches 2 Attack Ads

The group will be running ads through the primary.

[MONTANA](#): Fox Proposes 10 Primary Debates

Gianforte hasn't responded.

Overlooked: Moooving On Up

Rep. Devin Nunes's (R-CA 22) defamation lawsuit against the Twitter parody accounts Devin Nunes' Cow and Devin Nunes' Mom could end up making his reelection effort more difficult, the [Fresno Bee](#) reported, as the accounts—which boast huge numbers of followers—direct donations toward his challengers, including businessman [Phil Arballo](#) (D), who was endorsed by the cow.

Inside National Journal Daily

[Senate Dems Unfazed by Crowded Primaries](#)

The party didn't land all the candidates it wanted and in some cases may have gotten too many, but it nonetheless is optimistic about winning the majority in 2020.

[Kraushaar: In North Carolina, Democrats Dodge the Culture Wars](#)

A Democratic upset on Trump's turf would be a setback for Republican attempts to paint all Democrats as socialists—and an ominous sign for GOP prospects in 2020.

[Virginia's Senators Show "Deference" to Trump's Judicial Picks](#)

Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine vote half the time to confirm the president's judicial nominees.

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Week in Review

Friday, August 9

- El Paso mass shooting suspect [confessed](#) to targeting Mexicans in the attack that left 22 people dead on August 3. The affidavit, written by Detective Garcia, disclosed that the suspect was taken to an interview room and admitted to charges. The El Paso

County medical examiner's office stated that seven of the victims were Mexican citizens.

- Democratic candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden receives [criticism](#) for saying that "poor kids are just as bright and just as talented as white kids" at a campaign speech in Iowa. Though Biden said he misspoke and corrected himself after the statement, he faced criticism including from Trump's 2020 campaign director.

Monday, August 12

- San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo proposed a [city ordinance](#) that would require firearm owners to either carry liability insurance or pay a fee to cover public costs of gun violence to the city. This comes after the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting last month killed three people and injured 12 more.
- US Attorney General William Barr announced on Saturday the opening of an [investigation](#) into the death of multimillionaire financier and accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein in a Manhattan jail cell. The Justice Department's inspector general will be leading the investigation.

Tuesday, August 13

- House Judiciary Chair Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and Ranking Member Doug Collins (R-GA) sent a [letter](#) to Hugh Hurwitz, the acting director of the Bureau of Prisons, inquiring about the death of multimillionaire financier and accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein in a Manhattan jail cell.
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee Patrick Leahy (D-VT) released a [statement](#) calling on Trump to redirect \$5 billion in funds he's requested for a wall along the southern border to fund gun control initiatives instead, saying, "we write to urge that you fully withdraw your budget request within the Department of Homeland Security for \$5 billion for an ineffective border wall."

Wednesday, August 14

- Global stock prices were [volatile](#) after Chinese officials announced their plans to take countermeasures in response to US plans for added tariffs on Chinese imports.
- The [inverted yield curve](#) in the global stock market, partially driven by a lack of confidence in US-China trade relations, has led to speculation that a global recession is coming.

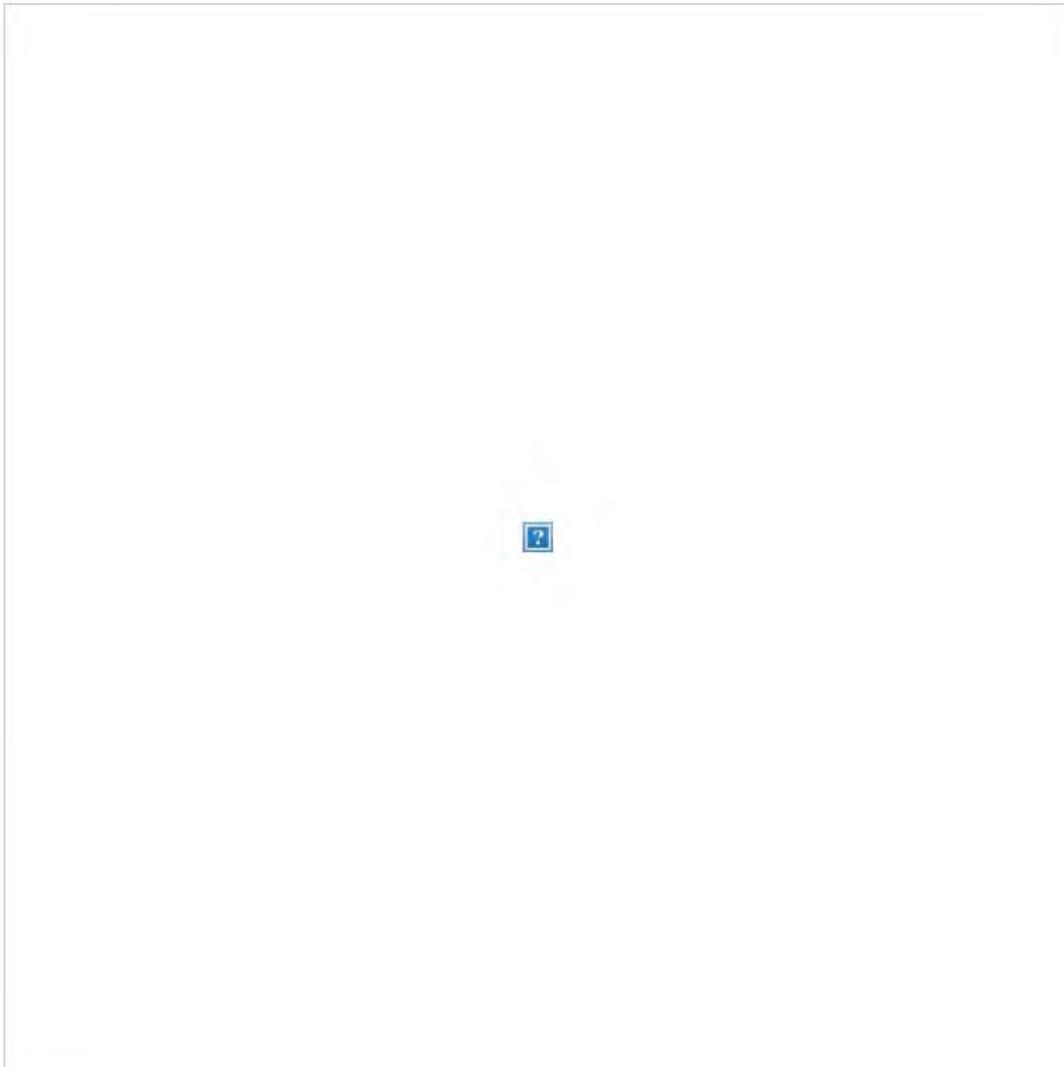
Thursday, August 15

- The government of Hong Kong [announced](#) tax cuts and higher social spending plans amid anti-government protests over economic struggles including slowing trade with Asia and the second-hand effects of US-China trade relations.
- A [standoff](#) with Philadelphia police and a gunman barricaded inside a home ended with

no fatalities Thursday morning, despite six officers being shot during the standoff that began earlier the day before.

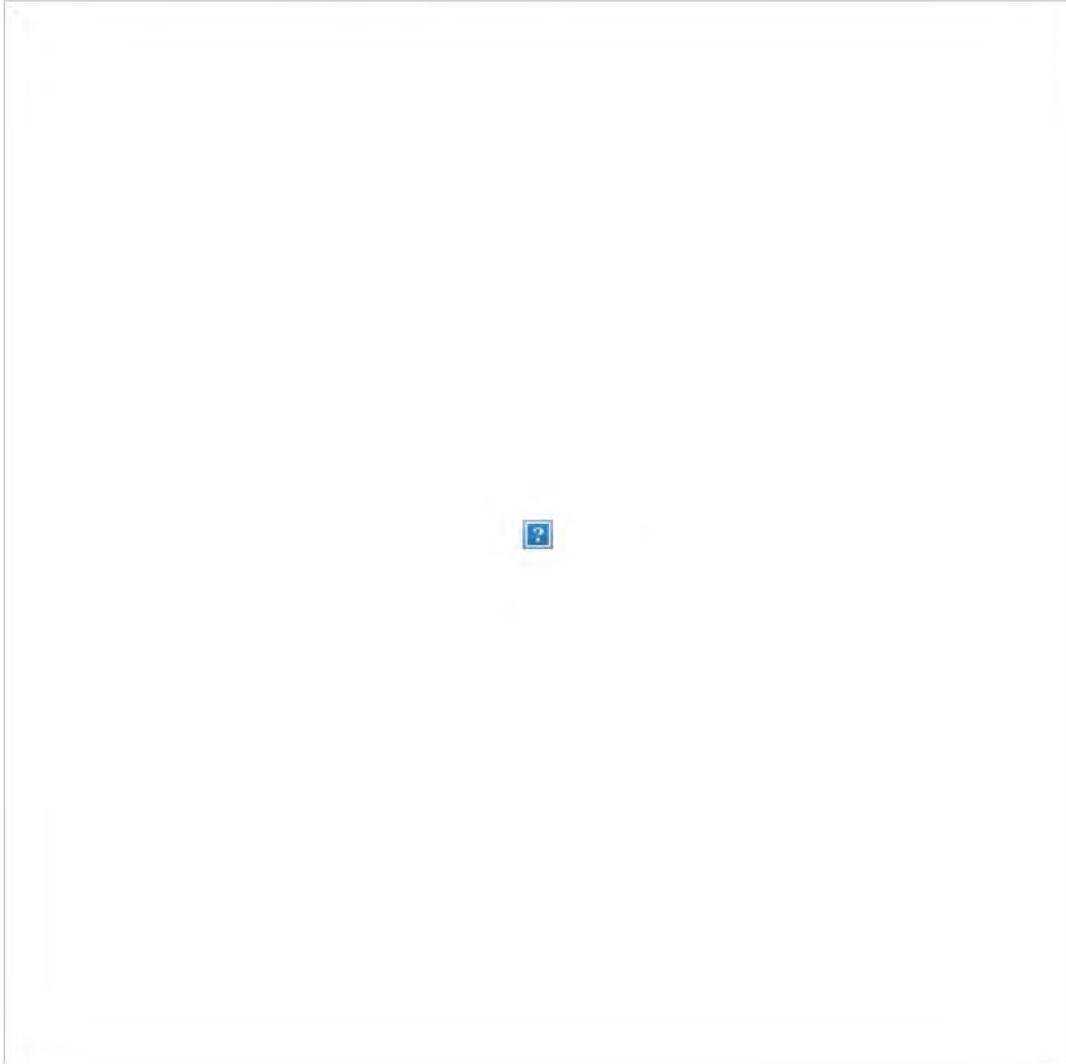
Top Stories: Visualized

1. [2020 Election Toolbox](#) — Insights on the 2020 presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial elections

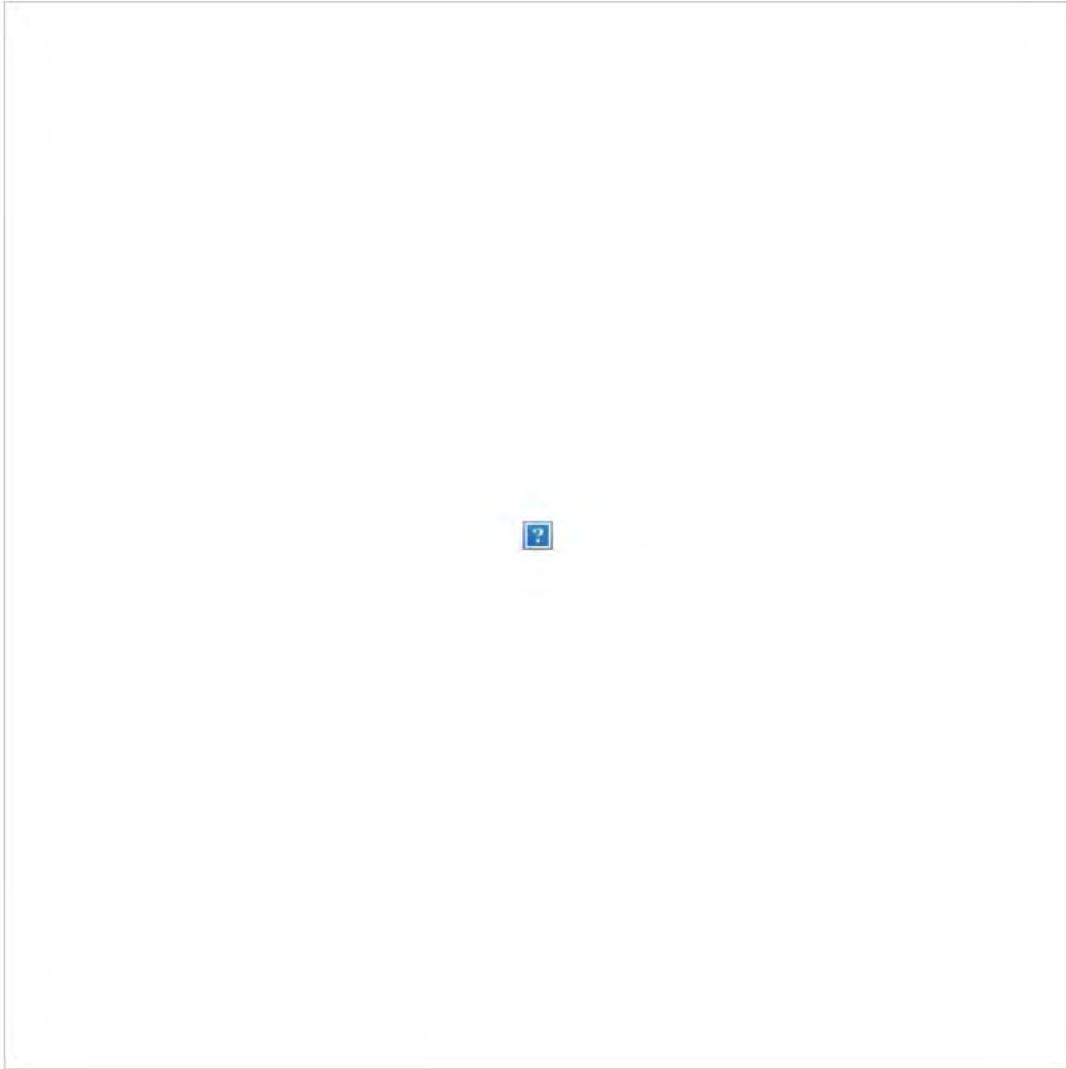


2. [Agency Staff Tracker: Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) — Agency Staff Trackers are your go-to resource for profiles and insights on government agencies. The USDA Agency Staff Tracker provides an overview of the structure of the federal agency, profiles of top officials, and

the current status and occupants of key positions



3. [US trade overview](#) — A briefing on trade policy under the Trump administration regarding tariffs, China, and trade agreements



Hotline: Overlooked

Where the House Isn't Where the Heart Is: Two House members are running for governor so far this cycle. Alaska, Arizona, and Utah are the only states where a sitting or former House member has never been elected governor, according to the University of Minnesota's [Smart Politics](#).

What to Expect When You're Expecting Exits: Of the candidates who ended their presidential campaigns in the off year over the past dozen cycles, more did so in September and October (13) than in November and December (eight), the University of Minnesota's [Smart Politics](#) reported. Three dropped out in August.

Call Security: A Brennan Center for Justice analysis of voter registration and turnout data released Tuesday found that 12 percent of voters could cast a ballot next November with a paperless ballot machine, which is down from 20 percent in 2016 but still leaves some 16 million people's ballots less secure, the [AP](#) reported. The states that could have some paperless equipment: Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, Mississippi, Texas,

and Tennessee.

Mooving On Up: Rep. Devin Nunes's (R-CA 22) defamation lawsuit against the Twitter parody accounts Devin Nunes' Cow and Devin Nunes' Mom could end up making his reelection effort more difficult, the [Fresno Bee](#) reported, as the accounts—which boast huge numbers of followers—direct donations toward his challengers, including businessman Phil Arballo (D), who was endorsed by the cow.

Hotline: Quotes of the Week

"He was a 60-watt bulb in a field with a 200-watt bulb." —Drake University political scientist Dennis Goldford, on Joe Biden's 2008 campaign in Iowa, [Los Angeles Times](#), 8/9.

"Energy-wise, he looked people in the eye, remembered your name, called your name — and he's not that Joe Biden anymore." — Greene County, IA Democratic Party Chair Chris Henning, [AP](#), 8/12.

"I love the Iowa State Fair. I'm in love with it." —New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (D), in a speech, [Des Moines Register](#), 8/12.

"I appreciate the importance of that role. But I am not so arrogant as to believe I'm the only one who can win that." —Stacey Abrams (D), on not running for GA SEN, [New York Times](#), 8/14.

Look Ahead

The House and Senate will be on recess August 15 - September 9, 2019.

National Journal

600 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037



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Ramjee, Divya (CRM)

From: Ramjee, Divya (CRM)
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:07 PM
Subject: Today's News - March 5, 2020
Attachments: 01.docx; 02.docx; 03.docx; 04.docx; 05.docx; 06.docx; 07.docx; 08.docx; 09.docx; 10.docx; 11.docx; 12.docx; 13.docx; 14.docx; 15.docx

Please find attached today's popular news stories.

1. Bloomberg News **“Huawei Pleads Not Guilty to Racketeering in Beefed-Up US Case”** Huawei pleaded not guilty Wednesday to racketeering charges filed last month by US prosecutors who accused it of a 20-year pattern of corporate espionage. The company had called the charges “unfounded and unfair.”
2. SecurityBoulevard.com **“Two Las Vegas Casinos May Have Been Crippled by Ransomware Attacks”** The Four Queens Hotel and Casino and Binion’s Casino suffered an outage of computers and slot machines, possibly the result of a ransomware attack. There has been no statement by the owner, TLC Casino Enterprises. The Nevada State Gaming Control Board is investigating.
3. ZDNet News **“T-Mobile says hacker gained access to employee email accounts, user data”** T-Mobile disclosed yesterday a security breach that impacted both its employees and customers PII.
4. Tech Crunch **“J.Crew says a hacker accessed some customer accounts”** Clothing giant J.Crew said an unknown number of customers had their online accounts accessed “by an unauthorized party” almost a year ago, but is only now disclosing the incident.
5. New York Times **“US to Hold Tech Firms Accountable for Spread of Child Sex Abuse Imagery”** Legislation announced on Thursday aimed at curbing the spread of online child sexual abuse imagery would take the extraordinary step of removing legal protections for tech companies that fail to police the illegal content. A separate, international initiative that was also announced takes a softer approach, getting the industry to voluntarily embrace standards for combating the material.
6. Motherboard **“This Small Company Is Turning Utah Into a Surveillance Panopticon”** The state of Utah has given an AI company, Banjo, real-time access to state traffic cameras, CCTV and “public safety” cameras, 911 emergency systems, location data for state-owned vehicles, and other sensitive data. The company, promising "Live Time Intelligence," combines this data with information collected from social media, satellites, and other apps, and claims its algorithms “detect anomalies” in the real world. Long read.
7. ZDNet **“New Bill to prepare Australian law enforcement for the US CLOUD Act”** Under the proposed amendment, providers in Australia and the US would be able to respond to lawful orders from the other country for access to "electronic evidence". It also puts Australian in position to enter into a bilateral CLOUD Act agreement, which would enable Australian law enforcement to serve domestic orders for communications data needed to combat serious crime directly on US-based companies, and vice versa.
8. Bloomberg **“Telecom Network Security Mandated in Trade Pacts By Thune Bill”** Sen. Thune will introduce a bipartisan bill today that seeks to ensure that trade agreements protect the security of digital telecommunications systems, including next generation 5G equipment. “Unfair trade practices of communications equipment suppliers owned or controlled by a foreign government should not be tolerated. Period,” he said.

9. New York Times **“Before Clearview Became a Police Tool, It Was a Secret Plaything of the Rich”** In January Clearview published a “code of conduct,” emphasizing that its technology was “available only for law enforcement agencies and select security professionals to use as an investigative tool.” Yet investors, friends and clients who were not law enforcement used Clearview from 2018 to spy on their daughter’s dates, and the general public. These were “trial accounts.”
10. Schneier on Security **“Security of Health Information”** Data transmitted from local health agencies to national level agencies is vulnerable to manipulation. Disinformation campaigns are already active. Beginning around the middle of January, thousands of social media accounts, many previously tied to Russia, were posting nearly identical messages in English, German, French, and other languages, blaming the US for the outbreak of COVID-19. Some messages claimed the virus is part of a US economic war on China, others that it is a biological weapon engineered by the CIA.
11. New York Times **“Can You Really Hire a Hit Man on the Dark Web?”** Experts and law enforcement agencies who have studied these sites say they are scams. However, a number of men and women are sitting in jail after paying them and getting caught by the police.
12. Wall Street Journal **“Former Google Self-Driving Engineer Files for Bankruptcy”** Anthony Levandowski, the self-driving engineer accused by Google of breaching his employment contract and misusing confidential information, filed for bankruptcy, citing a \$179 million legal judgment. A judge ruled Wednesday in San Francisco County Superior Court that Mr. Levandowski must pay Google an award determined in December by an arbitration panel, plus interest and lawyers’ fees. Mr. Levandowski had appealed the arbitration panel’s decision.
13. Ars Technica **“Sorry, Tulsi Gabbard, Google can’t violate the First Amendment”** She argued that Google should be treated like a government agency. Google regulates political ads on its platforms, which gives the company influence over elections and hence should be bound by the First Amendment. The judge dismissed the case.
14. ZDNet News **“Chinese hackers use decade-old Bivon Trojan in cyberespionage campaigns”** Chinese cyberattackers continue to improve and deploy a decade-old Remote Access Trojan in ongoing campaigns against Russian, Japanese, and South Korean targets, according to research by Cisco Talos. The Trojan has been linked to Tonto Team, a suspected Chinese state-sponsored APT belonging to the Chinese military, potentially based at the Shenyang Military Region Technical Reconnaissance Bureau.
15. ZDNet News **“Backdoor malware is being spread through fake security certificate alerts”** Backdoor and Trojan malware variants are being distributed through a new phishing technique that attempts to lure victims into accepting an "update" to website security certificates.

Divya Ramjee

U.S. Department of Justice | Criminal Division
Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section

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DISMISSED

Sorry, Tulsi Gabbard, Google can't violate the First Amendment

Google is not a government actor under the First Amendment, judge says.

By Timothy B. Lee, Ars Technica, Mar. 5, 2020, 1:02 PM

When longshot presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard sued Google last year alleging a violation of her First Amendment rights, legal experts were scathing in their responses.

The lawsuit "has so many problems it's hard to know where to begin," tweeted attorney Gabriel Malor. Santa Clara University law professor Eric Goldman described the lawsuit as "terrible."

Now a federal judge has confirmed these experts' views. In a Tuesday ruling, he threw out the lawsuit. Gabbard's lawsuit claimed that Google violated her free speech rights when it blocked her from buying campaign ads for a few hours on the evening of June 28, 2019. But Stephen Wilson, a federal district judge in the central district of California, ruled that Gabbard didn't have a case.

Gabbard accused Google of violating her rights under the First Amendment. But the First Amendment prohibits the government, not private companies, from abridging people's free speech rights. Google is not a government agency, so the First Amendment simply doesn't apply.

Gabbard's lawyers countered that Google should be treated like a government agency. Google regulates political ads on its platforms, which gives the company a lot of influence over the electoral process. In Gabbard's view, that meant that Google was exercising a government-like role over the electoral process and hence should be bound by the First Amendment.

Judge Wilson didn't buy it.

"Google does not hold primaries, it does not select candidates, and it does not prevent anyone from running for office or voting in elections," Wilson wrote. "To the extent Google regulates anything, it regulates its own private speech and platform."

Suing technology giants especially Google has become an increasingly popular tactic among politicians and pundits in recent years. Last month, a federal appeals court in California rejected a similar lawsuit from conservative pundit Dennis Prager. Alt-right social media platform Gab unsuccessfully sued Google in 2017. Last year a federal court rejected a lawsuit against Google by conservative legal group Freedom Watch.

Last year Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) filed a lawsuit against Twitter, accusing the social media giant of defamation for hosting a satirical Twitter account called Devin Nunes' cow.

DOJ Digests

From: DOJ Digests
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Rendon DOJ Alert Desk
Subject: Afternoon Digest

**Department of Justice
Afternoon News Digest
June 12, 2020
04:00 PM EDT**

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10. Criminal Justice/Corrections
11. Marijuana Legalization
12. Administration

AFTERNOON HEADLINES

- “Coronavirus Live Updates: Florida and Texas Report Record High Daily Cases” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Stocks Pare Gains After Morning Rally” [[WSJ](#), [NYT](#)]
- “Jobless workers face delays in payments as states race to stop scams” [[WaPo](#)]
- “Nearly 160 coronavirus vaccines are in the works. Here’s a closer look at the science” [[LAT](#)]

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEWS

Fox: “DOJ presses states to apply same protections to lockdown demonstrators, churches as they do to Floyd protests,” Brooke Singman, June 12, 2020, 2:23 PM

The Justice Department is urging states and localities to apply the same rules to George Floyd protests as they would to people opposing coronavirus lockdowns and those wanting to hold religious gatherings. The DOJ intervened in several state and local matters this week, advocating the same protections under the First Amendment be applied to all matters of political protest and religious services. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CNN: "Justice Department to release a less-redacted version of the Mueller Report," Katelyn Polantz, June 12, 2020, 11:38 AM

The Justice Department says it will release a less-redacted version of the Mueller Report no later than next Friday, after being pressed for it in court. Prosecutors cited the sentencing of Roger Stone as reason for making more of Mueller's report public. Large sections of the Mueller report had been redacted when it was released in April 2019 because Stone's criminal case was ongoing and a judge had placed a gag order over it to prevent spoiling his jury. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See Also:** [The Hill](#), [USA Today](#)

COVID-19

KNBC (Los Angeles, CA): “Feds Sued Over Info Related to Coronavirus at Calif. Detention and Border Patrol Stations,” Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 11:20 AM (EDT)

A Los Angeles legal aid organization is suing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other governmental agencies, seeking to compel the release of records regarding COVID-19 outbreaks at immigration detention centers and Border Patrol stations. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Los Angeles under the Freedom of Information Act by Al Otro Lado and the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KRQE-CBS/Fox (Albuquerque, NM): “DOJ awards over \$2M in COVID-19 emergency supplemental funding to New Mexico,” Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 8:59 AM (EDT)

As part of the Office of Justice Program's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding, the Department of Justice has awarded \$2,044,990 to Albuquerque, Española, Gallup, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe County, and San Juan County. The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program has contributed \$850 million national to help states that are eligible, local governments, and tribes prevent, prepare, and respond to the virus. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WSJ: “Medical-Supply Firm Sues Bank Over Broken Coronavirus Deal,” Brody Mullins, June 12, 2020, 7:59 AM

A politically connected medical supply company alleged that the improper actions of its bank caused it to lose a \$600 million order for coronavirus supplies, ruined its business, triggered death threats to its founders and ruined their reputation. In a suit filed Friday in a Virginia federal court, Blue Flame Medical LLC contends that as it was waiting for a down payment from the state of California, an official at Chain Bridge Bank told California's treasurer that the company might be “fraudulent.” [[Continue Reading](#)]

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WTKR-CBS (Norfolk, VA): “Man arrested for threatening to burn down Virginia Beach African American church,” Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 1:38 PM

A man from North Carolina was arrested Friday for a charge related to his alleged threat to burn down an African American church in Virginia Beach. Federal officials said 63-year-old John Malcolm Bareswill who lives in Catawba and works in Virginia Beach, is scheduled to make his initial appearance in federal court Friday in Norfolk at 2 p.m. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WTAJ-CBS (Altoona, PA): “38 arrested in massive meth bust crossing multiple counties,” Bill Shannon, June 12, 2020, 12:53 PM

Numerous residents of Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, and Erie counties have been indicted and arrested on charges of violating federal drug laws, money laundering, and unlawful possession of firearms on Tuesday afternoon. The U.S. Attorney says that this has been an 18-month long investigation. Multiple kilos of meth were trafficked from Atlanta up into Central Pennsylvania.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WFMY-CBS (Greensboro, NC): “2nd person charged with murder of pregnant Winston-Salem woman,” Megan Allman, June 12, 2020, 12:40 PM

US Marshals arrested a man in Florence, South Carolina accused of killing a 21-year-old pregnant Winston-Salem woman. Winston-Salem police said Friday detectives charged Quintin Marcus Searcy, 29, with murder in the death of Jericka Nasgah McGee. On May 28, police found McGee shot to death on E. 20th Avenue in Winston-Salem. Police said a person driving to work saw her body and called for help. An autopsy from the state medical examiner's office found McGee was pregnant. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Porterville Recorder (Porterville, CA): “FBI conducting search warrant at Golden Sunrise Nutraceutical,” Alexis Espinoza, June 12, 2020, 11:31 AM (EDT)

A swarm of Federal Bureau of Investigations agents surrounded Golden Sunrise Nutraceutical on North E Street in Porterville on Thursday as a team of FBI agents from Fresno were at the facility. With several unmarked cars surrounding the Golden Sunrise Nutraceutical facility and FBI agents clearly in uniform, passing drivers and nearby neighbors were drawn to the scene, some even sitting on their porches or slowing down their vehicles to watch what was happening. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KSAT-CBS (San Antonio, TX): “Cash reward offered after men stole 20 firearms from San Antonio gun store,” Fares Sabawi, June 12, 2020, 11:22 AM

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is offering a \$5,000 cash reward for information on two suspects who broke into a San Antonio gun store and stole 20 firearms. San Antonio police began investigating the burglary Thursday morning after they were called to Ranger Firearms in the 1300 block of Austin Highway. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See Also:** [KENS-CBS \(San Antonio, TX\)](#)

The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, NC): “FBI seeks person of interest in May 30 ‘mortar attack’ on Charlotte-Mecklenburg cops,” Mark Price, June 12, 2020, 11:18 AM

The FBI is now assisting in the search for a “person of interest” in the May 30 explosives attack that left a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police officer with second degree burns and temporary loss of hearing. Photos of a man wanted for questioning were released Friday by the Charlotte Division of the FBI. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See Also:** [Patch \(Charlotte, NC\)](#), [WBTW-CBS \(Myrtle Beach, SC\)](#), [WGHP-Fox \(High Point, NC\)](#)

Laredo Morning Times (Laredo, TX): “Federal authorities join south Laredo ammo seizure investigation,” César Rodriguez, June 12, 2020, 10:58 AM (EDT)

Federal authorities are joining Laredo police in investigating the seizure of more than 700 rounds of .50-caliber ammo from a south Laredo home. A spokesperson for the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Bureau said they are working together with LPD in the case. ATF special agents are investigating if potential federal charges could apply. As of Thursday, no one has been arrested in connection with the case. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Patch (St. Paul, MN): “\$10K Reward For Couple On Run After St. Paul Fires: Feds,” William Bornhoft, June 12, 2020, 10:55 AM (EDT)

A man and his girlfriend are on the run after he was identified as a suspect in several St. Paul fires, federal authorities announced Thursday. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is investigating 135 fires that took place in the Twin Cities during the unrest following the death of

George Floyd. The public helped identify Jose Felan, Jr. after ATF issued an initial reward notice last week. Video of Felan went viral, leading the couple to evade law enforcement, according to authorities. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KOTV-CBS (Tulsa, OK): “City Of Okemah, FBI Investigating After City Hacked, Ransom Demands Made,” Shannon Rousseau, June 12, 2020, 10:03 AM (EDT)

Hackers held the city of Okemah's computer systems hostage Friday morning as they demanded thousands of dollars in ransom. Okemah City Manager Dustin Danker is working with the FBI to try and resolve the digital lockdown. On Monday, city staff discovered the city government's operating system had been hacked, meaning all of their data, including anything related to utility payments, is encrypted and inaccessible. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WHNS-Fox (Greenville, SC): “U.S. Marshals arrest 2 suspects in CT, accused in Asheville murder and attempted murder,” Jon Randall, June 12, 2020, 9:37 AM

Police in Asheville say two people have been taken into custody in Connecticut with ties to an Asheville murder. According to officers, Sherwayne Akeem Bascom was arrested in Waterbury, Connecticut Thursday, June 11 following an operation by the U.S. Marshal Service Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force and the Waterbury Police Department. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See Also:** [WSPA-CBS \(Spartanburg, SC\)](#)

WAAY-ABC (Huntsville, AL): “Morgan County Sheriff’s Office, FBI To Give Update On Valhermoso Springs Mass Shooting,” Rodneya Ross, June 12, 2020, 9:20 AM (EDT)

On Friday, we're expecting to learn new information on a mass shooting in Morgan County. A week ago, the Morgan County Sheriff's Office responded to a home on Talacuh Road in Valhermoso Springs, where they found seven people shot to death. Now, the sheriff's office, along with the FBI, will hold a joint news conference Friday afternoon to update the public on the shooting. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WJW-Fox (Cleveland, OH): “FBI: Looter seen in video, images destroying Colossal Cupcakes during Cleveland protests arrested,” Darcie Loreno, June 12, 2020, 9:16 AM

One of four suspects shown in surveillance images looting Colossal Cupcakes during downtown protests has been arrested, according to the FBI. Tandre Buchanan Jr., 22, faces federal charges of interference with commerce by threats or violence. Peaceful protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody turned violent in downtown Cleveland May 30. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See Also:** [Patch \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WEWS-ABC \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WKYC-NBC \(Cleveland, OH\)](#), [WOIO-CBS \(Cleveland, OH\)](#)

KPRC-NBC (Houston, TX): “ATF agents assisting with investigation of Bar 5015 explosion,” Erica Ponder, June 12, 2020, 9:13 AM (EDT)

Agents from the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are assisting Houston police and firefighters with the investigation of a Friday morning explosion at a popular bar near the Museum District. According to police, several people reported at 4:48 a.m. they heard an explosion at Bar 5015 at 5015 Almeda Road. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See Also:** [KHOU-CBS \(Houston, TX\)](#), [KIAH-CW \(Houston, TX\)](#)

WITI-Fox (Milwaukee, WI): “ATF seeking persons of interest in connection with arson at Milwaukee Chase Bank,” Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 8:14 AM (EDT)

Investigators with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Milwaukee Field Office within the Chicago Field Division and the Milwaukee Police Department are seeking the public's

assistance in locating this person of interest involved in the arson of the Chase Bank on Brown Deer Road in Milwaukee. The fire was reported at 2:30 a.m., Tuesday morning, June 2. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

The Detroit News: "Feds in Philadelphia seize human growth hormone heading to Mich." Charles E. Ramirez, June 12, 2020, 1:41 PM (EDT)

More than 450 vials of various human growth hormones from Poland headed for Michigan were seized last month by federal agents in Philadelphia, officials said. They said a package containing 456 vials of the substance was seized May 29 by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers for violating U.S. import laws. The package was being sent to an address in St. Clair County and its manifest said it was shipment of chip tuning modules, according to the agency. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Washington Times: "Illegal immigration rose nearly 40% amid coronavirus reopenings," Stephen Dinan, June 12, 2020, 1:45 PM

America's coronavirus reopening has also meant a surge of smuggling at the southern border, with a significant rise in both illegal immigrants and drugs being nabbed in May, according to the latest data Friday from Homeland Security. Customs and Border Protection said its agents and officers encountered 23,118 unauthorized migrants last month, up from fewer than 17,000 in April an increase of 38%. CBP also doubled its seizures of cocaine in May, and methamphetamine, marijuana and fentanyl seizures rose as well. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

WaPo: [OPINION] "As a judge, I have to follow the Supreme Court. It should fix this mistake." James A. Wynn Jr., June 12, 2020, 8:00 AM

George Floyd's unconscionable killing has properly brought renewed attention to the Supreme Court's doctrine of "qualified immunity," which shields law enforcement officers from civil lawsuits alleging excessive force. The judge-made law of qualified immunity subverts the Civil Rights Act of 1871, which Congress intended to provide remedies for constitutional violations perpetrated by state officers. Eliminating the defense of qualified immunity would improve our administration of justice and promote the public's confidence and trust in the integrity of the judicial system. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL LAW

Law 360: "Mueller Water Investors' Securities Fraud Suit Nixed," Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 2:54 PM

Water system infrastructure manufacturer Mueller Water Products Inc. and several of its current and former executives won't have to face a proposed securities lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan alleging the company downplayed warranty costs associated with the smart meters it sold to cities. In a June 11 order, U.S. District Judge Lewis J. Liman granted the company's motion to dismiss its shareholders' accusations, finding that the specific facts alleged in the complaint didn't support the claims that the company had violated federal securities laws with deliberate misrepresentations. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Republican (Springfield, MA): "Joshua Heathman of Springfield charged with weapons, drug possession," Patrick Johnson, June 12, 2020, 2:49 PM

A 22-year Liberty Heights man is facing unlawful weapons and drug possession charges after police said they found him with two loaded firearms and some heroin. Joshua Heathman of Allendale Street was charged with two counts of possession of a firearm without a license, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, possession of ammunition without a license, possession of a firearm with a prior conviction for narcotics or violent crime, possession of heroin with intent to distribute, and violation of supervised release. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "Federal judge formally ends 'Bridgegate' criminal case," Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 2:00 PM

A federal judge formally brought an end Friday to the criminal case stemming from the 2013 George Washington Bridge lane-closing scandal. An order published Friday dismissed the indictments against Bill Baroni and Bridget Kelly, whose 2016 corruption convictions were reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court last month. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CBS: "Hot Pockets heiress Michelle Janavs headed to prison for college bribery scandal," Khristopher J. Brooks, June 12, 2020, 1:36 PM

Hot Pockets heiress Michelle Janavs is headed to prison for her role in the college admissions bribery scandal after a Massachusetts judge ruled that she may not serve her five-month sentence at home. Janavs filed a request earlier this month asking U.S. District Judge Nathaniel Gorton asking if she was eligible for home confinement because of the coronavirus, which has swept through detention facilities in the U.S. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law 360: "Atty-Turned-Trucker In Plea Talks Over Alleged GM Scam," Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 12:46 PM

A California lawyer-turned-trucker and his wife are in plea talks with prosecutors who accuse them of fabricating a \$16 million settlement with General Motors to defraud a lawsuit lending company, a Manhattan federal judge heard Friday. At a telephone hearing U.S. District Judge Paul G. Gardephe said he would give until mid-September for defendants Christopher Hammatt and his wife Susan Hammatt to complete negotiations to avoid trial or, in the alternative, to plan motions challenging the charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Tribune Chronicle (Warren, OH): "Fourth member of Youngstown-area drug ring sentenced," Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 12:30 PM

Jose F. Espinoza-Medina was sentenced to more than three years in federal prison this week for his role in a 2019 Youngstown-area drug ring. Espinoza-Medina, 31, pleaded guilty earlier to conspiracy to distribute cocaine. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Patch (Tampa, FL): "Ex-Tampa DEA Spokesman Pleads Guilty Of Posing As CIA Operative," D'Ann Lawrence White, June 12, 2020, 12:09 PM

A former Drug Enforcement Administration public affairs officer has pleaded guilty to an elaborate ruse in which he posed as a covert CIA operative and convinced at least a dozen companies to pay him salaries totaling \$4.4 million. On Thursday, Garrison Kenneth Courtney, 44, of Tampa, pleaded guilty to the charges in U.S. District Court. Sentencing has been scheduled for Oct. 23. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Wicked Local (Hopkinton, MA): "Ex-Hopkinton woman pleads guilty to embezzling \$348K from Boston-area dental practice," Jeff Malachowski, June 12, 2020, 11:39 AM

A former Hopkinton woman pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to bank and tax fraud charges stemming from her embezzlement of more than \$348,000 from a Boston-based dental

practice. Yuliya Vaysglus, also known as Julia Vaysglus, pleaded guilty to eight counts of bank fraud, one count of aggravated identity theft and three counts of filing false tax returns. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Sioux City Journal (Sioux City, IA): "Sioux City man charged with trying to kill informant," Nick Hytrek, June 12, 2020, 11:00 AM

A Sioux City man has been indicted on federal charges of trying to kill another man in retaliation for his cooperation with law enforcement officers. A federal indictment filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Sioux City charges Littlehawk Eagleelk, 35, with attempted murder obstruction of justice by retaliating against an informant, damage to property obstruction of justice by retaliating against an informant and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "Court hears arguments on whether to dismiss Flynn case," Eric Tucker, June 12, 2020, 10:30 AM

A federal appeals court heard arguments Friday on whether it should order the dismissal of the Justice Department's prosecution of former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn, wading into a politically charged legal question and a power struggle between two branches of government. Lawyers for Flynn are asking the Washington-based appeals court to force a federal judge to grant the Justice Department's request and dismiss the case. They say there is no role for the judge to play now that prosecutors have abandoned their pursuit of Flynn, who pleaded guilty as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe to lying to the FBI. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [ABC](#), [AXIOS](#), [Buzzfeed](#), [CNBC](#), [Reuters](#), [USA Today](#)

Lexington Herald Leader (Lexington, KY): "KY farmer gets prison time for selling cattle in others' names to avoid loan payments," Bill Estep, June 12, 2020, 9:48 AM

A Montgomery County farmer who sold cattle in other people's names to avoid applying the money to outstanding loans has been sentenced to two years and six months in federal prison Steven Ray Williams pleaded guilty to bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. U.S. District Judge Karen K. Caldwell sentenced Williams Thursday in Lexington. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "Man sentenced for collecting dead mom's social security," Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 9:00 AM

A Florida man has been sentenced to three years and five months in federal prison for collecting his mother's Social Security payments for 23 years after her death. A federal Judge in Tampa sentenced Glenn Hoyt Harrison, 71, earlier this week, according to court documents. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Albuquerque Journal (Albuquerque, NM): "Ayudando guardian sentenced to 6 years in federal prison," Colleen Heild, June 12, 2020, 6:00 AM

As a court-appointed guardian entrusted to help New Mexico's most vulnerable people, Craig Young spent at least \$1.4 million of client funds, while drawing an \$80,000 yearly salary and seldom reporting for work. Even his national guardianship certificate was a forgery, federal prosecutors say. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NBC: "Woman charged with burning five police vehicles during protests," Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 3:07 AM

A Tacoma, Washington, woman accused of setting fire to five Seattle police cars during protests there late last month was arrested Thursday. Margaret Aislinn Channon, age 25, who officials say burned the parked vehicles May 30, has been charged with five counts of federal arson, the U.S.

Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CIVIL LAW

Bloomberg Law: "Nissan Beats Would-Be Class Suit Over Murano Soft-Braking Issue," Julie Steinberg, June 12, 2020, 2:53 PM

Nissan North America Inc. won dismissal of a proposed class suit alleging its recall efforts didn't sufficiently address "soft" braking problems on 2009 Murano vehicles or compensate owners for lost resale value. Scott Ellis didn't sufficiently plead his claims that Nissan fraudulently concealed the braking issue or violated Missouri consumer protection law, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri said, dismissing the suit without prejudice. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Bloomberg Law: "Verizon's Fee Suit Against Rochester, N.Y., Gets Green Light," Peter Hayes, June 12, 2020, 2:49 PM

Verizon Wireless may proceed with claims that the Rochester, N.Y., telecommunications code violates federal law because the company sufficiently alleged the code imposes unreasonable and discriminatory costs, the Western District of New York found. Cellco Partnership, which does business as Verizon Wireless, alleges the municipal code violates a Federal Communications Act provision barring local governments from imposing requirements that prohibit the provision of telecommunications services. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law 360: "Novartis Can't Duck Suit Over Cancer Drug Side Effects," Unattributed, June 12, 2020, 2:49 PM

A New Mexico federal judge kept alive a patient's claims that Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. hid serious side effects of its blood cancer drug Tassigna, saying the patient does not need to plead the exact date he was diagnosed with those side effects at this stage of the case. In a memorandum and order filed Thursday, U.S. District Judge James A. Parker denied Novartis' bid to dismiss Ronald Hurd's suit, as the pharmaceutical company's argument over the statute of limitation is an affirmative defense that Novartis can present, not something Hurd must anticipate in his complaint. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Fresno Bee (Fresno, CA): "Devin Nunes' attorney says he's at 'dead end' in quest to reveal identity of Twitter cow," Kate Irby, June 12, 2020, 2:40 PM

The attorney for Rep. Devin Nunes said on Friday that he is at a "dead end" in attempting to identify anonymous people who criticize the California Republican on Twitter as he asked a Virginia judge to hold the company responsible for social media criticism. Nunes, R-Tulare, filed a lawsuit against Twitter last year alleging he was defamed on Twitter by Republican political strategist Liz Mair and the writers behind anonymous social media accounts that call themselves "Devin Nunes' Cow" and "Devin Nunes' Mom." [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

New York Law Journal: "Avenatti Renews Bid to Send Stormy Daniels Theft Case to California, Citing Pandemic-Related Concerns," Tom Mcparland, June 12, 2020, 1:11 PM

Michael Avenatti has again asked a Manhattan federal judge to transfer his pending criminal case to California, where he is also under federal indictment, arguing that complications from the COVID-19 pandemic made it impractical to proceed with separate trials on two coasts. The embattled celebrity attorney, who was convicted in February of trying to extort Nike Inc., on Thursday renewed his bid to transfer the case charging him with stealing money from his former client, adult-film star Stormy Daniels, from New York to Los Angeles. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Claims Journal: "After Being Sued by Sonos, Google Counters with Patent Infringement Claims," Jonathan Stempel, Paresh Dave, June 12, 2020, 12:30 PM

Google filed a lawsuit accusing home speaker maker Sonos Inc. of infringing five of its patents, escalating tensions between the partners that have already led to a U.S. International Trade Commission probe. In a complaint filed on Thursday in San Francisco federal court, Google accused Sonos of using "substantial volumes" of its technology without permission for several products, including controller apps and its Sonos Radio service. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Louisville Courier Journal (Louisville, KY): "Amy McGrath campaign joins lawsuit against Kentucky election officials over polling places," Ben Tobin, June 12, 2020, 12:30 PM

Kentucky Democratic Senate candidate Amy McGrath's campaign has joined a lawsuit demanding there be more than one in-person voting location in the commonwealth's most populous counties for the June 23 primary elections. The lawsuit, originally filed Monday in the the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Kentucky by Republican state Rep. Jason Nemes and voters from Jefferson, Fayette, Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties, alleges "significant voter suppression will occur" as a result of each county having a singular polling location. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Keene Sentinel (Keene, NH): "Former employee sues Brattleboro Retreat, alleging wrongful firing," Olivia Belanger, June 12, 2020, 12:00 PM

A longtime employee of the Brattleboro Retreat has filed a lawsuit against the mental-health facility, alleging she was wrongfully terminated from her position. Elisabeth Dignitti's firing happened Nov. 11, after a meeting she says was held in August. At that meeting, she alleges, several Retreat administrators made sexually inappropriate comments about nurse Edward Dowd, who was not in the room. Dignitti was the clinical nurse manager at the time. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WPRI-CBS (Providence, RI): "In reversal, federal judge blocks Providence from revoking Wild Zebra's licenses," Steph Machado, June 12, 2020, 11:21 AM

A federal judge has blocked the city of Providence from pulling the licenses of the Wild Zebra strip club, after lawyers for the club asserted a "First Amendment right to offer nude dancing." Rhode Island U.S. District Court Chief Judge John McConnell granted the injunction to the Allens Avenue club Thursday, reversing course after initially denying it in April. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: "Eisai Faces More Suits Tying Diet Drug Belviq to Cancer," Julie Steinberg, June 12, 2020, 11:06 AM

Eisai Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc. concealed cancer-related dangers of the now-withdrawn weight-loss drug Belviq, according to a new federal court suit by a New York woman who alleges it caused her thyroid cancer. The drugmakers face other litigation linking cancer to its weight-loss drug, including a proposed class suit alleging its medical risks outweigh its benefits. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Military.com: "US Judge Dismisses USS Fitzgerald Collision Lawsuits for Lack of Jurisdiction," Caitlin Doornbos, June 12, 2020, 10:00 AM

U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over two cases involving the shipping company whose container vessel collided with a U.S. warship three years ago, killing seven sailors, a federal judge ruled last week in dismissing lawsuits brought by Navy survivors and the sailors' families. Two lawsuits filed in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Louisiana sought more than \$287 million from Japan-based NYK Line, which chartered the ACX Crystal, the ship that collided with the guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald off the coast of Japan on June 17, 2017. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WDTN-NBC (Dayton, OH): "Music festival organizers file suit against Dr. Amy Acton," Paul Rodzinka, June 12, 2020, 9:54 AM

Organizers of a music festival in Warren County have filed suit against Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton. Organizers of The Bellwether Music Festival and The Country Fest filed the suit in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio Friday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Legal Intelligencer: "Is It Time to Change Our Thinking About Bench Trials?," Mitchell S. Goldberg, Richard Lloret, June 12, 2020, 9:21 AM

Recent articles written about COVID-19's effect on litigation all seem to have the same refrain: The logistics of impaneling a jury are daunting and jury trials may not be able to resume until 2021. As the backlog of cases build, we write to start a dialogue and suggest that trial lawyers and trial judges, both of whom are understandably concerned about timely case resolution, need to give more thought and consideration to bench trials. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Legal NewsLine: "Plaintiff takes second shot at suing over 'Little Lounger'; Graco again says it offered refunds," John O'Brien, June 12, 2020, 9:00 AM

Graco is fighting a class action lawsuit filed after 110,000 "Little Lounger" sleepers were recalled due to a threat of asphyxiation. Graco and Newell Brands on June 8 filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed earlier this year, arguing that the plaintiffs haven't alleged that anyone was actually hurt by the product. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Lexology: "NLRB: Federal Court in DC Issues Promised Opinion on Election Regulations," Ronald Meisburg, Kurt G. Larkin, June 12, 2020, 6:00 AM

As indicated in our previous blog on this topic, on May 30, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a two page order invalidating five elements of the NLRB's 2019 election regulation, based on Count One of the plaintiff's complaint. On June 7, the court issued its promised memorandum opinion further explaining that order. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CIVIL RIGHTS

Bloomberg Law: "Office Depot Boss' 'Generation,' Other Comments May Be Age Bias," Patrick Dorrian, June 12, 2020, 1:31 PM

An Office Depot Inc. employee who says he was fired because he was 60 and took repeated medical leave for a disability can pursue his job bias claims in light of several alleged comments by his boss, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado ruled. David Minner had been with Office Depot or Office Max, which merged with Office Depot, since 1989 and had been a store manager since 1990. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Daily Mail: "Washington D.C. mayor is SUED by for painting 'Black Lives Matter' on the street," Mary Kekatos, June 12, 2020, 11:44 AM

Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser is being sued after commissioning a group of artists to paint 'Black Lives Matter' on a road that leads to the White House. The activists claim that Bowser violated the First Amendment and is showing preference to 'the Black Lives Matter cult orthodoxy,' according to the lawsuit, filed on Wednesday in the US District Court for the District of Columbia, and viewed by DailyMail.com. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Bloomberg Law: "Libertarian Party Can't Stop Enforcement of Maine Election Laws," Bernie Pazanowski, June 12, 2020, 11:30 AM

The Libertarian Party of Maine failed to convince a federal district court that it should preliminarily

enjoin enforcement of the state's ballot qualification laws for the 2020 election. The party claimed that Maine's new-party qualification requirements prevent it from existing as a political party in the state and violate its First Amendment right to association. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

New York Law Journal: "When Federal Jails Reopen, 'Parallel' Video and Phone Access Will Be Necessary in Transition, Attorneys Agree," Jane Wester, June 12, 2020, 2:59 PM

Attorneys representing the Federal Defenders of New York and the Federal Bureau of Prisons agreed Friday that video and telephone legal calls at Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center and Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center will be necessary for the foreseeable future, even after the facilities reopen for physical visits. [[Continue Reading](#)]

WCPO-ABC (Cincinnati, OH): "Judge refuses to release Glen Galemmo from prison a decade early due to COVID-19 fears," Paula Christian, June 12, 2020, 11:16 AM

A federal judge refused to allow Glen Galemmo, who ran one of the largest Ponzi schemes in Ohio history, out of prison early because his fear of contracting COVID-19 while behind bars. U.S. District Court Judge Michael Barrett denied Galemmo's motion to cut nearly a decade from his prison sentence so that he could live at his South Carolina home with his wife, who is a principal at a Catholic school. [[Continue Reading](#)]

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Marijuana Moment: "Government Agencies Testify In Favor Of U.S. Virgin Islands Marijuana Legalization Bill At Hearing," Kyle Jaeger, June 12, 2020, 12:30 PM

Several government agencies in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) testified on Friday in favor of a marijuana legalization bill the governor is asking lawmakers to approve with officials outlining how a regulated cannabis market can help the territory, especially given current economic needs. During a hearing, the Departments of Health, Agriculture and Licensing and Consumer Affairs, among others, weighed in on the proposal, which Gov. Albert Bryan Jr. (D) unveiled last month. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Marijuana Moment: "Colorado Activists Likely To Pursue 2022 Psilocybin Ballot Measure After Poll Shows Support," Kyle Jaeger, June 12, 2020, 10:30 AM

Half of likely Colorado voters would support a statewide measure to decriminalize possession of psilocybin mushrooms and establish a system of legal cultivation and sales of the psychedelic fungus, according to a recent poll that was shared with Marijuana Moment. And with that finding, activists are feeling emboldened to mount a campaign to put the policy change on the ballot in 2022. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

NYT: "Trump Administration Moves to Solidify Restrictive Immigration Policies," Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Maggie Haberman, June 12, 2020, 8:42 AM

Under the cloak of a pandemic and the convulsions of anti-racist protests, the Trump administration continues to advance its policies to restrict legal immigration, halting the flow of foreign workers and raising the bar for asylum seekers hoping for sanctuary. This week, administration officials proposed a fallback for when they need to lift "emergency" border closure rules for the coronavirus, proposing

regulations that would raise the standard of proof for migrants hoping to obtain asylum and allow immigration judges to deny applications for protection without giving migrants an opportunity to testify in court. [[Continue Reading](#)]

END

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Morning News Digest
June 29, 2020
08:00 AM EDT**

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WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: JUNE 29, 2020

DOJ

- Nothing to report.

SCOTUS

- 09:30 AM: U.S. Supreme Court releases order list and possibly also opinions
- 10:00 AM: Supreme Court of the United States convenes for public non-argument session.

POTUS

- 01:00 PM: President Donald Trump has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence

ADMINISTRATION

- *Deadline for annual public financial disclosure reports from President Donald Trump, Vice*

President Mike Pence, and other public disclosure filers in the White House Office, Office of the Vice President, and National Security Council, this year extended by 45 days 'in light of efforts in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic'.

CONGRESS

Senate:

- 03:00 PM: Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to 'S.4049, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021', including a vote on the motion.

House:

- 10:00 AM: House Committee on Foreign Affairs and House Committee on Oversight and Reform conduct joint deposition of State Department Executive Secretary Lisa Kenna, as part of their investigation into President Donald Trump's 15 May firing of State Department Inspector General Steve Linick and whether President Trump removed him in order to stop his office's work looking into Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's conduct.
- 10:00 AM: House Committee on Oversight and Reform House Committee on Oversight and Reform Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee holds remote briefing on 'The First Amendment Under Attack: Examining Government Violence Against Peaceful Civil Rights Protesters and the Journalists Covering Them'.
- 12:00 PM: House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing on 'The U.S. Park Police Attack on Peaceful Protesters at Lafayette Square'. Held via Cisco Webex and in Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Building.
- 01:00 PM: House Committee on Rules Hearing on 'H.R. 2' - the legislative vehicle for the Moving Forward Act, held via Cisco Webex.

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: JUNE 28, 2020

ABC: World News Tonight with Tom Llamas

CBS: Evening News with Jamie Yuccas

NBC: Nightly News with Kate Snow

- Coronavirus cases worldwide have passed 10 million, with more than 500,000 deaths, as parts of the U.S. take steps to reverse their reopenings in response to surging case numbers, especially among young people. This comes as testing centers in hard hit areas are being overwhelmed and emergency services in cities like Houston are taxed to the limit. In California, the coronavirus is proving resurgent prompting officials to order bars and nightclubs closed to curb the spike of new infections. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CBS-1](#), [NBC](#)]
- The World Health Organization reported more than 10 million people have tested positive for COVID-19. Brazil and India are seeing the virus spread fast. [[CBS](#)]
- Vice President Mike Pence, during a trip to Dallas on Sunday, promised Texas would bounce back from a recent surge in cases of the new coronavirus while urging Americans to turn to their faith during a tumultuous period for the nation. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Donald Trump promoted a video on Twitter on Sunday morning showing a man in a golf cart with Trump campaign gear shouting "white power." The video, which Trump said was from the Florida retirement community known as The Villages, featured a parade of golf carts, some with pro-Trump signs, driving past anti-Trump protesters who were shouting curses at them. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- Mississippi made history this weekend after lawmakers voted to change the state flag, which is the last one displaying a Confederate battle emblem. [[CBS](#)]

- President Trump is denying a New York Times report that he was briefed on an alleged Russian effort to pay bounties to Taliban-linked militants to kill Western forces including U.S. troops in Afghanistan. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- A man in his early 20s has been charged fatally shooting another man Saturday at a park in Louisville, Kentucky, where protesters have been gathering to demand justice for the killing of Breonna Taylor. Steven Nelson Lopez of Louisville was arrested and charged with murder and wanton endangerment, according to a Louisville Metropolitan Police Department arrest citation report. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- A former police officer suspected of being the elusive “Golden State Killer” is expected to plead guilty Monday to a series of linked assaults and murders that terrorized suburban California in the 1970s and 1980s. The deal will spare 74-year-old Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. the death penalty for 13 murders and 13 kidnapping-related charges spanning six counties. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- “Russian bounties to Taliban-linked militants resulted in deaths of U.S. troops, according to intelligence assessments” [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [LAT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Coronavirus Live Updates: Global Death Toll Surpasses Half a Million” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Trump policy and coronavirus leave agency bankrupt, tens of thousands of potential voters in limbo” [[LAT](#)]
- “Covid-19 Drug Remdesivir to Cost \$3,120 for Typical Patient on Private Insurance” [[WSJ](#)]

COVID-19

WAFB-CBS (Baton Rouge, LA): "Spot phony COVID-19 antibody tests? Report the distributor to the FBI," Kevin Foster, June 28, 2020, 10:39 PM

Several federal agencies sounded the alarm on fake COVID-19 antibody tests being marketed and sold to the public. Federal authorities maintain a growing list of companies flagged for selling unproven treatments and phony preventative products for COVID-19. View the list by clicking the link here. A Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report said phony physical testing sites are arranged with legitimate-looking signs, tents, hazmat suits, and realistic-looking tests. Read more about how to spot those sites by clicking the link here. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSAT-ABC (San Antonio, TX): "Texas Bar & Nightclub Alliance Convention filing lawsuit against the state after ordered to shutdown," Erica Hernandez, June 28, 2020, 10:14 PM

Texas bar and nightclub owners are outraged after having to close down their establishments again due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. On Friday, Governor Greg Abbott ordered all bars across the state be closed again and that restaurants scale back to 50% capacity. In a Facebook post on the Texas Bar & Nightclub Alliance Convention’s page, the organization stated they support their members’ constitutional right to protest the recent order by keeping their businesses open. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Forbes: "Otisville Federal Prison Camp Is More Like A Higher Security Prison In Fight Against COVID-19," Walter Pavlo, June 28, 2020, 7:46 PM

In 2009, Forbes put together a popular article on America’s “Cushiest Prisons.” Among them was the minimum security satellite camp at FCI Otisville (Otisville, NY), located 80 miles north of New York City. The prison has temporarily housed many infamous minimum security, white-collar inmates from the New York area. Recently, that has included former New York State Senator Dean Skelos and President Donald Trump’s former personal attorney Michael Cohen. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Las Cruces Sun-News (Las Cruces, TX): "Massive COVID-19 outbreak at southern NM prison hits only sex offenders. That's by design.," Jeff Proctor, June 28, 2020, 5:56 PM

As the coronavirus established a foothold in southern New Mexico's Otero County Prison Facility in mid-May, state officials quietly moved 39 inmates out of the massive complex near the Texas border to another prison near Santa Fe. The inmates shared something in common: None was a sex offender. In the days before the 39 departed the massive correctional complex where New Mexico's only sex offender treatment program is housed, officials were still transferring sex offenders from other state prisons into Otero. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Newsweek: "Couple Charged in \$1.4M COVID Fraud Scheme After Trying to Flee Country," Jason Lemon, June 28, 2020, 4:28 PM

A couple from Virginia has been arrested and charged in an alleged scheme to defraud more than \$1.4 million in federal money approved by Congress to go to struggling businesses amid the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. Monica Magdalena Jaworska, 43, of Ashburn and her husband Tarik Jaafar, 42, were arrested on June 20 as they attempted to leave the U.S. for Poland via John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City, according to a press release issued by the Justice Department. Jaworska appeared in court last week to face charges of allegedly conspiring to commit wire fraud. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [Crime Online](#), [WDVM \(Hagerstown, MD\)](#)

WHNT-CBS (Huntsville, AL): "Beware of Fake Mobile Banking Apps," Elizabeth Garcia and Julia Cherry, June 28, 2020, 3:35 PM

Let's face it, mobile apps are an integral part of our daily lives, but so are fake apps and phishing attacks. According to Helpnet Security, during one quarter of last year alone, phishing attacks launched through fake mobile apps tripled. The FBI warns that with a 50% surge in banking app usage, during the COVID-19 shutdown, consumers need to beware of fake banking apps. Not just a nuisance, once scammers have your log-in information, they can wipe out your account in seconds, leaving you in financial disaster. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Nexstar Media Wire: "Justice Dept. warns that face mask exemption flyers, cards are fake," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 1:13 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice is warning that flyers circulating online that exempt disabled people from wearing face masks are fake. "The Department of Justice has been made aware of postings or flyers on the internet regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the use of face masks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which include the Department of Justice's seal," the DOJ said in a statement on its ADA webpage. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [KPRC-NBC \(Houston, TX\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

KAMC-ABC (Lubbock, TX): "Cops seize \$34,500 from Lubbock man, ask judge for permission to keep it," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 7:06 PM

Police and prosecutors last week asked permission to permanently seize \$34,500 cash taken from Tranard Lacharles Richardson, 23, of Lubbock. An affidavit in court records said in November 2018 local law enforcement began to investigate Richardson for drug trafficking. As part of the background story, the affidavit said officers were called to his home in May 2020 in the 100 block of 76th Street for domestic violence. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "FBI investigates noose in Minnesota firefighter's locker," Kelly Weill, June 28, 2020, 6:30 PM

The FBI is investigating after a piece of rope resembling a noose was found in a Black firefighter's locker in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington. An FBI spokesman confirmed Saturday the bureau is investigating and said that the case is in its initial stages. Bloomington officials had asked the FBI to investigate. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KABB- Fox (San Antonio, TX): "Jenelius Crew, responsible for REBAR shooting, now in Bexar County Jail," Josh Borlinghaus, June 28, 2020, 6:00 PM

The man accused of shooting eight people at a bar on Broadway is now in the Bexar County Jail. 37-year-old Jenelius Crew was picked up by the U.S. Marshals in Miami, Florida two Thursdays ago, but now he's back in San Antonio facing at least eight felony charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Chieftain (Pueblo, CO): "Court case in planned Pueblo temple bombing drags on," Robert Boczkiewicz, June 28, 2020, 5:06 PM

The trial date for the man accused of intending to blow up Pueblo's historic Temple Emanuel has been pushed back again and he is not likely to use an insanity defense. Those two developments emerged last week in Denver at the U.S. District Court for Colorado where Richard Holzer is charged with three crimes stemming from his alleged plot. The FBI arrested Holzer late on Nov. 1 at a Pueblo motel and said he intended blow up Temple Emanuel before dawn Nov. 2. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Crossroads Today (Victoria, TX): "US Marshals searching for Minnesota couple who are arson persons of interest a \$20,000 ATF reward offered," LaShanda McCuin, June 28, 2020, 3:18 PM (EDT)

The U.S. Marshals are searching for a Minnesota man and woman wanted as persons of interest by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in the investigation of several St. Paul, Minnesota, fires during the recent unrest. ATF is offering two rewards of up to \$10,000 each for information that leads to the apprehension and conviction of the two individuals. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Daily Beast: "Inside the New Push to Expose America's White Supremacist Cops," Kelly Weill, June 29, 2020, 3:21 AM

14 years ago, the FBI documented racist infiltration of law enforcement in America. Now members of Congress want the full story. In 2006, the Federal Bureau of Investigation knew America's police forces had a white supremacist problem. But the internal report the agency compiled that year was so heavily redacted that almost no one knows what it contained. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

WKMG-CBS (Orlando, FL): "More than 10,000 assault weapon parts headed to Melbourne home seized by Border Protection," Emilee Speck, June 29, 2020, 6:57 AM

Officers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection confiscated a shipment from China en route to a Melbourne home that contained more than 10,000 assault weapon parts, CBP officials said. In a news release, the CBP said the parts were being "smuggled into the country" on May 22 when officers in Louisville inspected the items arriving from Shenzhen, China. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Forbes: "USCIS Estimates H-1B Visa Numbers But Ignores Green Card Problem," Stuart Anderson, June 29, 2020, 12:07 AM

For the first time, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has released an official government estimate of the number of H-1B visa holders working in the United States. However, the

H-1B estimate is inflated by hundreds of thousands of individuals waiting years for green cards due to the low annual quota and per-country limits on employment-based immigrants, which is not mentioned in the USCIS report. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KXAN-NBC (Austin, TX): "Trump can't divert defense funds for border wall, federal appeals court rules," Fernie Ortiz, June 28, 2020, 10:34 PM

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Trump administration does not have the authority to transfer defense funds to pay for the border wall, Law360 reported Friday. The federal appeals on Friday court sided with the Sierra Club, which sued over the transfer of defense funds for the construction of a border wall in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson, AZ): "Feds reveal details for border wall that will span San Pedro River," Curt Prendergast, June 28, 2020, 7:45 PM

The design for a section of the border wall that will span Southern Arizona's San Pedro River is coming to light, more than a year after a contract was awarded to build it. The plan is to build 30-foot-tall steel bollards across the river and install swing gates under the bollards to allow river water to flow, Customs and Border Protection officials said in a June 12 call with local environmental advocates and congressional staffers. A 550-foot-long bridge will span the river about 10 feet north of the bollards. [[Continue Reading](#)]

USA Today: "Homeland Security to reopen travelers' Global Entry enrollment July 6, with COVID-19 changes," Bryan Alexander, June 28, 2020, 7:45 PM

The Global Entry program, which has been shut down since March 19 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, will begin enrollment interviews again starting July 6, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency under Homeland Security announced Friday. The program enables international travelers to re-enter the United States on an expedited basis. It costs \$100 to join and meets the Real ID requirements for domestic air travel imposed by Congress after 9/11. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Epoch Times: "US Customs Seize Millions Worth of Illicit Narcotics and Assault Weapon Parts From China," Frank Fang, June 28, 2020, 1:00 PM

U.S. customs officials in Cincinnati recently seized 530 pounds of illicit narcotics and other controlled substances in a shipment originating from China, which had a street value of over \$2 million. The cargo also contained other illicit goods such as counterfeit products and prohibited food items. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the seizure in a press release on June 26. The shipment, intercepted by customs officials on May 11, was destined for a single importer in Aurora, Colorado. [[Continue Reading](#)]

US SUPREME COURT

KFSM-CBS (Fort Smith, AR): "SCOTUS Defends DACA Program, Helping Arkansans," ayely Palafox, Nick Camper, June 29, 2020, 2:41 AM

On June 18th, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the DACA Program. The decision comes after President Trump's administration made an attempt to terminate the program this year. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals was signed as an executive order by former President Barack Obama back in 2012. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Richmond (Richmond, VI): "Labor Law: U.S. Supreme Court rules LGBTQ rights are protected by federal employment law," Karen Michael, June 28, 2020, 7:00 PM

Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a landmark 6-3 decision that the rights of LGBTQ people are protected from employment discrimination. The case involved three separate

lawsuits that were consolidated into one. Two of the cases arose from the termination of two male gay employees working for separate companies and the third arose following the termination of a transgender female. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: "Samuel Alito dissents. A frustrating few months for the conservative justice," Ariane de Vogue, June 28, 2020, 6:31 PM

When the Supreme Court term began last fall, judicial conservatives were hoping that the court's strong 5-4 majority, bolstered by two of President Donald Trump's nominees, would deliver a clean sweep for conservatives on hot button issues. Instead, with 13 cases remaining, the court in recent weeks has blocked Trump's efforts to terminate DACA, issued a landmark opinion in favor of LGBTQ rights and left court watchers wondering what's next. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: [OPINION] "Overturning the ACA will make COVID-19 much worse," Rosemarie Day and Deborah Gordon, June 28, 2020, 6:00 PM

Donald Trump won't wear a mask in public or suspend his in-person rallies and pushes to re-open the economy. As infuriating as Trump's COVID-19 response has been for its incongruence with public health recommendations, the real outrage is his persistent attempts to overturn the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The brief Trump just filed with the U.S Supreme Court in Texas v. US case is unequivocal. The administration argues that the individual mandate is unconstitutional and therefore "the entire ACA must fall." The Supreme Court will hear arguments as soon as this fall and render its decision well after the election. Given the pandemic, this issue deserves our full attention. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

JUDICIAL NOMINEES & APPOINTMENTS

Bloomberg Law: "INSIGHT: Will It Matter Who Runs the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan?," Joel Cohen, June 29, 2020, 3:01 AM

Audrey Strauss is taking over as the new U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York after Geoffrey Berman initially refused to leave. Former New York prosecutor Joel Cohen says she will likely prosecute cases in the same manner as Berman, even though the office has unfortunately been drawn into national headlines by Attorney General William Barr's actions. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

BuzzFeed: "There Are 93 US Attorneys. Seven Are Women And Only Two Are Black," Zoe Tillman , June 28, 2020, 1:01 PM

[...] The fight over Berman's seat underscores the Trump administration's practice of overwhelmingly placing white men in charge of federal prosecutor offices. Berman, Clayton, and Carpenito are white. Based on publicly available photographs and biographical information, BuzzFeed News identified 7 of 93 US attorneys are BIPOC, including two Black US attorneys: Louis Franklin Sr. in Alabama and Kenji Price in Hawaii, who is also Asian American. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: "'Tennessee man gets 20 years in heroin-fentanyl overdose," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 6:06 AM

Federal prosecutors say a Tennessee drug dealer has been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison for selling heroin laced with fentanyl to a man who died of an overdose. The U.S. attorney's office in Memphis says 57-year-old Dwayne Tullous pleaded guilty in March to causing the death of Larry House by selling heroin and fentanyl to him. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Cincinnati Enquirer (Cincinnati, OH): "Tamaya Dennard expected at federal courthouse today

to formally plead guilty," Sharon Coolidge and Kevin Grasha, June 28, 2020, 9:30 PM

Former Cincinnati Councilwoman Tamaya Dennard is expected at the federal courthouse today to formally plead guilty to accepting \$15,000 as part of a scheme to exchange her votes for money. Dennard last week signed a plea agreement, in which she pleaded guilty to honest services wire fraud, meaning she schemed to defraud citizens and the city council of their right to honest services. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): "Gastonia man sentenced to 35-years for secretly recording minors on his yacht," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 9:29 PM

A Gastonia man has been sentenced to 35 years in prison for secretly recording nude videos of underage females aboard his yacht. According to the U.S. Attorney Andrew Murray, William Hilliard Jr., 51, formerly of Cleveland County and Cherryville, will also serve a lifetime of supervised release and register as a sex offender upon his release from prison. We want to warn readers that some of the details may be graphic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reformer (Brattleboro, VT): "Massachusetts man arrested in firearms sting," Bob Audette, June 28, 2020, 8:30 PM

A Massachusetts man has been charged in federal court after trying to buy a firearm in Vermont. According to court documents, Eric LaFrance, 34, of Westfield, Mass., was arrested in Brattleboro trying to purchase a firearm from a man he thought was a registered firearms dealer. However, unknown to LaFrance, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives had received a tip from a Vermont firearms licensee that a man from Holyoke, Mass., was attempting to make a purchase via a social media website of two low-cost handguns. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Hays Post (Hays, KS): "14-year-old victim met sex offender playing game on cell phone," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 7:00 PM

A prior sex offender in Carthage, Missouri, who impregnated a 14-year-old victim, was sentenced in federal court for the sexual exploitation of a child, according to the United State's Attorney's office. Victor Alfonso Vasquez, 33, was sentenced June 25 by U.S. District Judge M. Douglas Harpool to 33 years and nine months in federal prison without parole. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

East Idaho News: "Local man charged federally for production of child pornography," Eric Grossarth, June 28, 2020, 6:31 PM

A man who police say admitted to sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy and filming the act is now charged in federal court. In January, Richard Dutton, 51, was charged in Bonneville County with two felony counts of lewd conduct with a child and a felony count of sexual exploitation of a child. Prosecutors dropped those charges last week because as of June 5, federal prosecutors charged him with sexual exploitation of a child. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Syracuse (Syracuse, NY): "Brothers plead guilty after feds seize 250,000 contraband cigarettes near Syracuse," Teri Weaver, June 28, 2020, 3:00 PM

On Oct. 2, 2018, Saddam Hassan drove from Liverpool to Two Eagles Smoke Shop in Western New York, then returned to a storage facility in North Syracuse, according to a sworn statement from Special Agent Michael Ball of the Department of Homeland Security. Shortly after noon that day, both brothers were seen unloading 402,000 Seneca brand cigarettes and 10 boxes of tobacco into the storage unit at 5300 Business Avenue, the court papers say. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "American Jailed In Spain Was Unwitting Drug Mule, US Says," Eric Tucker, June 28, 2020, 3:00 PM

[...] Though Spanish authorities are dubious, the U.S. Justice Department has advised Spain that it

believes Stemberger was duped into acting as a drug mule for a West Africa criminal network, and has asked the country for evidence it's gathered, according to correspondence obtained by The Associated Press. Federal officials have for years warned about scams that lure elderly Americans or those with diminished mental capacity. Stemberger had a significant brain injury nearly 15 years ago into becoming drug couriers. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Law and Crime: "4 Men Charged with Allegedly Trying to Tear Down Statue of Andrew Jackson Amid Protests," Alberto Luperon, June 28, 2020, 2:35 PM

The Department of Justice announced Saturday that four men have been charged with trying to tear down the statue of President Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Square in Washington D.C. by the White House. Each of the defendants face a count of destruction of federal property. Their actions were all caught on tape, and happened amid protests, authorities said. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [NPR](#), [WMTW-ABC \(Poland Spring, ME\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

Valley Morning Star (Harlingen, TX): "Mercedes mayoral candidate sues city, officials," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 9:00 PM

One month after a charge of disrupting a public meeting was dropped against him, Mercedes mayoral candidate and community activist Israel Coronado has filed a federal lawsuit against the city, its current mayor and police chief. Coronado, who has long claimed his arrest was an act of political retaliation meant to silence residents who are critical of the city's leadership, alleges the same in the civil rights lawsuit filed at the McAllen federal courthouse Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

LAT: "Chief federal judge in L.A. steps down over racially insensitive comments about Black court official," Matt Hamilton, June 28, 2020, 7:47 PM (EDT)

The chief judge for the Central District of California, the nation's largest federal court jurisdiction, which includes Los Angeles and its neighboring counties, has stepped down from that post, citing his racially insensitive comments regarding the court's top administrative official, a Black woman. U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney, who began a four-year term as chief district judge June 1, announced his decision to step down from the top post but remain a judge in an email Friday to court staff and fellow judges, and offered a public apology to Kiry K. Gray. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Kentucky Today: "Bipartisan lawmakers ask for beef-packing probe," Tom Latek, June 28, 2020, 1:00 PM

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers joined Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Attorney General Daniel Cameron in asking the U.S. Justice Department to investigate possible anticompetitive practices in the beef packing sector. House and Senate members of the Interim Joint Agriculture Committee from both parties signed a letter sent to U.S. Attorney General William Barr, stressing the need for confidence in the beef cattle market. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Daily News (Anchorage, AK): [OPINION] "The federal review process for Pebble is working," Tom Collier, June 28, 2020, 4:00 PM

One month after a charge of disrupting a public meeting was dropped against him, Mercedes mayoral candidate and community activist Israel Coronado has filed a federal lawsuit against the

city, its current mayor and police chief. Coronado, who has long claimed his arrest was an act of political retaliation meant to silence residents who are critical of the city's leadership, alleges the same in the civil rights lawsuit filed at the McAllen federal courthouse Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Bloomberg: "Supply Chain Fears Bolster Medical Manufacturing Tax Break Push," Colin Wilhelm, Alex Ruoff, Lydia O'Neal, June 28, 2020, 3:45 AM

Pandemic-induced concerns about the international supply chain for face masks, pharmaceuticals, and other medical supplies are stoking renewed interest in tax incentives to lure manufacturers back to the U.S. Lobbyists and advocates see the next pandemic relief package as a potential vehicle for new tax benefits for pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing companies. Negotiations aren't expected to pick up again until July, but the conversation so far on this issue has focused on recently introduced House bills that could be included in a relief package. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Kenosha News (Kenosha, WI): "Federal court orders new trial or release of former Kenosha man in child sex case," Kevin Murphy, June 28, 2020, 3:00 PM

In a case where an attorney should have listened to her client, an appeals court ordered the state to release a former Kenosha man from prison or grant him a new appeal after concluding the attorney didn't pursue the best grounds for appeal. Antonio G. Ramirez Jr., 45, was sentenced to 50 years in prison after being convicted in 2001 of first-degree sexual assault of a child, and several related child-sex offenses occurring in 1998-99. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

New York Post: "'Trump says 'absentee ballots are fine,' warns against 'corrupt' mail-in voting," Yaron Steinbuch, June 29, 2020, 6:57 AM

President Trump pressed on warning about widespread fraud in mail-in voting but said that "absentee ballots are fine." "A person has to go through a process to get and use them," the president said in a tweet late Sunday. "Mail-In Voting, on the other hand, will lead to the most corrupt Election is USA history. Bad things happen with Mail-Ins." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: "Trump says U.S. intelligence did not find reports of Russian bounties to Taliban-linked militants credible," John Wagner and Ellen Nakashima, June 29, 2020, 6:10 AM

President Trump said late Sunday that he was not told of intelligence that a Russian military spy unit offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants to attack coalition forces in Afghanistan, including U.S. troops, because U.S. intelligence officials did not find it credible. "Intel just reported to me that they did not find this info credible, and therefore did not report it to me or @VP," Trump said in a tweet, referring to Vice President Pence. He added that he considers such reports "possibly another fabricated Russia Hoax" spread by the "Fake News ... wanting to make Republicans look bad!!!" [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

WaPo: "Zuckerberg once wanted to sanction Trump. Then Facebook wrote rules that accommodated him.," Elizabeth Dwoskin, Craig Timberg and Tony Romm, June 28, 2020, 5:25 PM

Hours after President Trump's incendiary post last month about sending the military to the Minnesota protests, Trump called Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg. The post put the

company in a difficult position, Zuckerberg told Trump, according to people familiar with the discussions. The same message was hidden by Twitter, the strongest action ever taken against a presidential post. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Fox: "Nunes: Twitter, Google, Facebook are 'tech tyrants' that censor conservatives," Ronn Blitzer, June 28, 2020, 1:00 PM

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., railed against Twitter, Google and Facebook tech giants, claiming they improperly wield power over the content Internet users view by censoring conservative-leaning content. Nunes currently suffered a loss in a defamation lawsuit he filed against Twitter, parody accounts known as "Devin Nunes' Mom" and "Devin Nunes' Cow," and a Republican strategist when a judge ruled that Twitter cannot be held liable for defamatory tweets because federal law classifies them as merely a platform, not a publisher. [[Continue Reading](#)]

END

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Antell, Kira M. (OLP)

From: Antell, Kira M. (OLP)
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Antell, Kira M. (OLA)
Subject: Fwd: Morning Digest

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Davis, Valorie A (OLP) (b) (6)"
Date: June 29, 2020 at 8:16:05 AM EDT
To: "OLP-ALL (JMD) (b) (6)"
Subject: Morning Digest

? Good morning

**Department of Justice
Morning News Digest
June 29, 2020
08:15AM EDT**

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WASHINGTON & DOJ SCHEDULE: JUNE 29, 2020

DOJ

- Nothing to report.

SCOTUS

- 09:30 AM: U.S. Supreme Court releases order list and possibly also opinions
- 10:00 AM: Supreme Court of the United States convenes for public non-argument session.

POTUS

- 01:00 PM: President Donald Trump has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence

ADMINISTRATION

- *Deadline for annual public financial disclosure reports from President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and other public disclosure filers in the White House Office, Office of the Vice President, and National Security Council, this year extended by 45 days 'in light of efforts in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic'.*

CONGRESS

Senate:

- 03:00 PM: Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to 'S.4049, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021', including a vote on the motion.

House:

- 10:00 AM: House Committee on Foreign Affairs and House Committee on Oversight and Reform conduct joint deposition of State Department Executive Secretary Lisa Kenna, as part of their investigation into President Donald Trump's 15 May firing of State Department Inspector General Steve Linick and whether President Trump removed him in

order to stop his office's work looking into Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's conduct.

- 10:00 AM: House Committee on Oversight and Reform House Committee on Oversight and Reform Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee holds remote briefing on 'The First Amendment Under Attack: Examining Government Violence Against Peaceful Civil Rights Protesters and the Journalists Covering Them'.
- 12:00 PM: House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing on 'The U.S. Park Police Attack on Peaceful Protesters at Lafayette Square'. Held via Cisco Webex and in Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Building.
- 01:00 PM: House Committee on Rules Hearing on 'H.R. 2' - the legislative vehicle for the Moving Forward Act, held via Cisco Webex.

NETWORK EVENING NEWS LINEUP: JUNE 28, 2020

ABC: World News Tonight with Tom Llamas

CBS: Evening News with Jamie Yuccas

NBC: Nightly News with Kate Snow

- Coronavirus cases worldwide have passed 10 million, with more than 500,000 deaths, as parts of the U.S. take steps to reverse their reopenings in response to surging case numbers, especially among young people. This comes as testing centers in hard hit areas are being overwhelmed and emergency services in cities like Houston are taxed to the limit. In California, the coronavirus is proving resurgent prompting officials to order bars and nightclubs closed to curb the spike of new infections. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CBS-1](#), [NBC](#)]
- The World Health Organization reported more than 10 million people have tested positive for COVID-19. Brazil and India are seeing the virus spread fast. [[CBS](#)]
- Vice President Mike Pence, during a trip to Dallas on Sunday, promised Texas would bounce back from a recent surge in cases of the new coronavirus while urging Americans to turn to their faith during a tumultuous period for the nation. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]
- President Donald Trump promoted a video on Twitter on Sunday morning showing a man in a golf cart with Trump campaign gear shouting "white power." The video, which Trump said was from the Florida retirement community known as The Villages, featured a parade of golf carts, some with pro-Trump signs, driving past anti-Trump protesters who were shouting curses at them. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#)]
- Mississippi made history this weekend after lawmakers voted to change the state flag, which is the last one displaying a Confederate battle emblem. [[CBS](#)]
- President Trump is denying a New York Times report that he was briefed on an alleged Russian effort to pay bounties to Taliban-linked militants to kill Western forces including U.S. troops in

Afghanistan. [[ABC](#), [NBC](#)]

- A man in his early 20s has been charged fatally shooting another man Saturday at a park in Louisville, Kentucky, where protesters have been gathering to demand justice for the killing of Breonna Taylor. Steven Nelson Lopez of Louisville was arrested and charged with murder and wanton endangerment, according to a Louisville Metropolitan Police Department arrest citation report. [[ABC](#), [CBS](#), [NBC](#)]
- A former police officer suspected of being the elusive “Golden State Killer” is expected to plead guilty Monday to a series of linked assaults and murders that terrorized suburban California in the 1970s and 1980s. The deal will spare 74-year-old Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. the death penalty for 13 murders and 13 kidnapping-related charges spanning six counties. [[CBS](#)]

MORNING HEADLINES

- “Russian bounties to Taliban-linked militants resulted in deaths of U.S. troops, according to intelligence assessments” [[WaPo](#), [NYT](#), [LAT](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Coronavirus Live Updates: Global Death Toll Surpasses Half a Million” [[NYT](#), [WaPo](#), [WSJ](#)]
- “Trump policy and coronavirus leave agency bankrupt, tens of thousands of potential voters in limbo” [[LAT](#)]
- “Covid-19 Drug Remdesivir to Cost \$3,120 for Typical Patient on Private Insurance” [[WSJ](#)]

COVID-19

WAFB-CBS (Baton Rouge, LA): "Spot phony COVID-19 antibody tests? Report the distributor to the FBI," Kevin Foster, June 28, 2020, 10:39 PM

Several federal agencies sounded the alarm on fake COVID-19 antibody tests being marketed and sold to the public. Federal authorities maintain a growing list of companies flagged for selling unproven treatments and phony preventative products for COVID-19. View the list by clicking the link here. A Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report said phony physical testing sites are arranged with legitimate-looking signs, tents, hazmat suits, and realistic-looking tests. Read more about how to spot those sites by clicking the link here. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KSAT-ABC (San Antonio, TX): "Texas Bar & Nightclub Alliance Convention filing lawsuit against the state after ordered to shutdown," Erica Hernandez, June 28, 2020, 10:14 PM

Texas bar and nightclub owners are outraged after having to close down their establishments again due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. On Friday, Governor Greg Abbott ordered all bars across the state be closed again and

that restaurants scale back to 50% capacity. In a Facebook post on the Texas Bar & Nightclub Alliance Convention's page, the organization stated they support their members' constitutional right to protest the recent order by keeping their businesses open. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Forbes: "Otisville Federal Prison Camp Is More Like A Higher Security Prison In Fight Against COVID-19," Walter Pavlo, June 28, 2020, 7:46 PM

In 2009, Forbes put together a popular article on America's "Cushiest Prisons." Among them was the minimum security satellite camp at FCI Otisville (Otisville, NY), located 80 miles north of New York City. The prison has temporarily housed many infamous minimum security, white-collar inmates from the New York area. Recently, that has included former New York State Senator Dean Skelos and President Donald Trump's former personal attorney Michael Cohen. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Las Cruces Sun-News (Las Cruces, TX): "Massive COVID-19 outbreak at southern NM prison hits only sex offenders. That's by design.," Jeff Proctor, June 28, 2020, 5:56 PM

As the coronavirus established a foothold in southern New Mexico's Otero County Prison Facility in mid-May, state officials quietly moved 39 inmates out of the massive complex near the Texas border to another prison near Santa Fe. The inmates shared something in common: None was a sex offender. In the days before the 39 departed the massive correctional complex where New Mexico's only sex offender treatment program is housed, officials were still transferring sex offenders from other state prisons into Otero. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Newsweek: "Couple Charged in \$1.4M COVID Fraud Scheme After Trying to Flee Country," Jason Lemon, June 28, 2020, 4:28 PM

A couple from Virginia has been arrested and charged in an alleged scheme to defraud more than \$1.4 million in federal money approved by Congress to go to struggling businesses amid the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. Monica Magdalena Jaworska, 43, of Ashburn and her husband Tarik Jaafar, 42, were arrested on June 20 as they attempted to leave the U.S. for Poland via John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City, according to a press release issued by the Justice Department. Jaworska appeared in court last week to face charges of allegedly conspiring to commit wire fraud. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [Crime Online](#), [WDVM \(Hagerstown, MD\)](#)

WHNT-CBS (Huntsville, AL): "Beware of Fake Mobile Banking Apps," Elizabeth Garcia and Julia Cherry, June 28, 2020, 3:35 PM

Let's face it, mobile apps are an integral part of our daily lives, but so are fake apps and phishing attacks. According to Helpnet Security, during one quarter of last year alone, phishing attacks launched through fake mobile apps tripled. The FBI warns that with a 50% surge in banking app usage, during the COVID-19 shutdown, consumers need to beware of fake banking apps.

Not just a nuisance, once scammers have your log-in information, they can wipe out your account in seconds, leaving you in financial disaster. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Nexstar Media Wire: "Justice Dept. warns that face mask exemption flyers, cards are fake," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 1:13 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice is warning that flyers circulating online that exempt disabled people from wearing face masks are fake. "The Department of Justice has been made aware of postings or flyers on the internet regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the use of face masks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which include the Department of Justice's seal," the DOJ said in a statement on its ADA webpage. [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [KPRC-NBC \(Houston, TX\)](#)

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

KAMC-ABC (Lubbock, TX): "Cops seize \$34,500 from Lubbock man, ask judge for permission to keep it," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 7:06 PM

Police and prosecutors last week asked permission to permanently seize \$34,500 cash taken from Tranard Lacharles Richardson, 23, of Lubbock. An affidavit in court records said in November 2018 local law enforcement began to investigate Richardson for drug trafficking. As part of the background story, the affidavit said officers were called to his home in May 2020 in the 100 block of 76th Street for domestic violence. [[Continue Reading](#)]

AP: "FBI investigates noose in Minnesota firefighter's locker," Kelly Weill, June 28, 2020, 6:30 PM

The FBI is investigating after a piece of rope resembling a noose was found in a Black firefighter's locker in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington. An FBI spokesman confirmed Saturday the bureau is investigating and said that the case is in its initial stages. Bloomington officials had asked the FBI to investigate. [[Continue Reading](#)]

KABB- Fox (San Antonio, TX): "Jenelius Crew, responsible for REBAR shooting, now in Bexar County Jail," Josh Borlinghaus, June 28, 2020, 6:00 PM

The man accused of shooting eight people at a bar on Broadway is now in the Bexar County Jail. 37-year-old Jenelius Crew was picked up by the U.S. Marshals in Miami, Florida two Thursdays ago, but now he's back in San Antonio facing at least eight felony charges. [[Continue Reading](#)]

The Chieftain (Pueblo, CO): "Court case in planned Pueblo temple

bombing drags on," Robert Boczkiewicz, June 28, 2020, 5:06 PM

The trial date for the man accused of intending to blow up Pueblo's historic Temple Emanuel has been pushed back again and he is not likely to use an insanity defense. Those two developments emerged last week in Denver at the U.S. District Court for Colorado where Richard Holzer is charged with three crimes stemming from his alleged plot. The FBI arrested Holzer late on Nov. 1 at a Pueblo motel and said he intended blow up Temple Emanuel before dawn Nov. 2. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Crossroads Today (Victoria, TX): "US Marshals searching for Minnesota couple who are arson persons of interest a \$20,000 ATF reward offered," LaShanda McCuin, June 28, 2020, 3:18 PM (EDT)

The U.S. Marshals are searching for a Minnesota man and woman wanted as persons of interest by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in the investigation of several St. Paul, Minnesota, fires during the recent unrest. ATF is offering two rewards of up to \$10,000 each for information that leads to the apprehension and conviction of the two individuals. [[Continue Reading](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY

Daily Beast: "Inside the New Push to Expose America's White Supremacist Cops," Kelly Weill, June 29, 2020, 3:21 AM

14 years ago, the FBI documented racist infiltration of law enforcement in America. Now members of Congress want the full story. In 2006, the Federal Bureau of Investigation knew America's police forces had a white supremacist problem. But the internal report the agency compiled that year was so heavily redacted that almost no one knows what it contained. [[Continue Reading](#)]

IMMIGRATION & BORDER SECURITY

WKMG-CBS (Orlando, FL): "More than 10,000 assault weapon parts headed to Melbourne home seized by Border Protection," Emilee Speck, June 29, 2020, 6:57 AM

Officers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection confiscated a shipment from China en route to a Melbourne home that contained more than 10,000 assault weapon parts, CBP officials said. In a news release, the CBP said the parts were being "smuggled into the country" on May 22 when officers in Louisville inspected the items arriving from Shenzhen, China. [[Continue Reading](#)]

Forbes: "USCIS Estimates H-1B Visa Numbers But Ignores Green Card Problem," Stuart Anderson, June 29, 2020, 12:07 AM

For the first time, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has released an official government estimate of the number of H-1B visa holders working in the United States. However, the H-1B estimate is inflated by hundreds of thousands of individuals waiting years for green cards due to the low annual quota and per-country limits on employment-based immigrants, which is not mentioned in the USCIS report. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

KXAN-NBC (Austin, TX): "Trump can't divert defense funds for border wall, federal appeals court rules," Fernie Ortiz, June 28, 2020, 10:34 PM

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Trump administration does not have the authority to transfer defense funds to pay for the border wall, Law360 reported Friday. The federal appeals on Friday court sided with the Sierra Club, which sued over the transfer of defense funds for the construction of a border wall in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Arizona Daily Star (Tucson, AZ): "Feds reveal details for border wall that will span San Pedro River," Curt Prendergast, June 28, 2020, 7:45 PM

The design for a section of the border wall that will span Southern Arizona's San Pedro River is coming to light, more than a year after a contract was awarded to build it. The plan is to build 30-foot-tall steel bollards across the river and install swing gates under the bollards to allow river water to flow, Customs and Border Protection officials said in a June 12 call with local environmental advocates and congressional staffers. A 550-foot-long bridge will span the river about 10 feet north of the bollards. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

USA Today: "Homeland Security to reopen travelers' Global Entry enrollment July 6, with COVID-19 changes," Bryan Alexander, June 28, 2020, 7:45 PM

The Global Entry program, which has been shut down since March 19 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, will begin enrollment interviews again starting July 6, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency under Homeland Security announced Friday. The program enables international travelers to re-enter the United States on an expedited basis. It costs \$100 to join and meets the Real ID requirements for domestic air travel imposed by Congress after 9/11. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Epoch Times: "US Customs Seize Millions Worth of Illicit Narcotics and Assault Weapon Parts From China," Frank Fang, June 28, 2020, 1:00 PM

U.S. customs officials in Cincinnati recently seized 530 pounds of illicit narcotics and other controlled substances in a shipment originating from China, which had a street value of over \$2 million. The cargo also contained other illicit goods such as counterfeit products and prohibited food items. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the seizure in a press release on June 26. The shipment, intercepted by customs officials on May

11, was destined for a single importer in Aurora, Colorado. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

US SUPREME COURT

KFSM-CBS (Fort Smith, AR): "SCOTUS Defends DACA Program, Helping Arkansans," ayely Palafox, Nick Camper, June 29, 2020, 2:41 AM

On June 18th, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the DACA Program. The decision comes after President Trump's administration made an attempt to terminate the program this year. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals was signed as an executive order by former President Barack Obama back in 2012. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Richmond (Richmond, VI): "Labor Law: U.S. Supreme Court rules LGBTQ rights are protected by federal employment law," Karen Michael, June 28, 2020, 7:00 PM

Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a landmark 6-3 decision that the rights of LGBTQ people are protected from employment discrimination. The case involved three separate lawsuits that were consolidated into one. Two of the cases arose from the termination of two male gay employees working for separate companies and the third arose following the termination of a transgender female. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CNN: "Samuel Alito dissents. A frustrating few months for the conservative justice," Ariane de Vogue, June 28, 2020, 6:31 PM

When the Supreme Court term began last fall, judicial conservatives were hoping that the court's strong 5-4 majority, bolstered by two of President Donald Trump's nominees, would deliver a clean sweep for conservatives on hot button issues. Instead, with 13 cases remaining, the court in recent weeks has blocked Trump's efforts to terminate DACA, issued a landmark opinion in favor of LGBTQ rights and left court watchers wondering what's next. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

The Hill: [OPINION] "Overturning the ACA will make COVID-19 much worse," Rosemarie Day and Deborah Gordon, June 28, 2020, 6:00 PM

Donald Trump won't wear a mask in public or suspend his in-person rallies and pushes to re-open the economy. As infuriating as Trump's COVID-19 response has been for its incongruence with public health recommendations, the real outrage is his persistent attempts to overturn the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The brief Trump just filed with the U.S Supreme Court in Texas v. US case is unequivocal. The administration argues that the individual mandate is unconstitutional and therefore "the entire ACA must fall." The Supreme Court will hear arguments as soon as this fall and render its decision well after the election. Given the pandemic, this issue deserves our full attention.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

JUDICIAL NOMINEES & APPOINTMENTS

Bloomberg Law: "INSIGHT: Will It Matter Who Runs the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan?," Joel Cohen, June 29, 2020, 3:01 AM

Audrey Strauss is taking over as the new U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York after Geoffrey Berman initially refused to leave. Former New York prosecutor Joel Cohen says she will likely prosecute cases in the same manner as Berman, even though the office has unfortunately been drawn into national headlines by Attorney General William Barr's actions.

[\[Continue Reading\]](#)

BuzzFeed: "There Are 93 US Attorneys. Seven Are Women And Only Two Are Black," Zoe Tillman , June 28, 2020, 1:01 PM

[...] The fight over Berman's seat underscores the Trump administration's practice of overwhelmingly placing white men in charge of federal prosecutor offices. Berman, Clayton, and Carpenito are white. Based on publicly available photographs and biographical information, BuzzFeed News identified 7 of 93 US attorneys are BIPOC, including two Black US attorneys: Louis Franklin Sr. in Alabama and Kenji Price in Hawaii, who is also Asian American. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

CRIMINAL LAW

AP: "'Tennessee man gets 20 years in heroin-fentanyl overdose," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 6:06 AM

Federal prosecutors say a Tennessee drug dealer has been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison for selling heroin laced with fentanyl to a man who died of an overdose. The U.S. attorney's office in Memphis says 57-year-old Dwayne Tullous pleaded guilty in March to causing the death of Larry House by selling heroin and fentanyl to him. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Cincinnati Enquirer (Cincinnati, OH): "Tamaya Dennard expected at federal courthouse today to formally plead guilty," Sharon Coolidge and Kevin Grasha, June 28, 2020, 9:30 PM

Former Cincinnati Councilwoman Tamaya Dennard is expected at the federal courthouse today to formally plead guilty to accepting \$15,000 as part of a scheme to exchange her votes for money. Dennard last week signed a plea agreement, in which she pleaded guilty to honest services wire fraud, meaning she schemed to defraud citizens and the city council of their right to honest services. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

WITN-NBC (Washington, NC): "Gastonia man sentenced to 35-years for secretly recording minors on his yacht," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 9:29 PM

A Gastonia man has been sentenced to 35 years in prison for secretly recording nude videos of underage females aboard his yacht. According to the U.S. Attorney Andrew Murray, William Hilliard Jr., 51, formerly of Cleveland County and Cherryville, will also serve a lifetime of supervised release and register as a sex offender upon his release from prison. We want to warn readers that some of the details may be graphic. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Reformer (Brattleboro, VT): "Massachusetts man arrested in firearms sting," Bob Audette, June 28, 2020, 8:30 PM

A Massachusetts man has been charged in federal court after trying to buy a firearm in Vermont. According to court documents, Eric LaFrance, 34, of Westfield, Mass., was arrested in Brattleboro trying to purchase a firearm from a man he thought was a registered firearms dealer. However, unknown to LaFrance, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives had received a tip from a Vermont firearms licensee that a man from Holyoke, Mass., was attempting to make a purchase via a social media website of two low-cost handguns. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Hays Post (Hays, KS): "14-year-old victim met sex offender playing game on cell phone," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 7:00 PM

A prior sex offender in Carthage, Missouri, who impregnated a 14-year-old victim, was sentenced in federal court for the sexual exploitation of a child, according to the United State's Attorney's office. Victor Alfonso Vasquez, 33, was sentenced June 25 by U.S. District Judge M. Douglas Harpool to 33 years and nine months in federal prison without parole. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

East Idaho News: "Local man charged federally for production of child pornography," Eric Grossarth, June 28, 2020, 6:31 PM

A man who police say admitted to sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy and filming the act is now charged in federal court. In January, Richard Dutton, 51, was charged in Bonneville County with two felony counts of lewd conduct with a child and a felony count of sexual exploitation of a child. Prosecutors dropped those charges last week because as of June 5, federal prosecutors charged him with sexual exploitation of a child. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Syracuse (Syracuse, NY): "Brothers plead guilty after feds seize 250,000 contraband cigarettes near Syracuse," Teri Weaver, June 28, 2020, 3:00 PM

On Oct. 2, 2018, Saddam Hassan drove from Liverpool to Two Eagles Smoke Shop in Western New York, then returned to a storage facility in North Syracuse, according to a sworn statement from Special Agent Michael Ball of the Department of Homeland Security. Shortly after noon that day, both brothers were seen unloading 402,000 Seneca brand cigarettes and 10

boxes of tobacco into the storage unit at 5300 Business Avenue, the court papers say. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

AP: "American Jailed In Spain Was Unwitting Drug Mule, US Says," Eric Tucker, June 28, 2020, 3:00 PM

[...] Though Spanish authorities are dubious, the U.S. Justice Department has advised Spain that it believes Stemberger was duped into acting as a drug mule for a West Africa criminal network, and has asked the country for evidence it's gathered, according to correspondence obtained by The Associated Press. Federal officials have for years warned about scams that lure elderly Americans or those with diminished mental capacity. Stemberger had a significant brain injury nearly 15 years ago into becoming drug couriers. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Law and Crime: "4 Men Charged with Allegedly Trying to Tear Down Statue of Andrew Jackson Amid Protests," Alberto Luperon, June 28, 2020, 2:35 PM

The Department of Justice announced Saturday that four men have been charged with trying to tear down the statue of President Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Square in Washington D.C. by the White House. Each of the defendants face a count of destruction of federal property. Their actions were all caught on tape, and happened amid protests, authorities said. [\[Continue Reading\]](#) **See also:** [NPR](#), [WMTW-ABC \(Poland Spring, ME\)](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS

Valley Morning Star (Harlingen, TX): "Mercedes mayoral candidate sues city, officials," Unattributed, June 28, 2020, 9:00 PM

One month after a charge of disrupting a public meeting was dropped against him, Mercedes mayoral candidate and community activist Israel Coronado has filed a federal lawsuit against the city, its current mayor and police chief. Coronado, who has long claimed his arrest was an act of political retaliation meant to silence residents who are critical of the city's leadership, alleges the same in the civil rights lawsuit filed at the McAllen federal courthouse Wednesday. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

LAT: "Chief federal judge in L.A. steps down over racially insensitive comments about Black court official," Matt Hamilton, June 28, 2020, 7:47 PM (EDT)

The chief judge for the Central District of California, the nation's largest federal court jurisdiction, which includes Los Angeles and its neighboring counties, has stepped down from that post, citing his racially insensitive comments regarding the court's top administrative official, a Black woman. U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney, who began a four-year term as chief district judge June 1, announced his decision to step down from the top post

but remain a judge in an email Friday to court staff and fellow judges, and offered a public apology to Kiry K. Gray. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ANTITRUST

Kentucky Today: "Bipartisan lawmakers ask for beef-packing probe," Tom Latek, June 28, 2020, 1:00 PM

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers joined Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles and Attorney General Daniel Cameron in asking the U.S. Justice Department to investigate possible anticompetitive practices in the beef packing sector. House and Senate members of the Interim Joint Agriculture Committee from both parties signed a letter sent to U.S. Attorney General William Barr, stressing the need for confidence in the beef cattle market. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ENVIRONMENT

Daily News (Anchorage, AK): [OPINION] "The federal review process for Pebble is working," Tom Collier, June 28, 2020, 4:00 PM

One month after a charge of disrupting a public meeting was dropped against him, Mercedes mayoral candidate and community activist Israel Coronado has filed a federal lawsuit against the city, its current mayor and police chief. Coronado, who has long claimed his arrest was an act of political retaliation meant to silence residents who are critical of the city's leadership, alleges the same in the civil rights lawsuit filed at the McAllen federal courthouse Wednesday. [[Continue Reading](#)]

TAX

Bloomberg: "Supply Chain Fears Bolster Medical Manufacturing Tax Break Push," Colin Wilhelm, Alex Ruoff, Lydia O'Neal, June 28, 2020, 3:45 AM

Pandemic-induced concerns about the international supply chain for face masks, pharmaceuticals, and other medical supplies are stoking renewed interest in tax incentives to lure manufacturers back to the U.S. Lobbyists and advocates see the next pandemic relief package as a potential vehicle for new tax benefits for pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing companies. Negotiations aren't expected to pick up again until July, but the conversation so far on this issue has focused on recently introduced House bills that could be included in a relief package. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Kenosha News (Kenosha, WI): "Federal court orders new trial or release of former Kenosha man in child sex case," Kevin Murphy, June 28, 2020, 3:00 PM

In a case where an attorney should have listened to her client, an appeals court ordered the state to release a former Kenosha man from prison or grant him a new appeal after concluding the attorney didn't pursue the best grounds for appeal. Antonio G. Ramirez Jr., 45, was sentenced to 50 years in prison after being convicted in 2001 of first-degree sexual assault of a child, and several related child-sex offenses occurring in 1998-99. [[Continue Reading](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

New York Post: "'Trump says 'absentee ballots are fine,' warns against 'corrupt' mail-in voting," Yaron Steinbuch, June 29, 2020, 6:57 AM

President Trump pressed on warning about widespread fraud in mail-in voting but said that "absentee ballots are fine." "A person has to go through a process to get and use them," the president said in a tweet late Sunday. "Mail-In Voting, on the other hand, will lead to the most corrupt Election in USA history. Bad things happen with Mail-Ins." [[Continue Reading](#)]

WaPo: "Trump says U.S. intelligence did not find reports of Russian bounties to Taliban-linked militants credible," John Wagner and Ellen Nakashima, June 29, 2020, 6:10 AM

President Trump said late Sunday that he was not told of intelligence that a Russian military spy unit offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants to attack coalition forces in Afghanistan, including U.S. troops, because U.S. intelligence officials did not find it credible. "Intel just reported to me that they did not find this info credible, and therefore did not report it to me or @VP," Trump said in a tweet, referring to Vice President Pence. He added that he considers such reports "possibly another fabricated Russia Hoax" spread by the "Fake News ... wanting to make Republicans look bad!!!" [[Continue Reading](#)] **See also:** [CNN](#)

WaPo: "Zuckerberg once wanted to sanction Trump. Then Facebook wrote rules that accommodated him.," Elizabeth Dwoskin, Craig Timberg and Tony Romm, June 28, 2020, 5:25 PM

Hours after President Trump's incendiary post last month about sending the military to the Minnesota protests, Trump called Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg. The post put the company in a difficult position, Zuckerberg told Trump, according to people familiar with the discussions. The same message was hidden by Twitter, the strongest action ever taken against a presidential post. [[Continue Reading](#)]

CONGRESS

Fox: "Nunes: Twitter, Google, Facebook are 'tech tyrants' that censor conservatives," Ronn Blitzer, June 28, 2020, 1:00 PM

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., railed against Twitter, Google and Facebook tech giants, claiming they improperly wield power over the content Internet users view by censoring conservative-leaning content. Nunes currently suffered a loss in a defamation lawsuit he filed against Twitter, parody accounts known as "Devin Nunes' Mom" and "Devin Nunes' Cow," and a Republican strategist when a judge ruled that Twitter cannot be held liable for defamatory tweets because federal law classifies them as merely a platform, not a publisher. [[Continue Reading](#)]

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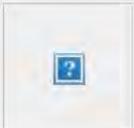
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WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

BIG LAW'S BLACK 'EXODUS' - It's no secret that large law firms have long struggled to create a hospitable environment for lawyers of color, leading to glaring diversity deficits. But what is less talked about is how small and midsize law firms can benefit from what attorney Esuga Abaya calls an "exodus" of Black attorneys from Big Law, by providing a sought-after path for advancement. As [Ben Seal reports](#), many smaller firms offer a more navigable rate structure and opportunities for leadership and professional development that are much harder to find in a larger organization. As a result, those firms make themselves highly attractive to talented diverse lawyers who are disenfranchised with their experiences at bigger shops.

CONSERVATIVE JUSTICES' CHIEF CONCERN- The word "respectfully" in a court opinion is kind of like the "no offense" of judicial parlance. When you hear it, you know things are getting a little salty. SCOTUS Chief Justice John Roberts' conservative

colleagues on the court have been tossing "respectfully's" his way a lot recently, as he's sided with the liberal wing three times in the past two weeks, inviting some barbed dissents. But yesterday's ruling blocking a Louisiana abortion clinic law, in which Roberts' was the [key vote](#), saw the chief firing back at criticism, saying Justice Samuel Alito "misunderstands" and Justice Neil Gorsuch "certainly is wrong" about various aspects of the majority opinion. This is about more than tense exchanges, however. As [Marcia Coyle writes](#), Roberts' recent record "may well signal to those colleagues to his right that now more than ever, they cannot take his vote for granted."

FROM TWITTER MOOS TO CABLE NEWS - [Devin Nunes' Cow and Devin Nunes' Mom](#) both escaped defamation suits by the Republican congressman, but it remains to be seen whether CNN will be as fortunate. Attorneys for Nunes are expected to appear for a virtual hearing today in Manhattan federal court, after a judge in Virginia kicked the congressman's defamation suit against the cable TV network to the Southern District of New York. Nunes, a staunch defender of President Donald Trump, has sued CNN over a Nov. 22 story that linked Nunes to an alleged plot to pressure Ukrainian officials to investigate Joe Biden. A judge in May [transferred the case](#) to New York, finding that the lawsuit had "no logical connection" to the Richmond federal court in which it was originally filed.

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Looking F O R W A R D: The ADR Option to Resolve Commercial Insurance Coverage Disputes

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['Bitter Disappointment': Conservatives Seize on Supreme Court Losses to Push Trump's Reelection](#)

By Jacqueline Thomsen

[Amid Controversy, Connecticut's First Black State's Attorney Leaves Office](#)

By Robert Storace

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING

ONE MORE IN SINGAPORE - One of Japan's largest domestic firms, Anderson Mori & Tomotsune, has formed a formal law alliance in Singapore, becoming the second major Japanese law firm to gain access to local law practice in the city-state, [Anna Zhang reports](#). Nishimura & Asahi became the first Japanese firm to formalize a Singaporean alliance earlier this month.

WHAT YOU SAID

"If partners in the firms start to see a tranche of firms that are outperforming the average, you could see an additional wave of partner moves. In a bull market where all firms are doing well and all boats are rising, it is arguably hard to see a reason to move."

— [Joe Macrae](#), veteran Palo Alto-based legal recruiter, [describing](#) where he sees the law firm lateral market potentially headed in the next few months.

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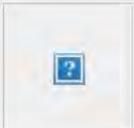
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WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

HAVE ZOOM, WON'T TRAVEL - Virtual meetings can be maddening: frozen screens, elusive "unmute" buttons, attorneys with no pants on (**if you're in Florida**). However, on the plus side, there's also a distinct lack of lost baggage, bad airport food and strangers using your shoulder as a neck pillow. In that regard, **Patrick Smith reports**, a number of law firm leaders with previously hectic travel schedules have come to appreciate the wonders of Zoom. And for some, even when travel restrictions are lifted and jetting the globe becomes safe(r) again, there may be no going back. What do you all think? Are you eager to get back to in-person meetings or are you ready to stay in a virtual reality? Let me know at zneedles@alm.com.

BAR NONE - As some states continue to push ahead with plans to hold in-person July bar exams and others hope to pull them off in September, a national chorus of "Um, how about no?" is getting louder. And, as **Karen Sloan reports**, the recent surge

of U.S. COVID-19 cases, ongoing protests over racial injustice, and the challenges of social distancing are prompting a growing number of state supreme courts to consider adopting an emergency diploma privilege that would allow some law grads to be admitted to the bar without taking the exam. Utah, Washington and, as of this past Monday, Oregon are already on board. Meanwhile, Minnesota is mulling the idea.

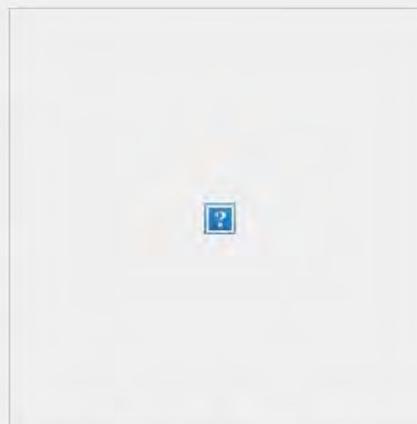
CLIENT WHISPERERS - A couple months ago, shortly after widespread stay-at-home orders took hold in the U.S., client relations professionals **told me** they were spending a lot of time advising lawyers at their firms to over-communicate with clients, including having sometimes awkward conversations about pricing, collections and an uncertain economic outlook. The idea was to coach up lawyers so that they could better relate to their clients remotely. Since then, however, those C-suite professionals' direct interactions with clients have increased quite a bit, **Ben Seal reports**, taking them from behind the scenes to a seat at the table—and giving them plenty of opportunities to demonstrate value to their firms.

A CORRECTION + SOME NUNES NEWS - Yesterday, I wrote in this space that Twitter accounts named "Devin Nunes' Cow" and "Devin Nunes' Mom" had recently escaped a defamation suit by the Republican congressman. However, only Twitter has been dismissed as a defendant in that litigation thus far. The case is ongoing against both mom and cow (whose true identities are still unknown), as well as against political strategist Liz Mair. But, as was totally my plan all along, this error has provided the *perfect* segue to an update on Nunes' **separate and unrelated defamation suit** against CNN: As **Tom McParland reports**, a Manhattan federal magistrate judge yesterday agreed to stay discovery in the lawsuit until a ruling could be made on CNN's motion to dismiss, which raises a key threshold issue involving California law.

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WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING

BUSY DAY - This year in the U.S., July 4th is shaping up to be a big day of watching fireworks on YouTube and waving at your neighbor while you grill two lonely hot dogs. But around the world, *today* is an actual big day, for multiple reasons. For starters, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement (NAFTA's replacement) **takes effect**. Today is also the day that the EU is set to reopen its borders to all but travelers from the U.S., Brazil and Russia. In addition, it's Handover Day in Hong Kong, marking the anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Every year, this day has included a major pro-democracy march, but authorities have banned the march for the first time this year. Pro-democracy activists are expected to defy the ban and march anyway, however, which could get ugly.

WHAT YOU SAID

"We need a systemic cultural shift in the way law firms work. The people who are in power in these firms are the very people that benefit the most from the current system. Somehow, we have to convince them that recruiting, retaining, promoting and including Black attorneys is a good thing, and not only that, it is worth whatever they believe will be the associated costs."

— **Esuga Abaya**, business attorney at GrowthCounsel in Philadelphia, **explaining** that meaningful progress for Black lawyers "requires winning people's hearts and minds."

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by Law.com's global news team. Lisa Shuchman contributed to "Busy Day."

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