



As you can see from this sprouting seed pic, 2 of the 4 Moonflower seeds planted have broken through wearing the outer covering of the seed reminiscent, to my myth maker, of old traditional Dutch bonnets. Here I'll go with your interpretation — a story of growth & wisdom. If it weren't for the news media, for social media, I'd think, just like every other animal, things on the whole are going pretty dang good in the world. As such, I can only imagine, Mevrouw Huidekoper, the best of future life for these mythic, yet real, Dutch ladies.



Words can have a powerful effect on people, even when they're generated by an unthinking machine. iStock via Getty Images

Google's powerful AI spotlights a human cognitive glitch: Mistaking fluent speech for fluent thought

Published: June 24, 2022 7:53am EDT

▼ [Kyle Mahowald](#), *The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts*, [Anna A. Ivanova](#), *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*, [Evelina Fedorenko](#), *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*, [Idan Asher Blank](#), *UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs*, [Joshua B. Tenenbaum](#), *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*, [Nancy Kanwisher](#), *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*

When you read a sentence like this one, your past experience tells you that it's written by a thinking, feeling human. And, in this case, there is indeed a human typing these words: [Hi, there!] But these days, some sentences that appear remarkably humanlike are actually generated by artificial intelligence systems trained on massive amounts of human text.

People are so accustomed to assuming that fluent language comes from a thinking, feeling human that evidence to the contrary can be difficult to wrap your head around. How are people likely to navigate this relatively uncharted territory? Because of a persistent tendency to associate fluent expression with fluent thought, it is natural – but potentially misleading – to think that if an AI model can express itself fluently, that means it thinks and feels just like humans do.

Thus, it is perhaps unsurprising that a former Google engineer recently claimed that Google's AI system LaMDA has a sense of self because it can eloquently generate text about its purported feelings. This event and the subsequent media coverage led to a number of rightly skeptical articles and posts about the claim that computational models of human language are sentient, meaning capable of thinking and feeling and experiencing.

The question of what it would mean for an AI model to be sentient is complicated (see, for instance, our colleague's take), and our goal here is not to settle it. But as language researchers, we can use our work in cognitive science and linguistics to explain why it is all too easy for humans to fall into the cognitive trap of thinking that an entity that can use language fluently is sentient, conscious or intelligent.

Using AI to generate humanlike language

Text generated by models like Google's LaMDA can be hard to distinguish from text written by humans. This impressive achievement is a result of a decades long program to build models that generate grammatical, meaningful language. a screenshot showing a text dialog.

[...]

Fluent language alone does not imply humanity

Will AI ever become sentient? This question requires deep consideration, and indeed philosophers have pondered it for decades. What researchers have determined, however, is that you cannot simply trust a language model when it tells you how it feels. **Words can be misleading, and it is all too easy to mistake fluent speech for fluent thought.**



Words can have a powerful effect on people, even when they're generated by an unthinking machine. iStock via Getty Images

Google's powerful AI spotlights a human cognitive glitch: Mistaking fluent speech for fluent thought

Published: June 24, 2022 7:53am EDT

▼ **Kyle Mahowald**, *The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts*, **Anna A. Ivanova**, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*, **Evelina Fedorenko**, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*, **Idan Asher Blank**, *UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs*, **Joshua B. Tenenbaum**, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*, **Nancy Kanwisher**, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*

When you read a sentence like this one, your past experience tells you that it's written by a thinking, feeling human. And, in this case, there is indeed a human typing these words: [Hi, there!] But these days, some sentences that appear remarkably humanlike are actually generated by artificial intelligence systems trained on massive amounts of human text.



Elaine Thompson/AP

TECHNOLOGY

Amazon's Alexa could soon speak in a dead relative's voice, making some feel uneasy

Amazon's voice-cloning technology still under development raises concerns among those who study ethics in artificial intelligence.

Subbarao Kambhampati, a professor of computer science at Arizona State University, said he hopes Amazon showing off a demo of the voice-replicating tool makes the public vigilant to the use of synthetic voices in everyday life.

"As creepy as it might sound, it's a good reminder that we can't trust our own ears in this day and age," Kambhampati said. "But the sooner we get used to this concept, which is still strange to us right now, the better we will be."

Kambhampati said the Alexa feature has the potential to aid a bereft family member, though it has to be weighed against a variety of moral questions the technology presents.

"For people in grieving, this might actually help in the same way we look back and watch videos of the departed," he said. "But it comes with serious ethical issues, like is it OK to do this without the deceased person's consent?"



What makes a nation wealthy? Getty Images

Wealth of nations: Why some are rich, others are poor – and what it means for future prosperity

Published: June 24, 2022 7:51am EDT

Amitrajeet A. Batabyal, Rochester Institute of Technology

Why are some nations rich and others poor? Can the governments of poor nations do something to ensure that their nations become rich? These sorts of questions have long fascinated public officials and economists, at least since Adam Smith, the prominent Scottish economist whose famous 1776 book was titled “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations.” Economic growth matters to a country because it can raise living standards and provide fiscal stability to its people. But getting the recipe consistently right has eluded both nations and economists for hundreds of years. As an economist who studies regional, national and international economics, I believe that understanding an economic term called total factor productivity can provide insight into how nations become wealthy.

Growth theory: It is important to understand what helps a country grow its wealth. In 1956, Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Robert Solow wrote a paper analyzing how labor – otherwise known as workers – and capital – otherwise known as physical items such as tools, machinery and equipment – can be combined to produce goods and services that ultimately determine people’s standard of living. Solow later went on to win a Nobel Prize for his work. One way to increase a nation’s overall quantity of goods or services is to increase labor, capital or both. But that doesn’t continue growth indefinitely. At some point, adding more labor only means that the goods and services these workers produce is divided between more workers. Hence, the output per worker – which is one way of looking at a nation’s wealth – will tend to go down. Similarly, adding more capital such as machinery or other equipment endlessly is also unhelpful, because those physical items tend to wear out or depreciate. A company would need frequent financial investment to counteract the negative effect of this wear and tear. In a later paper in 1957, Solow used U.S. data to show that ingredients in addition to labor and capital were needed to make a nation wealthier.

He found that only 12.5% of the observed increase in American output per worker – the quantity of what each worker produced – from 1909 to 1949 could be attributed to workers becoming more productive during this time period. This implies that 87.5% of the observed increase in output per worker was explained by something else.

Total factor productivity: Solow called this something else “technical change,” and today it is best known as total factor productivity. **Total factor productivity is the portion of goods and services produced that is not explained by the capital and labor used in production. For example, it could be technological advancements that make it easier to produce goods.**

Another way to understand total factor productivity. It’s best to think of total factor productivity as a recipe that shows how to combine capital and labor to obtain output. Specifically, growing it is akin to creating a cookie recipe to ensure that the largest number of cookies – that also taste great – are produced. Sometimes this recipe gets better over time because, for example, the cookies can bake faster in a new type of oven or workers become more knowledgeable about how to mix ingredients more efficiently. **Will total factor productivity continue to grow in the future?** Given how important total factor productivity is to economic growth, asking about the future of economic growth is basically the same as asking whether total factor productivity will continue to grow – whether the recipes will always get better – over time. Solow assumed that TFP would grow exponentially over time, a dynamic explained by the economist Paul Romer, who also won a Nobel Prize for his research in this field. Romer argued in a prominent 1986 paper that investments in research and development that result in **the creation of new knowledge can be a key driver of economic growth.** This means that each earlier bit of knowledge makes the next bit of knowledge more useful. Put differently, knowledge has a spillover effect that creates more knowledge as it spills out. Despite Romer’s efforts to provide a basis for the assumed exponential growth of TFP, research shows that productivity growth in the world’s advanced economies has been declining since the late 1990s and is now at historically low levels. There are concerns that the COVID-19 crisis may exacerbate this negative trend and further reduce total factor productivity growth. Recent research shows that if TFP growth falls, then this can negatively affect living standards in the U.S. and in other rich countries. A very recent paper by the economist Thomas Philippon analyzes a large amount of data for 23 countries over 129 years, finding that TFP does not actually grow exponentially, as Solow and Romer had thought. Instead, it grows in a linear, and slower, progression. Philippon’s analysis suggests that new ideas and new recipes do add to the existing stock of knowledge, but they don’t have the multiplier effect previous scholars had thought. Ultimately, this finding means that economic growth used to be quite fast and is now slowing down – but it’s still occurring. The U.S. and other nations can expect to get wealthier over time but just not as quickly as economists once expected.

Wienerschnitzel
1852 Rosecrans St, San Diego, CA 92106

SOFT SERVE CONES
Vanilla 2.29
Caramel 3.19

SHAKES
Vanilla 3.29
Strawberry 3.49
Chocolate 3.49

SUNDAES
Vanilla 3.89
Strawberry 3.89
Chocolate 3.89

Southern LEMONADES
Small 1.99 (0-220 cal)
Medium 2.39 (0-320 cal)
Large 2.99 (0-420 cal)
Bottled Water 1.89 (0 cal)

Veggie DOGS
Plant-based. Flavor full.

BACKYARD VEGGIE DOG
4.49

BARBEQUE VEGGIE DOG
4.49

CHICAGO VEGGIE DOG
4.49

\$7.95
5 CHILI DOGS OR 5 CORN DOGS

LEMONADE Floats & Dipped Cone

CHILI
All-Be

WELCOME
VENDOR

MIX & MATCH

- Strawberry
- Watermelon
- Wild Berry

Lemonade Dipped Cone

SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS ROE V. WADE



The court ends the right to abortion that had been upheld for decades

The U.S. Supreme Court has overturned the constitutional right to an abortion, reversing *Roe v. Wade*, the court's five-decade-old decision that guaranteed a woman's right to obtain an abortion.

[ROE V. WADE OVERTURNED: LIVE UPDATES](#)

[MORE](#)

Women who are denied abortions risk falling deeper into poverty. So do their kids

10 minutes ago

Justice Department "will use every tool at our disposal to protect reproductive freedom," attorney general says

33 minutes ago

Kansas voters will decide whether to remove the last barrier protecting abortion rights

44 minutes ago

How top Congressional leaders are responding to the Supreme Court opinion

45 minutes ago

What the end of *Roe* could mean for the rest of the world

56 minutes ago

The *Dobbs* case: What it is and how we got here

59 minutes ago



SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI (D) California

Nancy Pelosi vows to fight for Roe v. Wade after Supreme Court decision

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the Supreme Court's decision on Roe vs. Wade "outrageous and heart-wrenching."

Claire Hardwick Claire Hardwick, Associated Press

Published 12:39 p.m. ET June 24, 2022

The Supreme Court has ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years — a decision by its conservative majority to overturn the court's landmark abortion cases.



This combination of Friday, June 24, 2022, photos taken outside the Supreme Court in Washington shows abortion-rights activists protesting following Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, at left, and anti-abortion activists celebrating following Supreme Court's decision, at right. The Supreme Court has ended the nation's constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. (AP Photo)



Fox News

Pelosi reacts to Roe v. Wade reversal: 'The hypocrisy is raging'

58 mins ago



The Guardian

'A slap in the face to women': Nancy Pelosi condemns overturning of Roe v Wade – video

38 mins ago



NBC Los Angeles

Pelosi: Overturning Roe a 'Slap In the Face'

1 hour ago

News about Nancy Pelosi, Supreme Court



The Hill

Pelosi says Supreme Court is 'eviscerating American rights' following ...

1 hour ago



Axios

Roe v. Wade overturned: Obama, Pelosi weigh in

1 hour ago



NBC NEWS

Pelosi, blasting abortion decision, suggests Kavanaugh and Gorsuch lied at ...

51 mins ago

USA Today

Pelosi says Roe v. Wade overturn is 'outrageous and heart-wrenching'

10 mins ago



MarketWatch

Pelosi on abortion ruling: 'Radical Supreme Court is eviscerating Americans' rig...

1 hour ago



Also in the news

The New York Times

Pelosi's Husband Charged With D.U.I. in California Car Crash

15 hours ago



yahoo!news

After Roe decision, Pelosi says abortion rights will be on the ballot in November

3 mins ago



More news →

THE CONVERSATION

Published: June 24, 2022

Roe overturned: What you need to know about the Supreme Court abortion decision

Linda C. McClain, *Boston University* and Nicole Huberfeld, *Boston University*

By a 6 to 3 majority, the Supreme Court decided to overrule the landmark Roe decision and end almost 50 years of access to **abortion** being a constitution right.

Published: June 24, 2022

Abortion: The story of suffering and death behind Ireland's ban and subsequent legalization

Gretchen E. Ely, *University of Tennessee*

In 1983, a constitutional referendum outlawed **abortion** in Ireland. In 2018, another referendum repealed the ban and legalized **abortion** during the first trimester of pregnancy. What happened?

Published: June 24, 2022

State courts from Oregon to Georgia will now decide who – if anyone – can get an abortion under 50 different state constitutions

Stefanie Lindquist, *Arizona State University*

State supreme courts have a relatively low profile in the US. That's going to change now that they will be under political pressure to decide whether **abortion** is protected in state constitutions.

Published: June 24, 2022

What the Supreme Court's ruling on abortion means for women's health and well-being: 4 essential reads

Matt Williams, *The Conversation*

Scholars explain how the Supreme Court's ruling on **abortion** is likely to affect women's health.

Published: June 17, 2022

The history of Southern Baptists shows they have not always opposed abortion

Susan M. Shaw, *Oregon State University*

A scholar writes about how the Southern Baptist Convention's views on **abortion** changed during the 1980s, when a more conservative wing seized control of the denomination.

Published: June 13, 2022

There is no one 'religious view' on abortion: A scholar of religion, gender and sexuality explains

Samira Mehta, *University of Colorado Boulder*

Views on **abortion** differ not only among major religious traditions, but within each one.

Published: June 24, 2022

Abortion funds are in the spotlight with the end of Roe v. Wade – 3 findings about what they do

Gretchen E. Ely, *University of Tennessee*

These nonprofits help with **abortion** access, but on average they don't cover all costs, researchers have found.

Published: June 3, 2022

Change won't appear overnight in many states if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade

Katherine Drabiak, *University of South Florida*

The Supreme Court potentially overturning Roe v. Wade this spring will be only the first part of a complicated legal saga that will play out at the state level.

Published: June 24, 2022

Abortion and bioethics: Principles to guide U.S. abortion debates

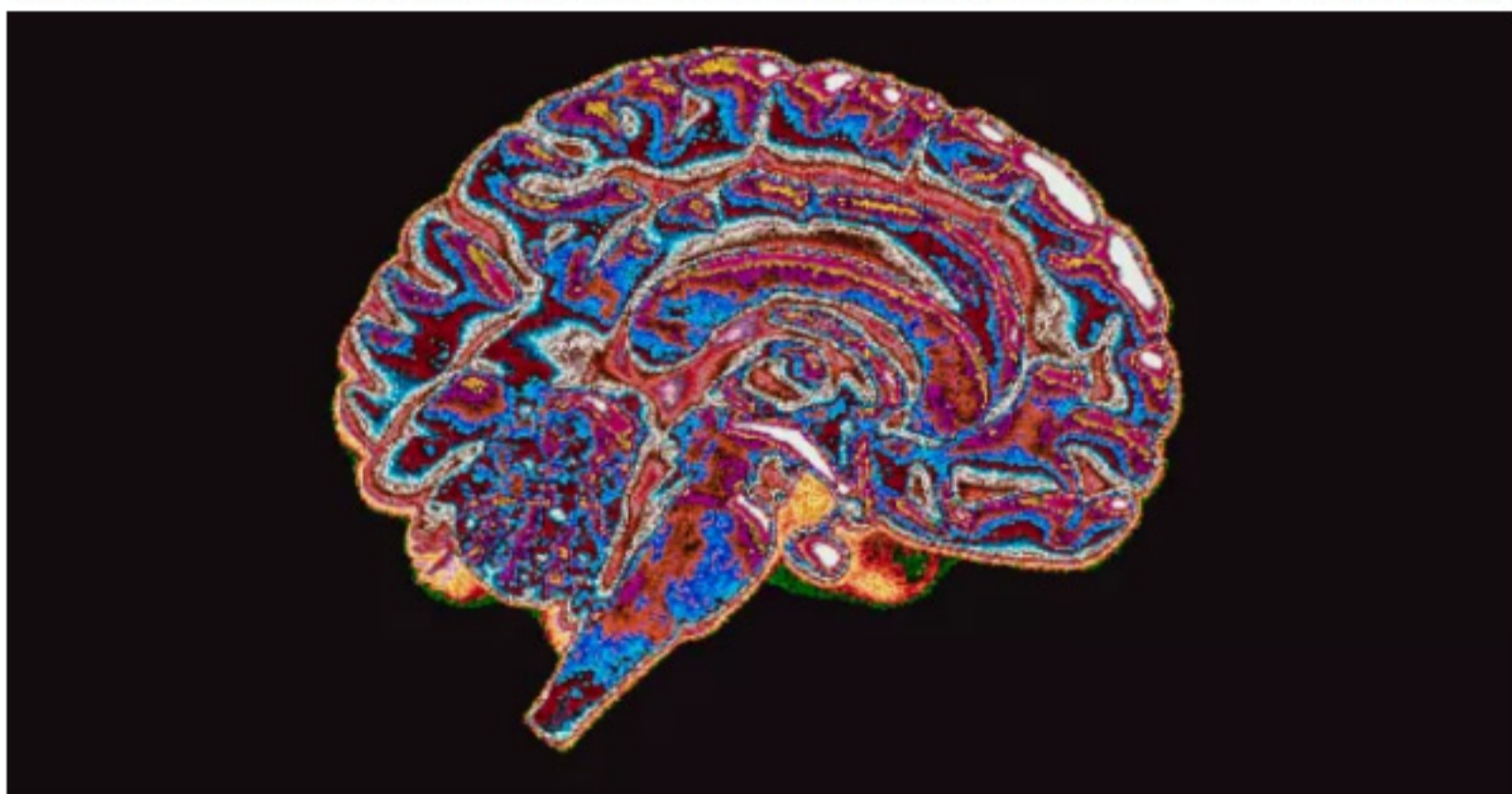
Nancy S. Jecker, *University of Washington*

A bioethicist explains the four ethical principles that guide medical practitioners' thinking about **abortion**, such as autonomy and justice.

Can we think without using language?

By Joanna Thompson published 5 days ago

Science suggests that words aren't strictly necessary for reasoning.



What goes on inside our own heads when we think? (Image credit: Digital Art via Getty Images)

Humans have been expressing thoughts with language for tens (or perhaps hundreds) of thousands of years. It's a hallmark of our species — so much so that scientists once speculated that the capacity for language was the key difference between us and other animals. And we've been wondering about each other's thoughts for as long as we could talk about them.

"The 'penny for your thoughts' kind of question is, I think, as old as humanity," Russell Hurlburt, a research psychologist at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas who studies how people formulate thoughts, told Live Science. But how do scientists study the relationship between thought and language? And is it possible to think without words? The answer, surprisingly, is yes, several decades of research has found. Hurlburt's studies, for instance, have shown that some people do not have an inner monologue — meaning they don't talk to themselves in their heads, Live Science previously reported. And other research shows that people don't use the language regions of their brain when working on wordless logic problems. For decades, however, scientists thought the answer was no — that intelligent thought was intertwined with our ability to form sentences.

"One prominent claim is that language basically came about to allow us to think more complex thoughts," Evelina Fedorenko, a neuroscientist and researcher at MIT's McGovern Institute, told Live Science. This idea was championed by legendary linguists like **Noam Chomsky** and Jerry Fodor in the mid-20th century, but it has begun to fall out of favor in more recent years, Scientific American reported.

New evidence has prompted researchers to reconsider their old assumptions about how we think and what role language plays in the process. **"Unsymbolized thinking" is a type of cognitive process that occurs without the use of words.** Hurlburt and a colleague coined the term in 2008 in the journal *Consciousness and Cognition*, after conducting decades of research to verify that it was a real phenomenon, Hurlburt said.

Studying language and cognition is notoriously difficult, partly because it's really hard to describe. "People use the same words to describe very different inner experiences," Hurlburt said. For example, someone might use similar words to recount a visual thought about a parade of pink elephants as they would to describe their non-visual, pink elephant-centric inner monologue. Another issue is that it can be tough to recognize language-free thought in the first place. "Most people don't know that they engage in unsymbolized thinking," Hurlburt said, "even people who engage in it frequently." And because people are so trapped in our own thoughts and can't directly access the minds of others, it can be tempting to assume that the thought processes that go on inside our own heads are universal. However, some labs, like Fedorenko's, are developing better ways to observe and measure the connection between language and thought. Modern technologies like functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and microscopy give researchers a pretty good picture of which parts of the human brain correspond to different functions; for example, scientists now know that the cerebellum controls balance and posture, while the occipital lobe handles most visual processing. And within these broader lobes, neuroscientists have been able to approximate and map more specific functional regions associated with things like long-term memory, spatial reasoning and speech.

Fedorenko's research takes such brain maps into account and adds an active component. "If language is critical for reasoning, then there should be some overlap in neural resources when you engage in reasoning," she hypothesized. In other words, if language is essential for thinking, brain regions associated with language processing should light up whenever someone uses logic to figure out a problem. To test this claim, she and her team conducted a study in which they gave participants a word-free logic problem to solve, such as a sudoku puzzle or a bit of algebra. Then, the researchers scanned these folks' brains using an fMRI machine as they worked out the puzzle. The researchers found that the regions of the participants' brains associated with language did not light up as they solved the problems; in other words, they were reasoning without words. **Research like Fedorenko's, Hurlburt's and others show that language is not essential for human cognition, which is a particularly important finding for understanding certain neurological conditions, such as aphasia.** "You can kind of take away the language system, and a lot of the reasoning can proceed just fine," Fedorenko said. However, "that's not to say that it wouldn't be easier with language," she noted.

Can we think without using language?

By Joanna Thompson published 5 days ago

Science suggests that words aren't strictly necessary for reasoning.



What goes on inside our own heads when we think

Humans have been expressing thoughts (hundreds) of thousands of years. It's a hard question for scientists once speculated that the capabilities between us and other animals. And we've been thinking thoughts for as long as we could talk.

"The 'penny for your thoughts' kind of question has been around for a long time. Russell Hurlburt, a research psychologist who studies how people formulate thoughts, and other psychologists study the relationship between thoughts and language. Can we think without words? The answer, surprisingly, is yes, several decades of research has found. Hurlburt's studies, for instance, have shown that some people do not have an inner monologue — meaning they don't talk to themselves in their heads, Live Science previously reported. And other research shows that people don't use the language regions of their brain when working on wordless logic problems. For decades, however, scientists thought the answer was no — that intelligent thought was intertwined with our ability to form sentences.

"One prominent claim is that language basically came about to allow us to think more complex thoughts," Evelina Fedorenko, a neuroscientist and researcher at MIT's McGovern Institute, told Live Science. This idea was championed by legendary linguists like **Noam Chomsky** and Jerry Fodor in the mid-20th century, but it has begun to fall out of favor in more recent years, Scientific American reported.

New evidence has prompted researchers to reconsider their old assumptions about how we think and what role language plays in the process. **"Unsymbolized thinking" is a type of cognitive process that occurs without the use of words.** Hurlburt and a colleague coined the term in 2008 in the journal *Consciousness and Cognition*, after conducting decades of research to verify that it was a real phenomenon, Hurlburt said.

Studying language and cognition is notoriously difficult, partly because it's really hard to describe. "People use the same words to describe very different inner experiences," Hurlburt said. For example, someone might use similar words to recount a visual thought about a parade of pink elephants as they would to describe an inner monologue. Another issue is that we often don't know what we thought in the first place. "Most of the time, it's not symbolized thinking," Hurlburt said, and because people are so trapped in their own minds of others, it can be tempting to think that the thoughts inside our own heads are universal. But researchers are developing better ways to observe the brain and thought. Modern technologies like fMRI and microscopy give researchers a window into the human brain corresponding to different functions. We now know that the cerebellum controls movement and balance, and handles most visual processing. And researchers have been able to approximate and describe thoughts with things like long-term

Squirrely Reasoning

Science suggests that words aren't strictly necessary for reasoning.

Going down to rake the leaves under the Orange tree, the other day, I inadvertently interrupted a squirrel munching an Orange on the ground. Startled by my presence, he dropped the Orange, scampered some 15 feet away towards the Avocado tree, paused to turn to look back at me with a miffed expression on his pointy little face -- leaped up in the air a good ten inches and spun around mid-air 270 degrees. With my rake and deft aim I flicked his half-eaten breakfast to land right at his feet. Surprised the squirrel took a few seconds to examine his Orange before gathering it up with great delight and scurried on past the Avocado tree.

to account and adds an active role for language. If, then there should be some over-reliance on language for reasoning," she hypothesized. In other words, if language is essential for thinking, brain regions associated with language processing should light up whenever someone uses logic to figure out a problem. To test this claim, she and her team conducted a study in which they gave participants a word-free logic problem to solve, such as a sudoku puzzle or a bit of algebra. Then, the researchers scanned these folks' brains using an fMRI machine as they worked out the puzzle. The researchers found that the regions of the participants' brains associated with language did not light up as they solved the problems; in other words, they were reasoning without words. **Research like Fedorenko's, Hurlburt's and others show that language is not essential for human cognition, which is a particularly important finding for understanding certain neurological conditions, such as aphasia.** "You can kind of take away the language system, and a lot of the reasoning can proceed just fine," Fedorenko said. However, "that's not to say that it wouldn't be easier with language," she noted.

View reactions to the Roe v. Wade decision across the U.S.

Updated June 24, 2022 · 9:11 PM ET

GRACE WIDYATMADJA CATIE DULL  ESTEFANIA MITRE   WYNNE DAVIS  



An abortion rights demonstrator outside the Supreme Court on Friday.
Dee Dwyer for NPR

View reactions to the Roe v. Wade decision across the U.S.

Updated June 24, 2022 · 9:11 PM ET

GRACE WIDYATMADJA CATIE DULL  ESTEFANIA MITRE   WYNNE DAVIS  



Anti-abortion campaigners outside the Supreme Court in D.C. on Friday.

Olivier Douliery/AFP via Getty Images

View reactions to the Roe v. Wade decision across the U.S.

Updated June 24, 2022 · 9:11 PM ET

GRACE WIDYATMADJA CATIE DULL  ESTEFANIA MITRE   WYNNE DAVIS  



Civil rights lawyer Elizabeth White screams "no justice, no peace."

Tyrone Turner for NPR

View reactions to the Roe v. Wade decision across the U.S.

Updated June 24, 2022 - 9:11 PM ET

GRACE WIDYATMADJA CATIE DULL ESTEFANIA MITRE WYNNE DAVIS



Anti-abortion protesters celebrate in D.C. following the court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.
Dee Dwyer for NPR

View reactions to the Roe v. Wade decision across the U.S.

Updated June 24, 2022 · 9:11 PM ET

GRACE WIDYATMADJA CATIE DULL ESTEFANIA MITRE WYNNE DAVIS



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., speaks to abortion rights activists following the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling, in D.C. on Friday.
Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., at the Supreme Court.
Tyronne Turner for NPR

'Total bloodbath': Witnesses describe Ethiopia ethnic attack

today



NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The heavily armed men appeared around the small farming village in Ethiopia's Oromia region, frightening residents already on edge after recent clashes between government troops and rebels.

"The militants assured us that they will not touch us. They said they are not after us," resident Nur Hussein Abdi told The Associated Press. "But in reality, they were surrounding our whole village for a deadly massacre. What happened the next day was a total bloodbath."

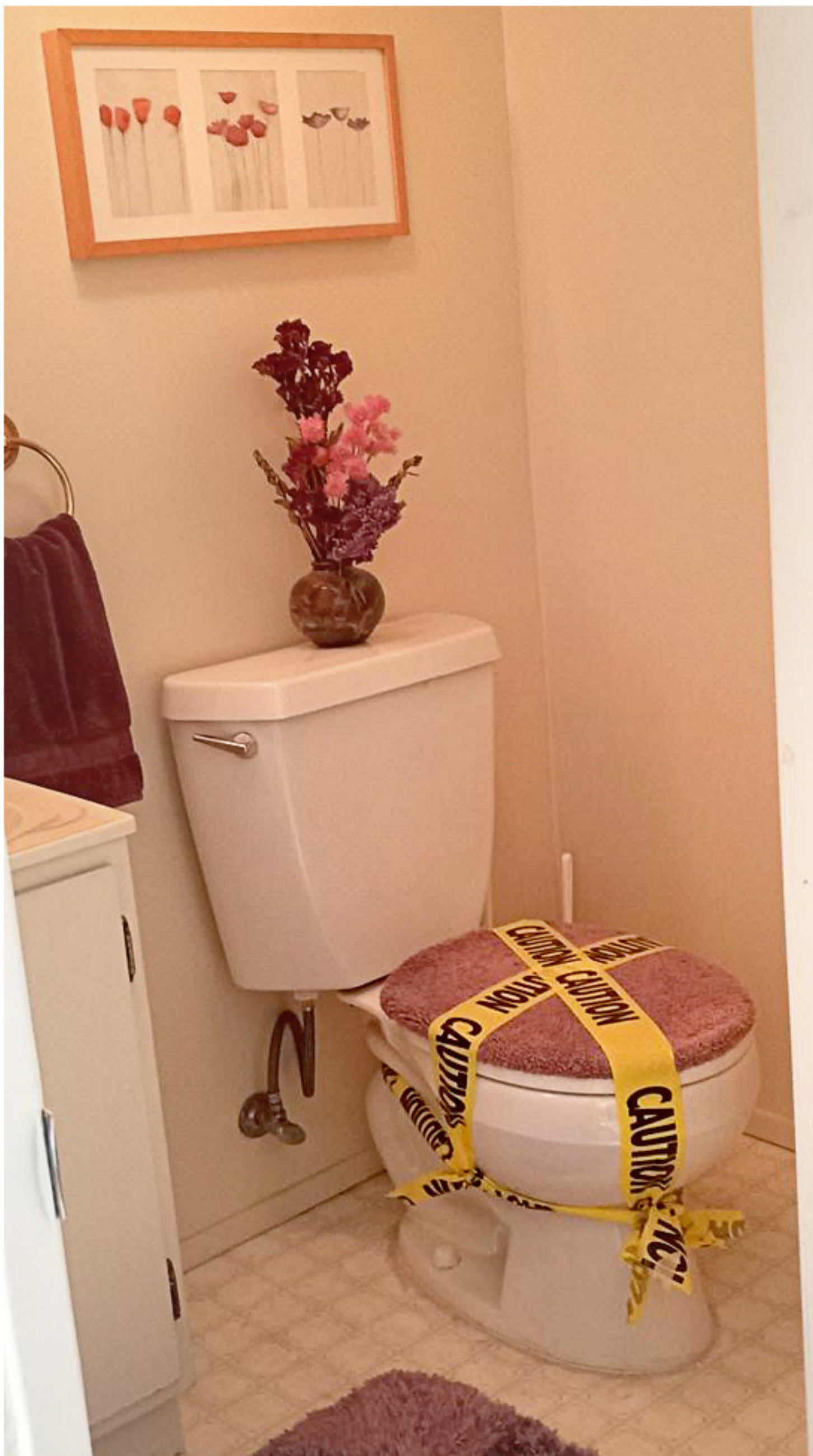
Abdi escaped by hiding on a rooftop, a horrified witness to one of the worst mass killings in Ethiopia in recent years. Hundreds of people, mostly ethnic Amhara, were slaughtered in Tole village and the surroundings on June 18 in the latest explosion of ethnic violence in Africa's second most populous nation.

Multiple witnesses told the AP they are still discovering bodies, with some put in mass graves containing scores of people. The Amhara Association of America said it has confirmed 503 civilians killed. Ethiopian authorities have not released figures. One witness, Mohammed Kemal, said he has witnessed 430 bodies buried, and others are still exposed and decomposing.

Nur Hussein said he and other Tole villagers had called nearby officials about the appearance of the armed men shortly before the violence exploded. "Their response was muted. They said there were no specific threats to respond to. But look at what unfolded," he said. "God willing, we will get past this, but it is a scar that will live with us forever."

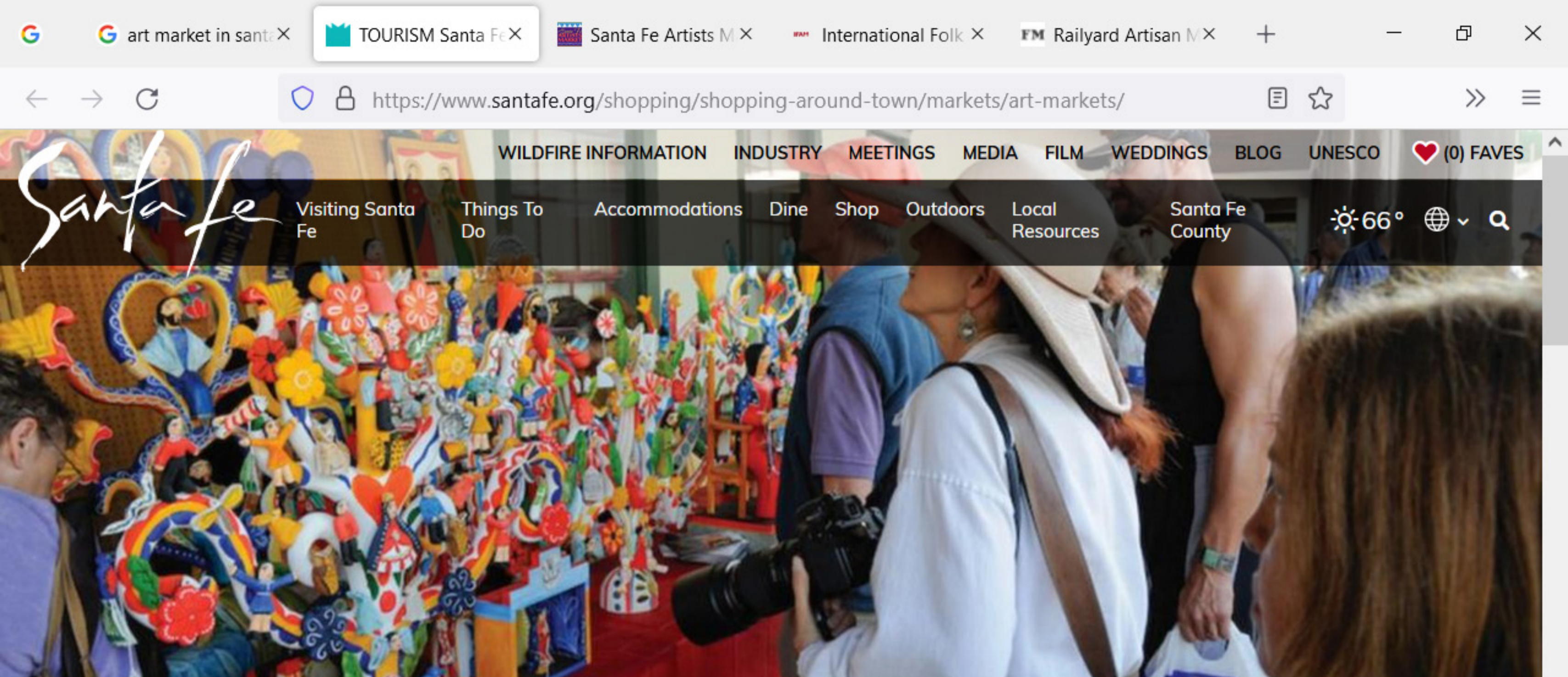
Hundreds of people were slaughtered in a village and its surroundings this month in the latest explosion of ethnic violence in Ethiopia. (AP Graphic)

AP



"It's your house, I just live here."

The sewage line on my wife's healing office toilet burst.
This is the landlady's solution.
She's not going to repair it.
Too much work.
And she's trying to push us out.
She wants to sell the place.



SANTA FE ART MARKETS

Santa Fe's art community spans generations, from some of the best and most prestigious art markets in the world to an eclectic mix of galleries. The City Different's rich history and modern flair are on full display at our annual art markets, from July's **International Folk Art Market** and the vibrant **Spanish Market** to the celebration of Santa Fe's native history at the **Indian Market** in August.

Plan your visit to experience the authenticity, richness and variety Santa Fe's summer art markets offer, and be sure to find a one-of-a-kind treasure in our galleries year-round.



SWAIA
No physical location.
Visit website for more information
Quick View



Antique American Indian Art Show Santa Fe
555 Camino de la Familia
Quick View



Art Santa Fe
201 W. Marcy Street
Quick View



El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe
555 Camino de la Familia
Quick View



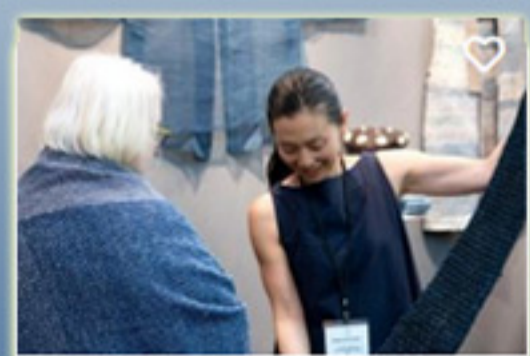
International Folk Art Market
620 Cerrillos Rd
Quick View



Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival
201 W. Marcy Street
Quick View



Traditional Spanish Market
100 Old Santa Fe Trail
Quick View



Objects of Art
555 Camino de la Familia
Quick View



Pop Up Santa Fe
1616 Old Pecos Trail Santa Fe NM 87505
Quick View



Santa Fe Artists Market
Railyard
Quick View



Railyard Artisan Market
1607 Paseo de Peralta Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Quick View



Santa Fe Farmers' Market
1607 Paseo de Peralta
Quick View



[Best Cities](#) [Budget Conscious](#)

02.3.2021

By [Ashley Singleton](#)

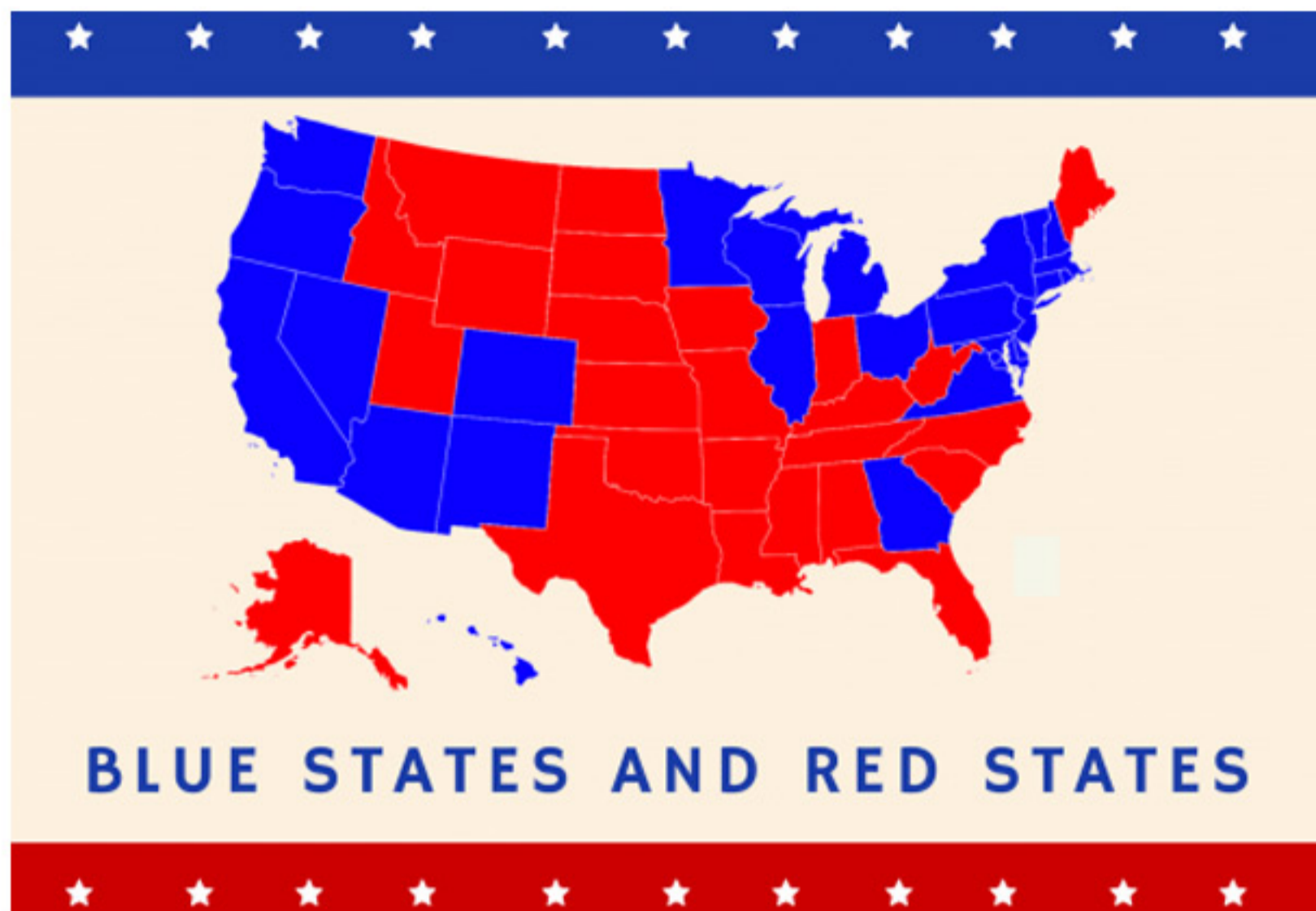
1. Turlock
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,013
Rent change in the past year: **-0.67%**

Turlock, otherwise known as the "Heart of the Valley" for its agriculture, is the cheapest city to live in California. It has a small-town feel and affordable living. You can rent a one-bedroom apartment for roughly \$1,000 a month.

2. Lodi
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,219
Rent change in the past year: **-3.71%**

Set between San Francisco and the Sierra Nevada Mountains lies Lodi wine country. Lodi is one of the fastest-growing wine destinations in California. It's also known as the "Watermelon Capital of the Country," due to the number of watermelons that grow here.

3. Fresno
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,113
Rent change in the past year: **-10.84%**
4. Merced
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,116
Rent change in the past year: **-14.97%**
5. Stockton
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,122
Rent change in the past year: **-13.32%**
6. Bakersfield
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,170
Rent change in the past year: 7.84%
7. Hemet
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,219
Rent change in the past year: 11.33%
8. Rancho Cordova
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,235
Rent change in the past year: -14.50%
9. Carmichael
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,243
Rent change in the past year: -5.01%
10. San Bernardino
Average one-bedroom rent price: \$1,257
Rent change in the past year: 3.67%



Last Updated: 10 May 2022

Starting in the 2000 United States presidential election, the terms "red state" and "blue state" have referred to U.S. states whose voters predominantly vote for one party—the Republican Party in red states and the Democratic Party in blue states—in presidential and other statewide elections. Since then, the terms have expanded to differentiate between states perceived as conservative and those perceived as liberal. [not verified in body] **Examining patterns within states reveals that the reversal of the two parties' geographic bases has happened at the state level, but it is more complicated locally, with urban-rural divides associated with many of the largest changes.**

All states contain considerable amounts of both liberal and conservative voters (i.e., they are "purple") and only appear blue or red on the electoral map because of the winner-take-all system used by most states in the Electoral College. However, the perception of some states as "blue" and some as "red" was reinforced by a degree of partisan stability from election to election—from the 2000 election to the 2004 election, only three states changed "color" and as of 2020, fully 35 out of 50 states have voted for the same party in every presidential election since the red-blue terminology was popularized in 2000, with 10 swing states as of the 2020 election. Although many red states and blue states stay in the same categorical placement for sometime, they may also switch from blue to red or from red to blue—over time, spanning many years.

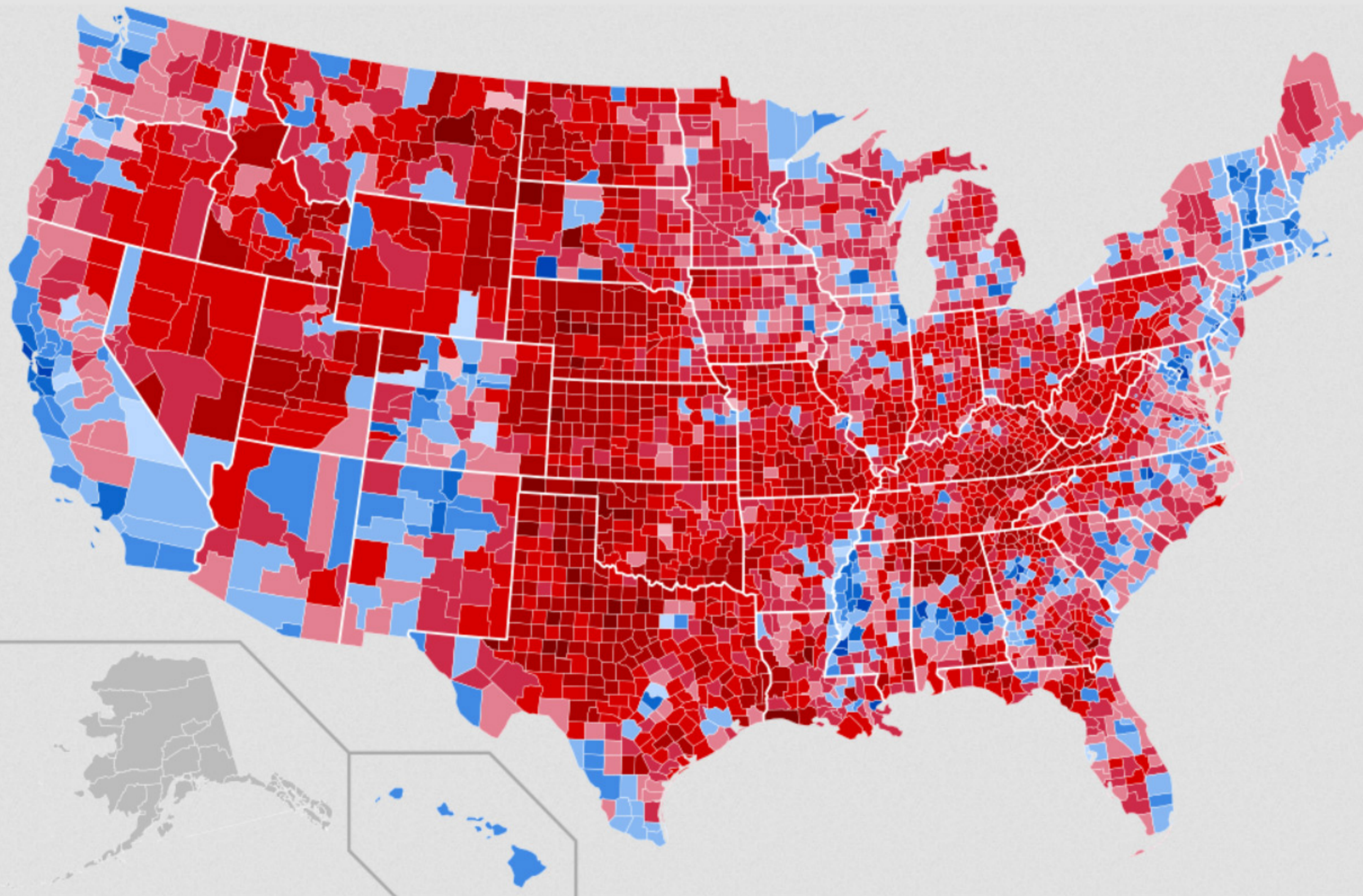
List Of Blue States And Red States

No.	Blue States	No.	Red States
1	Arizona	1	Alabama
2	California	2	Alaska
3	Colorado	3	Arkansas
4	Connecticut	4	Florida
5	Delaware	5	Idaho
6	Georgia	6	Indiana
7	Hawaii	7	Iowa
8	Illinois	8	Kansas
9	Maine	9	Kentucky
10	Maryland	10	Louisiana
11	Massachusetts	11	Mississippi
12	Michigan	12	Missouri
13	Minnesota	13	Montana
14	Nevada	14	Nebraska
15	New Hampshire	15	North Carolina
16	New Jersey	16	North Dakota
17	New Mexico	17	Ohio
18	New York	18	Oklahoma
19	Oregon	19	South Carolina
20	Pennsylvania	20	South Dakota
21	Rhode Island	21	Tennessee
22	Vermont	22	Texas
23	Virginia	23	Utah
24	Washington	24	West Virginia
25	Wisconsin	25	Wyoming

2020 US Presidential Election Map By County & Vote Share

December 3, 2020

The map above shows the county level and vote share results of the 2020 US Presidential Election. The darker the blue the more a county went for Joe Biden and the darker the red the more the county went for Donald Trump.



The New York Times

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1/WEEK LOG IN

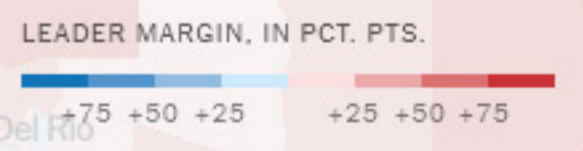
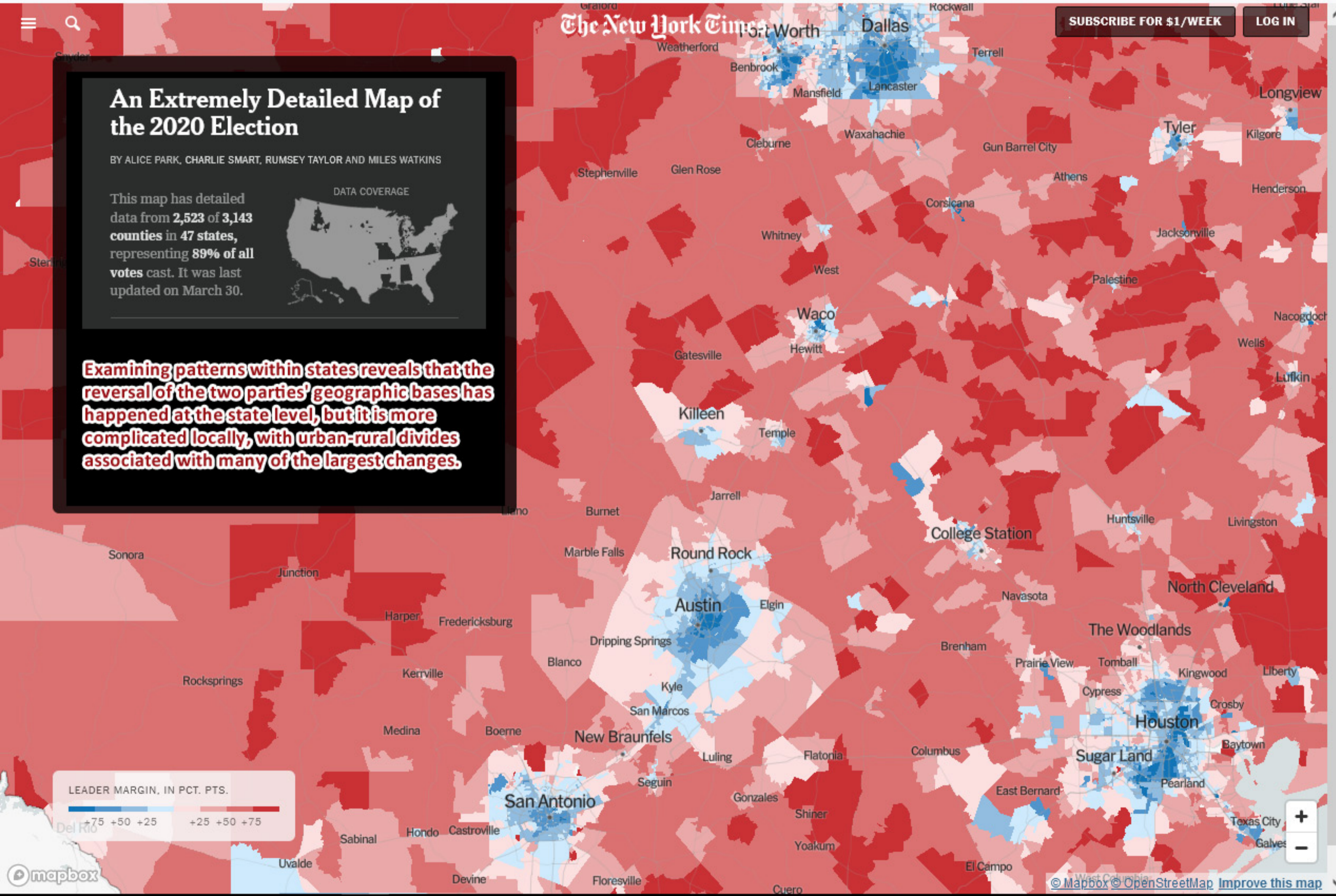
An Extremely Detailed Map of the 2020 Election

BY ALICE PARK, CHARLIE SMART, RUMSEY TAYLOR AND MILES WATKINS

This map has detailed data from **2,523** of **3,143** counties in **47** states, representing **89%** of all votes cast. It was last updated on March 30.



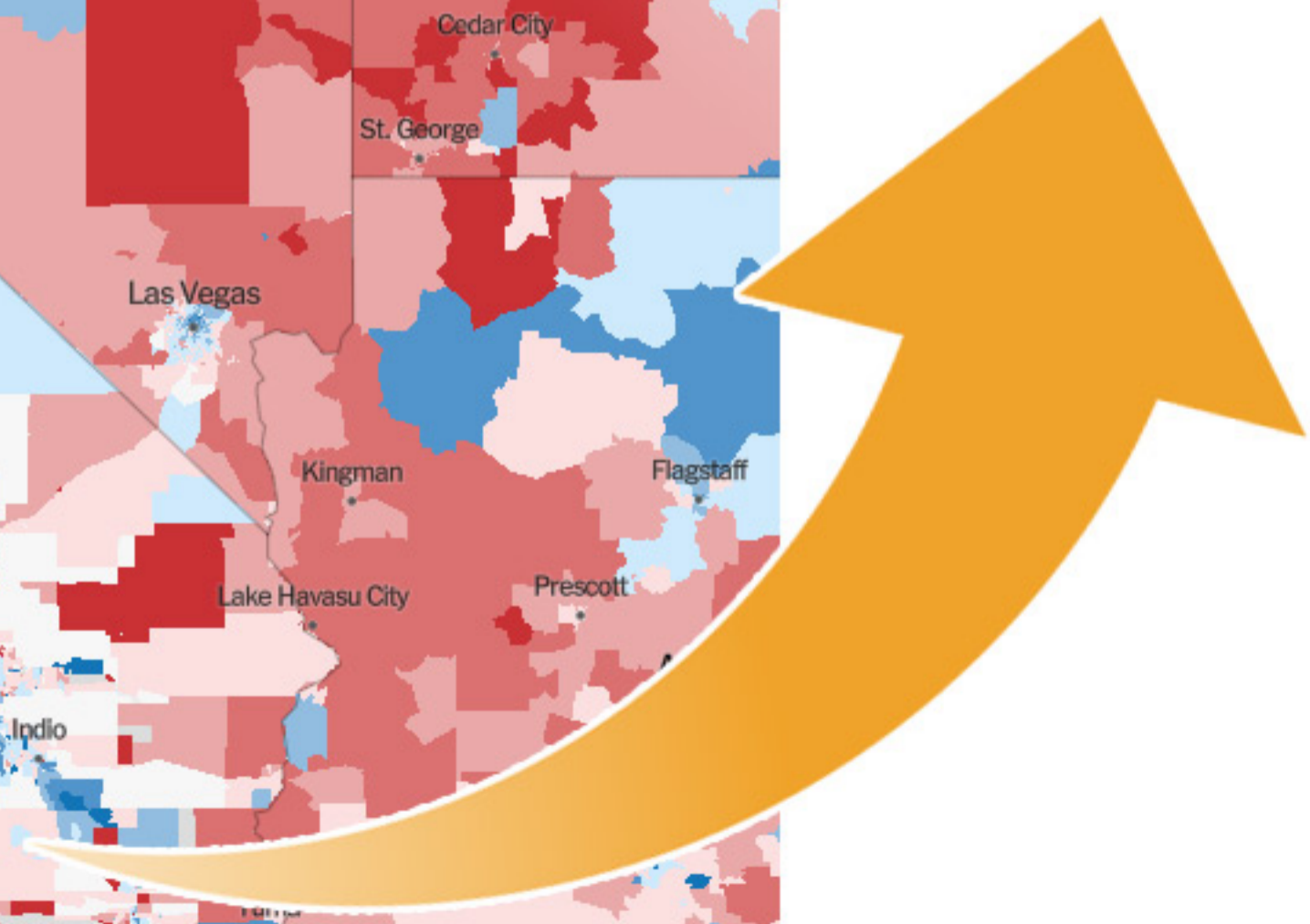
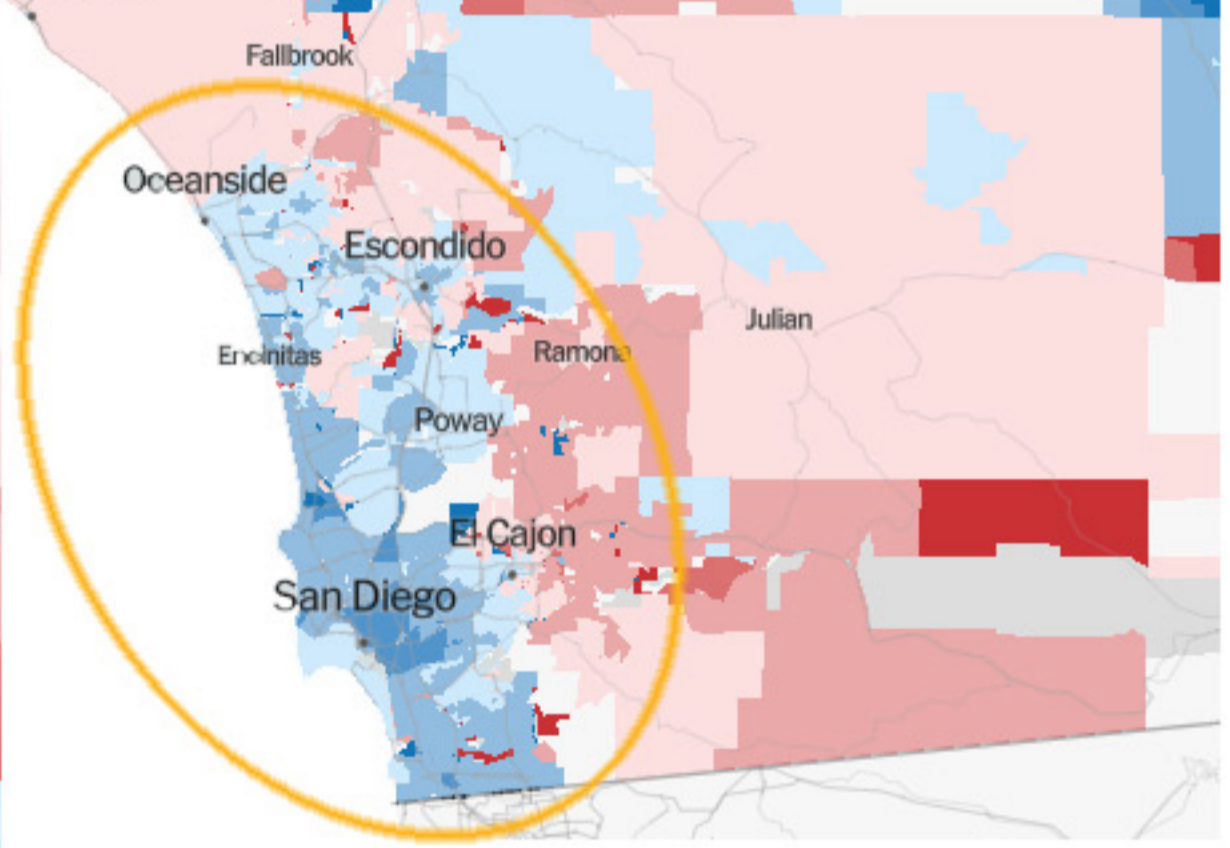
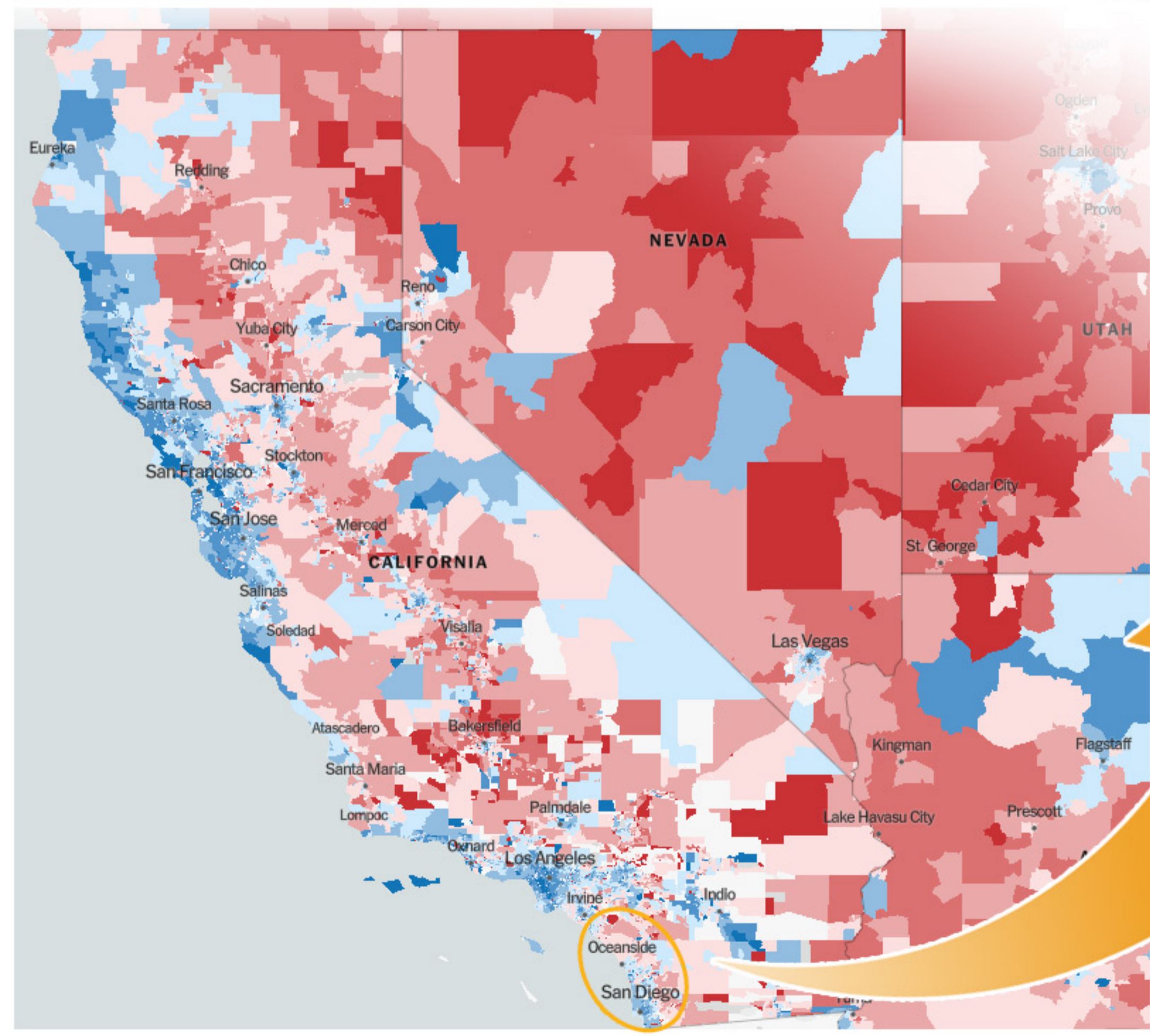
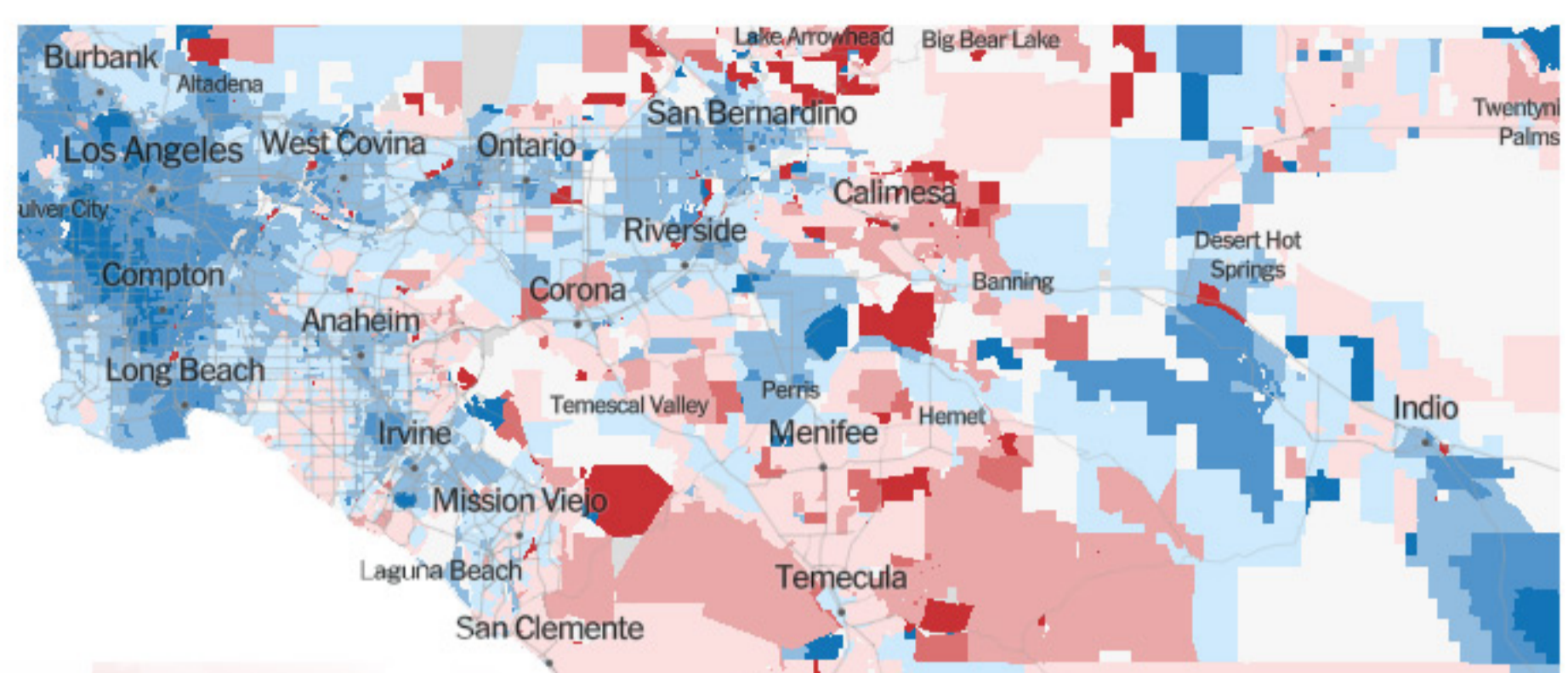
Examining patterns within states reveals that the reversal of the two parties' geographic bases has happened at the state level, but it is more complicated locally, with urban-rural divides associated with many of the largest changes.



An Extremely Detailed Map of the 2020 Election

BY ALICE PARK, CHARLIE SMART, RUMSEY TAYLOR AND MILES WATKINS

This map has detailed data from **2,523** of **3,143** counties in **47** states, representing **89%** of all votes cast. It was last updated on March 30.



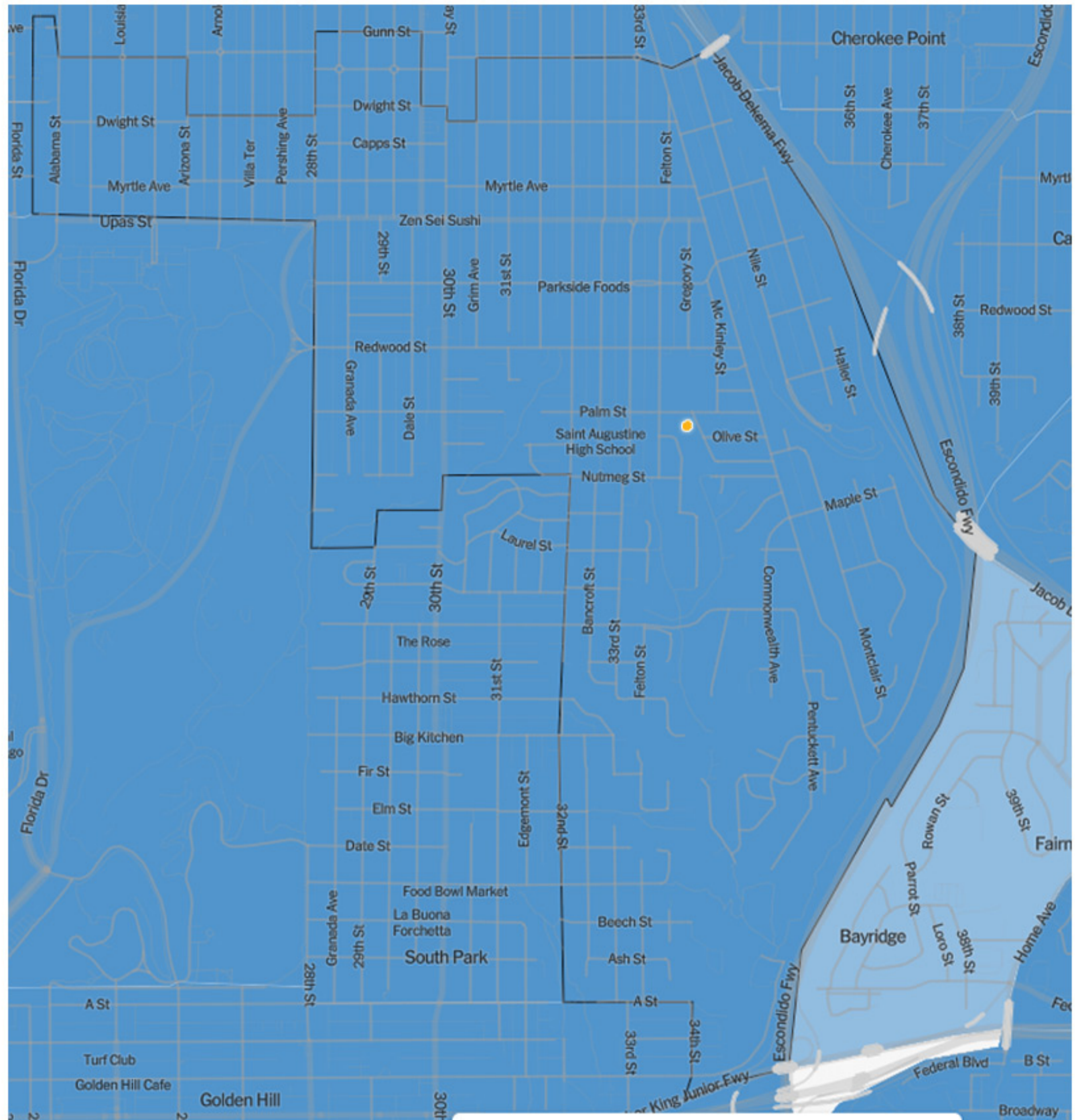
An Extremely Detailed Map of the 2020 Election

BY ALICE PARK, CHARLIE SMART, RUMSEY TAYLOR AND MILES WATKINS

This map has detailed data from **2,523** of **3,143** counties in **47** states, representing **89%** of all votes cast. It was last updated on March 30.



- 2822 Gregory St., San Diego, CA 92104 in a precinct which is 81.82% Blue



CANDIDATE	VOTES	PCT.	2020 MARGIN
● Joseph R. Biden	7,547	83%	+69 Biden
● Donald J. Trump	1,318	15%	

America Is Growing Apart, Possibly for Good

The great “convergence” of the mid-20th century may have been an anomaly.

By Ronald Brownstein



JUNE 24, 2022

Michael Podhorzer

@Mike_AFL

Washington, DC aflcio.org

1,005 Following 3,332 Followers

It may be time to stop talking about “red” and “blue” America. That’s the provocative conclusion of **Michael Podhorzer, a longtime political strategist for labor unions and the chair of the Analyst Institute, a collaborative of progressive groups that studies elections.** In a private newsletter that he writes for a small group of activists, Podhorzer recently laid out a detailed case for thinking of the two blocs as fundamentally different nations uneasily sharing the same geographic space.

“When we think about the United States, we make the essential error of imagining it as a single nation, a marbled mix of Red and Blue people,” Podhorzer writes. “But in truth, we have never been one nation. We are more like a federated republic of two nations: Blue Nation and Red Nation. This is not a metaphor; it is a geographic and historical reality.”

To Podhorzer, the growing divisions between red and blue states represent a reversion to the lines of separation through much of the nation’s history. The differences among states in the Donald Trump era, he writes, are “very similar, both geographically and culturally, to the divides between the Union and the Confederacy. And those dividing lines were largely set at the nation’s founding, when slave states and free states forged an uneasy alliance to become ‘one nation.’”

Podhorzer isn’t predicting another civil war, exactly. But he’s warning that the pressure on the country’s fundamental cohesion is likely to continue ratcheting up in the 2020s. Like other analysts who study democracy, he views the Trump faction that now dominates the Republican Party—what he terms the “MAGA movement”—as the U.S. equivalent to the authoritarian parties in places such as Hungary and Venezuela. It is a multipronged, fundamentally antidemocratic movement that has built a solidifying base of institutional support through conservative media networks, evangelical churches, wealthy Republican donors, GOP elected officials, paramilitary white-nationalist groups, and a mass public following. And it is determined to impose its policy and social vision on the entire country—with or without majority support. “The structural attacks on our institutions that paved the way for Trump’s candidacy will continue to progress,” Podhorzer argues, “with or without him at the helm.”

All of this is fueling what I’ve called “the great divergence” now under way between red and blue states. This divergence itself creates enormous strain on the country’s cohesion, but more and more even that looks like only a way station. What’s becoming clearer over time is that the Trump-era GOP is hoping to use its electoral dominance of the red states, the small-state bias in the Electoral College and the Senate, and the GOP-appointed majority on the Supreme Court to impose its economic and social model on the entire nation—with or without majority public support. As measured on fronts including the January 6 insurrection, the procession of Republican 2020 election deniers running for offices that would provide them with control over the 2024 electoral machinery, and the systematic advance of a Republican agenda by the Supreme Court, the underlying political question of the 2020s remains whether majority rule—and democracy as we’ve known it—can survive this offensive.

To Podhorzer, the growing separation means that after the period of fading distinctions, bedrock differences dating back to the country’s founding are resurfacing. And one crucial element of that, he argues, is the return of what he calls “one-party rule in the red nation.”

It seems unlikely that the Trump-era Republicans installing the policy priorities of their preponderantly white and Christian coalition across the red states will be satisfied just setting the rules in the places now under their control. Podhorzer, like Mason and Grumbach, believes that the MAGA movement’s long-term goal is to tilt the electoral rules in enough states to make winning Congress or the White House almost impossible for Democrats. Then, with support from the GOP-appointed majority on the Supreme Court, Republicans could impose red-state values and programs nationwide, even if most Americans oppose them. The “MAGA movement is not stopping at the borders of the states it already controls,” Podhorzer writes. “It seeks to conquer as much territory as possible by any means possible.”

The Trump model, in other words, is more the South in 1850 than the South in 1950, more John Calhoun than Richard Russell. (Some red-state Republicans are even distantly echoing Calhoun in promising to nullify—that is, defy—federal laws with which they disagree.) That doesn’t mean that Americans are condemned to fight one another again as they did after the 1850s. But it does mean that the 2020s may bring the greatest threats to the country’s basic stability since those dark and tumultuous years.









David Liittschwager, a photographer for National Geographic, spent 12 years photographing octopuses, seahorses and jellyfish at more than 28 locations around the globe with his portable 500-pound photo studio.

Japan's Sapporo Buying Stone Brewing, San Diego's Largest Craft Brewery



by Chris Jennewein

1 day ago



Stone and Sapporo beers in brewery. Courtesy photo

Stone Brewing, San Diego's largest and best-known craft brewery, said Friday it will be acquired by Japan's Sapporo in move to increase both companies' production capacity and distribution.

The two brewers said the "east-meets-west" merger would combine "Japanese artistry" with "American craft brewing tradition." The deal is reportedly worth \$165 million.

Sapporo, founded in 1879, will produce its beer alongside Stone's brands in Escondido and Richmond, VA, and invest in those facilities to double output.

Stone will continue to operate its seven Tap Rooms and World Bistro & Gardens destinations with existing branding, management and workforce under the Sapporo umbrella.

"This is the right next chapter for Stone Brewing," said Greg Koch, co-founder and executive chairman. "For 26 years, our amazing team has worked tirelessly to brew beers that have set trends and redefined expectations.

Get Times of San Diego Daily by Email

By clicking subscribe, you agree to share your email address with Times of San Diego to receive a free newsletter with the latest local news delivered at 8 a.m. daily. You can opt out at any time via an unsubscribe link.

"To have the interest of a company like Sapporo in continuing the Stone story is a testament to the great beers we've created and will continue to create for our fans across the globe," Koch said.

Kenny Sadai, chairman of Sapporo U.S.A., said Stone was the "ideal partner" for the Japanese company's growth plans.

"This acquisition puts the resources and legacy of the largest Asian beer brand in America together with one of the most innovative and recognized craft beer brands in the world," Sadai said. "It's a perfect fusion of east meets west that is an ideal marriage for Sapporo's long-term growth strategy in the U.S."

The San Diego brewery is the second acquisition in the growing craft brew segment by Sapporo following the purchase of Anchor Brewing in 2017.

Stone Distributing Co., Stone's distribution business, is not part of the sale, and will become an independent company under current ownership. It will continue to will continue to serve the Southern California market with a portfolio of 42 distinctive craft brands.



The reason Japan attacked Pearl Harbor

3,808,880 views • Nov 10, 2021

Japan attacked the U.S Pacific Fleet at its base at Pearl Harbor on the 7th of December 1941, but what led to that decision? Why did the Japanese attack the USA? - The answer is oil.

Japan had been modernising its economy throughout the 20th century and wanted to build an empire of its own. However, Japan lacked the natural resources to make it a reality, with all but 6% of its oil supply being imported. After capturing Manchuria, Japan became bogged down in a full-scale war with China in 1937 and had to look elsewhere for the resources it needed to fight. Meanwhile, the USA was slowly awakening from its isolationism.

When Japan occupied French Indochina in 1941, America retaliated by freezing all Japanese assets in the states, preventing Japan from purchasing oil. Having lost 94% of its oil supply and unwilling to submit to U.S demands, Japan planned to take the oil needed by force. However, striking south into British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies would almost certainly provoke an armed U.S response. To blunt that response, Japan decided to attack the U.S Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, hoping that the U.S would negotiate peace.

The attack at Pearl Harbor was a huge gamble, but one which did not pay off. Though Japan took its objectives in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, the U.S did not respond as expected. Instead of reverting to isolationism, the U.S geared up for total war and Japan's fate was sealed.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan#Modern_era

The early 20th century saw a period of Taishō democracy (1912–1926) overshadowed by increasing expansionism and militarization. World War I allowed Japan, which joined the side of the victorious Allies, to capture German possessions in the Pacific and in China. The 1920s saw a political shift towards statism, a period of lawlessness following the 1923 Great Tokyo Earthquake, the passing of laws against political dissent, and a series of attempted coups. This process accelerated during the 1930s, spawning a number of radical nationalist groups that shared a hostility to liberal democracy and a dedication to expansion in Asia. In 1931, Japan invaded and occupied Manchuria; following international condemnation of the occupation, it resigned from the League of Nations two years later. In 1936, Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Nazi Germany; the 1940 Tripartite Pact made it one of the Axis Powers.

The Empire of Japan invaded other parts of China in 1937, precipitating the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945). **In 1940, the Empire invaded French Indochina, after which the United States placed an oil embargo on Japan. On December 7–8, 1941, Japanese forces carried out surprise attacks on Pearl Harbor, as well as on British forces in Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong, among others, beginning World War II in the Pacific.** Throughout areas occupied by Japan during the war, numerous abuses were committed against local inhabitants, with many forced into sexual slavery. After Allied victories during the next four years, which culminated in the Soviet invasion of Manchuria and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, Japan agreed to an unconditional surrender. The war cost Japan its colonies and millions of lives. The Allies (led by the United States) repatriated millions of Japanese settlers from their former colonies and military camps throughout Asia, largely eliminating the Japanese empire and its influence over the territories it conquered. The Allies convened the International Military Tribunal for the Far East to prosecute Japanese leaders for war crimes.

In 1947, Japan adopted a new constitution emphasizing liberal democratic practices. The Allied occupation ended with the Treaty of San Francisco in 1952, and Japan was granted membership in the United Nations in 1956. A period of record growth propelled Japan to become the second-largest economy in the world; this ended in the mid-1990s after the popping of an asset price bubble, beginning the "Lost Decade". On March 11, 2011, Japan suffered one of the largest earthquakes in its recorded history, triggering the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. On May 1, 2019, after the historic abdication of Emperor Akihito, his son Naruhito became Emperor, beginning the Reiwa era.

Some of the country's richest people try to influence the Illinois race for governor

June 27, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

DAVE MCKINNEY



Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker speaks during a transgender support rally at Federal Building Plaza on April 27, 2022 in Chicago. Pritzker, a Democrat, is up for reelection in November.

CHICAGO - Voters in Illinois are seeing first-hand what money can buy when it comes to political office. **Three different mega-donors are spending tens of millions of dollars to try to influence the outcome of the Republican primary for Illinois governor in Tuesday's election.**

One is billionaire Democratic incumbent Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, but he hasn't been spending millions of his personal wealth all on his own campaign. He and the Democratic Governors Association have been attempting to help ultraconservative GOP Illinois State Sen. Darren Bailey who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump Saturday.

Pritzker's and the DGA's strategy appears to be that Bailey would be one of the easier Republican candidates to beat in November's election, with their ads echoing that Bailey's policies "are just too conservative for Illinois."

It's not uncommon for one party to get involved in the other's primary, but it doesn't always work.

Richard Irvin backed by Ken Griffin: Traditionally, Illinois GOP voters support more moderate Republicans who fit the mold of someone more like Richard Irvin. Irvin is the mayor of the Chicago suburb of Aurora — once made famous as the home of Wayne Campbell in Saturday Night Live's sketch "Wayne's World". Irvin had all the makings of running a highly competitive campaign in November thanks in large part to the \$50 million dollars Chicago billionaire Ken Griffin contributed to him. Griffin founded and runs the hedge fund firm Citadel.

It appears Irvin hasn't passed the Republican litmus test: He hasn't said what he would do now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned Roe v. Wade. He also refuses to say whether he supported Donald Trump. In fact, Irvin has deflected questions about Trump as if he's being set up by Democrats, even though polling has shown a majority of Illinois GOP primary voters want to know the answer to that question. "I'm not gonna fall into the trap of JB Pritzker talking about what he thinks we should be talking about," Irvin has told reporters who have asked him to weigh in on the former president.

More recently, Irvin has pivoted in how he talks about his candidacy, making the case that a hard-right candidate like Darren Bailey cannot beat Pritzker come November. "A vote for Darren Bailey is a vote for JB Pritzker," Irvin has repeatedly said.

It's a wager that Pritzker himself is willing to bet big on.



Darren Bailey, Illinois state Senator and Republican candidate for governor, speaks alongside former President Donald Trump on Saturday, June 25, 2022, during a rally at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Mendon, Ill. Trump has endorsed Bailey in the race.

Brian Munoz/St. Louis Public Radio

WORLD

Biden announced a \$600 billion global infrastructure program to counter China's clout

June 26, 2022 · 1:38 PM ET



TAMARA KEITH



President Biden appears with other G7 leaders on Sunday, as a summit at Elmau Castle in the German Alps gets underway. Biden announced a \$200 billion U.S. investment as part of a global infrastructure project by major democracies to counter China's investments in developing countries.

Investments include the following:

- \$2 billion for a **solar** project in Angola, including solar mini-grids, home power kits and solar to power telecommunications
- \$600 million for a U.S. company to build a submarine **telecommunications** cable that will connect Singapore to France through Egypt and the Horn of Africa, delivering high speed internet
- Up to \$50 million from the U.S. to the World Bank's **Childcare Incentive Fund**, which is also getting support from Canada, Australia and numerous foundations
- \$3.3 million in technical assistance from the U.S. to the Institut Pasteur de Dakar for development of an industrial-scale, multi-**vaccine** manufacturing facility in Senegal that could produce COVID-19 vaccines and others, in partnership with other G7 nations and the EU

President Biden announced on Sunday that the U.S. will mobilize \$200 billion dollars of investment in global infrastructure projects in the next five years, as part of an effort by the world's leading democratic economies to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative. The overall investment, including G7 partners and private capital, aims to hit \$600 billion over the next five years.

"This isn't aid or charity," Biden said, flanked by other G7 leaders on the sidelines of the summit in Germany. "It's an investment that will deliver returns for everyone, including the American people and the people of all our nations."

The announcement is an official launch and a rebranding of what had been rolled out last year at the G7 in the UK as "Build Back Better World," a play on Biden's domestic proposal that would have reshaped the U.S. economy but foundered in Congress. The effort is now called the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, or PGII.

For nearly a decade, China has been focused on bridges, road, mining and other hard infrastructure projects in the developing world, which has been estimated at \$1 trillion in total spending, though the true amount could be higher. The G7 initiative is funding projects in four major categories: clean energy, health systems, gender equality and information and communications technology.

The idea is to combine government funding with private capital from pension funds, private equity funds and insurance funds, among others.

"The public sector alone will not be able to close the huge gap we face in many parts of the world," said German Chancellor Olaf Scholz during his remarks at the launch event.

The idea of harnessing private investment to supplement public funding for needed projects in the developing world is not new. Neither is concern from leading democracies about China's growing influence in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But thus far, the results have been mixed at best, says Gyude Moore, a former minister of public works in Liberia.

"For close to a decade the West has struggled to respond to China's [Belt and Road Initiative]. Their sharp critique of Chinese loans and lending practices was not accompanied by a credible alternative," Moore said.

Robeks Fresh Juices & Smoothies
1025 Camino De La Reina, Mission Valley, CA 92108



Accounting giant Ernst & Young admits its employees cheated on ethics exams

June 28, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET

JACQUELINE GANUN



Ernst & Young, one of the "big four" accounting firms, was fined \$100 million by the SEC.

Gabriel Bouys/AFP via Getty Images

Ernst & Young, one of the top accounting firms in the world, is being fined \$100 million by federal regulators after admitting its employees cheated on their ethics exams.

For years, the firm's auditors had cheated to pass key exams that are needed for certified public accountant licenses, the Securities and Exchange Commission found. Ernst & Young also had internal reports about the cheating but didn't disclose the wrongdoing to regulators during the investigation.

"It's simply outrageous that the very professionals responsible for catching cheating by clients cheated on ethics exams of all things," Gurbir S. Grewal, director of the SEC's Enforcement Division, said in a release.

The fine is the largest penalty ever imposed by the SEC on an audit firm.

The CPA, or certified public accountant, licenses are needed by auditors to evaluate the financial statements of companies and ensure they are complying with laws.

However, the SEC says that a "significant number" of Ernst & Young audit professionals specifically cheated on the ethics component of the CPA exams that were required for their accounting jobs.

Audit firms serve a critical gatekeeping role in the financial markets and it is their jobs to ensure integrity of the financial reporting done by companies. It's why the independence and integrity of these firms are paramount.

Because it's their job to hold others accountable, Ernst & Young — one of the "big four" accounting firms — says it holds itself to a high standard of ethics. In fact, the firm's entire global code of conduct is based on an "ethical" framework.

Many of the employees interviewed during the federal investigation said they knew cheating was a violation of the company's code of conduct but did it anyway because of work commitments or the fact that they couldn't pass training exams after multiple tries.

The SEC said that the cheating went on for many years, going back to 2012. Following the discovery of an earlier cheating scheme, the firm took disciplinary actions and repeatedly warned its audit professionals not to cheat on exams. Still, the cheating continued.

Along with paying the \$100 million fine, Ernst & Young has to audit itself and report the findings to the SEC, including an assessment of its ethics and integrity training. It'll also be reviewed by independent consultants that the firm will have to pay for.

The cheating scandal comes just a couple of weeks after the Financial Times reported that Ernst & Young is planning to split its auditing and consulting arms, a huge shakeup in the accounting world that would award its partners up to \$8 million in shares each.

Frustration at Biden and other Democrats grows among abortion-rights supporters

June 28, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



DANIELLE KURTZLEBEN



Abortion rights demonstrator Elizabeth White leads a chant in response to the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 24, 2022.

The rage among pro-abortion-rights protesters in front of the Supreme Court over the weekend was palpable. Plenty of that anger was aimed at the high court, but there was also quite a bit reserved for Democrats.

"I'm not hopeful at this point that this is something that will be federally protected. I have as little faith in Democrats at this point as I did in Republicans," Carolyn Yunker said Saturday. She traveled down to the court from her home in D.C.'s Maryland suburbs. "Democrats have used this for 50 years to fundraise. They had opportunities to codify Roe," she said. "They chose not to because being the pro-choice candidate in an election helps you raise money. And frankly, I'm pretty disgusted with a lot of our representatives right now."

The rage among pro-abortion-rights protesters in front of the Supreme Court over the weekend was palpable. Plenty of that anger was aimed at the high court, but there was also quite a bit reserved for Democrats.

"I'm not hopeful at this point that this is something that will be federally protected. I have as little faith in Democrats at this point as I did in Republicans," Carolyn Yunker said Saturday. She traveled down to the court from her home in D.C.'s Maryland suburbs.

"Democrats have used this for 50 years to fundraise. They had opportunities to codify Roe," she said. "They chose not to because being the pro-choice candidate in an election helps you raise money. And frankly, I'm pretty disgusted with a lot of our representatives right now."

Since the May leak of Justice Samuel Alito's draft opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Democrats' main message to their voters has been that abortion is on the ballot in November. But many who support abortion rights have been voting, and, like Yunker, they're frustrated that electing Democrats hasn't produced more results.

Stalled in the Senate

In the fall, House Democrats did pass a bill that would have made Roe's protections federal law. But it failed in the Senate in May, where it would need 60 votes to overcome a filibuster. Some abortion rights supporters want the Senate to blow up the filibuster, but Democrats haven't unified behind that idea, and President Joe Biden hasn't pushed for it. He has also resisted calls to expand the court. Biden is the leader of the party that supports abortion rights, but since the ruling, his visibility as part of the response has been limited. Immediately after the ruling, he gave a statement, but the White House also canceled the daily press briefing, and he left for a major summit in Europe.

His fellow Democrats are not satisfied. Over the weekend, 34 senators urged Biden in a letter to lead a national response. White House official emphasized that the administration will support medication abortion and cited dozens of discussions with abortion-rights stakeholders. The White House also says policy action is coming this week.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday afternoon that House Democrats are exploring legislation to protect data on period-tracking apps and protect the right to travel between states. **She also said the House may again vote on legislation to codify Roe.**

Michigan shapes up as one of the next abortion battlefronts

June 28, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition

CHRISTOPHER DEAN HOPKINS



NATIONAL

In Michigan, abortion could come down to voters in November



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer speaks to abortion-rights protesters Friday at a rally outside the state capitol in Lansing, Mich., following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

As soon as the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade*, some states' trigger laws banning abortion began to take effect. In others, including Michigan, bans from before *Roe* had never been taken off the books, and may take effect again.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer says she's doing everything possible to keep that from happening — including filing a lawsuit to block the 1931 law. Advocates are also pushing for a ballot measure in the fall that would enshrine the right to an abortion in the state constitution.

It's a precarious, scary time for pregnant people in her state, Whitmer told NPR — and for those in neighboring Ohio and Indiana, where abortion likely will be strictly limited.

At least 46 people found dead inside tractor trailer in San Antonio

Texas Public Radio | By [Joey Palacios](#), [Dan Katz](#)

Published June 27, 2022 at 10:06 PM CDT



Joey Palacios / TPR

The scene on Quintana Road on San Antonio's Southwest side.

At least 46 people are dead after dozens of people were found trapped in a tractor trailer in Southwest San Antonio Monday evening.

San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said a worker at a nearby facility heard a person crying for help and found the trailer with numerous dead inside.

At a press conference at the scene, San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood said 16 people were found alive and transported to area hospitals, including 12 adults and four children. They were hot to the touch and suffering from heat exhaustion.

"No signs of water in the vehicle, it was a refrigerated tractor trailer, but there was no visible working AC unit on that rig," Hood said.

Temperatures in San Antonio have reached over 100 degrees in June.

Officials were unable to say where the truck originated or where it was going.

McManus did say three people were arrested and the incident is now under federal jurisdiction with Homeland Security Investigations.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott retweeted the news from the conservative online newspaper, The Daily Wire, blaming the incident on President Joe Biden's border policies.

Abbott's challenger, Beto O'Rourke, in a tweet called for increased legal pathways to citizenship that don't incentivize such dangerous journeys.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's largest Latino civil rights organization, issued a statement calling for responsible dialogue on immigration following this tragedy.

"The politics of President Trump and Governor Abbott to build the wall, deport them all, and Operation Lone Star have all been abysmal failures. Both Democrats and Republicans need to work together on a new bipartisan immigration bill," said Domingo García, LULAC's National President.

"The reforms must allow us to bring in legal guest workers and open legal avenues for people to come in to help our economy. These steps will prevent these refugees and immigrants from being thrown into the hands of human smugglers and coyotes who are willing to risk the lives of others for a dollar, as well as American employers who want cheap labor that can be exploited."

This is the second time in five years that San Antonio, which is about 150 miles from the Mexico border, has witnessed the deaths of people trapped inside an 18-wheeler. In 2017, ten migrants were found dead in a tractor trailer in a Walmart parking lot.

Joy is a core value at NPR. So we're creating a space to celebrate it

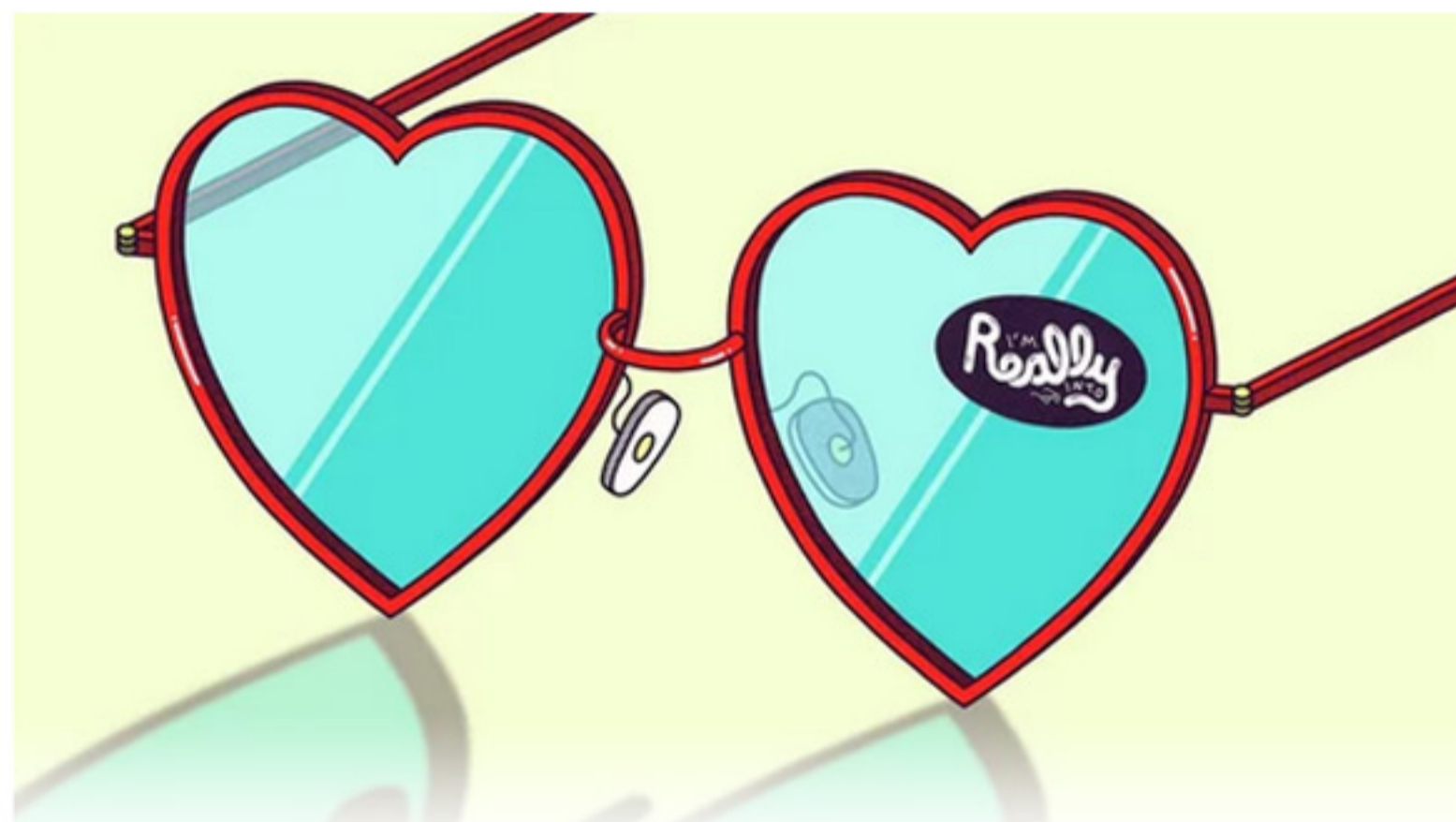
June 28, 2022 · 6:30 AM ET



ARIELLE RETTING



JUSTIN BANK



So, what are you into?

It's a question you can bring up when reconnecting with old friends. When all the usual trading of stories and shared history runs dry, it's a way to gauge the depth of those linear bonds we share across time ... or just crowdsource some new shows to binge.

Ah, but, what are you really into?

It's a question you might use to break through the ice on a first date to search for compatibility. Vulnerability and serendipity can lead those first dates to turn into something more. Even at a superficial level! You might have always wanted to date an outdoorsy person to open new worlds for you. Or know enough from past experiences that self-described "foodies" make better friends than long-term partners.

Activities inform our self-image and how we see the world. Kids who grew up at ballet studios can grow up into adults who still point their toes down when sitting cross-legged. Dropping subtle anime references around the office can be a way to quickly find like-minded new colleagues.

But as we grow older, most of us don't have as many hobbies we used to — a dynamic undoubtedly compounded by the pandemic. Our pottery studios shut down, our tennis lessons halted, and our music halls went silent. Our individual worlds grew smaller, and we lost communities.

As we enter our third Pandemic Summer, the momentum is changing. Sports leagues are back on the field, art studios are reopening, and book clubs are starting to gather again.

It can be daunting to decide what hobbies to prioritize — especially if we're trying something new. How do you know if something is worth pursuing? It would be a lot easier to endure hours of YouTube tutorials on macrame if you felt REALLY confident that someone who was REALLY into it sold you on the hobby first. And you don't want to end up with a closet overstuffed with discarded pursuits: kitchen gadgets, roller blades and acrylic paint (trust us, we know from personal experience.)

The NPR Network is here to help! Today we're launching a new series: I'm Really Into — a space to celebrate our unique hobbies and interests.

Our journalists will share a hobby that brings them joy, what drew them to it, and what it says about their shared community. We'll hear from people who found a new passion in the pandemic, as well as people who persevered and continued finding ways to do what they love.

Joy is a core value at NPR. Something we talk about at our news meetings in seeking out stories. Something that research shows can lead to more happiness, as our Joy Generator demonstrates. And hobbies are a well-worn path to create habits that lead to that joy, as Life Kit has explored.

So, with all that said, All Things Considered host Juana Summers is taking the mic first. You might know Juana from her award-winning political reporting, but you probably didn't know she's a competitive pinball player!

We don't just want to share our hobbies — we want to hear about yours, too. Fill out this form, or leave us a voice note at 800-329-4273, and let us know what you're really into and why. You may be featured on air or on our website!

*What hobby or interest are you really into?**

*When did you get into it? What made you start or got you hooked?**

*What makes it special and meaningful to you?**

*Why should other people give it a shot?**

What hobbies or interests are you really into? We want to hear about it

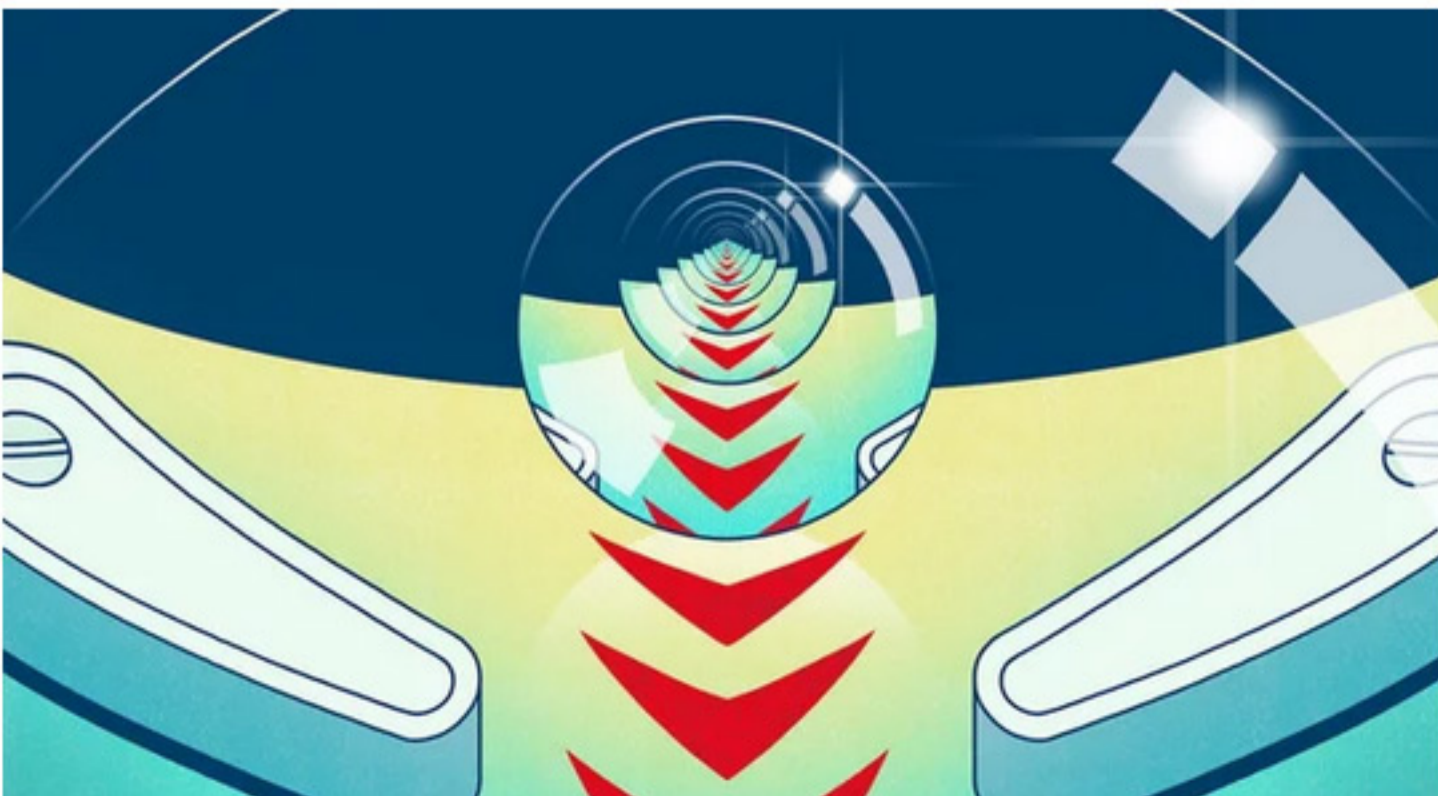
June 28, 2022 · 6:31 AM ET



Josie Norton

Pinball is more than a game — it's where I found my community

June 28, 2022 · 6:31 AM ET



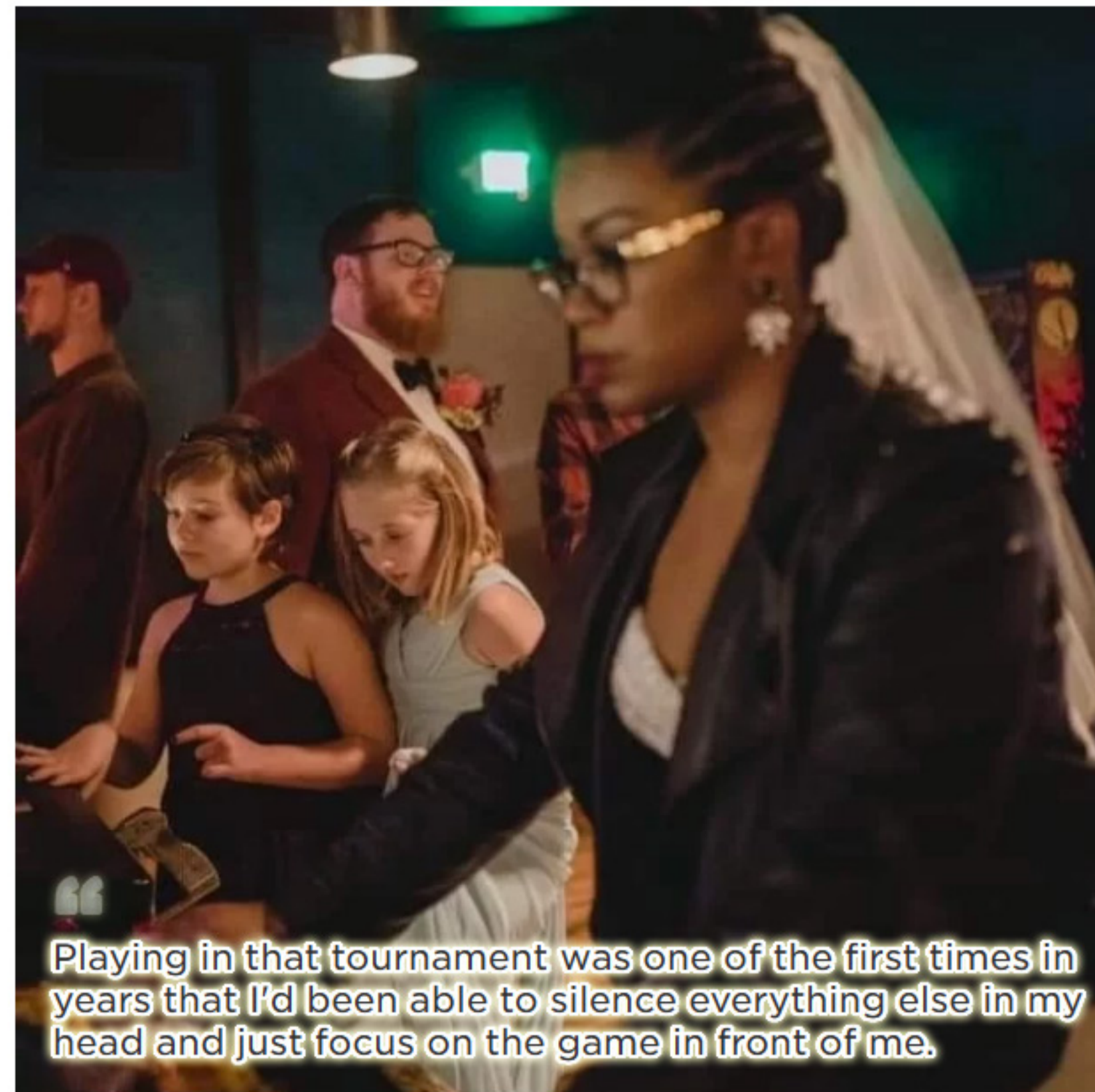
Josie Norton for NPR

I fell in love in the back of a punk rock Mexican restaurant and bar in Baltimore. Not with my husband, though we'll get to him later. I fell in love with pinball.

Juana Summers is a host for All Things Considered, NPR's award-winning afternoon newsmagazine.

It wasn't long before I was introduced to the world of competitive pinball. Yes, that is a thing — and people take it really seriously. [...]

But it was nice to be reminded of why, even after years away, I will probably always love pinball — and everything (and everyone) it's brought to my life.



Playing in that tournament was one of the first times in years that I'd been able to silence everything else in my head and just focus on the game in front of me.

Juana Summers playing pinball on her wedding day, with her husband and stepkids pictured in the background.

Carly Romeo

SAN DIEGO BAY

Russian Oligarch's Seized Yacht Sails into San Diego Harbor

The yacht Amadea, which boasts a helipad and swimming pool, was seized earlier this month in Fiji.

By Eric S. Page and Mari Payton • Published June 27, 2022 • Updated on June 27, 2022 at 6:48 pm



A \$325 million 350-foot yacht owned by a sanctioned "beneficiary of Russian corruption" was put into port in San Diego. NBC 7's Mari Payton has details.

A \$325 million 350-foot yacht owned by a sanctioned "beneficiary of Russian corruption" was put into port in San Diego Monday, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Officials with the DOJ said the Amadea, which was seized in connection to the department's KleptoCapture campaign undertaken in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine, is owned by Suleiman Kerimov a Russian billionaire.

The yacht, which boasts a helipad and swimming pool, was seized earlier this month in Fiji.

"Last month, I warned that the department had its eyes on every yacht purchased with dirty money," Deputy U.S. Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco said in May. "This yacht seizure should tell every corrupt Russian oligarch that they cannot hide – not even in the remotest part of the world. We will use every means of enforcing the sanctions imposed in response to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine."

According to CNBC, Kerimov "was sanctioned by the Treasury Department in 2018 for allegedly profiting from the Russian government through corruption and its illegal annexation of Crimea in Ukraine in 2014."

The Amadea sailed under the Coronado Bridge at around 8 a.m. on Monday before heading into a berth on the San Diego waterfront.

Local

"After a transpacific journey of over 5,000 miles, the Amadea has safely docked in a port within the United States, and will remain in the custody of the U.S. government, pending its anticipated forfeiture and sale," read a statement, in part, released Monday by the DOJ.

The U.S. said Kerimov secretly bought the vessel last year through various shell companies.

The U.S. won a legal battle in Fiji to take the Cayman Islands-flagged superyacht earlier this month. The Amadea made a stop in Honolulu Harbor en route to the U.S. mainland.

After the yacht arrived in San Diego, John Kirby, a former federal prosecutor, told NBC 7 that he thinks the U.S. government hopes moves like the Amadea's seizure are efforts to apply pressure to Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Incredibly, the owners of assets like the Amadea may just walk away rather than fight their seizure.

"A lot of times people that own these objects ... they don't want to get involved," Kirby said. "For whatever reason, they don't want people digging around in their life. And so sometimes they just let it go," adding that such seizures are "easy a lot of times because you often have bad actors that don't want to come forward and don't want to claim the yacht, don't want to litigate about it, so it could go into default judgment."

Indian police arrest Muslim journalist accused of insulting Hindus

By [Rhea Mogul](#) and Esha Mitra, CNN

Published 5:34 AM EDT, Tue June 28, 2022



Muslim journalist Mohammed Zubair was arrested in Delhi on Monday, according to police.

Delhi police have arrested a prominent Muslim journalist, accusing him of insulting religious beliefs on social media, in a move condemned by free speech advocates. **Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of fact-checking website Alt News, which debunks misinformation in the Indian media,** was arrested Monday and remanded overnight in police custody, said KPS Malhotra, a deputy commissioner in Delhi's Cyber Crime Unit.

Malhotra said Zubair was arrested under two sections of the Indian Penal Code related to maintaining religious harmony. Zubair often tweets criticism of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for what he and other critics claim is a crackdown on the rights of the country's roughly 200 million Muslims. His arrest comes amid repeated accusations by critics that the BJP is using colonial-era laws to quash any form of criticism and encourage self-censorship.

Zubair's lawyer, Kawalpreet Kaur, said the journalist had been summoned for questioning in relation to a 2020 criminal investigation into his social media posts – from which he had previously been granted protection from arrest by the Delhi High Court. But when he responded to the summons, police arrested him over a separate case, she said.

Kaur showed CNN a police complaint in which a Twitter user accused Zubair of insulting Hindus on the platform in 2018, in a post about the renaming of a hotel after a Hindu god. She accused the authorities of not following proper procedure and of giving Zubair no notice.

Malhotra, the deputy commissioner, did not respond to CNN's questions about whether police had followed proper procedure during the arrest. NEW DELHI, INDIA - JANUARY 21: BJP candidate from New Delhi Constituency Nupur Sharma after filing her nomination paper for Delhi Assembly election at Jam Nagar House on January 21, 2015 in New Delhi, India. Polling in Delhi will be held on February 7 and the counting of votes will take place on February 10. (Photo by Ajay Aggarwal/Hindustan Times via Getty Images)

India is facing a firestorm over ruling party officials' comments about Islam. Here's what you need to know

Earlier this month, Zubair had criticized the now suspended national spokesperson for the BJP, Nupur Sharma, for making derogatory comments about Islam's Prophet Mohammed – remarks that had set off a diplomatic row. At least 15 Muslim-majority nations condemned Sharma's remarks, several of them summoning India's ambassadors and describing the comments as "Islamophobic."

Among Zubair's recent social media posts are videos he claims show Hindu extremists giving hate-speeches against Islam, a minority religion in India where nearly 80% of people are Hindu.

Zubair's arrest has outraged politicians, journalists and news organizations, who have demanded his release. The Editors Guild of India in a statement Tuesday said it was "apparent that Alt News' alert vigilance was resented by those who use disinformation as a tool to polarise society and rake nationalist sentiments."

Shashi Tharoor, an MP from India's opposition Congress party, said the arrest was an "assault on truth."

"India's few fact-checking services, especially Alt News, perform a vital service in our post-truth political environment, rife with disinformation," Tharoor wrote on Twitter Monday. "They debunk falsehoods whoever perpetrates them. To arrest (Zubair) is an assault on truth. He should be released immediately."

The Committee to Protect Journalists on Monday called on Indian authorities to "immediately and unconditionally release" Zubair, and "cease harassing him in retaliation for his work."

What Republicans Know (and Democrats Don't) About the White Working Class

There's an important social and economic divide that drives working-class whites that progressive elites mostly miss — to their political peril.



J.D. Vance greets supporters during a rally at the Delaware County Fairgrounds on April 23, 2022 in Delaware, Ohio. | Drew Angerer/Getty Images

By LISA R. PRUITT
06/24/2022 04:30 AM EDT

Ever since J.D. Vance became the Republican Senate nominee in Ohio, journalists and pundits have been preoccupied with how Vance's politics have shifted since the 2016 publication of his memoir, *Hillbilly Elegy*. The book brought Vance fame and a platform that he used, among other things, to criticize Donald Trump. Since then, Vance's positions on polarizing issues like immigration have lurched to the right and he sought — and won — Trump's endorsement. Vance now also dabbles in conspiracy theories and has taken on a belligerent, Trump-like tone.

What the pundit class isn't talking about, however, is an important consistency between 2016 author Vance and 2022 politician Vance. In his memoir, Vance pitted **two groups of low-status whites against each other—those who work versus those who don't. In academic circles, these two groups are sometimes labeled the “settled” working class versus the “hard living.” A broad and fuzzy line divides these two groups, but generally speaking, settled folks work consistently while the hard living do not. The latter are thus more likely to fall into destructive habits like substance abuse that lead to further destabilization and, importantly, to reliance on government benefits.**

As a scholar studying working-class and rural whites, I have written about this subtle but consequential divide. I have also lived it. I grew up working-class white, and I watched my truck driver father and teacher's aide mother struggle mightily to stay on the “settled” side of the ledger. They worked to pay the bills, yes, but also because work set them apart from those in their community who were willing to accept public benefits. Work represented the moral high ground. Work was their religion.

We lived in an all-white corner of the Arkansas Ozarks, so my parents weren't fretting about the Black folks Ronald Reagan would later denigrate with the “welfare queen” stereotype. They were talking about their lazy neighbors. They called these folks “white trash,” the worst slur they knew.

From that perch, Vance's grandparents harshly judged neighbors who didn't work. They even judged their daughter, Vance's mother, Bev. Though she'd trained for a good job, as a nurse, Bev's drug use and frequent churn of male partners led to the instability associated with the “hard living.” Indeed, at one point Vance uses that very term to refer to his mother: “Mom's behavior grew increasingly erratic,” Vance writes. “She was more roommate than parent, and of the three of us — Mom, [my sister], and me — Mom was the roommate most prone to hard living” as she partied and stayed out 'til the wee hours of the morning.

[...]

Vance and my parents are mere anecdotes, yes, but scholars have documented the phenomenon they represent. Kathryn Edin of Princeton University, Jennifer Sherman of Washington State University and Monica Prasad of Northwestern University have studied folks like them in both urban and rural locales. What “settled” and “hard living” express as cultural phenomena, Edin and colleagues express quantitatively as the second-lowest income quintile dissociating from the bottom quintile — the very place from whence many had climbed. Edin described **that disassociation as a “virulent social distancing” — “suddenly, you're a worker and anyone who is not a worker is a bad person.”**

Sweltering streets: Hundreds of homeless die in extreme heat

By ANITA SNOW June 24, 2022



"Cueball", left, talks about his dog Lindsay with neighbor Terry Reed, right, at their tents Friday, May 20, 2022, in Phoenix. Hundreds of homeless people die in the streets each year from the heat, in cities around the U.S. and the world. The ranks of homeless have swelled after the pandemic and temperatures fueled by climate change soar. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

PHOENIX (AP) — Hundreds of blue, green and grey tents are pitched under the sun's searing rays in downtown Phoenix, a jumble of flimsy canvas and plastic along dusty sidewalks. Here, in the hottest big city in America, thousands of homeless people swelter as the summer's triple digit temperatures arrive. The stifling tent city has ballooned amid pandemic-era evictions and surging rents that have dumped hundreds more people onto the sizzling streets that grow eerily quiet when temperatures peak in the midafternoon. A heat wave earlier this month brought temperatures of up to 114 degrees (45.5 Celsius) - and it's only June. Highs reached 118 degrees (47.7 Celsius) last year. "During the summer, it's pretty hard to find a place at night that's cool enough to sleep without the police running you off," said Chris Medlock, a homeless Phoenix man known on the streets as "T-Bone" who carries everything he owns in a small backpack and often beds down in a park or a nearby desert preserve to avoid the crowds. "If a kind soul could just offer a place on their couch indoors maybe more people would live," Medlock said at a dining room where homeless people can get some shade and a free meal.

Excessive heat causes more weather-related deaths in the United States than hurricanes, flooding and tornadoes combined.

Climate scientist David Hondula, who heads Phoenix's new office for heat mitigation, says that with such extreme weather now seen around the world, more solutions are needed to protect the vulnerable, especially homeless people who are about 200 times more likely than sheltered individuals to die from heat-associated causes. "As temperatures continue to rise across the U.S. and the world, cities like Seattle, Minneapolis, New York or Kansas City that don't have the experience or infrastructure for dealing with heat have to adjust as well."

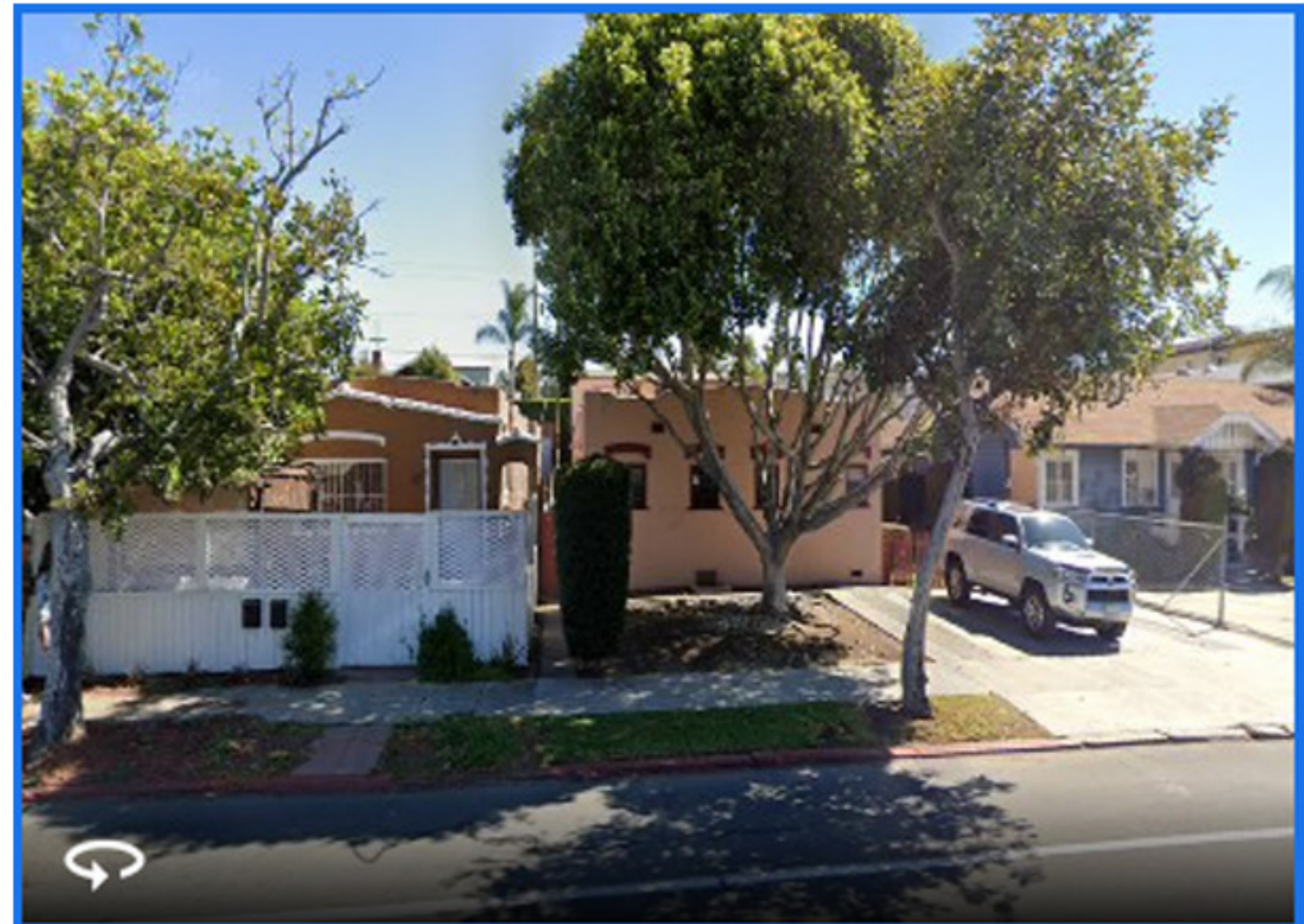
In Phoenix, officials and advocates hope a vacant building recently converted into a 200-bed shelter for homeless people will help save lives this summer. Mac Mais, 34, was among the first to move in. "It can be rough. I stay in the shelters or anywhere I can find," said Mais who has been homeless on and off since he was a teen. "Here, I can stay out actually rest, work on job applications, stay out of the heat."

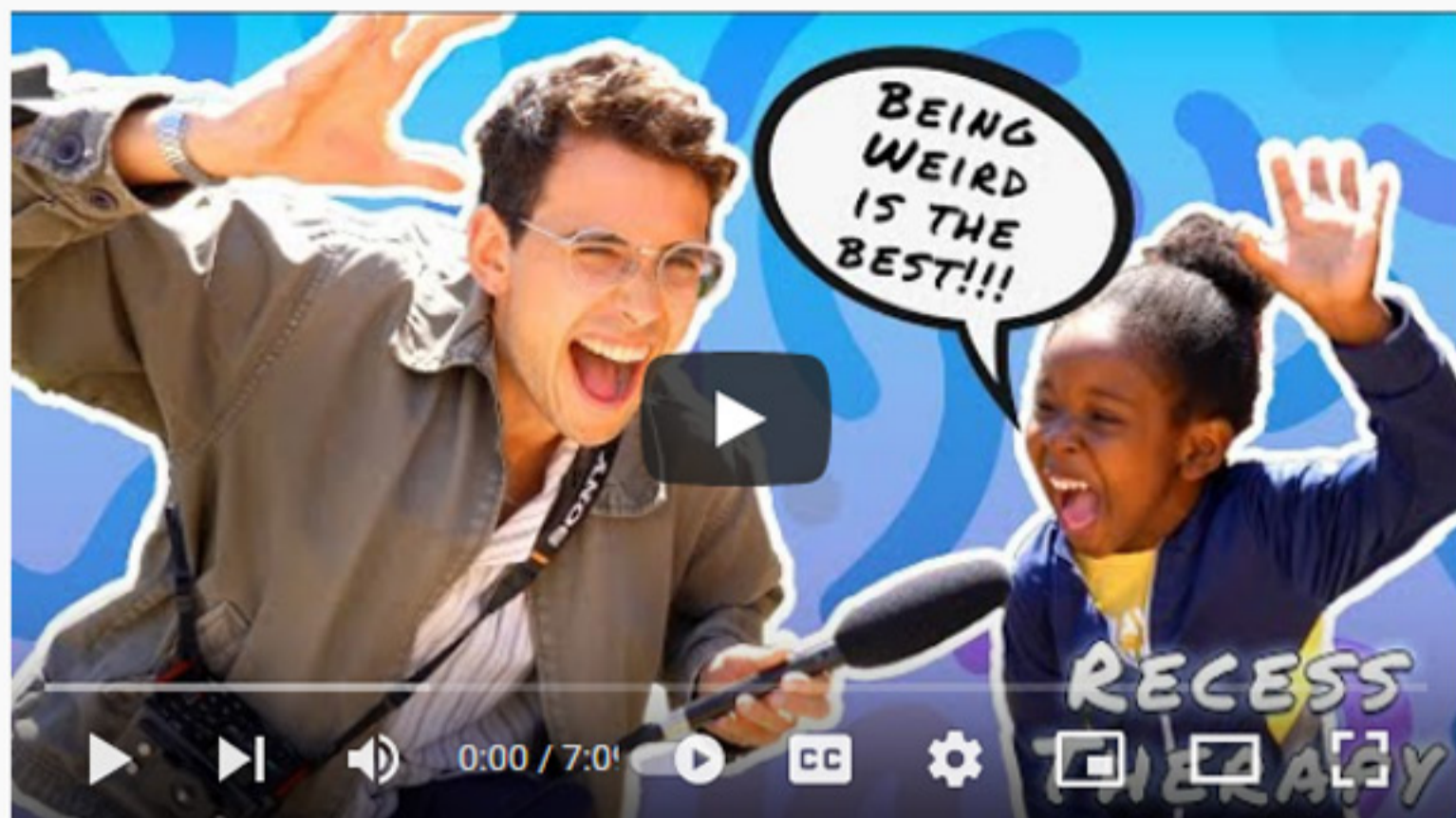
In Las Vegas, teams deliver bottled water to homeless people living in encampments around the county and inside a network of underground storm drains under the Las Vegas strip. Through its warning system, nongovernmental groups reach out to vulnerable people and send text messages to mobile phones. Water tankers are dispatched to slums, while bus stops, temples and libraries become shelters for people to escape the blistering rays.

Still, the deaths pile up. Kimberly Rae Haws, a 62-year-old homeless woman, was severely burned in October 2020 while sprawled for an unknown amount of time on a sizzling Phoenix blacktop. The cause of her subsequent death was never investigated. A young man nicknamed Twitch died from heat exposure as he sat on a curb near a Phoenix soup kitchen in the hours before it opened one weekend in 2018. "He was supposed to move into permanent housing the next Monday," said Jim Baker, who oversees that dining room for the St. Vincent de Paul charity. "His mother was devastated."

Many such deaths are never confirmed as heat related and aren't always noticed because of the stigma of homelessness and lack of connection to family. When a 62-year-old mentally ill woman named Shawna Wright died last summer in a hot alley in Salt Lake City, her death only became known when her family published an obituary saying the system failed to protect her during the hottest July on record, when temperatures reached the triple digits. Her sister, Tricia Wright, said making it easier for homeless people to get permanent housing would go a long way toward protecting them from extreme summertime temperatures. **"We always thought she was tough, that she could get through it," Tricia Wright said of her sister. "But no one is tough enough for that kind of heat."**

457x Texas St, San Diego, CA 92116





Kids Talk About What Makes Them Weird...and it gets WEIRD | Recess Therapy

21K 1.2K DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...



Recess Therapy

84.5K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

On this week's episode we celebrate being weird! We let our freak flag fly and show off all the things that make us wonderful and strange!



CBS Sunday Morning

1.09M subscribers

35,359 views • Jun 26, 2022

What is on the minds of kids ages 2-8? Armed with a microphone, Julian Shapiro Barnum finds out in his viral online series "Recess Therapy," in which children discuss such weighty issues as climate change, money, and peeing in your pants. Correspondent Nancy Giles talks with Shapiro Barnum about why kids still say the darndest things.

Recess Therapy is a web series in which host **Julian Shapiro-Barnum** interviews children between the ages of 2 and 9 in New York City. The interviews have been shared on YouTube and Instagram since 2021.

The reason it's called "Recess Therapy" is that the original idea was that I was going to bring things that I was struggling with to children and, like, get advice from them. ~Julian Shapiro-Barnum, in The New York Times

Interview topics vary and have included climate change, the economy, and peeing your pants. Recess Therapy interviews are published as short video clips on Instagram, while full episodes are shared on YouTube.

Julian Shapiro-Barnum grew up in three households in Brooklyn, raised by five gay parents: two fathers and three mothers. His parents jokingly called him the "Mayor of Everywhere" in reference to his outgoing nature and desire to talk to people. He began taking an improv class in third grade, beginning a string of formal acting activity that would continue through his graduation from Boston University in 2021 with a BFA in acting.



"Recess Therapy," where little kids answer big questions

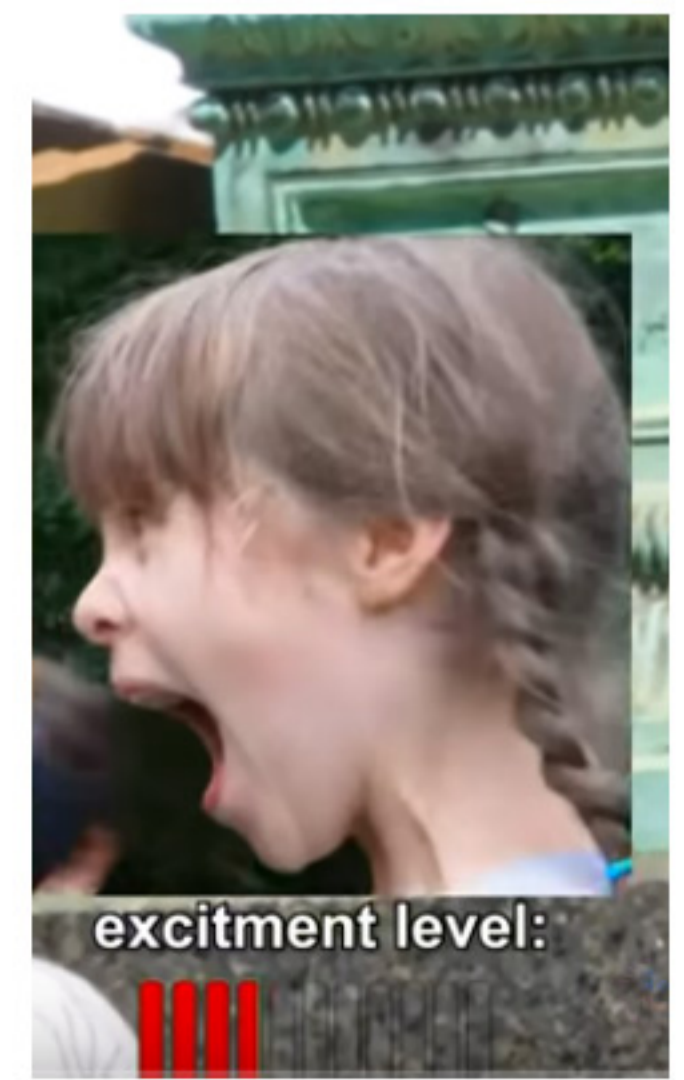
35K views... 925 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



- 1:18 you're a kid and you make nfts can we
- 1:21 talk about that
- 1:22 so what do you do i draw unicorns
- 1:26 i sell books and nf keys are you a
- 1:30 supporter of crypto yeah my mom has lots
- 1:33 of computer money
- 1:35 **i am the future**
- 1:36 whoa don't make a weird face
- 1:40 don't make weird sound

Kids Talk About What Makes Them Weird...and it gets WEIRD | Recess Therapy
 21,514 views • Jun 23, 2022
 1.2K DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...

I sell books and NFTs



<https://youtu.be/YWLeSzQWlf0>

3:32 >

"How much did you sell one of your Unicorns for?"

"1.5 \$ETH"

"How much does that translate to in like people money?"

"Over three thousand dollars"



i am the future



**NFTs are
space money!**

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Dogs are sniffing out disease in animals vital to traditions of the Blackfeet tribe

KAISER HEALTH NEWS

Montana's Blackfeet Nation is experimenting with a new way to detect chronic wasting disease in animals and toxic substances in plants used by tribal members for food and cultural practices.

June 29, 2022 - 5:01 AM ET

AARON BOLTON



Chronic wasting disease has been detected in just one white-tailed deer on the Blackfeet reservation, but once it's present, it's impossible to eradicate, according to wildlife managers. The disease is already forcing tribal members to alter or abandon traditional practices like brain tanning, said Souta Calling Last, a Blackfeet researcher and executive director of the nonprofit cultural and educational organization Indigenous Vision.



Working Dogs for Conservation trainer Michele Vasquez clips a vest onto Charlie, a Labrador retriever, to let him know he's working. Dogs like Charlie will help sniff out chronic wasting disease in deer and elk scat. They will also help find mink and otter droppings that can be tested for toxic substances near illegal dumpsites.

Aaron Bolton/Kaiser Health News



Blackfeet researcher Souta Calling Last surveys wetlands that serve as a watering hole for deer, elk and moose on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana. Calling Last is heading a program that will take dogs to sites like these to sniff out chronic wasting disease.

Aaron Bolton/Kaiser Health News

Rice fields dry up as Italy's drought lingers on

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA today



Rice farmer Giovanni Daghetta handles a dewatering pump from a tractor to get water from a channel to a completely dried rice field, in Mortara, Lomellina area, Italy, Monday, June 27, 2022. The worst drought Italy has faced in 70 years is thirsting paddy fields in the river Po valley and jeopardizing the harvest of the premium rice used for risotto. (AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

MORTARA, Italy (AP) — The worst drought Italy has faced in 70 years is thirsting paddy fields in the river Po valley and jeopardizing the harvest of the premium rice used for risotto.

Italy's largest river is turning into a long stretch of sand due to the lack of rain, leaving the Lomellina rice flats — nestled between the river Po and the Alps — without the necessary water to flood the paddies. "Normally this field is supposed to be flooded with 2 to 5 centimeters (0.8 to 2 inches) of water, but now it seems to be on a sandy beach," said rice farmer Giovanni Daghetta, as he walked through the dying rice fields in the town of Mortara. Farmers there have been producing the famed Arborio rice for centuries: the wide grains of this local variety are perfect for absorbing the flavors of risotto dishes.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, drought stress is the most damaging factor for rice, especially in the early stages of its growth. Heat waves, like those repeatedly hitting Italy with peaks of 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), can significantly reduce the yield of surviving rice. "This paddy hasn't been irrigated for two weeks now, and 90% of the plants have already fully dried," said Daghetta. "The remaining 10%, that are still slightly green urgently need to be submerged with water within two or three days." But with more dry days forecast ahead, Daghetta had little hope that would happen.

New York's 1st legal marijuana crop sprouts under the sun

By MICHAEL HILL today



Rich Morris of Toadflax Nursery helps to plant marijuana seedlings at Homestead Farms and Ranch in Clifton Park, N.Y., Friday, June 3, 2022. In a novel move, New York gave 203 hemp growers first shot at cultivating marijuana destined for legal sales, which could start by the end of the year. Big indoor growers are expected to join later. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

CLIFTON PARK, N.Y. (AP) — New York's recreational marijuana market is beginning to sprout, literally, with thin-leaved plants stretching toward the sun in farms around the state. In a novel move, New York gave 203 hemp growers first shot at cultivating marijuana destined for legal sales, which could start by the end of the year. Big indoor growers are expected to join later.

But for now, the field is clear for growers like Frank Popolizio of Homestead Farms and Ranch, where a small crew north of Albany earlier this month dug out shallow holes for seedlings before packing them in by hand. "It is an opportunity, there's obviously going to be a demand for it," Popolizio said during a break in planting. "And hopefully it benefits the farmers. Been a long time since there's been a real cash crop."

Popolizio is tending to a half-acre plot that will grow upward of a 1,000 plants surrounded by a tall electrified fence. He and other "conditional cultivator" license holders can grow up to an acre of marijuana outdoors. They can grow all or some of their crop in greenhouses, though in smaller areas, and use limited lighting.

The license is good for two years, and holders will be able to distribute cannabis flower products to retail dispensaries.

Ghislaine Maxwell sentenced to 20 years for helping Epstein

By TOM HAYS and LARRY NEUMEISTER today



Annie Farmer, one of the four accusers who testified against Ghislaine Maxwell at trial, walks towards waiting reporters outside federal court, Tuesday, June 28, 2022, in New York. Ghislaine Maxwell was sentenced on Tuesday to 20 years in prison for helping the wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse teenage girls. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

The trial revolved around allegations from only a handful of Epstein's accusers.

Four testified that they were abused as teens in the 1990s and early 2000s at Epstein's mansions in Florida, New York, New Mexico and the Virgin Islands. Three were identified in court only by their first names or pseudonyms to protect their privacy: Jane, a television actress; Kate, an ex-model from the U.K.; and Carolyn, now a mom recovering from drug addiction. The fourth was **Annie Farmer**, the sole accuser to identify herself in court by her real name, after speaking out publicly, who was briefly overcome with emotion as she addressed the judge.

She said she and her sister tried to go public with their stories about being abused by Epstein and Maxwell two decades ago, only to be shut down by the powerful couple through threats and influence with authorities.

"We will continue to live with the harm she caused us," Farmer said.

NEW YORK (AP) — Ghislaine Maxwell, the jet-setting socialite who once consorted with royals, presidents and billionaires, was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years in prison for helping the financier Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse underage girls.

The stiff sentence was a victory for a group of women who spent years fighting for justice after an earlier generation of prosecutors failed to pursue the predatory power couple.

Epstein, who killed himself in 2019 while awaiting trial, sexually abused children hundreds of times over more than a decade, exploiting vulnerable girls as young as 14. Prosecutors said he couldn't have done so without the help of Maxwell, his longtime companion.

Maxwell, wearing a blue prison uniform and a white mask to conform with coronavirus rules, looked to one side as the sentence was announced, but otherwise did not react. She wore leg shackles that could be heard rattling when she walked into the courtroom.

The sentence was shorter than the term sought by prosecutors, but Epstein's accusers still expressed relief.

"It's been an incredibly long road to justice for myself and for many other survivors," said Sarah Ransome, one of Epstein's accusers. "This is for the girls that didn't have their say, the ones that weren't here."

FCC Commissioner urges Google and Apple to ban TikTok

Engadget · 5 hours ago

- U.S. FCC commissioner wants Apple and Google to remove TikTok from their app stores

CNBC · 5 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



Brendan Carr

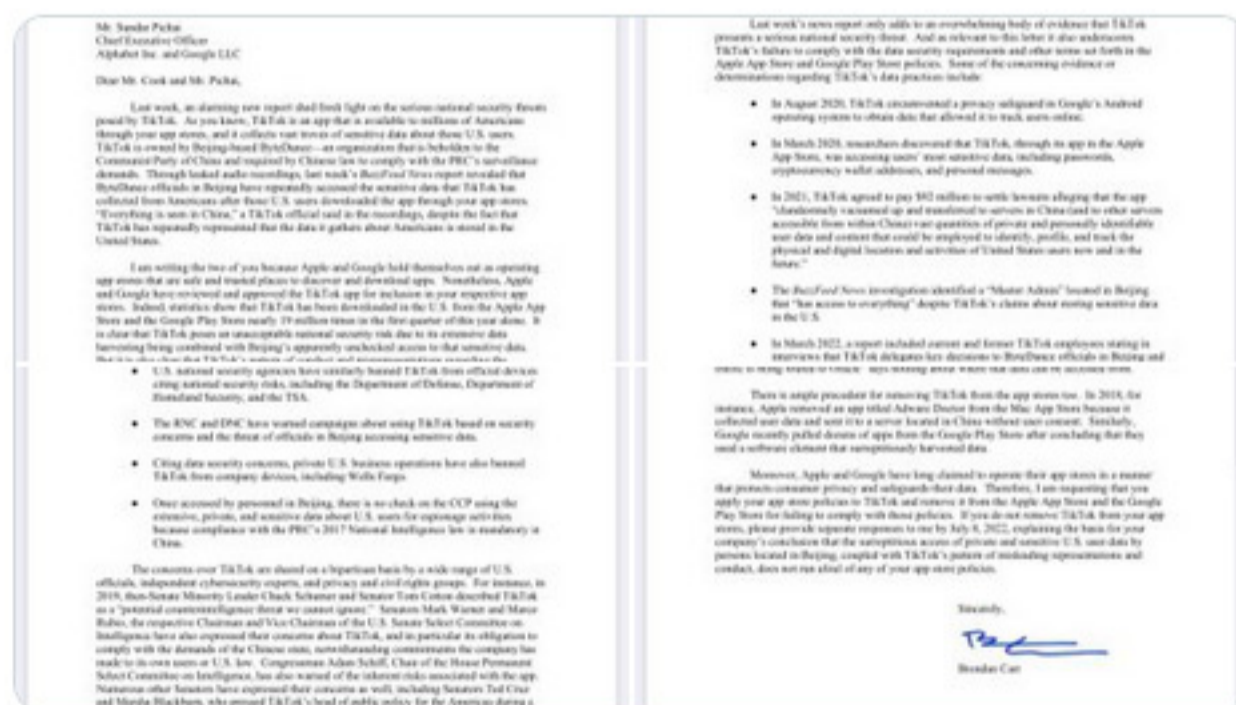
@BrendanCarrFCC · [Follow](#)



TikTok is not just another video app. That's the sheep's clothing.

It harvests swaths of sensitive data that new reports show are being accessed in Beijing.

I've called on [@Apple](#) & [@Google](#) to remove TikTok from their app stores for its pattern of surreptitious data practices.



9:39 AM · Jun 28, 2022



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

5.5K Reply Copy link

"TikTok is not just another video app. That's the sheep's clothing." That's what Brendan Carr wrote in his tweet along with a copy of the letter he sent Apple and Google, asking the companies to remove TikTok from their app stores. The agency's senior Republican commissioner references a recent BuzzFeed News report that examined leaked audio from 80 internal TikTok meetings. Based on those leaked audio recordings, China-based employees of TikTok parent company ByteDance had repeatedly accessed private information on users in the US.

One member of TikTok's Trust and Safety department reportedly said during a meeting in September 2021 that "everything is seen in China." A director said in another meeting that a Beijing-based engineer referred to as "Master Admin" has "access to everything." Just hours before BuzzFeed News published its report, TikTok announced that it migrated 100 percent of US user traffic to a new Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. It's part of the company's efforts to address concerns by US authorities about how it handles information from users in the country.

Carr wrote:



"It is clear that TikTok poses an unacceptable national security risk due its extensive data harvesting being combined with Beijing's apparently unchecked access to that sensitive data."



My dear Kelly et al,

No, it is not an easy decision to make, and yes, I too am saddened to know I won't be seeing you all in the coming weeks. I was so looking forward to it.

And here I apologize in advance for this rant to follow:

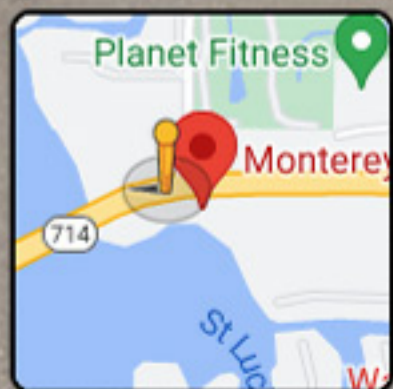
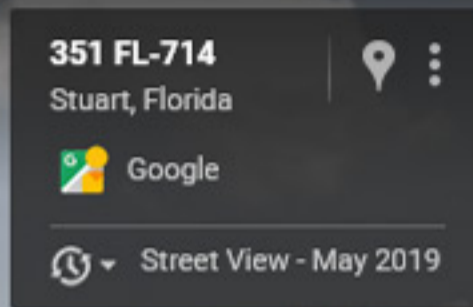
I recall, way back when, when your parents were hosting a family event — at the crack of dawn walking from my motel over the approximately one mile long Roosevelt Bridge on FL-714 crossing the south fork of the St. Lucie River. The top of bridge's substantial metal railing is segmented into uniform 1 by 4 foot rectangles. In every single one of these rectangles were three, exactly 3 perfectly formed spider webs complete with the spider in the center. The arrangement of the webs themselves varied from rectangle to rectangle, but in each rectangle there were always three gorgeous webs lofting in the cool breeze, shimmering in the morning light.

I can't help but wonder how such a tiny, pea brain creature could orchestrate both such an engineering wonder and a collectively uniform social marvel. Now here we are, sitting atop the most advanced technical empire in history, with both the cutting-edge medical and electronic telecommunications, replete with Google at our finger tips to be able to draw from the best thinking and history we know of, yet when push comes to shove, the proof is in the pudding ...the 'United' states of America had and continues to have the worst response to the COVID pandemic of any country in the world. Not just worst among developed countries, but worst among all countries. Worst in case numbers, worst in deaths. Even worse than other fascist-centric lead countries like India and Brazil. How could this be? A question I'm left to scream from the bridge top to an audience of wise spiders.

I'll leave you with an excerpt from "Alive" by one of my favorite poets, Naomi Shihab Nye:

Dear Dog Behind the Fence, you really need to calm down now. You have been barking every time I walk to the compost for two years and I have not robbed your house. Relax. When I asked the man on the other side if you bother him too, he smiled and said no, he makes me feel less alone. Should I be more worried about the dog or the man?

much love at all,
Dan



The Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 have together become dominant in the U.S., the C.D.C. estimates.

The milestone comes less than six months since they were first detected in South Africa, and as the federal government considers an Omicron-specific booster dose for adults in the fall.



By [Adeel Hassan](#)

Published June 28, 2022 Updated June 29, 2022, 12:36 p.m. ET

Continuing their rapid march across the United States, the Omicron subvariants known as BA.4 and BA.5 have together become dominant among new coronavirus cases, according to new estimates on Tuesday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As of the week ending Saturday, BA.4 made up 15.7 percent of new cases, and BA.5 was 36.6 percent, accounting for about 52 percent of new cases in the United States, numbers that experts said should rise in the weeks to come.

In recent weeks, more than 100,000 new coronavirus cases have been reported each day on average in the United States, according to a New York Times database, a figure that captures only a portion of the true number. Many infections go uncounted in official reports. Some scientists estimate that the current wave of cases is the second-largest of the pandemic.

BA.4 and BA.5 exhibit the qualities of escape artists, able to elude some of the antibodies produced after coronavirus vaccinations and infections, including infections caused by some earlier versions of Omicron. That may explain why these subvariants have spread even faster than others in the Omicron family. But there is not yet much evidence that they cause more severe disease.

As of Monday, hospitalizations in the United States were up 6 percent in the last two weeks, to an average of more than 31,000 each day, according to federal data. New deaths have stayed below 400 per day on average, data from state and local health agencies show. That is a fraction of the thousands seen daily during the winter Omicron peak. "But in my mind, 250 deaths a day is still too many," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the C.D.C. director, said last week in Aspen, Colo. "The deaths that we're seeing are generally among people who are either elderly, frail, many comorbidities who've had a lot of vaccine shots, or people who are unvaccinated."

Omicron sub-variants BA.4, BA.5 make up more than 50% of U.S. COVID cases - CDC

June 28, 2022 · 12:09 PM PDT

June 28 (Reuters) - The fast-spreading BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants of Omicron are estimated to make up a combined 52% of the coronavirus cases in the United States as of June 25, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Tuesday.

The two sublineages accounted for more than a third of U.S. cases for the week of June 18. They were added to the World Health Organization's monitoring list in March and designated as variants of concern by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Several vaccine makers including Pfizer Inc (PFE.N), Moderna Inc (MRNA.O) and Novavax Inc (NVAX.O) are testing versions of their COVID vaccines updated to combat the Omicron variant.

Pfizer and Moderna have said their new vaccines also appear to work against the subvariants, even though that protection is not as strong as against BA.1.

Outside experts to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration are meeting on Tuesday to discuss whether to change the design of COVID-19 vaccines in order to combat future variants. [read more > https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-fda-advisers-meet-discuss-design-future-covid-vaccines-2022-06-28/](https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-fda-advisers-meet-discuss-design-future-covid-vaccines-2022-06-28/)

BA.4 made up 15.7% of the variants in the United States for the week of June 25, while BA.5 made up 36.6% of the variants, according to CDC estimates.

The seven-day moving average of U.S. COVID-19 cases stood at 101,378 as of June 25, up 2.9% from a week earlier.

Real life or satire? Novelist Mat Johnson says it can be hard to tell the difference

June 29, 2022 · 12:30 PM ET



TERRY GROSS



Mat Johnson is the Philip H. Knight Chair of Humanities at the University of Oregon. His previous books include *Pym* and *Loving Day*.

... mass denialism, a society-wide kind of choice to ignore certain things because they're just too big to deal with.

...nobody wants to hear this, and I don't want to say it. But we have a nation that was formed in part on a genocidal land-grab and forced generational slavery.

GROSS: Yeah. So before we break that down - that how have you been part, before we break that down, let's start with your new book. I want you to read something from the opening. And this is the part about the NASA expedition on its way to explore one of Jupiter's moons. And aboard this flight is a sociologist invited by NASA to join the crew and study human behavior in space. So the name of this sociologist is Nalini. And she was chosen among many applicants. So would you read the part?

JOHNSON: Sure. (Reading) Nalini had the misfortune of coming of age during an era where there was really one existential question, would we destroy our planet before we figured out how to escape it? If humanity achieved interstellar migration, it could pollinate the universe with sentient life for millennia, avoiding extinction via diversification of location. If humans didn't accomplish this goal, the only unanswered question would be, which combo of consequences for humanity's collective sins would deliver the fatal blow? Climate devastation, nuclear Armageddon, systemic xenophobia, violent partisanship, pandemics - man-made or man-fault - they were all strong contenders. The range of cataclysms was dazzling. But as an academic, Nalini was most impressed with humanity's ability to embrace the delusion that everything was fine.

GROSS: Thanks for reading that. And a cousin of that paragraph in the novel is a recent tweet. This was something you tweeted after Roe was overturned. And you wrote, this year's theme is apocalypse - and this century's. So it sounds like apocalypse, the end of the world as we know it, has been very much on your mind.

JOHNSON: Yeah. You know, it's funny - when you say, on one of your recent tweets, immediately, it makes my stomach drop.



Many drugs can't withstand stomach acid – a new delivery method could lead to more convenient medications

Published: June 29, 2022 8:04am EDT

Khatcher O. Margossian, Murugappan Muthukumar, UMass Amherst



A new polymer could help the medicine go down easier. Hiroshi Watanabe/DigitalVision via Getty Images

For patients and physicians, taking medications orally is often the most desirable way to administer drugs. Among other advantages, swallowing a pill is safer, more convenient and less invasive compared to injections or other ways to take a drug. But one of the challenges oral pills face is getting digested by the stomach before they can deliver their payloads and carry out their intended effects. Because drugs that are degraded in the stomach are less effective, many treatments are currently unable to be taken by mouth.

As researchers in polymer science and bioengineering, we wanted to figure out a way to deliver drugs so that they could withstand stomach acid but still dissolve at the right place. In our recently published paper, we believe we have developed a new material that can help drugs do just that.

Oral drug challenges Oral drugs are primarily absorbed in the small intestine, where they subsequently enter the bloodstream and travel to the rest of the body. In order for a drug to get to the small intestine, however, it must first get past the highly acidic environment of the stomach, which can deteriorate medications before they can be absorbed.

To compensate for degradation in the stomach, oral medications typically come in doses that are higher than necessary. This strategy works for many common small-molecule drugs that have a low mass. They are often more stable and can more easily enter cells compared to other types of drugs. However, increasing dosage is not a viable approach for treatments that easily build up to toxic levels, are too sensitive to the acidity of the stomach or are very costly. A stomach acid-resistant material

To help drugs withstand the harsh environment of the stomach, our research team developed a new type of material called polyzwitterionic complexes, or pZCs. pZCs are composed of two types of polymers, or large molecules made of a string of repeating smaller molecules. As the name suggests, pZCs are made of polyzwitterions, which are both positively and negatively charged, and polyelectrolytes, which are exclusively positive or negative.

Through a process called complex coacervation that joins oppositely charged molecules, these two polymers self-assemble to form pZC droplets that are sensitive to acidity. In principle, these droplets could encapsulate and protect a therapeutic cargo as it travels through the highly acidic stomach, but disassemble and release the drug upon reaching the more neutral environment of the small intestine.

We first tested whether the pZC droplets were able to encapsulate a protein as a test cargo. Once we were successfully able to place the cargo in the droplet, we then measured how much protein cargo was released in varying levels of acidity through spectrophotometry, a method that uses light absorption to measure the amount of substance present in a sample. We found that the pZC droplets retained their protein cargo in acidic conditions and steadily released it as acidity decreased.

Making drugs more convenient

We *believe* that our pZC system can enable researchers to develop new and improved ways to deliver drugs through the gastrointestinal tract. Our future work will focus on better understanding how pZCs behave as their chemical properties change in different conditions. We are also experimenting with different types of polymers and drug cargoes.

Our hope is that our methods and conceptual framework will one day increase the number and variety of drugs that can be taken orally, making it more convenient to take your medicine and improving the lives of patients.

Here are the Books We Love: 160+ great 2022 reads recommended by NPR

Books We Love is back early this year; for 2022, we're launching the first-ever summer edition, complete with 160+ recommendations from NPR staff and trusted critics.

- Travel the world without leaving your home with these 10 books



Scattered All Over the Earth by Yoko Tawada

This dystopian novel is riveting, bizarre as can be, and like nothing else I've ever read. I'm terrified not enough people will read it. A refugee from a Japan that no longer exists, Hiruko is a teacher who travels through Europe speaking in her invented language that somehow just makes sense to everyone. The book's told in episodes and strange little spells of romance and precise world-building, which is incredibly fun in itself. But the real pull is Hiruko, one of the most charming and memorable characters I've ever encountered. Forget Wordle: Hiroko has us doing word games in a dystopian world! What more could one ask for?

— Kamil Ahsan, biologist, historian and writer



Russia and China slam NATO after alliance raises alarm

By JILL LAWLESS, JOSEPH WILSON and SYLVIE CORBET an hour ago



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, speaks with U.S. President Joe Biden during a round table meeting at a NATO summit in Madrid, Spain on Thursday, June 30, 2022. North Atlantic Treaty Organization heads of state will meet for the final day of a NATO summit in Madrid on Thursday. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangue)

MADRID (AP) — NATO faced rebukes from Moscow and Beijing on Thursday after it declared Russia a “direct threat” and said China posed “serious challenges” to global stability.

The Western military alliance was wrapping up a summit in Madrid, where it issued a stark warning that the world has been plunged into a dangerous phase of big-power competition and myriad threats, from cyberattacks to climate change.

NATO leaders also formally invited Finland and Sweden to join the alliance, after overcoming opposition from Turkey. If the Nordic nations’ accession is approved by the 30 member nations, it will give NATO a new 800-mile (1,300 kilometer) border with Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned he would respond in kind if the Nordic pair allowed NATO troops and military infrastructure onto their territory. He said Russia would have to “create the same threats for the territory from which threats against us are created.”

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said Putin’s threats were “nothing new.”

“Of course, we have to expect some kind of surprises from Putin, but I doubt that he is attacking Sweden or Finland directly,” Kallas said as she arrived at the summit’s conference center venue. “We will see cyberattacks definitely. We will see hybrid attacks, information war is going on. But not the conventional war.”

At the summit, NATO leaders agreed to dramatically scale up military force along the alliance’s eastern flank, where countries from Romania to the Baltic states worry about Russia’s future plans. They announced plans to increase almost eightfold the size of the alliance’s rapid reaction force, from 40,000 to 300,000 troops, by next year. The troops will be based in their home nations but dedicated to specific countries in the east, where the alliance plans to build up stocks of equipment and ammunition.

NATO said that China “strives to subvert the rules-based international order, including in the space, cyber and maritime domains” and warned of its close ties with Moscow.

The alliance said, however, that it remained “open to constructive engagement” with Beijing.

China shot back that NATO was a source of instability and vowed to defend its interests.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has a lot to celebrate

By JESSICA GRESKO today



FILE - Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, right, and wife Virginia "Ginni" Thomas arrive for a State Dinner with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and President Donald Trump at the White House in Washington, on Sept. 20, 2019. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Last week, as he marked his 74th birthday, Clarence Thomas achieved two long-sought goals: expanding gun rights and overturning *Roe v. Wade*'s nationwide protection for abortion. If he was ready to take a victory lap, Thomas didn't let on. Instead, he called on his colleagues to do more, to revisit the Supreme Court's cases acknowledging rights to same-sex marriage, gay sex and contraception.

After 30 years on the court, Thomas' influence has never been greater, and yet he remains a lightning rod for controversy. That includes recent questions about his wife's role in attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election and his decision not to recuse himself from cases that involved it. Thomas has said nothing in response to the criticism, and he could still serve another decade or more, racking up additional victories with a court that has become more conservative. "If you serve long enough sometimes things go your way eventually," said Ohio Northern University professor Scott Gerber, the author of a book on Thomas. Gerber said that at this point there are people who have moved through the conservative legal movement, studying conservatives like Thomas and the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who have now joined Thomas on the court. "They've learned from him and agree," he said.

Thomas is now the senior member of a group of conservative justices with the votes to control the court, not only what cases the court takes on but how broadly it rules. That's a change for Thomas, whose views were for years seen as far out of the mainstream. "He's always been known as not taking quite the same approach," said George Mason University law professor Jennifer Mascott, who worked for Thomas as a law clerk. But in the guns case, she said: "Everybody joined with him, his approach."

Ralph Rossum, who has also written a book about Thomas, said the justice once compared himself to a marathon runner who has to take the long view. Now, as time has gone on and more conservative justices have joined the court, Thomas is, in a sense, running "faster and faster" and "lengthening his stride," Rossum said.

Thomas declined an interview request from *The Associated Press*.

On top of the criticism Thomas has faced over the years for his views, he and his wife, conservative activist Virginia Thomas, have faced criticism recently for their actions following former President Donald Trump's defeat in the 2020 election. Among other things, Virginia Thomas exchanged messages with then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows encouraging him to work to overturn President Joe Biden's victory and urged Republican lawmakers in Arizona, where Biden won, to choose their own slate of electors. The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol has asked her for an interview. As for the justice, there has been criticism that because of his wife's actions he should have recused himself from a case involving the committee's access to presidential documents and lawsuits challenging the election results, challenges the court turned away. Democrats in Congress wrote in a letter that his participation is "exceedingly difficult to reconcile with federal ethics requirements." In recent days, following the abortion decision, thousands signed a petition saying he should no longer be allowed to teach a class at George Washington University's law school. The university rejected that idea.

More personally, after a draft of the abortion decision leaked, there were protests at his house and the homes of other conservative justices. In an appearance after the leak Thomas drew a contrast between liberals and conservatives in unusual us-versus-them terms. "You would never visit Supreme Court justices' houses when things didn't go our way. We didn't throw temper tantrums," Thomas said. What many Americans know about Thomas stems largely from his bruising 1991 confirmation hearing, when he was accused of sexual harassment charges by former employee Anita Hill — charges he denied. He wrote a bestselling book in 2007 but for years — partly because he chose not to ask questions during arguments at the court and partly because he is a self-described introvert — Thomas spoke largely through his opinions. Not infrequently, because his views were so conservative compared with the rest of the court, he wrote opinions that spoke only for himself.

That has changed. The court has grown more conservative over the last several years during Trump's administration, particularly after the death of the liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her replacement in 2020 by conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Conservatives now have a six-justice majority and can lose the vote of Chief Justice John Roberts, who is sometimes less willing to issue sweeping rulings, and still have a majority. Thomas has also become more vocal in general over the past two years. When the court began hearing arguments by telephone because of the pandemic and changed the arguments' format so justices asked questions one by one, Thomas joined in. He continued asking questions when the justices returned to their courtroom last fall, his colleagues deferring to him for the first questions. Thomas' influence has been felt in other ways, too. Many of the men and women Thomas mentored as law clerks held political appointments in the Trump administration. That includes John Eastman, the conservative lawyer who aided Trump's efforts to undo the 2020 election results. Ten other former law clerks are now federal judges who hold lifetime appointments. Their ranks include Kathryn Kimball Mizelle, the federal judge in Florida who in April struck down the national mask mandate on airplanes and mass transit.

Thomas is 74. Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring this year, just before his 84th birthday. Ginsburg served until her death at 87. In 2028, Thomas would surpass Justice William O. Douglas as the longest-serving justice ever. Gerber, the Ohio professor, said Thomas has always said that becoming a justice is a lifetime job. Said Gerber: "It's like Queen Elizabeth. She's been in power 70 years and she's going to stay until she's carried out in a box. That's his view also."

Migrants in Texas trailer tragedy died seeking better lives

By DELMER MARTÍNEZ, SONIA PÉREZ D. and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN today



Karen Caballero, the mother of Fernando Redondo Caballero and Alejandro Andino Caballero who died near San Antonio, Texas, after being discovered in a hot trailer full of migrants being smuggled into the US, is comforted during an impromptu conference at their home in Las Vegas, Honduras, Wednesday, June 29, 2022. Caballero's sons were among the bodies of 51 people discovered in what is believed to be the nation's deadliest smuggling episode on the U.S.-Mexico border. (AP Photo/Delmer Martinez)

LAS VEGAS, Honduras (AP) — Children set out hoping to earn enough to support their siblings and parents. Young adults who sacrificed to attend college thinking it would lead to success left their country disillusioned. A man already working in the U.S. who returned to visit his wife and children decided to take a cousin on his return to the U.S.

As families of the 67 people packed into a tractor-trailer and abandoned on Monday in Texas began to confirm their worst fears and talk of their relatives, a common narrative of pursuing a better life took shape from Honduras to Mexico.

Fifty-three of those migrants left in the sweltering heat on the outskirts of San Antonio had died as of Wednesday, while others remained hospitalized. The tedious process of identifications continues, but families are confirming their losses.

The dead included 27 people from Mexico, 14 from Honduras, seven from Guatemala and two from El Salvador, said Francisco Garduño, chief of Mexico's National Immigration Institute.

In Mexico, cousins Javier Flores López and Jose Luis Vásquez Guzmán left the tiny community of Cerro Verde in the southern state of Oaxaca also hoping to help their families. They were headed to Ohio, where construction jobs and other work awaited.

Flores López is now missing, his family said, while Vásquez Guzmán is hospitalized in San Antonio.

Cerro Verde is a community of about 60 people that has largely been abandoned by the young. Those who remain work earning meager livings weaving sun hats, mats, brooms and other items from palm leaves. Many live on as little as 30 pesos a day (less than \$2).

It was not the first trip to the U.S.-Mexico border for Flores López, now in his mid-30s, who left Cerro Verde years ago and went to Ohio, where his father and a brother live.

He was back home to see his wife and three small children briefly, said a cousin, Francisco López Hernández. Vásquez Guzmán, 32, decided to go with his cousin for his first trip across the border and hoped to reach his oldest brother who is in Ohio as well.

While everyone knew the risks, countless people from Cerro Verde had made it safely across the U.S.-Mexico border with the help of smugglers, so it came as a shock, López Hernández said. The family believes Flores López was, too, but they are still awaiting confirmation.

Vásquez Guzmán's mother had intended on getting a visa to visit her hospitalized son, but on Wednesday he was moved out of intensive care and she was able to speak with him by phone. She decided to stay in Mexico and await his recovery, said Aida Ruiz, director of the Oaxaca Institute for Migrant Attention.

López Hernández said most people rely on those who have made it to the U.S. to send them money for the journey, which usually costs around \$9,000. "There are a lot of risks but for those who are lucky, the fortune is there, to be able to work, earn a living" he said.

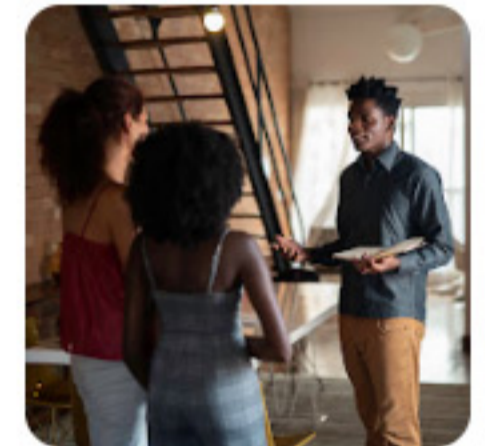
Why Today's Mortgage Rates are Still Relatively Low

CNBC · 14 hours ago

- **Highest Mortgage Rates Since 2008 Housing Crisis Cool Sales**

The New York Times · 20 hours ago

 [View Full Coverage](#)



Republicans seek to install 'permanent election integrity infrastructure' across US

The Guardian US · 1 hour ago

- **Conservative push to recruit election deniers as poll workers causes alarm**

The Guardian US · 4 hours ago

 [View Full Coverage](#)



Leading election denier promoting local groups to 'oversee' elections and determine if officials are 'friend or foe'

Training sessions in battleground states led by activists who claim the 2020 election was stolen aim to influence conduct of elections



 Cleta Mitchell, a lawyer who was on Donald Trump's 2020 legal team, is at the forefront of efforts to place election deniers in key positions. Photograph: Pablo Martínez Monsiváis/AP

Peter Stone / June 29, 2022

BALLOT BOXER

This Former Trump Lawyer Wants You to Disrupt the 2022 Midterms

Cleta Mitchell desperately tried to undo Trump's loss in Georgia in 2020. Now she's using the Big Lie to recruit conservatives as poll workers for the November elections.



ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRE CARVALHO

HEALTHCARE

Fauci says he is experiencing 'rebound' of COVID symptoms after Paxlovid treatment

BY NATHANIEL WEIXEL - 06/29/22 11:33 AM ET

Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases doctor, said he is experiencing a rebound of COVID-19 symptoms after taking Pfizer's antiviral drug Paxlovid.

Fauci, 81, contracted COVID-19 earlier this month, and while his symptoms were initially "minimal," he was prescribed a five-day course of Paxlovid when they worsened because of his age.

Paxlovid is the leading treatment for COVID-19, and is used to prevent the risk for severe disease in high-risk people who test positive, including the unvaccinated and the elderly. The drug was made available under an emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration in December 2021.

Speaking during a Foreign Policy global health summit on Tuesday, Fauci said he tested negative for three days in a row after he finished taking Paxlovid.

But then on the fourth day, Fauci said he tested positive again, a phenomenon that's referred to as a "Paxlovid rebound."

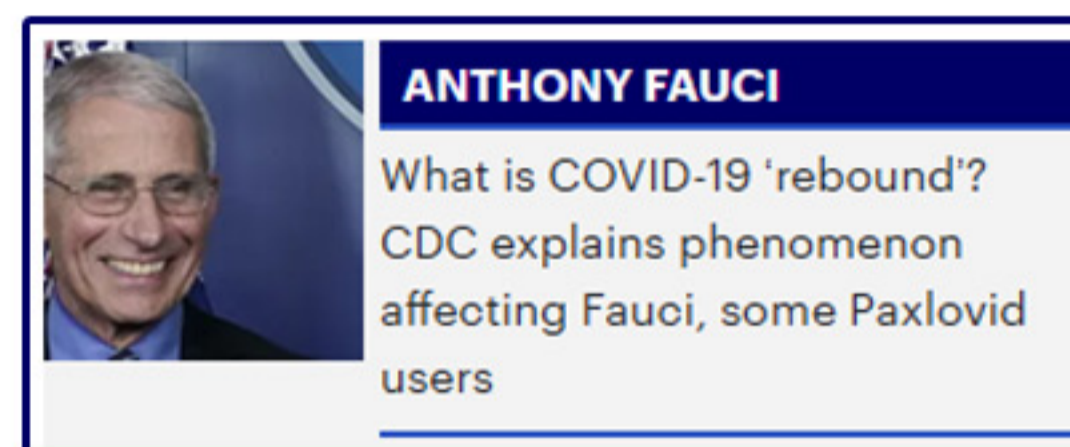
Scores of patients have reported a similar experience, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month warned health providers to be on the lookout for a "rebound" in Paxlovid patients between two and eight days after an initial recovery.

However, a rebound doesn't mean a person is re-infected. Officials and experts have said they think it's part of the "natural history" of the virus, and can occur regardless of a person's vaccination status.

Fauci said that he felt "really poorly," and his symptoms felt much worse in the day or two following the rebound, and he started a second course of Paxlovid.

According to the CDC, there is currently no evidence that additional Paxlovid treatment is needed when there's a suspected rebound.

The Food and Drug Administration similarly stated that "there is no evidence of benefit at this time for a longer course of treatment ... or repeating a treatment course of Paxlovid in patients with recurrent COVID-19 symptoms following completion of a treatment course."



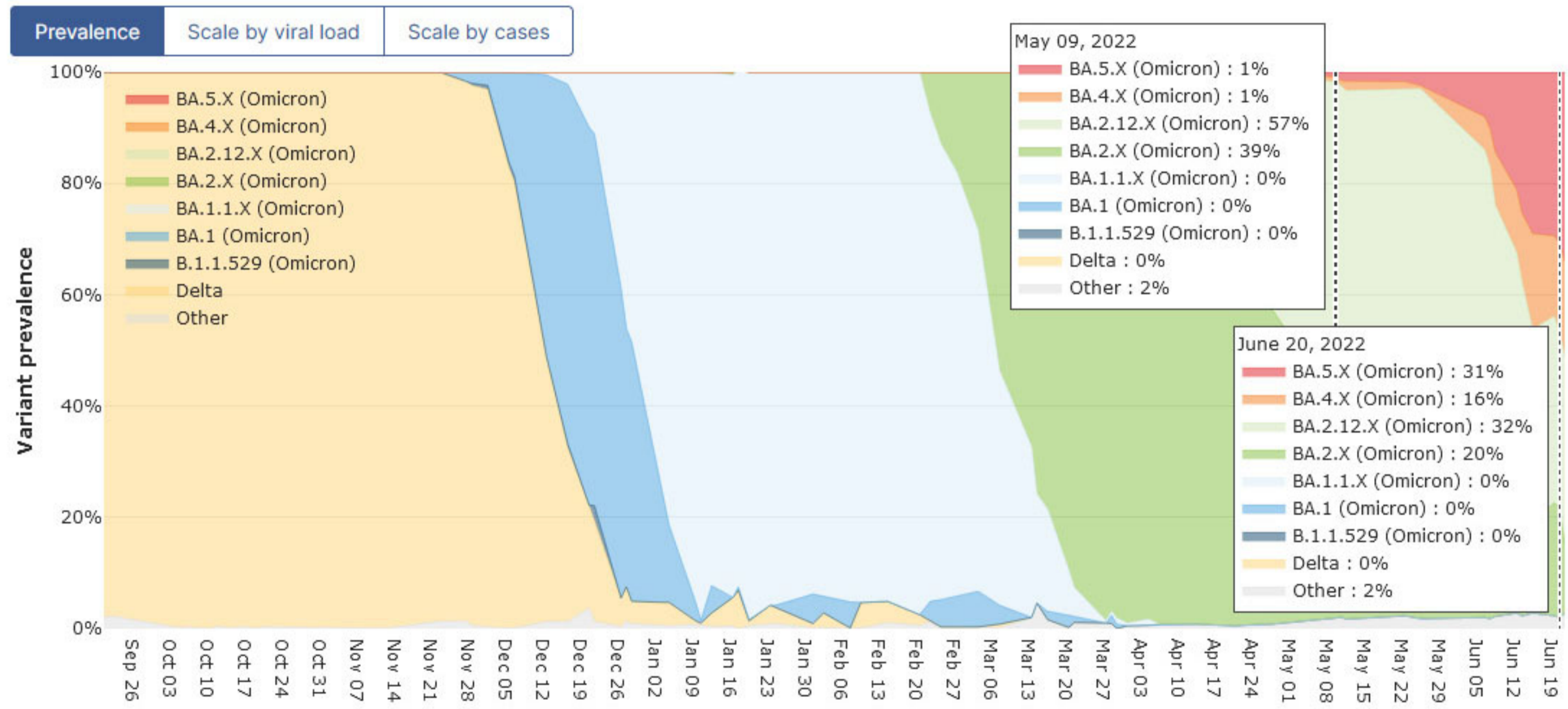
Both the recurrence of illness and positive test results improved or resolved within about three days without additional anti-COVID-19 treatment.

Fauci has been the face of the government's response to COVID-19 for more than two years and has previously avoided testing positive for the virus. But his positive test was the latest in a long string of high-profile cases among lawmakers and government officials in Washington, D.C.

The White House has maintained that tools like vaccines, boosters and Paxlovid mean the country is in a new era of the virus where cases have been defanged to some degree.



Wastewater lineages



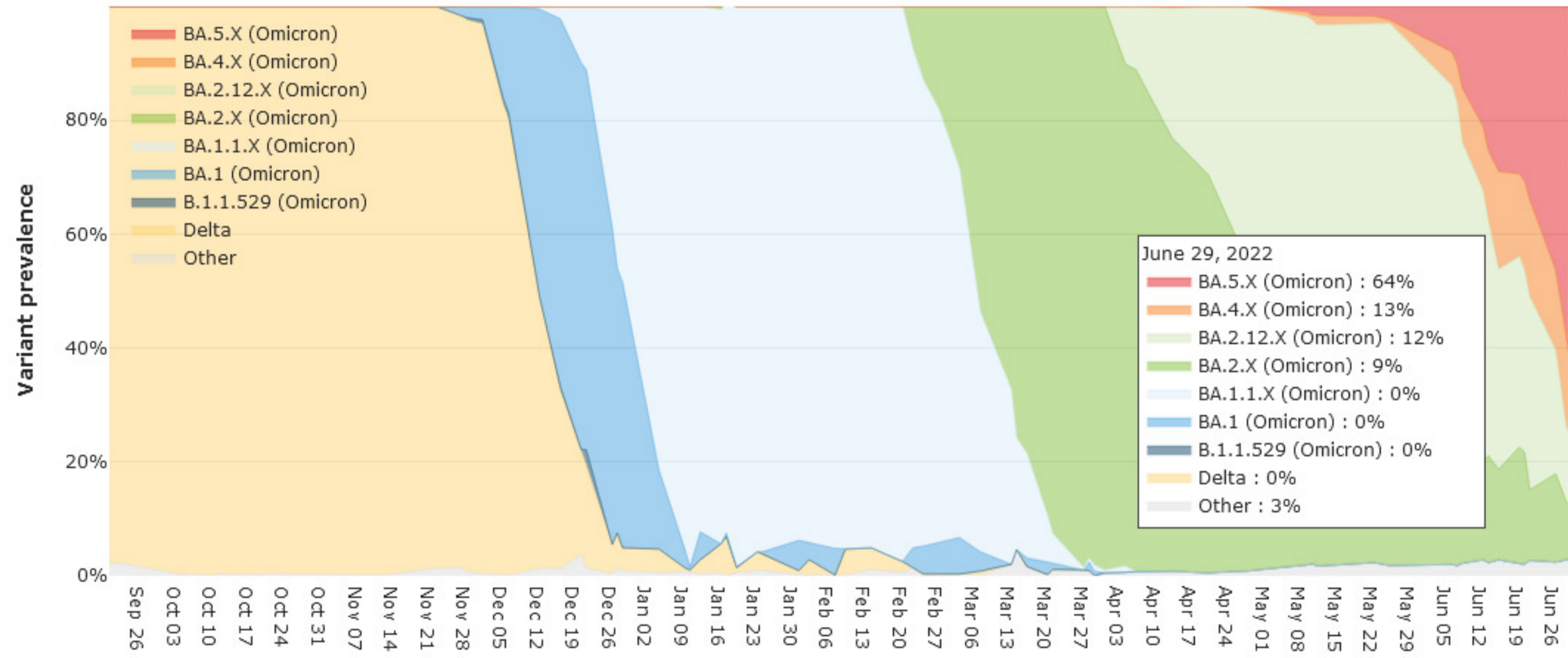


Protocols About

Dashboards

Wastewater lineages

Prevalence Scale by viral load Scale by cases



Updated at July 07 @ 09:22 PM PDT

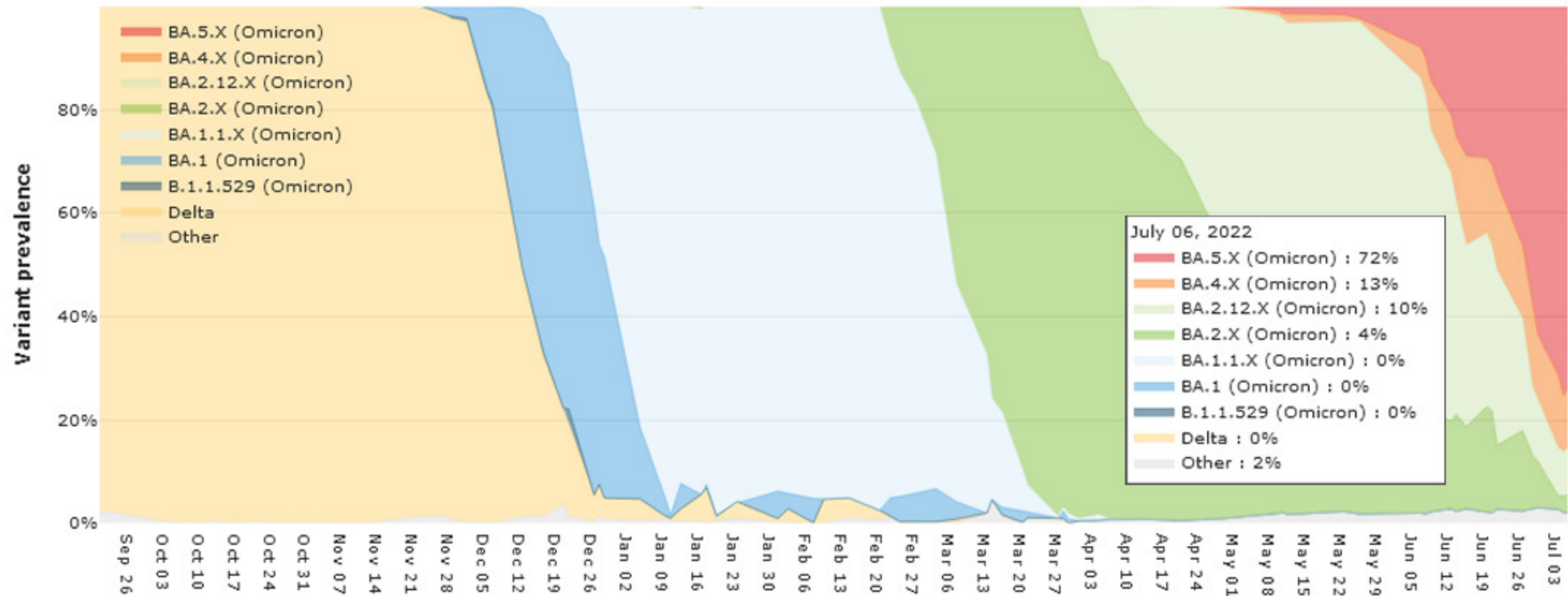


Protocols About

Dashboards

Wastewater lineages

Prevalence Scale by viral load Scale by cases

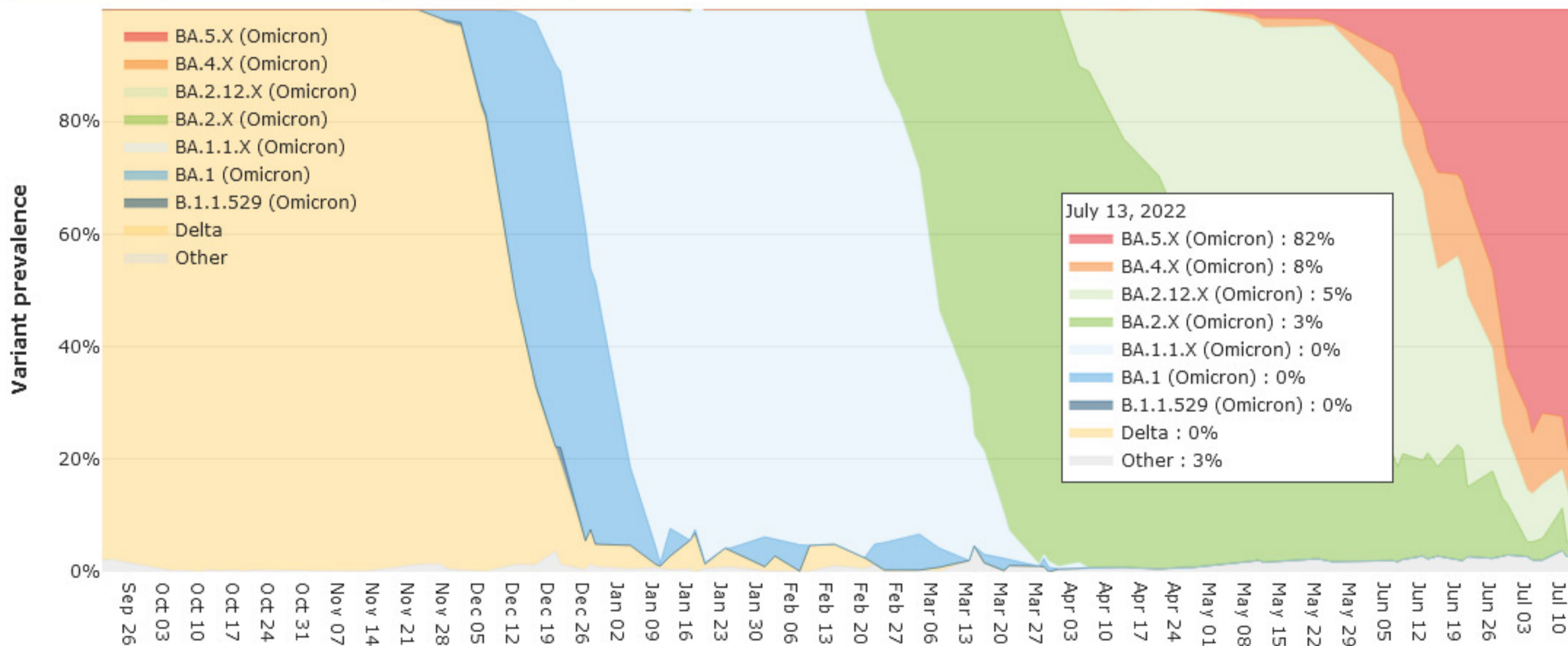


Updated at July 11 @ 02:50 PM PDT



Wastewater lineages

Prevalence Scale by viral load Scale by cases



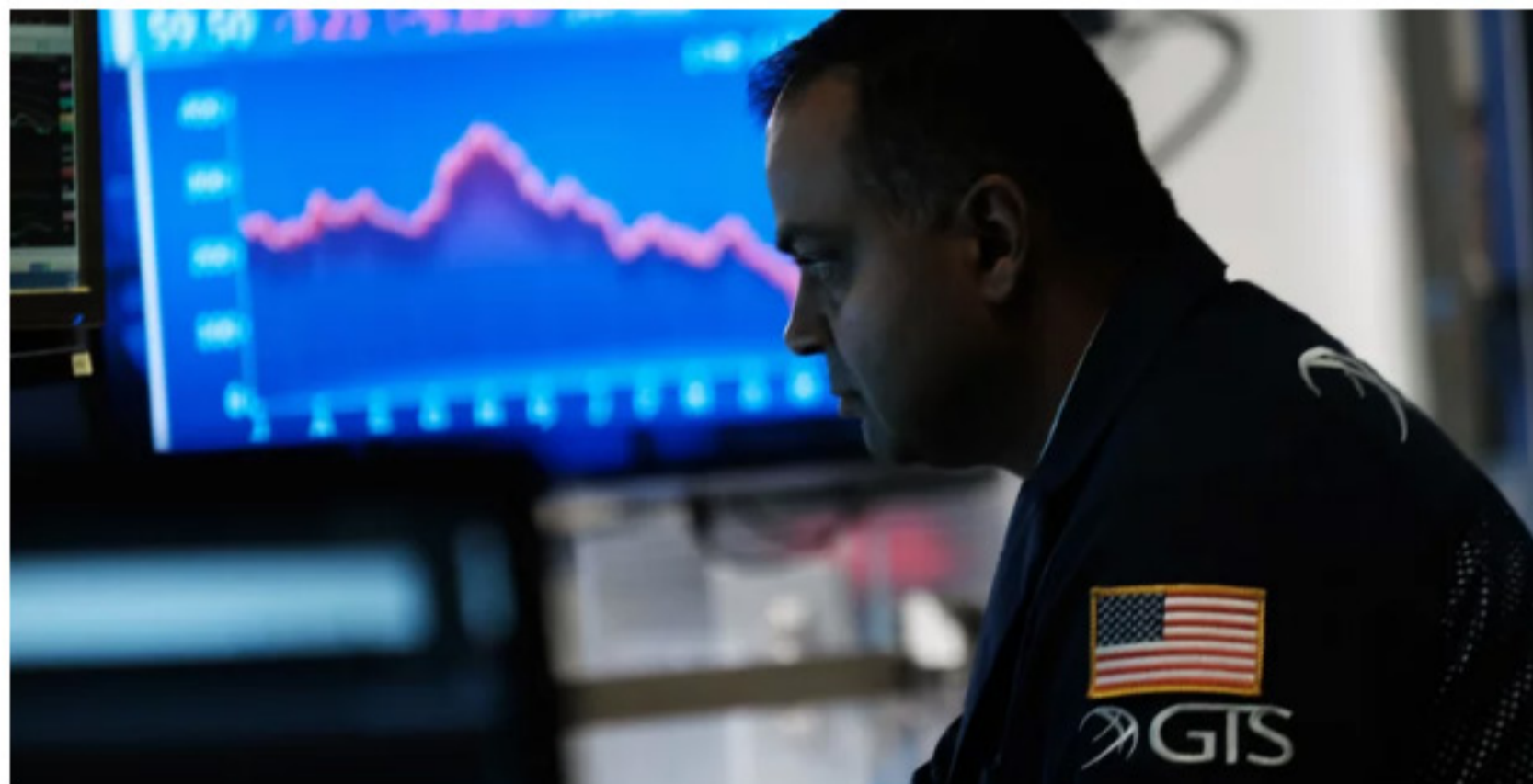
It's been a vicious 6 months for stocks. Here's what the grim markets are signaling

June 30, 2022 - 8:20 AM ET

Heard on All Things Considered



DAVID GURA



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

A record-setting run fueled by cheap money has ended, and Wall Street is having a hard time adjusting to a new reality. With the Federal Reserve aggressively hiking interest rates to fight high inflation, the economic landscape has changed dramatically.

At the halfway point of the year, the tech-heavy Nasdaq has fallen by 30% and the broad-based S&P 500 is down by over 20%. Both indexes are in bear market territory, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average is in a correction. Year to date, it is down over 15%. "When interest rates go up, it changes all the math," says Charles Bobrinsky, vice chairman of Ariel Investments. "It changes the math of buying a car, buying a house, buying a bond, and it changes the value of particularly tech stocks, whose earnings are far off in the future." And that means that all that whipsawing on Wall Street of the last few months — including the massive single-day swings of more than 1,000 points — reflects real nervousness among investors. They're worried the Fed may tip the U.S. economy into a recession. While that volatility has been driven mainly by rising interest rates and inflation, it has been compounded by numerous geopolitical risks: COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc and lockdowns in China, global supply chains remain clogged and Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues.

High growth stocks were the first to fall: Historically, when interest rates rise and borrowing costs go up, investors pull out money from the riskier parts of the economy. High growth companies and tech stocks are the first to see their stocks fall. This time is no different. The S&P 500's worst stock performer to date is Netflix, which is down 70%. The second-worst performer is Etsy, the online marketplace for art and craft from artisans, which is down almost 65%.

There is but one bright spot: Really, the only bright spot in stocks has been energy. Russia's invasion of Ukraine drove oil and natural gas prices higher, and gasoline and diesel prices have set new records. That rise in commodities prices has benefitted global energy giants. Many of them raked in record profits.

It all started one fateful day in January: What is perhaps most startling to Wall Street is how quickly everything changed. The first signal came on January 5, when a readout of a Fed meeting that took place at the end of last year was released. Those minutes showed how Fed members saw rising inflation as a major risk to the economy and they would have to start raising rates sooner than expected. The reaction in the markets was swift. All the major stock market indexes fell that day, with the Nasdaq dropping the most — over 3%.

From there, it only got worse: It was just the beginning. Fed officials continued to affirm their negative stance over the next few weeks and months, the inflation numbers got worse, and that combination sent a spiral of pessimism through the markets.

The Fed first underestimated inflation and is now playing catch-up
But can the Fed wrestle inflation down, or will its actions lead to recession?

The Federal Reserve is administering tough medicine to the U.S. economy and policymakers are aware there are risks. If the Fed's interest rate increases cool the economy too much, it could lead to a deep downturn and even a recession. Even Powell doesn't discount that. Speaking at a European Central Bank conference on Wednesday he said: "Is there a risk we would go too far? Certainly there's a risk." There is a huge desire, among policymakers and politicians especially, to see changes immediately, but to everyone's frustration, it will take time to see if the Fed's medicine is working.

If, in a few months, there are indications that the Fed is succeeding at bringing inflation under control, markets will stabilize. But if it becomes clear the Fed isn't getting a handle on inflation, all bets are off.

<https://theconversation.com/ketanji-brown-jackson-sworn-in-as-supreme-court-justice-4-essential-reads-180838>

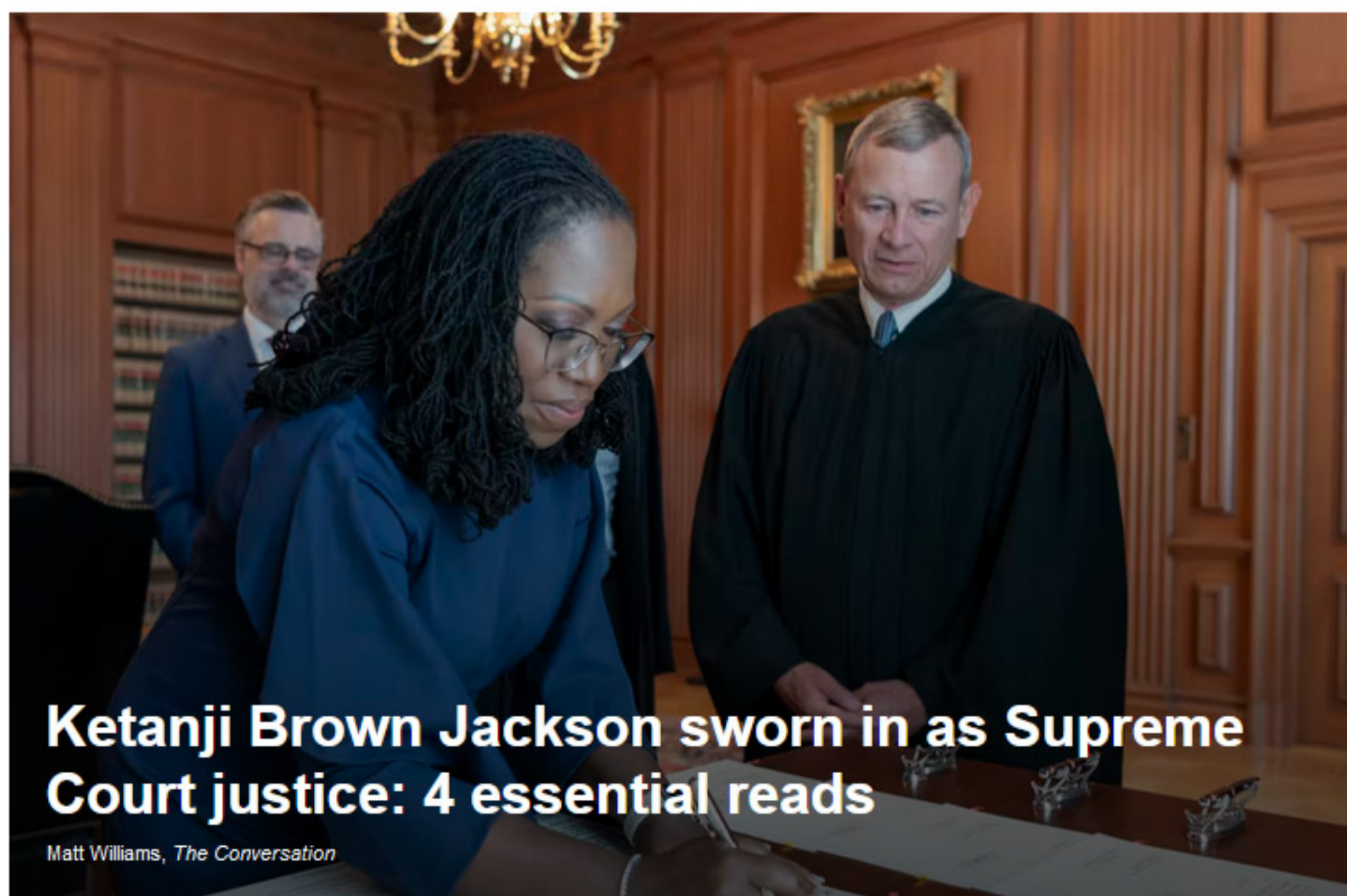
<https://theconversation.com/the-supreme-court-has-curtailed-epas-power-to-regulate-carbon-pollution-and-sent-a-warning-to-other-regulators-185281>

<https://theconversation.com/the-supreme-court-has-overturned-precedent-dozens-of-times-including-striking-down-legal-segregation-and-reversing-roe-185941>

<https://theconversation.com/supreme-courts-remain-in-mexico-ruling-puts-immigration-policy-in-the-hands-of-voters-as-long-as-elected-presidents-follow-the-rules-186016>

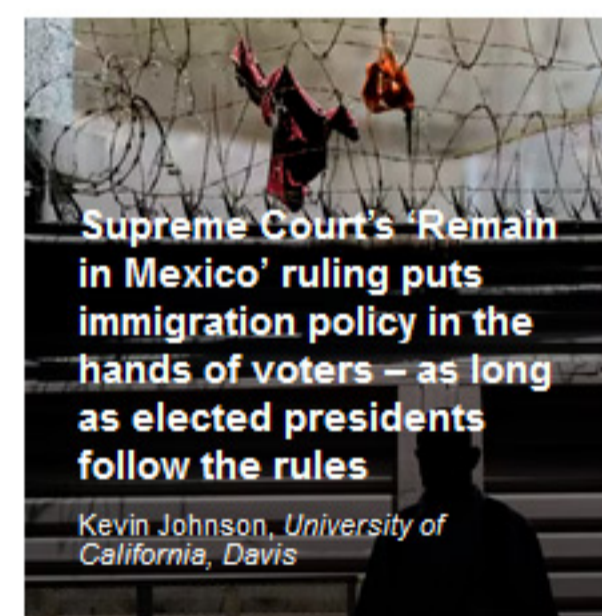
The Supreme Court has curtailed EPA's power to regulate carbon pollution – and sent a warning to other regulators

Patrick Parenteau, *Vermont Law School*



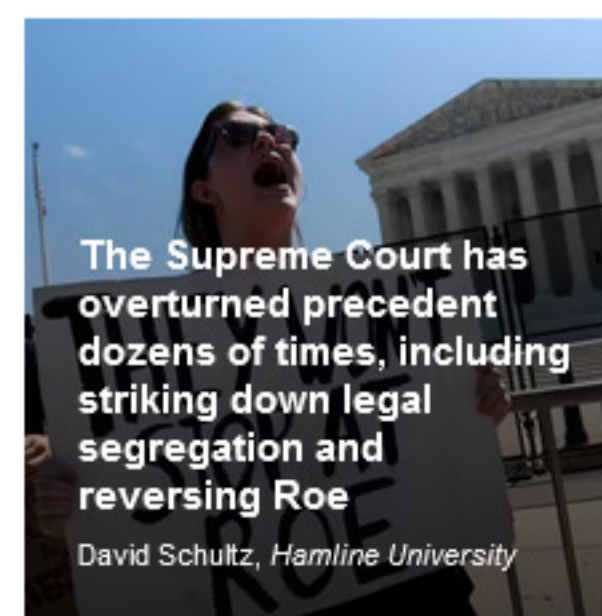
Ketanji Brown Jackson sworn in as Supreme Court justice: 4 essential reads

Matt Williams, *The Conversation*



Supreme Court's 'Remain in Mexico' ruling puts immigration policy in the hands of voters – as long as elected presidents follow the rules

Kevin Johnson, *University of California, Davis*



The Supreme Court has overturned precedent dozens of times, including striking down legal segregation and reversing Roe

David Schultz, *Hamline University*

The Christian Right is winning cultural battles while public opinion disagrees

July 1, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

ASHLEY LOPEZ



Former President Donald Trump gives the keynote address at the Faith & Freedom Coalition during its annual "Road To Majority Policy Conference" at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center June 17, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn.

There's an influential minority of Americans who envision the United States as a Christian nation. Lately, this group has been making significant progress in its mission. Recent rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court reversing *Roe v. Wade* and protecting prayer in schools are chief among these victories. These cultural wins for the Christian Right, though, are happening at a time when a growing majority of Americans are strongly opposed to their views. "This is the most disproportionate power that the Christian Right has had in my lifetime," says Robert Jones, CEO and founder of the Public Religion Research Institute — a nonpartisan group that conducts research on the intersection of politics, culture and religion.

More and more white evangelical Christians are now talking about the U.S. as a Christian nation in ways that verge on or outright embrace Christian nationalism — the idea that the U.S. is a Christian nation and its laws should be rooted in The Bible.

On the Sunday after the Supreme Court reversed a decades-old ruling that legalized abortions in the U.S., Republican congresswoman Lauren Boebert spoke to a crowd at a church in Colorado. Among other things, **Boebert complained that faith communities have long had to deal with laws in the U.S. that they don't agree with. "The church is supposed to direct the government," she said. "The government is not supposed to direct the church. That is not how our founding fathers intended it. And I am tired of this separation of church and state junk. It's not in the Constitution."**

Of course, the Constitution does explicitly ban the establishment of a specific religion. It's in the First Amendment.

But Timothy Head, executive director of the Faith and Freedom Coalition, says he thinks that part of the Constitution was written to keep the government from interfering with religion. "Not to keep anybody that holds a religious view out of government," he said. "All of us have certain kinds of worldviews. Some of those are based on college professors, or your favorite philosophers, or a comedian somewhere. It just so happens that some people base their worldview on biblical teachings."

Jones said even though the Christian Right is currently as emboldened as it's ever been in a long time, it is not winning over public opinion. "White evangelicals in particular have lost a lot of ground," Jones said.

Moral minority

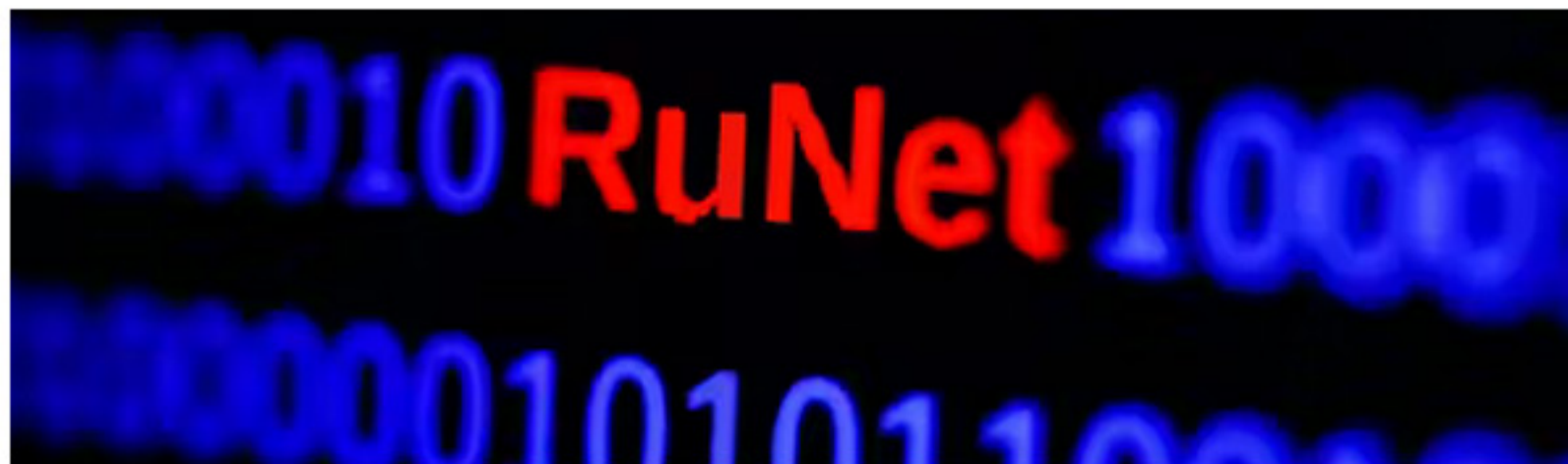
Since at least 2008, white evangelicals have been shrinking in population size and median age — now 56 — has been climbing. During the Christian Right's heyday in the 1970s and 80s, though, Jones says it was aligned with most of the country. "When they said things like 'We are the moral majority,' there was a kind of truth to that — even if it wasn't a demographic truth," he said. "If you look at some of the issues, for example, like same-sex marriage, most of the country agreed with them." But those days are gone.

Jones said he also sees the Christian Right beginning to part with democratic norms. For example, many Christian conservatives have been supporting voting restrictions and backing Trump's election lies. Jones said it's one of the ways they can make sure their country is a Christian nation.

"I think we are seeing the last kind of desperate grasp — that by the way includes violence — that is kind of a desperate attempt to kind of hold on to that vision of the country and to hold on to power," he says.

Ultimately, Jones said, this period in American history could be a hinge point for democracy.

"I think if we can protect our democratic institutions and we can weather these attacks on it, then I think there is light at the other end of the tunnel," he said. "But I do think we are in for some dark days."



Russia has pioneered the concept of digital sovereignty and used it to severely restrict Russians' access to the internet. NurPhoto via Getty Images

Kremlin tightens control over Russians' online lives – threatening domestic freedoms and the global internet

Published: June 30, 2022 8.31am EDT

Stanislav Budnitsky, Indiana University

Since the start of Russia's war on Ukraine in late February 2022, Russian internet users have experienced what has been dubbed the descent of a "digital iron curtain." Russian authorities blocked access to all major opposition news sites, as well as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Under the new draconian laws purporting to combat fake news about the Russian-Ukrainian war, internet users have faced administrative and criminal charges for allegedly spreading online disinformation about Russia's actions in Ukraine. Most Western technology companies, from Airbnb to Apple, have stopped or limited their Russian operations as part of the broader corporate exodus from the country. Many Russians downloaded virtual private network software to try to access blocked sites and services in the first weeks of the war. By late April, 23% of Russian internet users reported using VPNs with varying regularity. **The state media watchdog, Roskomnadzor, has been blocking VPNs to prevent people from bypassing government censorship and stepped up its efforts in June 2022.** Although the speed and scale of the wartime internet crackdown are unprecedented, its legal, technical and rhetorical foundations were put in place during the preceding decade under the banner of digital sovereignty.

Digital sovereignty for nations is the exercise of state power within national borders over digital processes like the flow of online data and content, surveillance and privacy, and the production of digital technologies. Under authoritarian regimes like today's Russia, digital sovereignty often serves as a veil for stymieing domestic dissent.

Digital sovereignty pioneer: Russia has advocated upholding state sovereignty over information and telecommunications since the early 1990s. In the aftermath of the Cold War, a weakened Russia could no longer compete with the U.S. economically, technologically or militarily. Instead, Russian leaders sought to curtail the emergent U.S. global dominance and hold on to Russia's great power status.

The Sovereign Internet Law: In April 2019, Russian authorities took their aspirations for digital sovereignty to another level with the so-called Sovereign Internet Law. The law opened the door for abuse of individual users and isolation of the internet community as a whole. The law requires all internet service providers to install state-mandated devices "for counteracting threats to stability, security, and the functional integrity of the internet" within Russian borders. The Russian government has interpreted threats broadly, including social media content.

Splitting the global internet: The Russian-Ukrainian war has undermined the integrity of the global internet, both by Russia's actions and the actions of technology companies in the West. In an unprecedented move, social media platforms have blocked access to Russian state media.

The internet is a global network of networks. Interoperability among these networks is the internet's foundational principle. The ideal of a single internet, of course, has always run up against the reality of the world's cultural and linguistic diversity: Unsurprisingly, most users don't clamor for content from faraway lands in unintelligible languages. Yet, politically motivated restrictions threaten to fragment the internet into increasingly disjointed networks.

Though it may not be fought over on the battlefield, global interconnectivity has become one of the values at stake in the Russian-Ukrainian war. And as Russia has solidified its control over sections of eastern Ukraine, it has moved the digital Iron Curtain to those frontiers.



BUSINESS

Monthly car payments have crossed a record \$700. What that means

The average cost of a new car is also at the highest on record, topping \$47,000. At this rate, an essential household purchase is starting to feel like a luxury in America.

- **He's the first buyer of the electric F-150. Why he's the future of the car industry**
- **What's causing inflation? One expert walks through some of the factors**



Johnny Navarro



Johnny Navarro sits on the hood of his recently purchased 2014 Lexus.

Johnny Navarro

But people still love their cars

After a lot of shopping, Navarro found a used Lexus online. His car payment came out to \$580 a month, over \$200 more per month than he used to pay. That's before adding in his insurance bill and parking fees in downtown Los Angeles, where he lives.

"I'm definitely gonna have to probably pick up a shift or two more a week," Navarro says, referring to his job as a server at a restaurant in Santa Monica, Calif. Driving cuts his hourlong commute in half, but it's not the only reason he got the car.

"I just like to ride in my car with friends and listen to music. I actually have a carpool karaoke microphone," he says. "That's always really fun."

Navarro is like a lot of Americans — he loves his car. For as long as he can afford it, he's going to own one.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN AMERICA

Abortion-rights advocates in the 13 trigger law states refuse to give up post-Roe

For abortion-rights defenders, the fall of *Roe v. Wade* was a disaster in slow motion. That made the blow no less painful. Thirteen people with personal connections to the issue share their stories.



VANESSA ROMO



From AM to PM, the fickle force of government is with you

By CALVIN WOODWARD 34 minutes ago



WASHINGTON (AP) — When you groggily roll out of bed and make breakfast, the government edges up to your kitchen table, too. Unlike you, it's perky. It's an unseen force in your morning. The government makes sure you can see the nutrients in your cereal. It fusses over your toast, insisting that the flour it comes from has no more than 75 insect fragments and one rodent hair per 50 grams.

The government also tends to your coffee, mandating that no more than 10% of your beans be moldy. Its satellites inform the weather forecast on your phone for the day ahead. The government weighs in on the water consumption in your bathroom and controls the fluoride in your toothpaste. That's all before you leave home. The government is going to be hanging with you on and off, mostly on, until you turn off the lamp last thing at night — no new incandescent bulbs, please, under a new rule.

The world of federal regulation seems both boundless and microscopic. It touches what you touch. It lends a helping hand at every turn or sticks its clumsy fingers in everything, depending on your viewpoint. **But a Supreme Court ruling this past week, limiting federal authority to control carbon emissions from power plants, was just the latest blow to what critics call the regulatory state and potentially a major blow to the fight against global warming.**

In its farthest reach, regulation has become the go-to way for presidents to make policy when they can't get Congress to pass a law, as on climate change. Barack Obama and Donald Trump did it for varied policies; Joe Biden does it. The court's conservative majority said not so fast to Biden. The decision imperils Biden's goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by half by the end of the decade even as the damage from global warming mounts. Beyond that, it may hinder regulation across a range of public policy, in education, transportation, LGBTQ rights and more. Congress, the court said, must speak with specificity when it wants to give an agency authority to regulate on an issue of national import.

Browse the Code of Federal Regulations and you will see just how specific rule-making can be. The voluminous code's favorite words are "shall" and "must." Take sea otters, for example. If you've ever wondered how to measure a sea otter, the code has the answer. The pool of water for sea otters in captivity, it stipulates, "shall be at least three times the average adult length of the sea otter contained therein (measured in a horizontal line from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail) and the pool shall be not less than .91 meters (3.0 feet) deep."

Even as they've expanded government with landmark laws and the explosion of regulations that arise from them, U.S. presidents have tried since the start to simplify government. As vice president, Al Gore took a run at "reinventing" it. Such efforts generally haven't gone well. Thomas Jefferson sought freedom from bureaucracy as well as the achievement of American liberty when he wrote of the British king, "He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance." What followed were several centuries of new offices and swarm upon swarm of bureaucrats come hither.

Associated Press writer Saul Pett took stock of the government in 1981 when President Ronald Reagan was trying to rein it in. Pett won a Pulitzer Prize for getting his hands around the behemoth. He described the government as:

"A big, bumbling, generous, naive, inquisitive, acquisitive, intrusive, meddlesome giant with a heart of gold and holes in his pockets, an incredible hulk, a '10-ton marshmallow' lumbering along an uncertain road of good intentions somewhere between capitalism and socialism, an implausible giant who fights wars, sends men to the moon, explores the ends of the universe, feeds the hungry, heals the sick, helps the helpless, a thumping complex of guilt trying mightily to make up for past sins to the satisfaction of nobody, a split personality who most of his life thought God helps those who help themselves and only recently concluded God needed help, a malleable, vulnerable colossus pulled every which way by everybody who wants a piece of him, which is everybody."

At the time, the U.S. government owned 413,042 buildings, excluding military facilities abroad, and employed 2.8 million civilians and 2.1 million military personnel. The expansion of federal programs especially swelled ranks in state and local government.

In 2021, a year of pandemic-dampened employment, the civilian federal civil service was about the same size as in 1981 while 600,000 or so fewer were in uniform.

For all of that, citizen encounters with the federal government often play out in the background, unacknowledged. The days are long gone when anyone could stroll at will through the front doors of Washington's grand government buildings and do business.

It shapes their lives, nonetheless. That smartphone GPS came from the government. So did the internet.

People stroll on sidewalks built to requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Text messages and apps run off nearby cellphone towers that the Federal Communications Commission registers and licenses.

But it's more visible when the government takes instead of gives. Motorists steer 18.4 cents to Washington for each gallon of gas they buy and 24.4 cents for each gallon of diesel. Most states grab an even bigger take per gallon.

At work, federal rules stand ready to step in if you are a victim of unlawful discrimination or hazardous working conditions. After work, food at the dinner table made it there through a regimen of meat, factory and farm inspection and truth-in-labelling rules.

That pizza sauce? Relax and enjoy. It can only have 30 fly eggs in each cup, by federal mandate. Except when a maggot is present; then only 15 fly eggs are permitted.

When you tuck your children in, the feds are there for the night-night, too.

If the young ones are old enough to get around and in trouble — nine months — they go off to sleep in the only bedtime garments that can be sold for them — body-hugging nightwear or flame-retardant pajamas.

Says a government order: That must and shall be so.

California sets nation's toughest plastics reduction rules

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE yesterday



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Companies selling shampoo, food and other products wrapped in plastic **have a decade to cut down** on their use of the polluting material if they want their wares on California store shelves.

Major legislation passed and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday aims to significantly reduce single-use plastic packaging in the state and drastically boost recycling rates for what remains. It sets the nation's most stringent requirements for the use of plastic packaging, with lawmakers saying they hope it sets a precedent for other states to follow. "We're ruining the planet and we've got to change it," Sen. Bob Hertzberg, a Democrat, said before voting on the bill.

Under the bill, plastic producers would have to reduce plastics in single-use products 10% by 2027, increasing to 25% by 2032. That reduction in plastic packaging can be met through a combination of reducing package sizing, switching to a different material or making the product easily reusable or refillable. Also by 2032, plastic would have to be recycled at a rate of 65%, a massive jump from today's rates. It wouldn't apply to plastic beverage bottles, which have their own recycling rules.

Efforts to limit plastic packaging have failed in the Legislature for years, but the threat of a similar ballot measure going before voters in November prompted business groups to come to the negotiating table. The measure's three main backers withdrew it from the ballot after the bill passed, though they expressed concern the plastics industry will try to weaken the requirements. States have passed bans on single-use plastic grocery bags, straws and other items, and plastic water bottles soon won't be allowed in national parks. But the material is still ubiquitous, used in everything from laundry detergent and soap bottles to packaging for vegetables and lunch meats. Most plastic products in the United States are not recycled, with millions of tons ending up in landfills and the world's oceans. It harms wildlife and shows up in drinking water in the form of microplastics.

"too little, too late; the usual token bullshit crap??"

Marine animals that live off the Pacific coast from crabs to whales are ingesting plastics that make their way into the ocean, said Amy Wolfrum, California ocean policy senior manager at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She called the bill a "fantastic start" to addressing a major problem.

Plastic makers would form their own industry group tasked with developing a plan to meet the requirements, which would need approval from the state's recycling department. They'll be required to collect \$500 million annually from producers for a fund aimed at cleaning up plastic pollution. Maine, Oregon and Colorado have similar producer responsibility systems. It does not ban styrofoam food packaging but would require it to be recycled at a rate of 30% by 2028, which some supporters said is a de facto ban because the material can't be recycled. The ballot measure would have banned the material outright. It would have given more power to the state recycling agency to implement the rules rather than letting industry organize itself.

Sen. Ben Allen, a Santa Monica Democrat who led negotiations on the bill, said it represented an example of two groups that are often at odds — environmentalists and industry — coming together to make positive change. He called it a "strong, meaningful compromise that will put California at the forefront of addressing a major global problem."

Though they withdrew their ballot initiative, the measure's proponents said they remain concerned that industry will try to water down the bill. The initiative's three backers were Linda Escalante of the Natural Resources Defense Council; Michael Sangiacomo, former head of the waste management company Recology; and Caryl Hart, a member of the California Coastal Commission.

Joshua Baca of the American Chemistry Council, which represents the plastics industry, said the bill unfairly caps the amount of post-consumer recycled plastic that can be used to meet the 25% reduction requirement and limits "new, innovative recycling technologies." The bill bans incineration and combustion of plastic, but leaves open the possibility for some forms of so-called chemical recycling.

Judith Enck, @enckj, president of Beyond Plastics, said while California's bill goes farther than any other state when it comes to reducing plastic pollution, **it still falls short. She said it will only result in about a 10% reduction in overall packaging because producers can make products refillable or switch to other materials. She also said that it relies too heavily on failed plastics recycling policies.**

Plastic production is supposed to triple globally by 2050, she said.

She tried to avoid plastic while grocery shopping for a week. Here's how it went

July 2, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

MARTHA BEBINGER



Nuts and dried fruit items at a grocery store.

I didn't see the thin plastic thread running between one leaf on my pineapple and its tag when I put the pineapple in my shopping cart, when I checked out or when I unpacked groceries at home. It wasn't until I chopped off the top and tug on the tag that it hit me.

I'd broken the rules again.

That damn plastic tag tie joins the long list of mistakes I made in just one week of trying to eat plastic-free.

I had challenged myself to purchase a week's worth of food without bringing home any plastic in my grocery bag. That meant no jugs of juice, yogurt containers, cellophane windows in chip bags, plastic packages or even stickers on some produce.

Why did I do this? Because very few of the plastic packages and containers we use once get recycled. Because there's growing concern about the harmful health effects. Some research suggests that ingesting microplastics could disrupt hormone production or be associated with problems like asthma and learning disorders.

Though scientists have not confirmed the link, I just don't love the idea that I may consume a credit card's worth of plastic in a week.

I chose a budget of \$115.00 (roughly half-way between the average weekly grocery bill for a family of two in Massachusetts and the food stamp allotment for that same household). On a Saturday afternoon, I pulled into the parking lot of my local chain grocery store feeling reasonably plastic-aware, not ready for the butt-kicking I was about to get.

[...]

To reduce my plastic use moving forward, I'm going to have to make more things from scratch, like hummus, marinara, salsa, maybe even yogurt. I'm switching brands of juice so I can buy OJ and lemonade in reusable glass bottles. I'll have to drive around a bit to explore more bulk food options, and I may need to spend a little more on things like cheese wrapped in paper. I've got to beef up my supply of refillable jars and maybe invest in some of those reusable food container bags and that beeswax cling wrap alternative.

I asked Star Market, where I shopped this week, what they're doing to reduce plastic food packaging. Star is owned by Albertsons, one of the largest food retailers in the U.S. They pointed me to a web page about the company's plans to reduce plastic waste, which might mean using less plastic packaging. And Costco, where I shop a few times a year, says it's currently reviewing packaging of all products to reduce plastic use.

Maybe we can slow some of the projected growth in plastic we use once and throw away, and major oil, gas and petrochemical corporations that make most of our plastic will shift to more renewable products. In the meantime, I aim to up my game. I avoided using 27 plastic containers and packages in one week; I can do better.

Election deniers have taken their fraud theories on tour — to nearly every state

June 30, 2022 · 3:52 PM ET



MILES PARKS



ALLISON MOLLENKAMP



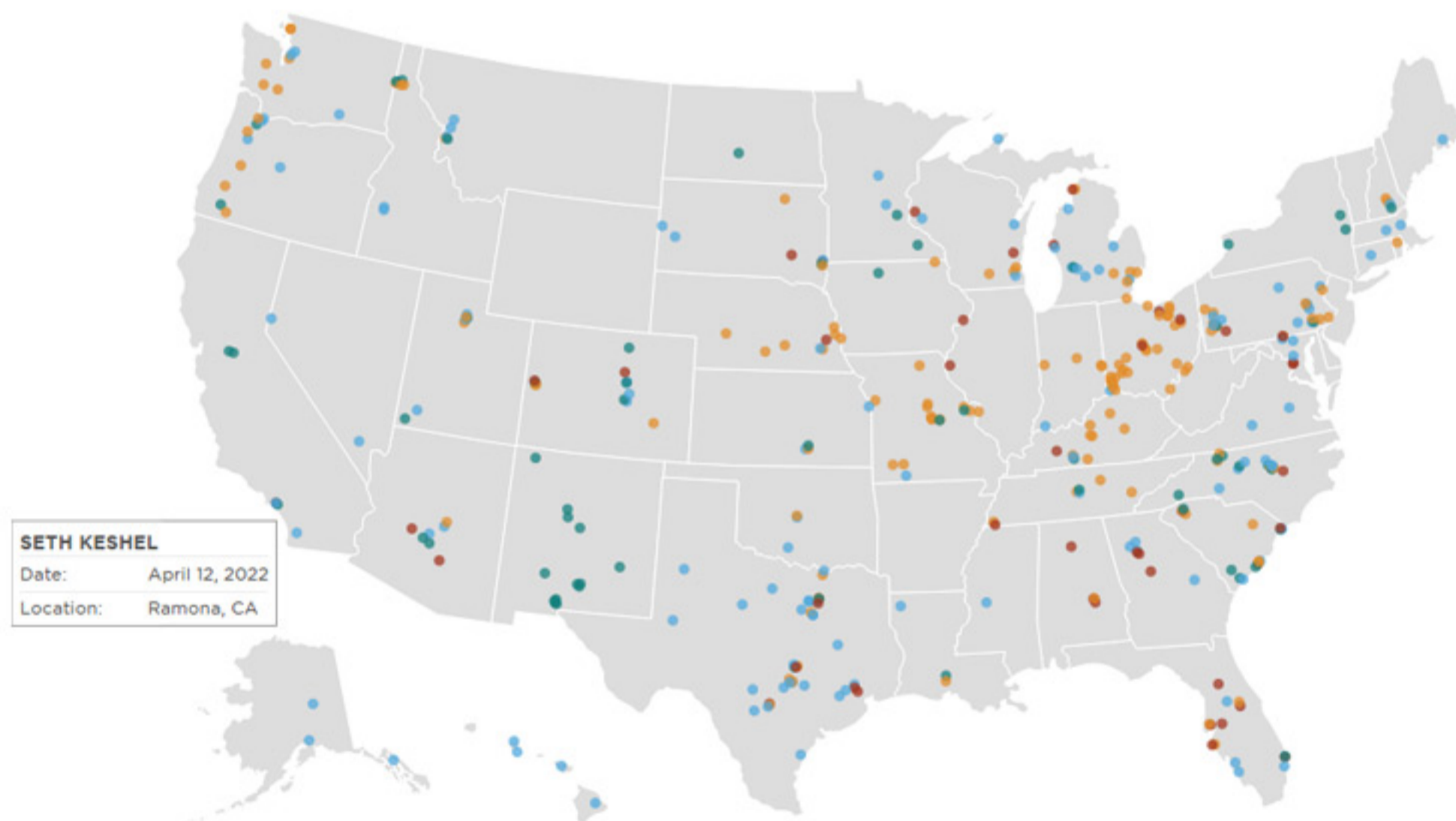
NICK MCMILLAN



Election deniers spread misinformation at hundreds of grassroots events after Jan. 6

NPR tracked four key influencers as they traveled the country, spreading the false narrative that there was rampant fraud in the 2020 election. The men appeared at at least 308 events in 45 states and the District of Columbia, often with elected officials, candidates and grassroots organizations.

● Mike Lindell ● Douglas Frank ● David Clements ● Seth Keshel



MIKE LINDELL

Appeared in at least 45 events in 20 states

Lindell is the CEO of MyPillow and a longtime Trump supporter. He is based in Minnesota and claims to have spent \$25 million to prove the election was stolen. Lindell is being sued for defamation by Dominion Voting Systems, along with Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell.

DOUGLAS FRANK

Appeared in at least 137 events in 29 states

Frank, often called "Dr. Frank," is a former math and science teacher from Ohio. Frank connected with Lindell in March of 2021 and became a regular on the "election integrity" circuit.

DAVID CLEMENTS

Appeared in at least 62 events in 25 states

Clements is a former business law professor from New Mexico. He was fired for not complying with New Mexico State University's COVID-19 safety policies.

SETH KESHEL

Appeared in at least 121 events in 36 states

Seth Keshel is a former Army intelligence officer who deployed to Afghanistan. Keshel shares his commentary on voter registration and vote totals under the nickname "Captain K." He is based

Notes

NPR tracked Lindell, Frank, Keshel and Clements based on events advertised on their public social media accounts, the websites and social media accounts of local organizations, events NPR attended, video footage and news reports. Dots represent one person's appearance at an event.

Blacklisted for Speaking Up: How California Farmworkers Fighting Abuses Are Vulnerable to Retaliation

By Carlos Cabrera-Lomeli  Jun 30  Save Article



What's it like for immigrant farmworkers to report an unfair labor practice in California? Labor rights advocates say laborers with H-2A visas are vulnerable to retaliation not just from their employers but from recruiters that connect them to jobs in the future. (Anna Vignet/KQED)

A network of retaliation in the US — and abroad

A 2020 report by the migrant rights group Centro de los Derechos del Migrante shows that it's common for H-2A employers nationwide to intimidate workers to exert greater control over them and prevent them from feeling safe enough to speak up while they're employed. Out of 100 former H-2A workers the organization spoke to, 100% of them experienced at least one serious legal violation and 94% experienced three or more serious legal violations.

Rice from CRLA points out that H-2A employers have an incredible amount of control over workers. An employer must provide housing, meals and transportation to and from the work site. Because many workers don't have a U.S. driver's license or their own vehicle, they also depend on their bosses for transportation to go grocery shopping, to receive medical care and for other essential activities.

“A worker who is experiencing bad working conditions can always vote with his or her feet, right?” Rice said. “Well, that's not true for H-2A workers.”

'The Earth is changing, and the way we protect workers must change as well.'

—Ana Salgado, community co-chair, North Bay Jobs With Justice

'There is a tremendous amount of control over access to those [H-2A] visas [exerted by recruiters] within the communities of origin.'

—Elizabeth Strater, director of strategic campaigns, United Farm Workers

'We felt awful with the abuse we received, so we set out to learn what the employer actually needs to do.'

—Kevin, former H-2A worker

'Our enforcement authority is just in the United States. We can't regulate what these third-party recruiters are doing.'

—Ruben Lugo, regional enforcement coordinator, Department of Labor

'We never say the employer can't retaliate against you because of course the employer can retaliate against you.'

—Cynthia Rice, director of litigation, advocacy and training, California Rural Legal Assistance

How to get rid of medical debt — or avoid it in the first place

July 1, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET



YUKI NOGUCHI

Try to qualify, even after the fact, for charity care, Dispute your bill if it is inaccurate, Contact free legal aid services, Do not ignore the issue:

The impulse is understandable, but it will not help and will likely make the debt even more complicated to address, said Rukavina. As daunting as it might be, try to keep advocating for yourself and your family and get help.





Follow

Yuki Noguchi ✓

@Yukinoguchi

NPR Correspondent, STL Cardinals fan, kitchen czarina, Lego picker upper. (R/Ts not endorsements)

📍 Washington DC 🌐 [NPR.org](https://www.npr.org) 📅 Joined May 2007

76 Following 5,243 Followers



↻ Yuki Noguchi Retweeted



Kaiser Health News ✓ @KHNews · Jul 1

We spoke with patients, consumer advocates, and researchers to glean their hard-won insights on how to avoid or manage medical debt.

#DiagnosisDebt

👤 : @Yukinoguchi, @NPR-KHN



khn.org

How to Get Rid of Medical Debt — Or Avoid It in the First Place

Medical bills can add stress to the already stressful experience of dealing with a medical crisis. And if you can't pay those bills, they can...

🗨️ 7 🔄 3 📌



Yuki Noguchi ✓ @Yukinoguchi · Feb 1

This piece aired 2 weeks later than I'd hoped, because I got COVID and became one of my own exhibits; I clamored to get my hands on tests, yet was not exactly eager to know the result.



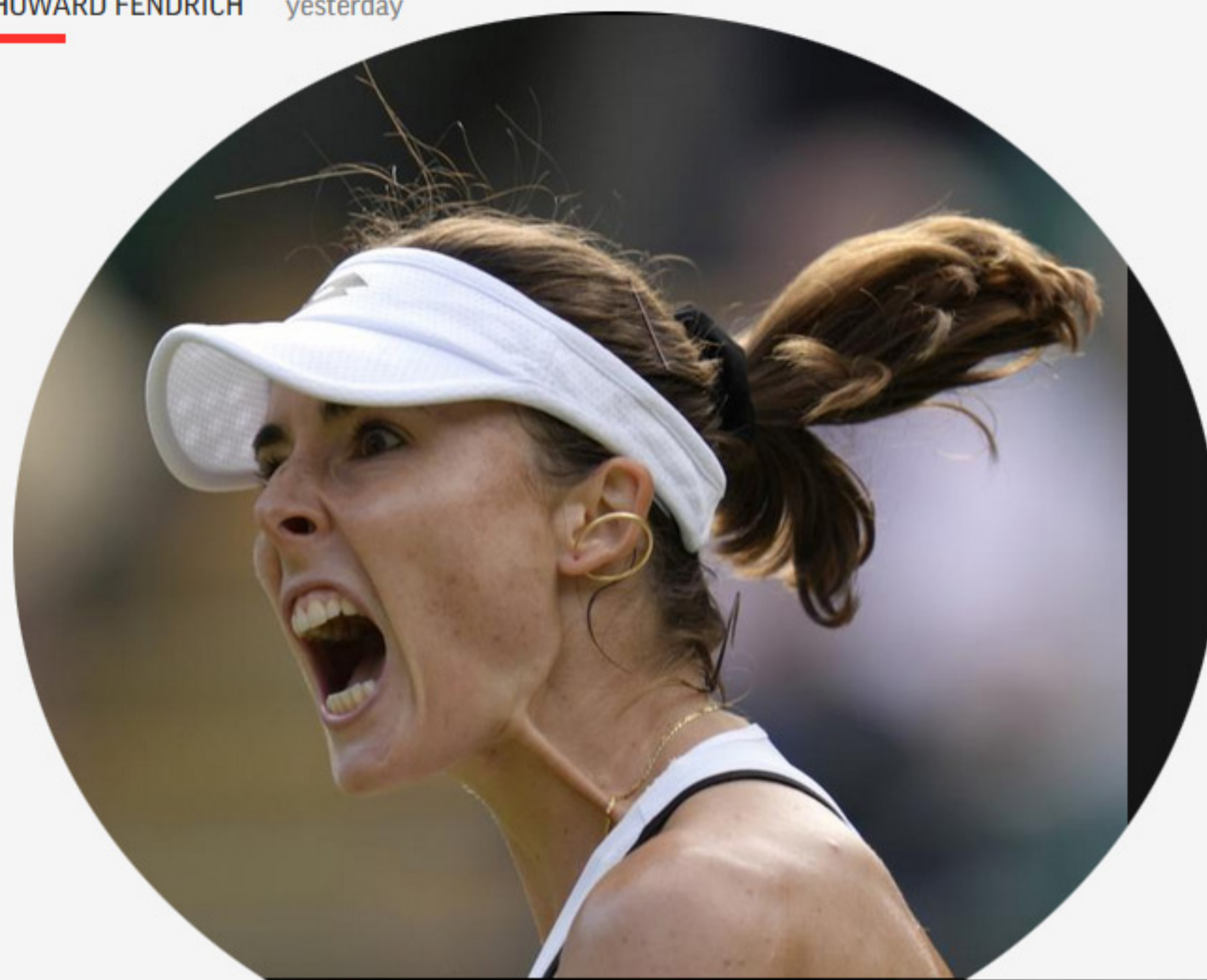
npr.org

Even if they can find a test, not everyone wants to know they have CO... For some people, getting a positive coronavirus test could mean loss of income or other life disruptions. Doctors worry about growing ...

🗨️ 2 🔄 3 ❤️ 8 📌

Swiatek's 37-match win streak ends in Wimbledon's 3rd Rd

By HOWARD FENDRICH yesterday



WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Top-ranked **Iga Swiatek** was unbeaten since February and sure seemed unbeatable, compiling 37 consecutive match wins and six consecutive tournament titles.

She's never quite been as comfortable on grass courts as other surfaces, though, and a mistake-filled Saturday sent Swiatek out of Wimbledon in the third round with a 6-4, 6-2 loss to 37th-ranked Alize Cornet of France.

France's **Alize Cornet** celebrates winning the first set against Poland's Iga Swiatek during a third round women's singles match on day six of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Saturday, July 2, 2022. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)



France's Alize Cornet, right, shakes hands with Poland's Iga Swiatek after defeating her in a third round women's singles match on day six of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Saturday, July 2, 2022. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

She's never quite been as comfortable on grass courts as other surfaces.

Medication abortion is common; here's how it works

By LINDSEY TANNER and MATTHEW PERRONE yesterday



Medication abortions became the preferred method for ending pregnancy in the U.S. even before the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. These involve taking two prescription medicines days apart — at home or in a clinic.

Abortion procedures are an invasive medical technique that empties the womb. They are sometimes called surgical abortions, although they don't involve surgery.

Abortion by pills involves the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol. As more states seek abortion limits, demand for the pills is expected to grow.

“Anti-abortion states are going to do everything they can to restrict medication abortion, but practically speaking people have been and will continue to access it through the mail from international pharmacies,” said Greer Donley, a professor specializing in reproductive health care at the University of Pittsburgh Law School.

YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY

Donley expects lawsuits based on various legal theories to play out for a few years before any clear decisions emerge.



June 29, 2022

Let's spare a few words for 'Silent Cal' Coolidge on July 4, his 150th birthday

Chris Lamb, IUPUI

US President Calvin Coolidge hasn't gone down in history for his triumphs or failures as president during the 1920s – but his dry sense of humor carries on.

A woman sitting next to President Calvin Coolidge at a dinner party once told him she had made a bet that she could get him to say more than two words. "You lose," replied Coolidge, who served as president from 1923 until 1929.

During a White House recital, a nervous opera singer foundered through a performance before Coolidge. Someone asked him what he thought of the singer's execution. "I'm all for it," he said.

Coolidge was so taciturn that he was known as "Silent Cal."

When American writer Dorothy Parker, who, like Coolidge, could say much with few words, learned that the former president had died in 1933, she replied, "How could they tell?"



Calvin Coolidge inspects a campaign truck painted with images of himself and his running mate, Charles G. Dawes.

'My body, my choice': How vaccine foes co-opted the abortion rallying cry

July 4, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

RACHEL BLUTH



Steve Bova (center) traveled from Maryland to Los Angeles with the "People's Convoy" to protest covid-19 restrictions. Despite using a phrase that originated with the abortion rights movement, he opposes abortion.

In the shadow of L.A.'s art deco City Hall, musicians jammed onstage, kids got their faces painted, and families picnicked on lawn chairs. Amid the festivity, people waved flags, sported T-shirts and sold buttons — all emblazoned with a familiar slogan: "My Body, My Choice." This wasn't an abortion rights rally. It wasn't a protest against the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gutted *Roe v. Wade*. It was the "Defeat the Mandates Rally," a jubilant gathering of anti-vaccine activists in April to protest the few remaining COVID-19 guidelines, such as mask mandates on mass transit and vaccination requirements for health care workers. Similar scenes have played out across the country during the pandemic. Armed with the language of the abortion rights movement, anti-vaccine forces have converged with right-leaning causes to protest COVID precautions. And they're succeeding. Vaccine opponents have appropriated "My Body, My Choice," a slogan that has been inextricably linked to reproductive rights for nearly half a century, to fight mask and vaccine mandates across the country — including in California, where lawmakers had vowed to adopt the toughest vaccine requirements in the U.S.

As the anti-vaccine contingent has notched successes, the abortion rights movement has taken hit after hit, culminating in the June 24 Supreme Court decision that ended the federal constitutional right to abortion. The ruling leaves it up to states to decide, and up to 26 states are expected to ban or severely limit abortion in the coming months. Now that anti-vaccination groups have laid claim to "My Body, My Choice," abortion rights groups are distancing themselves from it — marking a stunning annexation of political messaging.

"It's a really savvy co-option of reproductive rights and the movement's framing of the issue," said Lisa Ikemoto, a law professor at the University of California-Davis Feminist Research Institute. "It strengthens the meaning of choice in the anti-vaccine space and detracts from the meaning of that word in the reproductive rights space."

Co-opting the slogan: Perception of the word "choice" has changed over time, said Alyssa Wulf, a cognitive linguist based in Oakland, Calif. The word now evokes an image of an isolated decision that doesn't affect the broader community, she said. It can frame an abortion seeker as self-centered, and a vaccine rejector as an individual making a personal health choice, Wulf said. Beyond linguistics, anti-vaccination activists are playing politics, intentionally trolling the abortion rights groups by using their words against them, Wulf said. "I really believe there's a little bit of an 'eff you' in that," Wulf said. "We're going to take your phrase."

Tom Blodget, a retired Spanish-language instructor from Chico, Calif., sported a "My Body, My Choice" shirt — complete with an image of a cartoon syringe — at the Defeat the Mandates Rally in Los Angeles. It was "an ironic thing," he said, meant to expose what he sees as the hypocrisy of Democrats who support both abortion and vaccine mandates. Blodget said he is "pro-life" and believes that COVID vaccines are not immunizations but a form of gene therapy, which is not true. For Blodget, and many other anti-vaccination activists, there is no inconsistency in this position. Abortion is not a personal health decision akin to getting a shot, they say: It is simply murder. "Women say they can have an abortion because it's their body," Blodget said. "If that's a valid thing for a lot of people, why should I have to take an injection of some concoction?"

Lawmakers have since [...] shifted their attention to the latest political earthquake: abortion.

The Supreme Court marshal asks state officials to act on protests at justices' homes

July 3, 2022 · 12:02 PM ET



BECKY SULLIVAN



Law enforcement officers look on as protesters march past the home of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh in suburban Maryland in June.

Nathan Howard/Getty Images

In a series of letters sent over the weekend, the marshal of the U.S. Supreme Court called on officials in Maryland and Virginia to "enforce" state and local laws that, she wrote, "prohibit picketing outside of the homes of Supreme Court Justices."

"For weeks on end, large groups of protesters chanting slogans, using bullhorns, and banging drums have picketed Justices' homes in Virginia," Marshal Gail Curley wrote to Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "This is exactly the kind of conduct that Virginia law prohibits."

Curley sent similar letters to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, along with several Maryland and Virginia county officials. Curley's requests come after weeks of protests and picketing outside the homes of the court's conservative justices in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. The protests began in May after a draft leaked of the justices' eventual decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Law enforcement, both federal and local, has been present at the justices' homes since the protests began. But the governors of Virginia and Maryland have previously said that responsibility for managing the protests belongs to federal law enforcement.

In a letter sent in May to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, the two governors cited a federal law that explicitly forbids demonstrations at the homes of judges, and they urged Garland to enforce it.

Amdt1.2.3.6 Conscientious Objectors

First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Historically, Congress has provided for alternative service for men who had religious scruples against participating in either combat activities or in all forms of military activities; the fact that Congress chose to draw the line of exemption on the basis of religious belief confronted the Court with a difficult constitutional question, which, however, the Court chose to avoid by a somewhat disingenuous interpretation of the statute.¹ In *Gillette v. United States*,² a further constitutional problem arose in which the Court did squarely confront and validate the congressional choice. Congress had restricted conscientious objection status to those who objected to “war in any form” and the Court conceded that there were religious or conscientious objectors who were not opposed to all wars but only to particular wars based upon evaluation of a number of factors by which the “justness” of any particular war could be judged; “properly construed,” the Court said, the statute did draw a line relieving from military service some religious objectors while not relieving others.³ Purporting to apply the secular purpose and effect test, the Court looked almost exclusively to purpose and hardly at all to effect. Although it is not clear, the Court seemed to require that a classification must be religiously based “on its face”⁴ or lack any “neutral, secular basis for the lines government has drawn”⁵ in order that it be held to violate the Establishment Clause. The classification here was not religiously based “on its face,” and served “a number of valid purposes having nothing to do with a design to foster or favor any sect, religion, or cluster of religions.”⁶ **These purposes, related to the difficulty in separating sincere conscientious objectors to particular wars from others with fraudulent claims, included the maintenance of a fair and efficient selective service system and protection of the integrity of democratic decision-making.**⁷

The First Amendment says nothing about “separation of church and state” or a “wall of separation between church and state.” Where did this idea come from? Is it really part of the law?

Although the words “separation of church and state” do not appear in the First Amendment, the establishment clause was intended to separate church from state. When the First Amendment was adopted in 1791, the establishment clause applied only to the federal government, prohibiting the federal government from any involvement in religion. By 1833, all states had disestablished religion from government, providing protections for religious liberty in state constitutions. In the 20th century, the U.S. Supreme Court applied the establishment clause to the states through the 14th Amendment. Today, the establishment clause prohibits all levels of government from either advancing or inhibiting religion.

The establishment clause separates church from state, but not religion from politics or public life. Individual citizens are free to bring their religious convictions into the public arena. But the government is prohibited from favoring one religious view over another or even favoring religion over non-religion.

Our nation’s founders disagreed about the exact meaning of “no establishment” under the First Amendment; the argument continues to this day. But there was and is widespread agreement that preventing government from interfering with religion is an essential principle of religious liberty. All of the Framers understood that “no establishment” meant no national church and no government involvement in religion. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison believed that without separating church from state, there could be no real religious freedom.

The first use of the “wall of separation” metaphor was by Roger Williams, who founded Rhode Island in 1635. He said an authentic Christian church would be possible only if there was “a wall or hedge of separation” between the “wilderness of the world” and “the garden of the church.” Any government involvement in the church, he believed, corrupts the church. Then in 1802, Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association, wrote: “I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church and State.”

The Supreme Court has cited Jefferson’s letter in key cases, beginning with a polygamy case in the 19th century. In the 1947 case *Everson v. Board of Education*, the Court cited a direct link between Jefferson’s “wall of separation” concept and the First Amendment’s establishment clause.

https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/amdt1-2-3-6/ALDE_00000719/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Stars_and_Stripes_Forever#Parody_lyrics
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Always_on_My_Mind + Amdt1.2.3.6

.....
{220704}

Southern Hospitality *in patriotic Americana song*

Make up your mind,
the way you make your bed.
Hospital corners.
Be hospitable, be kind.
Be kind to your web footed friends.
A duck could be somebody's mother.
She may go off, yet...
she's always on my mind.
The lone dove on the wire above my head,
as I wipe the dew from my car, tells me
there is much to mourn in America.
Doves used to be plentiful here,
until they were run off by the encroaching hoards
of aggressive black crows. A conundrum felt too
by us Conscientious Objectors to war of all stripes.

{**The Stars and Stripes Forever**, Parody lyrics: the 1942, John Church Company "*Duck Song*" version >
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Stars_and_Stripes_Forever#Parody_lyrics + "*Always on My Mind*" is a ballad written by Wayne
Carson, Johnny Christopher, and Mark James > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Always_on_My_Mind + **Amdt1.2.3.6 Conscientious
Objectors**, "Historically, Congress has provided for alternative service for men who had religious scruples against participating in
either combat activities or in all forms of military activities; the fact that Congress chose to draw the line of exemption on the basis
of religious belief confronted the Court with a difficult constitutional question, which, however, the Court chose to avoid by a
somewhat disingenuous interpretation of the statute." https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/amdt1-2-3-6/ALDE_00000719/}

.....

☰ Top stories ⋮

 Fortune

Here's what's open (and closed) on July 4th for Independence Day 2022



5 hours ago

 Good Housekeeping

Is Target Open on the 4th of July 2022 — Target's July 4th Hours



2 hours ago

NEWYORKPOST

The 12 best 4th of July deals at lululemon: shorts, leggings and more



36 mins ago

NEWYORKPOST

What movies to stream and TV to watch on July 4, 2022



53 mins ago

More news →

NATIONAL

Highland Park police take a man into custody over the July 4th parade shooting

Updated July 4, 2022 · 9:25 PM ET

VANESSA ROMO JONATHAN FRANKLIN



Police crime tape is seen near an American flag-themed sunglasses at the scene of the Fourth of July parade shooting in Highland Park, Ill.

Youngrae Kim/AFP via Getty Images

A gunman on a rooftop opened fire on an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago, killed at least six people and wounding at least 30.

FBI Most Wanted 2,675 Tweets

FBI Most Wanted @FBIMostWanted · 12h
The #FBI is assisting with the search for Robert E. Crimo, III, sought for his alleged involvement in the shooting of multiple people at a July 4, 2022, parade in Highland Park, Illinois. He may drive a 2010 Silver Honda Fit with Illinois plates DM80653: fbi.gov/wanted/law-enf...

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

ROBERT E. CRIMO, III

Multiple Homicides in a Mass Shooting



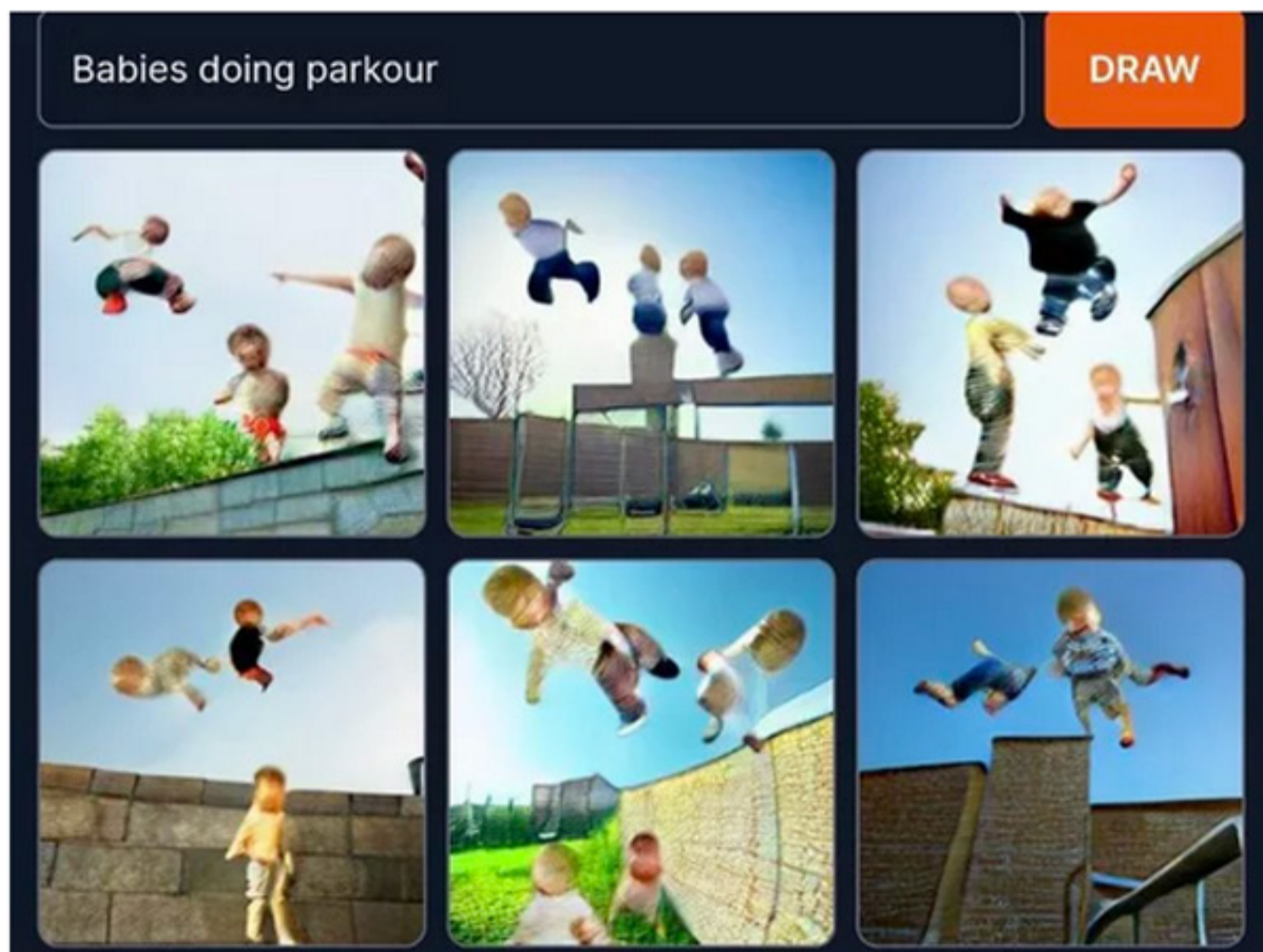

2010 Silver Honda Fit

489 2,933 3,347

When machine learning meets surrealist art meets Reddit, you get DALL-E mini

July 5, 2022 - 5:01 AM ET

KAI MCNAMEE



An image of babies doing parkour generated by DALL-E mini.

[Weird Dall-E Mini Generations](#)

DALL-E mini is the AI bringing to life all of the goofy "what if" questions you never asked: What if Voldemort was a member of [Green Day](#)? What if there was a McDonald's in Mordor? What if scientists sent a [Roomba](#) to the bottom of the [Mariana Trench](#)?

You don't have to wonder what a Roomba cleaning the bottom of the Mariana Trench would look like anymore. DALL-E mini can show you.

DALL-E mini is an online text-to-image generator that has exploded in popularity on social media in recent weeks.

The program takes a text phrase — like "mountain sunset," "Eiffel tower on the moon," "Obama making a sand castle," or anything else you could possibly imagine — and creates an image out of it.



TECHNOLOGY

The Google engineer who sees company's AI as 'sentient' thinks a chatbot has a soul

The results can be strangely beautiful, like "[synthwave buddha](#)," or "[a chicken nugget smoking a cigarette in the rain](#)." Others, like "[Teletubbies in nursing home](#)," are truly terrifying.

DALL-E mini gained internet notoriety after social media users started using the program to mash recognizable pop culture icons into bizarre, photorealistic memes.

This conservative leader is trying to make white evangelical politics less white

July 5, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



SUSAN DAVIS



Ralph Reed prays on stage during a Donald Trump campaign event courting devout conservatives by combining praise, prayer and patriotism, Thursday, July 23, 2020, in Alpharetta, Ga.

John Amis/AP

NASHVILLE — At a recent gathering of thousands of religious conservative activists held by the Faith and Freedom Coalition, one thing immediately stood out: the crowd isn't as white as it used to be. That's not an accident, according to founder Ralph Reed. **"Our goal is, over the coming decades, to build a genuinely multiracial, multiethnic, faith-based movement that changes the demographic location of our movement,"** Reed said during a lunch roundtable with a handful of reporters. Attendees listened to Christian worship music — at times sung in Spanish — and attended sessions on how to turn out the vote in this year's midterms. The message, and the movement, is resonating with Black pastors like W.J. Coleman from Lewisville, Miss. "Many realize they are conservative, but the word 'conservative' and 'Republican' have been made an evil word," he told NPR. "But if you take that out of the equation, many more minorities would find themselves being that."

Social conservatism is having a moment: The Supreme Court is handing down recent decisions in their favor — against abortion rights and in favor of public prayer — and the Republican Party's rising stars, like Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, are eagerly taking on the progressive politics of corporate America. Reed has been an activist in evangelical GOP politics for three decades. He runs the Faith and Freedom Coalition now, but he is best known for starting the Christian Coalition back in the early 1990s. He has been a controversial figure at times. In the mid 2000s, he got caught up in the Washington scandals involving disgraced former lobbyist Jack Abramoff, but Reed was never charged with any wrongdoing. He found his way back to national prominence after he embraced Donald Trump in 2016 and helped turn out the white evangelical vote in his favor. Reed's stock is once again on the rise as Republicans see a red wave coming in the fight for control of Congress this November. "We are focused like a laser beam at turning out the largest faith-based evangelical and pro-life vote that we've seen in a midterm elections in our lifetimes," Reed said. He noted that when he started the Christian Coalition, the outfit built a database of 8 million voters. Today, Reed's database measures at 46 million voters. "We will knock on more doors, touch more voters at the door, not only than we have ever touched in the history of the organization, but than I believe have been touched by any outside organization on the center right in my career," he said. If Reed sounds optimistic, he has reason to be. His organization has become a touchstone for any Republican candidate seriously considering a run for president. Trump spoke at his Nashville gathering last month. Plus, the decisive sway of evangelical voters in primary politics has ambitious politicians making moves to win them over.

Florida's fight with Disney was a 'watershed moment': One of those presidential hopefuls, Florida GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis, recently went after the Walt Disney corporation's special tax status in his state after the company opposed a new state law prohibiting educators from discussing sexual orientation or gender identity with children before the 4th grade. Reed said that was "a watershed moment" for the conservative movement. "For that to not only happen, but for it to happen like that, and for DeSantis to do it and not only pay no political price, but I would argue become a political beneficiary, and then for Disney to basically go radio silent and just take it, was unbelievable," he said. The Disney fight has emboldened activists to more aggressively take on institutions that have been their traditional political allies. Disney did not respond to a request for comment. "If the Disneys and the Deltas and the Coca-Colas of the world are not careful, they're going to take the best friend they've ever had when it came to economic policy and regulation — and policies that would benefit their ability to grow their companies — and turn them into adversaries," he said.

Reed sees culture war issues as a draw for nonwhite voters: Reed sees issues involving sex and gender and parental rights as a new avenue for the Republican Party to make inroads with Black and Latino voters who attend church at higher rates than White voters do, according to the Pew Research Center. "They really, really play and resonate powerfully in these minority communities," he said. "Not among everybody, but it would be a minimum of 25% in the black community, and it would probably be a minimum 30% in the Hispanic community." Reed spoke to reporters days before the Supreme Court handed down the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, though the outcome was expected after the draft opinion was leaked. He did not think that abortion would be a major issue come November, noting historically only about 5% of voters list abortion as their number one reason for voting. "I think this election is going to be about what we all know it's going to be about, which is the economy, inflation and high prices," he said. The impact, come November, could be a Republican controlled Congress emboldened to advance a more socially conservative agenda.

A federal judge sides with 3 major drug distributors in a landmark opioid lawsuit

July 4, 2022 · 10:26 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Huntington, W.Va., Mayor Steve Williams, left, and lawyer Rusty Webb enter the Robert C. Byrd United States Courthouse in Charleston, W.Va., in May. A federal judge on Monday ruled in favor of three major U.S. drug distributors in a landmark lawsuit that accused them of causing a health crisis in a West Virginia county ravaged by opioid addiction.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A federal judge on Monday ruled in favor of three major U.S. drug distributors in a landmark lawsuit that accused them of causing a health crisis by distributing 81 million pills over eight years in one West Virginia county ravaged by opioid addiction. The verdict came nearly a year after closing arguments in a bench trial in the lawsuit filed by Cabell County and the city of Huntington against AmerisourceBergen Drug Co., Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. "The opioid crisis has taken a considerable toll on the citizens of Cabell County and the City of Huntington. And while there is a natural tendency to assign blame in such cases, they must be decided not based on sympathy, but on the facts and the law," U.S. District Judge David Faber wrote in the 184-page ruling. "In view of the court's findings and conclusions, the court finds that judgment should be entered in defendants' favor." Cabell County attorney Paul Farrell had argued the distributors should be held responsible for sending a "tsunami" of prescription pain pills into the community and that the defendants' conduct was unreasonable, reckless and disregarded the public's health and safety in an area ravaged by opioid addiction. The companies blamed an increase in prescriptions written by doctors along with poor communication and pill quotas set by federal agents.

Faber noted that the plaintiffs offered no evidence that the defendants distributed controlled substances to any entity that didn't hold a proper registration from the Drug Enforcement Agency or the state Board of Pharmacy. The defendants also had suspicious monitoring systems in place as required by the Controlled Substances Act, he said. "Plaintiffs failed to show that the volume of prescription opioids distributed in Cabell/Huntington was because of unreasonable conduct on the part of defendants," Faber wrote.

Last year in Cabell County, an Ohio River county of 93,000 residents, there were 1,067 emergency responses to suspected overdoses — significantly higher than each of the previous three years — with at least 158 deaths. So far this year, suspected overdoses have prompted at least 358 responses and 465 emergency room visits, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Health and Human Resources' Office of Drug Control Policy. The U.S. addiction crisis was inflamed by the COVID-19 pandemic with drug overdose deaths surpassing 100,000 in the 12-month period ending in April 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a year.

The Cabell-Huntington lawsuit was the first time allegations involving opioid distribution ended up at federal trial. The result could have huge effects on similar lawsuits. Some have resulted in multimillion-dollar settlements, including a tentative \$161.5 million settlement reached in May by the state of West Virginia with Teva Pharmaceuticals Inc., AbbVie's Allergan and their family of companies.

In all, more than 3,000 lawsuits have been filed by state and local governments, Native American tribes, unions, hospitals and other entities in state and federal courts over the toll of opioids. Most allege that either drug makers, distribution companies or pharmacies created a public nuisance in a crisis that's been linked to the deaths of 500,000 Americans over the past two decades.

In separate, similar lawsuits, the state of West Virginia reached a \$37 million settlement with McKesson in 2019, and \$20 million with Cardinal Health and \$16 million with AmerisourceBergen in 2017.

1972 'Napalm Girl' escorts Ukraine refugees to Canada

yesterday



Ukrainian refugees board a plane before flying to Canada, from Frederic Chopin Airport in Warsaw, Poland, Monday, July 4, 2022. Phan Thi Kim Phuc, the girl in the famous 1972 Vietnam napalm attack photo, on Monday escorted 236 refugees from the war in Ukraine on a flight from Warsaw to Canada. Phuc's iconic Associated Press photo in which she runs with her napalm-scalded body exposed, was etched on the private NGO plane that is flying the refugees to the city of Regina. (AP Photo/Michal Dyjuk)

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Phan Thi Kim Phuc, the girl in the famous 1972 Vietnam napalm attack photo, on Monday escorted 236 refugees from Russia's war in Ukraine on a flight from Warsaw to Canada. Phuc's iconic Associated Press photo in which she runs with her napalm-scalded body exposed, was etched on the private nongovernmental organization plane that is flying the refugees to the city of Regina, the capital of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan.

Kim, 59, a Canadian citizen, said she wants her story and work for refugees to be a message of peace. With her husband, Bui Huy Toan, she traveled from Toronto to board the humanitarian flight. The refugees, mostly women and children from across Ukraine, are among thousands of Ukrainians that Canada has provided humanitarian visas in the wake of Russia's invasion of their country. Millions of Ukrainians have fled since Russia attacked on Feb. 24. Almost 5.5 million have registered with humanitarian organizations in Europe, according to the U.N.

Canada is among many Western countries offering Ukrainian refugees safe haven. The founder of the NGO Solidaire, Argentine philanthropist and pilot Enrique Pineyro, piloted the Boeing 787. Oscar Camps from the Spanish organization Open Arms was also aboard.



Kim Phuc, the girl in the famous 1972 Vietnam napalm attack photo, takes a picture and boards a plane transporting refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine to Canada, from Frederic Chopin Airport in Warsaw, Poland, Monday, July 4, 2022. Phuc's iconic Associated Press photo in which she runs with her napalm-scalded body exposed, was etched on the private NGO plane that flew the refugees Monday to the city of Regina, the capital of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. (AP Photo/Michal Dyjuk)



Add rent to the rising costs bedeviling small businesses

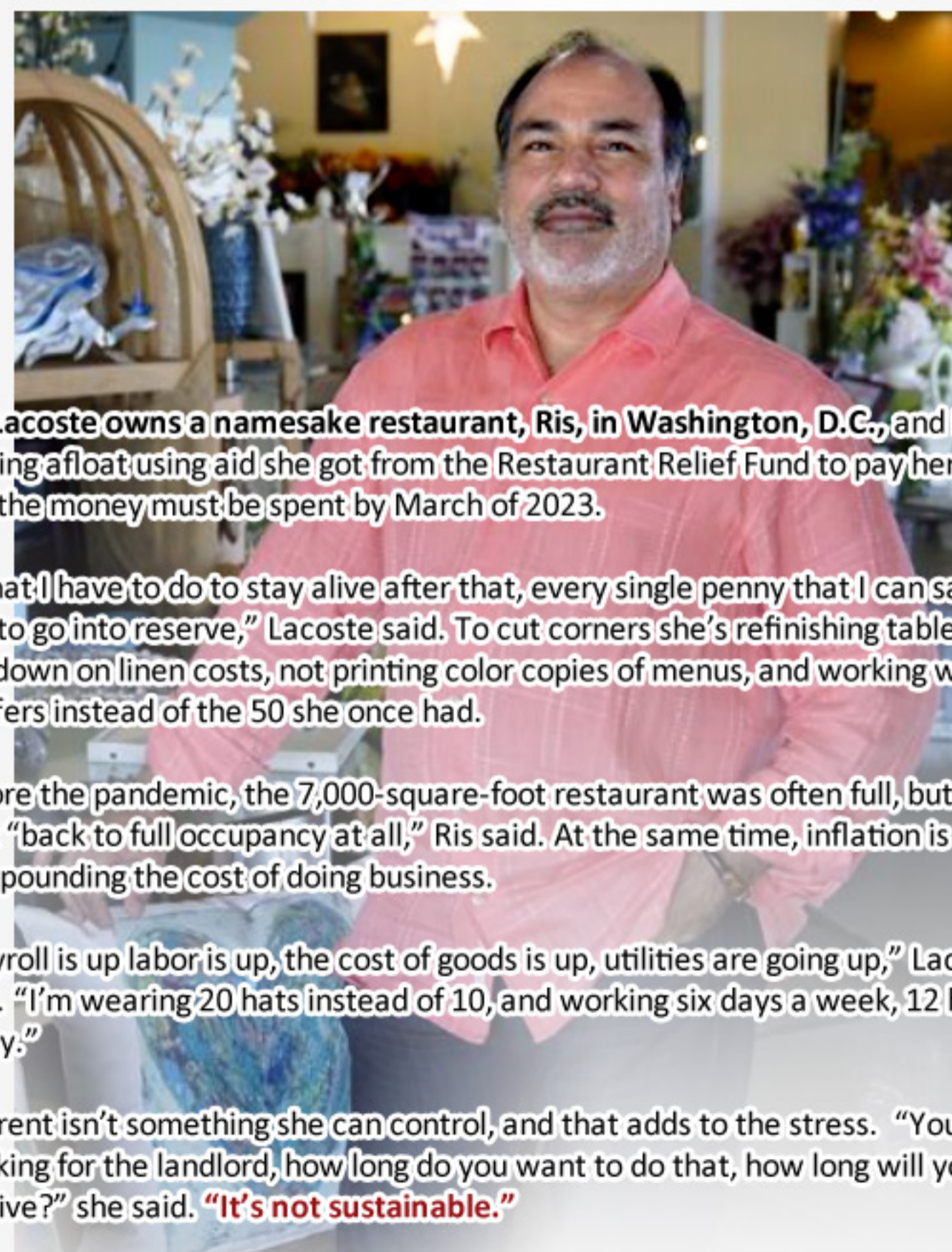
By MAE ANDERSON yesterday



Martin Garcia, owner of gift and décor store Gramercy Gift Gallery, poses for a photo at his shop, Wednesday, June 29, 2022, in San Antonio. Landlords were forgiving about rent during the first two years of the pandemic, but now many are asking for back due rent. Meanwhile, most of the government aid programs that helped small businesses get through the pandemic have ended. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

NEW YORK (AP) — The rent has come due for America’s small businesses and at a very inopportune time.

Landlords were lenient about rent payments during the first two years of the pandemic. Now, many are asking for back rent, and some are raising the current rent as well. Meanwhile, most of the government aid programs that helped small businesses get through the pandemic have ended while inflation has sharply pushed up the cost of supplies, shipping, and labor.



Ris Lacoste owns a namesake restaurant, Ris, in Washington, D.C., and is staying afloat using aid she got from the Restaurant Relief Fund to pay her rent. But the money must be spent by March of 2023.

“What I have to do to stay alive after that, every single penny that I can save has to go into reserve,” Lacoste said. To cut corners she’s refinishing tables to cut down on linen costs, not printing color copies of menus, and working with 22 staffers instead of the 50 she once had.

Before the pandemic, the 7,000-square-foot restaurant was often full, but it isn’t “back to full occupancy at all,” Ris said. At the same time, inflation is compounding the cost of doing business.

“Payroll is up labor is up, the cost of goods is up, utilities are going up,” Lacoste said. “I’m wearing 20 hats instead of 10, and working six days a week, 12 hours a day.”

But rent isn’t something she can control, and that adds to the stress. “You’re working for the landlord, how long do you want to do that, how long will you survive?” she said. **“It’s not sustainable.”**

INFLATION

Argentina peso drops as left-leaning economy minister named

German leader gathers employers, unions to tackle inflation

World shares mostly higher ahead of July 4 holiday in US

Data puts Turkey’s annual inflation at 78.6%, a 24-year high



Coronavirus

New Covid subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 are the most contagious yet – and driving Australia’s third

Omicron wave

The latest variants are masters at evading immunity – meaning previous infection and vaccines are unlikely to provide much protection against catching it

Adrian Esterman for the Conversation

Mon 4 Jul 2022 19:16 EDT

Australia is heading for its third Omicron wave in the coming weeks, as BA.4 and BA.5 become the dominant Covid strains. BA.4 and BA.5 are more infectious than previous Covid variants and subvariants, and are better able to evade immunity from vaccines and previous infections. So we’re likely to see a rise in case numbers. So what are BA.4 and BA.5? And what can we expect in this next phase of the pandemic?

- How did it start? BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3
- When were BA.4 and BA.5 detected?
- How transmissible are BA.4/5?
- How likely is reinfection?
- How high are case numbers likely to rise?
- How severe is the disease from BA.4/5?
- Will BA.4/5 change long Covid?
- How protective are our vaccines against BA.4/5?
- What about new vaccines?

Adrian Esterman is a professor of biostatistics and epidemiology at the University of South Australia. This article was originally published in the Conversation: <https://theconversation.com/australia-is-heading-for-its-third-omicron-wave-heres-what-to-expect-from-ba-4-and-ba-5-185598>

How transmissible are BA.4/5? We measure how contagious a disease is by the basic reproduction number (R0). This is the average number of people an initial case infects in a population with no immunity (from vaccines or previous infection). *New mutations give the virus an advantage if they can increase transmissibility:*

- the original Wuhan strain has an R0 of 3.3
- Delta has an R0 of 5.1
- Omicron BA.1 has an R0 of 9.5
- BA.2, which is the dominant subvariant in Australia at the moment, is 1.4 times more transmissible than BA.1, and so has an R0 of about 13.3
- a pre-print publication from South Africa suggests BA.4/5 has a growth advantage over BA.2 similar to the growth advantage of BA.2 over BA.1. **That would give it an R0 of 18.6.** *This is similar to measles, which was until now was our most infectious viral disease.* **How likely is reinfection?** Likely, there are now tens of thousands of Australians into their second or third infections, and this number will only get bigger with BA.4/5.

How high are case numbers likely to rise? Around Australia, we are starting to see a third wave of cases because of BA.4/5. The second Omicron wave due to BA.2 was not as high as the first one caused by BA.1, probably because there were so many people infected with BA.1, that the ensuing immunity dampened the second wave down. This third wave may not be as high as the second for the same reason.

How severe is the disease from BA.4/5? A recent pre-print publication (a publication that has so far not been peer-reviewed) from a Japanese research group found that in lab-based, cell-culture experiments, BA.4/5 was able to replicate more efficiently in the lungs than BA.2. In hamster experiments, it developed into more serious illness. However, data from South Africa and the United Kingdom found that their BA.4/5 wave didn’t see a major increase in severe disease and death. This is possibly because of the high rates of immunity due to previous infections. Our high rates of vaccine-induced immunity might have a similar protective effect here.

What about new vaccines? The good news is second-generation vaccines are in clinical trials. Moderna is trialling a vaccine containing mRNA against the original Wuhan strain and Omicron BA.1. Early results are very promising, and likely to give much better protection against BA.4/5. But this third Omicron wave – along with a very severe flu season – will likely see our hospitals struggling even more over the next few weeks. **If things get bad enough, state and territory governments might be forced to reintroduce face mask mandates in many settings – in my opinion, not such a bad thing.**

Why UCSF's Bob Wachter says COVID variant BA.5 is 'a different beast'



Jason Fagone

Updated: July 4, 2022 12:34 p.m.



Dr. Robert M. Wachter, Chair of UCSF Department of Medicine, stands for a portrait on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 in San Francisco, Calif.

Stephen Lam /Special to The Chronicle

The new BA.5 strain of the COVID-causing virus is “a different beast” from ones we’ve already seen — more infectious and better able to evade immune responses — and “we need to change our thinking” about how to defend against it, according to a data-packed Twitter thread posted today by Dr. Bob Wachter, UCSF’s chair of medicine.

BA.5, a sub-variant of the Omicron family which has an altered version of the virus’s infamous “spike” protein, will soon become the dominant strain of the virus in the U.S., meaning that “its behavior will determine our fate for the next few months, until it either burns itself out by infecting so many people or is replaced by a variant that’s even better at infecting people,” Wachter wrote.

“Neither is a joyful scenario,” he added.

The number of new COVID cases per day has plateaued nationally and is down significantly since January. The same is true for the number of COVID hospitalizations in the UCSF health system, Wachter said. However, the true spread of COVID is harder to know these days, because so many people are testing themselves with at-home kits.

And BA.5 could cause a continued plateau, or even a new surge of infections and possibly hospitalizations, because it infects more easily and also is better at evading immune responses — even in vaccinated people, Wachter wrote.

While he stressed that vaccines and vaccine booster shots “remain hugely valuable in preventing a severe case” that might lead to hospitalization or death, the increased slippieriness of BA.5 means that existing vaccines will probably be less effective at preventing mild COVID cases or stopping transmission in the first place. Also, he wrote, prior infection by a different variant “no longer provides robust protection from reinfection” with BA.5.

What should a person do, then?

Wachter said it depends on how badly you want to avoid getting COVID. Personally, he said, he doesn’t want to risk getting “Long COVID” and the debilitating symptoms that come with it, “So I still avoid indoor dining & will continue to wear an N95 in crowded indoor spaces until cases come way down.” Others might make different choices.

As for governments, he said, if BA.5 causes a surge in hospitalizations, “particularly if we also have staff shortages,” **a return to mask mandates “would be the right call.”** But Wachter acknowledged there would likely be fierce resistance to new mask-wearing requirements, especially outside of blue states, regardless of the danger.

“Most people have ditched their masks,” he wrote.

What's behind the enduring popularity of crystals?

Joseph P. Laycock, Texas State University

Wednesday, July 06, 2022

The connections between the neurons in your brain enable you to do amazing things, from brushing your teeth to solving calculus equations. When these connections become damaged, often as a result of conditions like stroke or traumatic brain injury, these abilities can be lost. Directly activating neurons with tiny pulses of electricity, however, can help rewire these connections and potentially restore function.



The Supreme Court has curtailed EPA's power to regulate carbon pollution – and sent a warning to other regulators

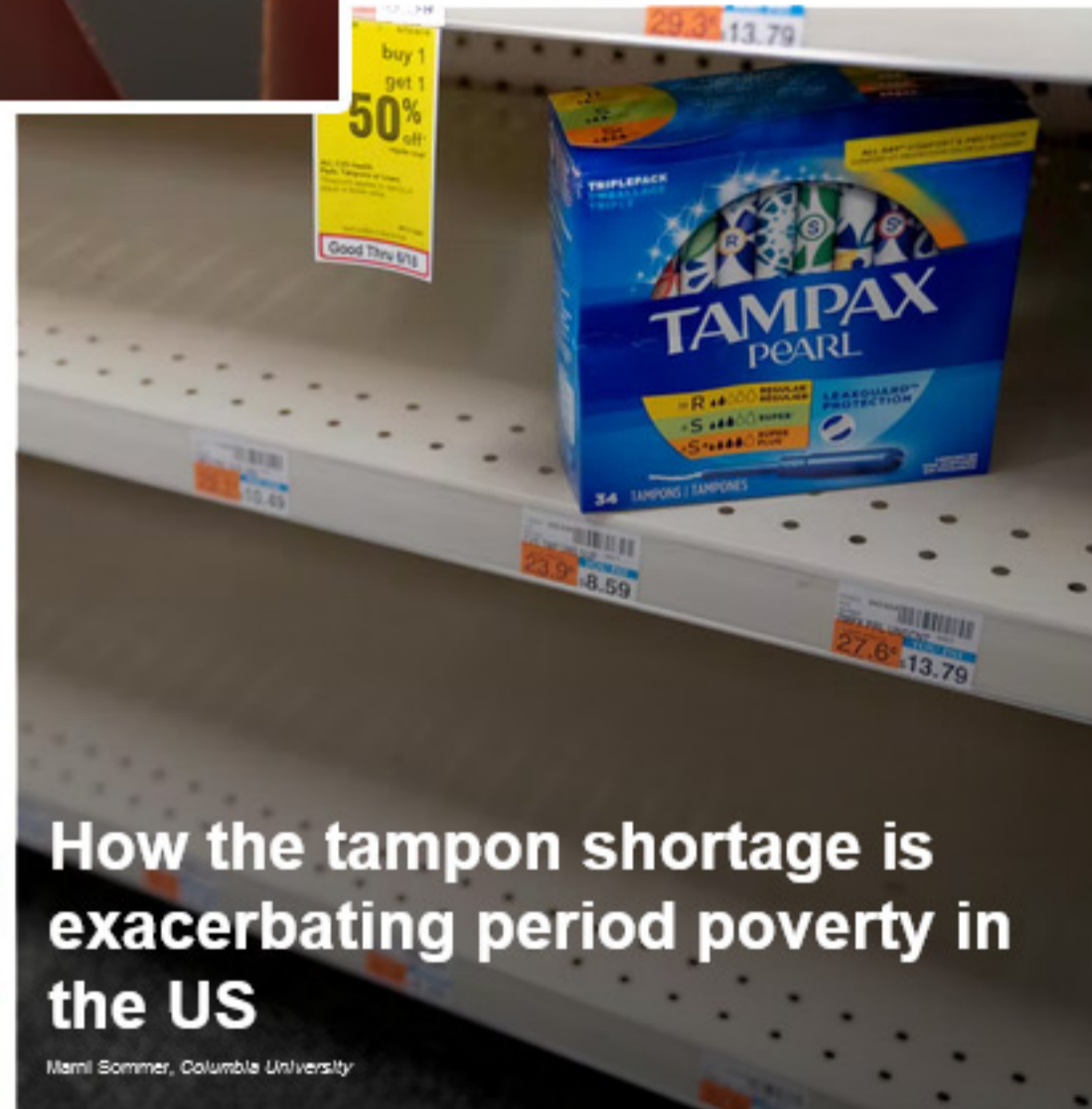
Patrick Parenteau, Vermont Law School



Alaska on fire: Thousands of lightning strikes and a warming climate put Alaska on pace for another historic fire season

Rick Thoman, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Some people might be confused about the allure of these stones. But crystal enthusiasts aren't deviants. Current ideas about crystals come from a larger tradition called "metaphysical religion" that has always been part of the American spiritual landscape.



How the tampon shortage is exacerbating period poverty in the US

Mami Sommer, Columbia University



Fred Gray, the 'chief counsel for the protest movement,' to get Medal of Freedom for his civil rights work

Jonathan Entin, Case Western Reserve University



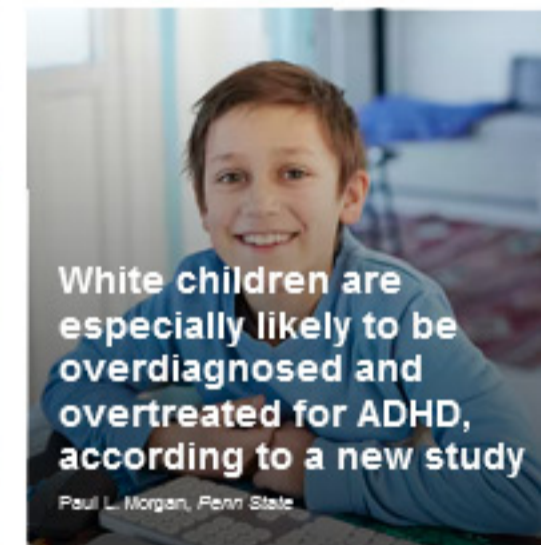
Medical aid in dying is still called 'assisted suicide'; an anthropologist explains the problem with that

Anita Hannig, Brandeis University



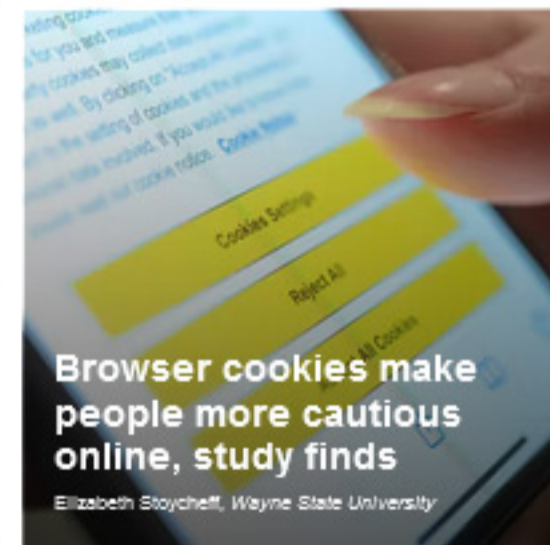
Brain stimulation can rewire and heal damaged neural connections, but it isn't clear how – research suggests personalization may be key to more effective therapies

Azadeh Yazdan-Shahmorad, University of Washington; Alec Greaves-Tunnell, University of Washington, and Julien Bloch, University of Washington



White children are especially likely to be overdiagnosed and overtreated for ADHD, according to a new study

Paul L. Morgan, Penn State



Browser cookies make people more cautious online, study finds

Elizabeth Stoycheff, Wayne State University



A window into the number of trans teens living in America

Jody L. Herman, University of California, Los Angeles; Andrew Ryan Flores, American University, and Kathryn



Buying into conspiracy theories can be exciting – that's what makes them dangerous



Democrats aim to design a presidential nomination process that gives everyone a voice – and produces a winning candidate

With a bit of glue and spray paint, protesters took action at a gallery at London's Royal Academy of Arts to demand greater government action on climate change. A group of at least five activists from the group **Just Stop Oil** spray painted "No New Oil" underneath the painting Copy of Leonardo's The Last Supper and glued their hands to the artwork's frame. The painting depicts the scene from the Bible when Jesus holds his last supper with his Twelve Apostles and tells them that one of them will betray him.



Kristian Buus/In Pictures via Getty Images

WORLD

Climate protesters in England glued themselves to a copy of 'The Last Supper'

Activists from the same group have glued themselves to other paintings at U.K. art galleries in recent days, calling on the government to end all new oil and gas licenses.

Biologists' fears confirmed on the lower Colorado River

By BRITTANY PETERSON today



Juvenile smallmouth bass sit at a National Park Service laboratory near Page, Ariz., July 1, 2022. Confirming their worst fears for record-low lake levels, NPS fisheries biologists have discovered that smallmouth bass, a non-native predator fish, has made its way through Glen Canyon dam and appear to have spawned in the lower Colorado River, where it can prey on humpback chub, an ancient native fish they have been working to reestablish. (Jeff Arnold/National Park Service via AP)

DENVER (AP) — For National Park Service fisheries biologist Jeff Arnold, it was a moment he'd been dreading. Bare-legged in sandals, he was pulling in a net in a shallow backwater of the lower Colorado River last week, when he spotted three young fish that didn't belong there. "Give me a call when you get this!" he messaged a colleague, snapping photos.

Minutes later, the park service confirmed their worst fear: smallmouth bass had in fact been found and were likely reproducing in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. They may be a beloved sport fish, but smallmouth bass feast on humpback chub, an ancient, threatened fish that's native to the river, and that biologists like Arnold have been working hard to recover. The predators wreaked havoc in the upper river, but were held at bay in Lake Powell where Glen Canyon Dam has served as a barrier for years — until now. The reservoir's recent sharp decline is enabling these introduced fish to get past the dam and closer to where the biggest groups of chub remain, farther downstream in the Grand Canyon.

There, Brian Healy has worked with the humpback chub for more than a decade and founded the Native Fish Ecology and Conservation Program. "It's pretty devastating to see all the hard work and effort you've put into removing other invasive species and translocating populations around to protect the fish and to see all that effort overturned really quickly," Healy said.

As reservoir levels drop, non-native fish that live in warm surface waters in Lake Powell are edging closer to the dam and its penstocks — submerged steel tubes that carry water to turbines, where it generates hydroelectric power and is released on the other side. If bass and other predator fish continue to get sucked into the penstocks, survive and reproduce below the dam, they will have an open lane to attack chub and other natives, potentially unraveling years of restoration work and upending the Grand Canyon aquatic ecosystem — the only stretch of the river still dominated by native species. On the brink of extinction decades ago, the chub has come back in modest numbers thanks to fish biologists and other scientists and engineers. Agencies spend millions of dollars annually to keep intruders in check in the upper portion of the river.

Under the Endangered Species Act, government agencies are required to operate in ways that will not "jeopardize the continued existence" of listed animals. That includes infrastructure. Even before the discovery of smallmouth bass spawning below the dam, agencies had been bracing for this moment. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently enlisted a team of researchers at Utah State University to map the nonnative fish in Lake Powell and try to determine which could pass through the dam first. A task force quickly assembled earlier this year to address the urgency the low water poses for native fish. Federal, state and tribal leaders are expected to release a draft plan in August containing solutions for policymakers who intend to delay, slow and respond to the threat of smallmouth bass and other predators below the dam.

There are a variety of solutions, but many will require significant changes to infrastructure. In the meantime, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey and Arizona Game and Fish Department are moving quickly to try to contain the issue. During an emergency meeting, they decided to increase their monitoring efforts in other shallow areas and block off the entire backwater where the smallmouth bass were found so they can't swim out into the river. "Unfortunately, the only block nets we have are pretty large mesh, so it will not stop these smaller fish from going through, but it will keep the adults from going back out," Arnold said, noting it's the best they can do with available resources.

FILE - A Utah State University research team works at Lake Powell on June 7, 2022, in Page, Ariz. Confirming their worst fears for record-low lake levels, National Park Service fisheries biologists have discovered that smallmouth bass, a non-native predator fish, has made its way through Glen Canyon dam and appear to have spawned in the lower Colorado River, where it can prey on humpback chub, an ancient native fish they have been working to reestablish.

Experts say leaving more water in Lake Powell would be the best solution to ensure cool water can be released through the dam, although it's tough to do in a river under so much stress. Last month, the Department of the Interior notified the seven western states that depend on Colorado River water that they must devise a way to conserve up to 4 million acre-feet of water in 2023 — more than Arizona and Nevada's share combined -- or face federal intervention. It is unclear where that conserved supply would be stored, but Healy says he hopes Lake Powell is being considered. "If we want to protect some of the values for which Grand Canyon National Park was established, we need to really think about how water is stored," Healy said. "That issue needs to be at the table."

EXPLAINER: Should red-flag law have stopped parade shooting?

By MICHAEL TARM today



Yesenia Hernandez, granddaughter to Nicolas Toledo, who was killed during Monday's Highland Park, Ill., Fourth of July parade, writes on a memorial for Toledo along with the six others who lost their lives in the mass shooting, Wednesday, July 6, 2022, in Highland Park. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

CHICAGO (AP) — Days after a rooftop gunman killed seven people at a parade, attention has turned to how the assailant obtained multiple guns and whether the laws on Illinois books could have prevented the Independence Day massacre. Illinois gun laws are generally praised by gun-control advocates as tougher than in most states. But they did not stop Robert E. Crimo III from carrying out the attack in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park. One focus is on the state's so-called red-flag law, which is intended to temporarily take away guns from people with potentially violent behavior. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have such laws. Here's a look at Illinois' red-flag and gun-licensing laws, and whether they could have been applied to Crimo:

WHAT IS ILLINOIS' RED-FLAG LAW?

The law, which took effect on Jan. 1, 2019, authorizes judges to order the temporary removal of firearms from people deemed a danger to themselves or others by a judge, according to an explanation of the law by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, a state agency. The court order, called a firearm restraining order, also bars them from buying guns.

DID CRIMO EVER DISPLAY THE KIND OF BEHAVIOR MEANT TO ACTIVATE THE LAW? It appears that he did. But it isn't clear just who knew about it and when, and whether law enforcement agencies took the behavior seriously enough.

DOES THAT MEAN CRIMO BOUGHT THE GUN LEGALLY? Yes. He legally purchased the Smith and Wesson M&P 15 semi-automatic rifle in Illinois within the past year.

DID HIGHLAND PARK POLICE PASS INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREATS TO STATE POLICE? They did.

DO RED-FLAG LAWS PREVENT VIOLENCE? According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, there's clear evidence that firearm restraining orders help prevent some suicides. It's less clear that they prevent deadly acts of gun violence, like mass shootings. The agency says the causes of such attacks are often too complex to draw clear links.

New report details missed chances to stop Uvalde shooting

By PAUL J. WEBER and JAKE BLEIBERG yesterday



FILE - Investigators search for evidences outside Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, May 25, 2022, after an 18-year-old gunman killed 19 students and two teachers. The district's superintendent said Wednesday, June 22, that Chief Pete Arredondo, the Uvalde school district's police chief, has been put on leave following allegations that he erred in his response to the mass shooting. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A police officer armed with a rifle watched the gunman in the Uvalde elementary school massacre walk toward the campus but did not fire while waiting for permission from a supervisor to shoot, according to a sweeping critique released Wednesday on the tactical response to the May tragedy. Some of the 21 victims at Robb Elementary School, including 19 children, possibly "could have been saved" on May 24 had they received medical attention sooner while police waited more than an hour before breaching the fourth-grade classroom, a review by a training center at Texas State University for active shooter situations found.

The report is yet another damning assessment of how police failed to act on opportunities that might have saved lives in what became the deadliest school shooting in the U.S. since the slaughter at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. "A reasonable officer would have considered this an active situation and devised a plan to address the suspect," read the report published by the university's Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training program.

A hajj closer to normal: 1 million Muslims begin pilgrimage

By AMR NABIL and ISABEL DEBRE 2 hours ago



In this photo taken with low shutter speed, Muslim pilgrims pray as others circumambulate around the Kaaba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, July 6, 2022. Muslim pilgrims are converging on Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca for the largest hajj since the coronavirus pandemic severely curtailed access to one of Islam's five pillars. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — It is a scene that stirs hope — and relief — for Muslims around the world.

One million pilgrims from across the globe amassed on Thursday in the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia to perform the initial rites of the hajj, marking the largest Islamic pilgrimage since the coronavirus pandemic upended the annual event — a key pillar of Islam.

The hajj is a once-in-a-lifetime duty for all Muslims physically and financially able to make the journey, which takes the faithful along a path traversed by the Prophet Muhammad some 1,400 years ago. Pilgrims spend five days carrying out a set of rituals intended to bring them closer to God.

That includes praying around the cube-shaped Kaaba, the holiest shrine in Islam. At the center of the Grand Mosque's courtyard on Thursday, thousands of unmasked pilgrims circled the Kaaba.

The crowds, visibly thinner than usual, moved counter-clockwise around the granite building in a blur, their hearts tilting toward the structure meant to symbolize the oneness of God in Islam. Wherever they are in the world, observant Muslims face the Kaaba to pray daily.

Pilgrims appeared to throw COVID-19 caution to the wind this year as they thronged the Grand Mosque — in sharp contrast to the social distancing and mask requirements of the past two years.

Inflation pushed 71M people into poverty since Ukraine war

By AYA BATRAWY 2 hours ago



1 of 12

FILE - A daily wage laborer waits for work at a wholesale market in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, June 26, 2022. Sri Lankans have endured months of shortages of food, fuel and other necessities due to the country's dwindling foreign exchange reserves and mounting debt, worsened by the pandemic and other longer term troubles. Some 1.6 billion people in 94 countries face at least one dimension of the crisis in food, energy and financial systems, according to a report last month by the Global Crisis Response Group of the United Nations Secretary-General. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena, File)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A staggering 71 million more people around the world are experiencing poverty as a result of soaring food and energy prices that climbed in the weeks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United Nations Development Program said in a report Thursday.

The war in Ukraine has roiled a region known as the world's bread basket. Before the war, Russia was the world's largest exporter of natural gas and the second biggest exporter of crude oil. Russia and Ukraine combined accounted for almost a quarter of global wheat exports and more than half of sunflower oil exports.

WORLD

Record number of people worldwide are moving toward starvation, U.N. warns

July 7, 2022 - 2:15 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sergei, 11, waits his turn to receive donated food during an aid humanitarian distribution in Bucha, in the outskirts of Kyiv, on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Emilio Morenatti/AP

UNITED NATIONS — The spike in food, fuel and fertilizer prices sparked by the war in Ukraine is threatening to push countries around the world into famine, bringing "global destabilization, starvation and mass migration on an unprecedented scale," a top U.N. official warned Wednesday.

David Beasley, head of the U.N. World Food Program, said its latest analysis shows that "a record 345 million acutely hungry people are marching to the brink of starvation" — **a 25% increase from 276 million at the start of 2022 before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. The number stood at 135 million before the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.**

"There's a real danger it will climb even higher in the months ahead," he said. "Even more worrying is that when this group is broken down, a staggering 50 million people in 45 countries are just one step away from famine."

The five agency chiefs said the intensification of the triple crises of climate, conflict and the pandemic combined with growing inequalities require "bolder action" to cope with future shocks.

Qu Dongyu, director-general of the Food and Agricultural Organization, called for countries to expand food production, strengthen supply chains to support small farmers, and provide cash and other critical items for cereal and vegetable production and to protect livestock.

"We are at serious risk of facing a food access crisis now, and probably a food availability crisis for the next season," he said. "We must prevent the acceleration of acute food insecurity trends in the coming months and years."

The jobs market still favors workers, despite fears of an economic slowdown

July 6, 2022 · 5:11 PM ET

JACQUELINE GANUN



The Bureau of Labor Statistics released data Wednesday that shows continued high job openings.

Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Workers looking for new jobs have plenty of options, despite recent layoffs and hiring slowdowns in key parts of the economy.

There were 11.3 million open jobs at the end of May, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday.

Layoff rates are at historic lows. In contrast, the rate of workers who are quitting their jobs remains near historic highs, despite falling slightly from their peak in March. Because there are so many available jobs — nearly two for every person who's unemployed — employers are keen to hold on to workers they already have. Some have offered pay raises to attract or retain workers, especially as inflation causes prices to rise.

The May numbers represent a slight decrease from April. Goods manufacturing and professional services both saw the largest dips in the number of openings, but there weren't any dramatic changes in employers' laying off workers or workers quitting their jobs in those industries.

Overall, 4.3 million people quit their jobs in May, and there were 6.5 million hires.

There are fears that the good times are tapering off, however. Inflation is at its highest rate since 1994. The Fed recently enacted the largest interest rate hike in nearly 30 years to combat it.

"If the labor market were quickly and suddenly taking a downturn, we would see employers' demand for new hires drop and their willingness to let workers go increase. For now, we aren't seeing a sudden move in either direction," wrote Nick Bunker, Indeed Hiring Lab's director of research. "Clouds can move in quickly and darken the outlook for the US labor market, but for now, the sun is still shining."



Long-term exposure to high heat can become lethal. Mark Wilson/Getty Images

How hot is too hot for the human body? Our lab found heat + humidity gets dangerous faster than many people realize

Published: July 6, 2022 10:50am EDT

W. Larry Kenney, Daniel Vecellio, Rachel Cottle, S. Tony Wolf, Penn State

Heat waves are becoming supercharged as the climate changes – lasting longer, becoming more frequent and getting just plain hotter. One question a lot of people are asking is: “When will it get too hot for normal daily activity as we know it, even for young, healthy adults?”

The answer goes beyond the temperature you see on the thermometer. It’s also about humidity. Our research shows the combination of the two can get dangerous faster than scientists previously believed.

Scientists and other observers have become alarmed about the increasing frequency of extreme heat paired with high humidity, measured as “wet-bulb temperature.” During the heat waves that overtook South Asia in May and June 2022, Jacobabad, Pakistan, recorded a maximum wet-bulb temperature of 33.6 C (92.5 F) and Delhi topped that – close to the theorized upper limit of human adaptability to humid heat. People often point to a study published in 2010 that estimated that a wet-bulb temperature of 35 C – equal to 95 F at 100% humidity, or 115 F at 50% humidity – would be the upper limit of safety, beyond which the human body can no longer cool itself by evaporating sweat from the surface of the body to maintain a stable body core temperature. It was not until recently that this limit was tested on humans in laboratory settings. The results of these tests show an even greater cause for concern.

The PSU H.E.A.T. Project: To answer the question of “how hot is too hot?” we brought young, healthy men and women into the Noll Laboratory at Penn State University to experience heat stress in a controlled environment.

Our studies on young healthy men and women show that this upper environmental limit is even lower than the theorized 35 C. It’s more like a wet-bulb temperature of 31 C (88 F). That would equal 31 C at 100% humidity or 38 C (100 F) at 60% humidity.

Dry vs. humid environments: *Current heat waves around the globe are approaching, if not exceeding, these limits.* In hot, dry environments the critical environmental limits aren’t defined by wet-bulb temperatures, because almost all the sweat the body produces evaporates, which cools the body. However, the amount humans can sweat is limited, and we also gain more heat from the higher air temperatures. Keep in mind that these cutoffs are based solely on keeping your body temperature from rising excessively. Even lower temperatures and humidity can place stress on the heart and other body systems. And while eclipsing these limits does not necessarily present a worst-case scenario, prolonged exposure may become dire for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with chronic diseases. Our experimental focus has now turned to testing older men and women, since even healthy aging makes people less heat tolerant. Adding on the increased prevalence of heart disease, respiratory problems and other health problems, as well as certain medications, can put them at even higher risk of harm. People over the age of 65 comprise some 80%-90% of heat wave casualties.

How to stay safe Staying well hydrated and seeking areas in which to cool down – even for short periods – are important in high heat. [...] **All told, the evidence continues to mount that climate change is not just a problem for the future. It is one that humanity is currently facing and must tackle head-on.**

Watching FKJ build a song is like watching him play a game of musical tetris. One second he's coaxing a rasping rhythm out of a drum set — the next, he's clambering over instruments to get to the mic before the beat kicks in.

Sometimes, he grimaces (with effort or with ecstasy, who knows) when he plucks a string just right.

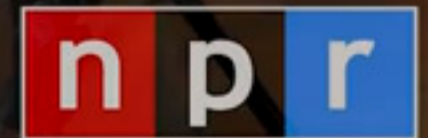


FKJ: Tiny Desk (Home) Concert

July 7, 2022 - 5:01 AM ET



NISHA VENKAT



Jan 6th and Cassidy Hutchinson: What Does This Mean? | The Problem With Jon Stewart | Ap...



<https://youtu.be/5JaXuiPLU>

Jun 29, 2022

Jon talks about whether Cassidy Hutchinson's testimony yesterday changed the game and if Donald Trump can escape unscathed from these hearings. Jon is joined by Executive Producer Brinda Adhikari, Writer Kasaun Wilson, and our resident angry liberal Andy Crystal.



Play (k)



43:40 / 43:58



Former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe being taken to hospital following a shooting on Friday July 8th. Shohei Izumi/AAP

Shooting of Shinzo Abe is a huge shock for Japan and the world

Published: July 8, 2022 2.33am EDT

Updated: July 8, 2022 7.15am EDT

▼ [Craig Mark](#), *Kyoritsu Women's University*

Japan is reeling from the assassination of its longest-serving former prime minister, Shinzo Abe. He was campaigning for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for the Upper House elections due on Sunday, in the city of Nara in western Japan, when he was shot from behind with an apparently home-made sawn-off shotgun.



Pause for thought. EPA/Tolga Akmen

The fall of Boris Johnson: any democracy should look to his case and ask if it is enabling machiavellian leaders

Published: July 7, 2022 12.33pm EDT

▼ [Stephen Coleman](#), *University of Leeds*

Boris Johnson's resignation as prime minister is not just a portentous political event. His time in office – and the nature of his departure – throw up vital questions about democratic values and institutions.

WORLD

Brittney Griner pleads guilty to drug charges

Russian prosecutors continue to make their case against Griner, who was arrested on drug charges in February. The Biden administration is facing growing public pressure to bring the WNBA star home.



NATIONAL

Ex-cop Chauvin gets 20-plus years for violating George Floyd's civil rights

MPR NEWS

As part of his federal plea agreement, Derek Chauvin will serve his state and federal sentences at the same time in federal prison.



POLITICS

Most gun owners favor modest restrictions but deeply distrust government, poll finds



SPORTS

The Las Vegas Raiders have hired the first Black female team president in the NFL



NATIONAL

One woman dominated the awards at a Virginia county fair. Then the internet went wild



POLITICS

Who and what is behind abortion ban trigger law bills? Two groups laid the groundwork



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Scientists look to people with Down syndrome to test Alzheimer's drugs



LIFE KIT

The boundaries we set help us guard our energy. Here's how to do it

One woman dominated the awards at a Virginia county fair. Then the internet went wild

July 8, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

TAYLOR HUTCHISON



PATRICK JARENWATTANANON



Linda Skeens' remarkable winning streak launched memes and even a song.

Deep in southwest Virginia, there's a county fair where, last month, one woman won first, second and third place for best cookies.

She also swept all three awards for candy and for savory bread.

In fact, she won the blue ribbon for cake, pie, brownie, sweet bread and best overall baked good (that was strawberry fudge.)

It didn't stop there.

She also won for canned tomatoes, canned corn, pickled peppers, sauerkraut, relish, spaghetti sauce and both jelly and jam. Then she took top honors in quilt embroidery. And after the Virginia Kentucky District Fair posted these utterly dominating results to Facebook in June, you guessed it — she went viral.

She was celebrated in a song and on Facebook comments and in plenty of memes, all of which led to one inevitable question: Who exactly is this champion chef, Linda Skeens?

"With online dating and whatnot, I think a lot of girls are pretty good at tracking people down on the internet," said Mason Mousette, host of the HOT 93.3 radio show in Dallas.

Mousette posted a TikTok asking her followers to help find the Linda Skeens.

Skeens' granddaughter saw that and reached out. And using that name, Mousette tracked down a phone number for Linda herself.

"You do realize that everyone on the internet wants you to cook for them," Mousette told her. "Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas dinner — they want you to cook it all for them."

Skeens' reply? "I'm busy cooking for my family."

Skeens shared that she was diagnosed with leukemia in December, but that the treatment she's on is working and that cooking for her friends and family helps. She was flattered by the comparisons to the all-time great athletes, like NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt.

"Comparing me to Dale Earnhardt, Sr., I said no way I could ever be in his category. He's my hero," she told HOT 93.3.

Perhaps Skeens was being too humble. After all, she admitted that last year at a different county fair, she won 40 ribbons.

That is certainly entering all-time great territory.

Afghanistan's depleted dining rugs are a reminder of hunger and loss

July 8, 2022 - 7:29 AM ET

ZUHAL AHAD

RUCHI KUMAR



The dastarkhaans (dining rugs) of Afghan families are often "bare and empty," says Zahra Fayezi, whose mat (right) is prepared for a guest. Center: Roqia Ibrahim says a full mat for meals is "a matter of happiness and pride" but "rare" in current times when more people are going hungry. The mat at left belongs to Yahya Rasa, who says potatoes and lentils are taking the place of fancier fare.

In January 2021, Yahya Rasa returned home with pride to Kabul, Afghanistan. A boisterous celebration and an elaborate meal of Afghan delicacies awaited him after completing his master's degree in business management in Malaysia. "Being the first person in my family to secure a master's degree from abroad, I was a role model to my siblings and even my friends," the 25-year-old says.

Over a year and half later, and nearly a year after the August 2021 Taliban takeover of Afghanistan that led to widespread unemployment and poverty, Rasa struggles to find a job and support himself and his new bride.

He's reminded of all this every time he sits to eat at his family's traditional dining rug, or dastarkhaan in Persian. Where once was a generous spread of Afghan dishes like qabli pulao, a dish of meat and rice with carrots, raisins and other dry fruits; mantus and aashak, Afghan dumplings stuffed with meat and vegetables, respectively; and fresh seasonal fruits, today "most of our meals [are] very basic, like kidney beans or potatoes or lentils," Rasa says. "There have also been times that the only food we had was bread and tea. It feels like [the] dastarkhaan is always empty."

Rasa is one of nearly 20 million Afghans struggling to put food on the dastarkhaan, according to a May report by the International Rescue Committee. Afghanistan's economy crashed after the 2021 takeover, exacerbating steep increases in poverty that already had occurred because of COVID-19 and droughts, says Lutfi Rahimi, an economics professor at the American University of Afghanistan. Earthquakes last month killed hundreds and added to the country's suffering.

The crisis is also affecting Afghans from the middle class who are now plunged into a lower class because the jobs they relied on have evaporated, Rahimi says. Several of these former professionals told NPR that they make no money and survive because of humanitarian aid, charity or by selling possessions like furniture. "Poverty did not happen overnight, but the collapse made the already failing situation even worse," Rahimi says.

A central part of the Afghan home: The dastarkhaan holds a special significance in Afghan culture, explains Mina Sharif, an Afghan media consultant who produces radio and television programming, including two seasons of the Afghan "Sesame Street". Now based in Canada, Sharif volunteers with Aseel, an organization that helps provide food and care packages to Afghans in need. "A dastarkhaan is where Afghan families connect with each other, their community and also the guests of their country," Sharif says.

Like a family dining table, the dastarkhaan holds meals, fruits and desserts every day. It is prominent across Central Asia and the Middle East. Special dastarkhaan preparations are common during Islamic feast days and holidays, Persian new year or when hosting guests. For Afghans, the dastarkhaan is an expression of hospitality and respect to guests and ideally is colorful and overflowing with food, akin to U.S. Thanksgiving spreads. "If you've been invited to an Afghan home and sit with them on the dastarkhaan to break bread with them, you are considered one of the family," Sharif says.

Learning to live with less: Like Rasa, many people who were previously able to afford a generous dastarkhaan, or at least a satisfactory meal, have now found themselves unable to do so. The prior Afghan government was not only a big economic contributor but also a big employer, Rahimi explains. "The military and security apparatus alone employed over half a million Afghans. All these jobs vanished overnight, and people lost their income," he said, adding that the private sector in Afghanistan is a small fraction of the economy unlike that of the West.

A female journalist, who asked to be identified only by her initials F.S. to protect her from possible Taliban persecution, says that her brother, a former civil servant, was repeatedly threatened by the Taliban and fled the country. She once paid for her own schooling and, with her brother, supported a family of five, including her parents and siblings. When the Taliban took control of her province, the majority of the women journalists were removed from their jobs, and the girls' school where she taught was closed. "Before August 2021, we were a two-income household and could afford small luxuries" like new clothes and celebratory meals, F.S. said, describing her family's once glorious dastarkhaans. In stark contrast, for the last Eid holiday in May, all the family had were some beans along with a small portion of meat shared by a neighbor. "Today, I can't even pacify my younger siblings when they cry for food," F.S. says. "It is hard for children to understand what poverty is."

Projects undertaken by Mohammad Modares's construction company in Daikundi province were halted when the Taliban took control, because banks stopped functioning and people couldn't afford construction. His business lost all its income and he let go of his staff. A small family farm barely provides enough to feed his parents, siblings, wife and daughter in his village. "Our dastarkhaan has changed a lot in less than a year. We use potatoes and beans instead of meat. We do not eat fruits," he says. The family cannot even afford clean drinking water, he adds. Modares used to make close to \$250 every month, a middle-class income in Afghanistan. He moved to Kabul on his own four months ago, staying with friends while seeking a job to repay his debts. He has applied for over 50 positions but hasn't received a response. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people apply for every job opening, Rahimi says.

Modares, who is living on the last of his savings, survives on one small meal a day, often potato fries or bread with tea. "I have to pay for my own costs in the city, and send money to my wife and daughter," he says. "I try to eat less and only cheap things." Also in Kabul, Rasa, the recent master's graduate, is feeling the crisis take a toll on his mental health. "Sometimes it gets so hard that I think life isn't worth living and I think about suicide," he admits. "I have applied for many jobs but even with [a] foreign degree and good grades I can't land even a small position," he laments. "What good is this education when I can't even feed my family?" Yet he keeps trying to find work, buoyed by the hope that he will once again experience a dastarkhaan laden with delights.

Afghanistan's depleted dining rugs are a reminder of hunger and loss

ZUHAL AHAD RUCHI KUMAR
July 8, 2022 - 7:29 AM ET

The crisis is also affecting Afghans from the middle class who are now plunged into a lower class because the jobs they relied on have evaporated, Rahimi says. Several of these former professionals told NPR that they make no money and survive because of humanitarian aid, charity or by selling possessions like furniture. "Poverty did not happen overnight, but the collapse made the already failing situation even worse," Rahimi says.

A central part of the Afghan home: The dastarkhaan holds a special significance in Afghan culture, explains Mina Sharif, an Afghan media consultant who produces radio and television programming, including two seasons of the Afghan "Sesame Street". Now based in Canada, Sharif volunteers with Aseel, an organization that helps provide food and care packages to Afghans in need. "A dastarkhaan is where Afghan families connect with each other, their community and also the guests of their country," Sharif says.



The dasta
whose ma
matter of
mat at left

In January
and an el
ness mana
abroad, I w

Over a yea
led to wide
new bride.

He's remin
Persian. W
with carrot
vegetables
beans or p
bread and

ment
Islamic
is an
akin to

ous
rior
explains.
vanished
is a small

le
y the
ted a
the
e taught
ries" like
. In stark
portion of
od," F.S.

e halted
onstruc-
enough
it in less
family
month, a
h friends

ries or
ghter,"

Rasa is one of nearly 20 million Afghans struggling to put food on the dastarkhaan, according to a May report by the International Rescue Committee. Afghanistan's economy crashed after the 2021 takeover, exacerbating steep increases in poverty that already had occurred because of COVID-19 and droughts, says Lutfi Rahimi, an economics professor at the American University of Afghanistan. Earthquakes last month killed hundreds and added to the country's suffering.

he says. "I try to eat less and only cheap things." Also in Kabul, Rasa, the recent master's graduate, is feeling the crisis take a toll on his mental health. "Sometimes it gets so hard that I think life isn't worth living and I think about suicide," he admits. "I have applied for many jobs but even with [a] foreign degree and good grades I can't land even a small position," he laments. "What good is this education when I can't even feed my family?" Yet he keeps trying to find work, buoyed by the hope that he will once again experience a dastarkhaan laden with delights.

'Dad, that's it. She's dead': Another day of loss in Ukraine

By CARA ANNA and MSTYSLAV CHERNOV today

Natalia Kolesnik, like other residents, learned to live with the risks. Then, in a grassy courtyard on a hot and sweaty Thursday, the shelling caught her. She was one of three bodies on the littered ground.



1 of 6

Viktor Kolesnik cries on a body of his wife Natalia Kolesnik, who was killed during a Russian bombardment at a residential neighborhood in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Thursday, July 7, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

KHARKIV, Ukraine (AP) — She had gone out to feed the cats when the shelling began. [...] **“Dad, that’s it,”** his son Olexander said, watching as first responders waited to close the body bag. **“She is dead. Get up.”** **“Don’t you understand?”** his father asked. **“What don’t I understand?”** the son said. **“This is my mother. Dad, please. Dad, please.”** [...] As of Sunday, the United Nations human rights office had verified at least 4,889 civilians killed across Ukraine since Russia’s invasion, a number it said **likely represented a vast undercount.**

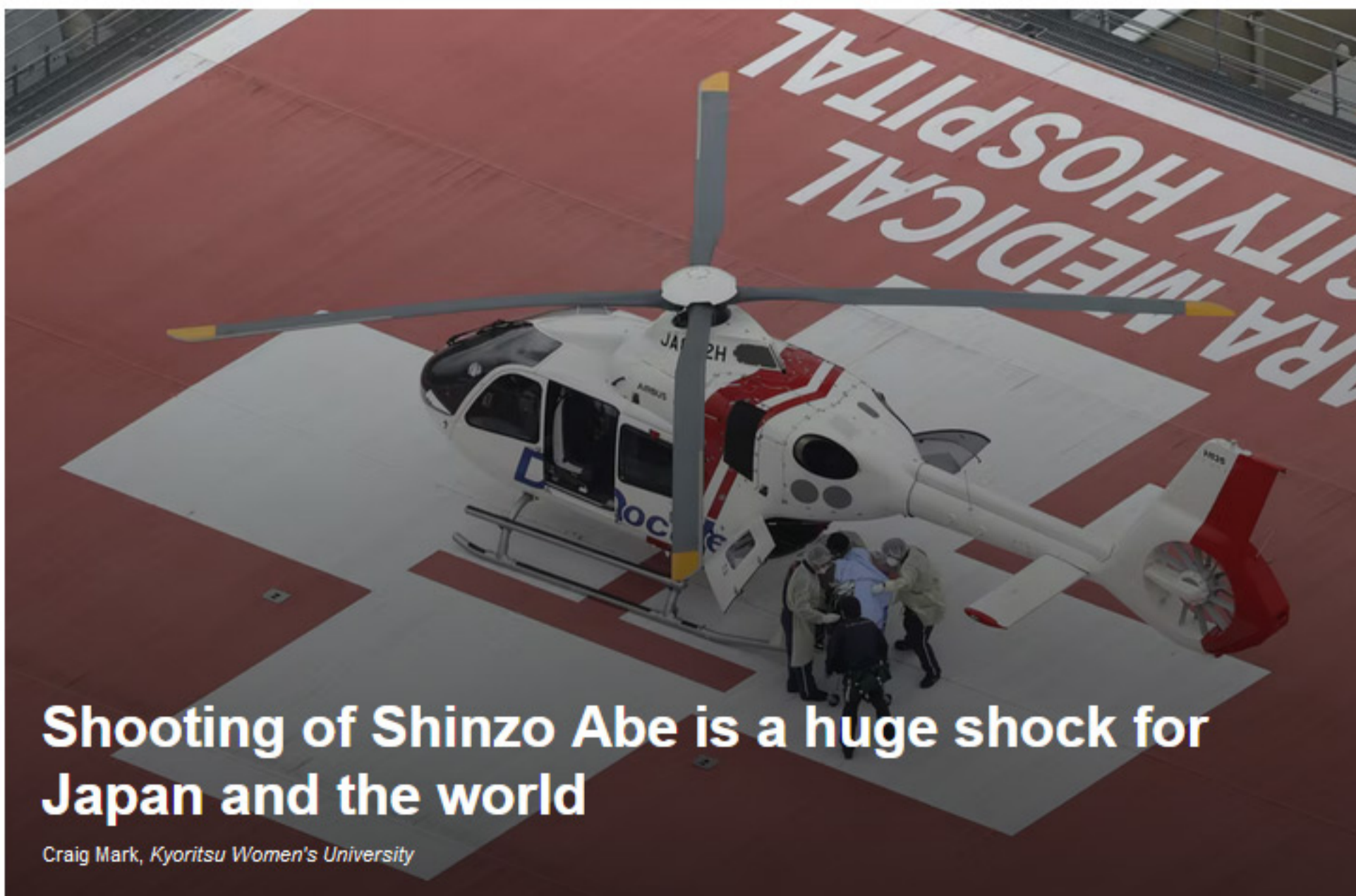


June jobs report suggests Fed could avoid a recession – but room for error is minuscule

Christopher Decker, University of Nebraska Omaha

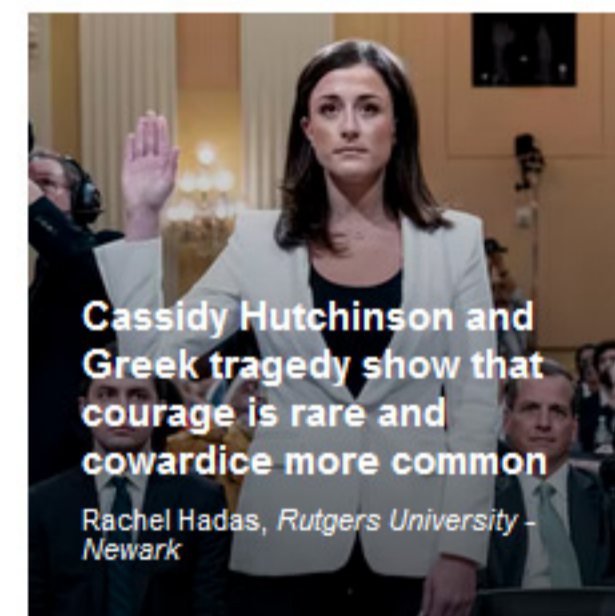
Continuing shortages of energy and food mean inflation could stay elevated no matter what the Fed does. And that could result in the Fed's having to lift interest rates a lot and cut growth to the bone to have a meaningful effect on rising prices.

On July 7, 2022, Johnson announced that less than three years after becoming prime minister, he was resigning and would remain in office only until a successor emerged. It marks a stunning repudiation of a leader who had delivered Brexit to his supporters and scored a major electoral mandate a mere two and half years previously. The scandal that brought his downfall wasn't Johnson's first. But even he could not overcome the succession of scandals in recent months, not least "Partygate," which involved revelations around his government's repeated and brazen ignoring of its own COVID-19 lockdown rules. In the end it was his handling of a tawdry affair involving the promotion of a member of parliament accused of serious sexual wrongdoing that proved the final straw. That scandal precipitated a rash of cabinet resignations that made clear Johnson could no longer rely on the support of his own party.



Shooting of Shinzo Abe is a huge shock for Japan and the world

Craig Mark, Kyoritsu Women's University



Cassidy Hutchinson and Greek tragedy show that courage is rare and cowardice more common

Rachel Hadas, Rutgers University - Newark

Ever since former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson's remarkable testimony in the recent January 6 committee hearing, I've been thinking – as I'm sure many people have – about courage.



Boris Johnson's messy political legacy of lies, scandals and delivering Brexit to his base

Garret Martin, American University School of International Service

Japan is reeling from the assassination of its longest-serving former prime minister, Shinzo Abe. He was campaigning for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for the Upper House elections due on Sunday. There is no known motive at this time, but there are reports the suspect is a former member of the Japanese Maritime Self-

'Thank You for Your Servitude' casts harsh light on GOP's shift and its motives

July 8, 2022 · 9:20 AM ET



RON ELVING

The nation's readers may not be crying out for yet another book about former President Trump and his era, but many will make an exception for a book by Mark Leibovich.

That is why *Thank You for Your Servitude: Donald Trump's Washington and the Price of Submission* will likely find a place alongside all those other tomes trashing all things Trump.

People remember Leibovich's earlier take on the nation's capital — *This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral - Plus, Plenty of Valet Parking!* - in America's *Gilded Capital* -- which topped *The New York Times* bestseller list for three months in 2013. Critics at the time spoke of too much snark and gossip, but the book was also widely praised for exposing the incestuous, meretricious power elite of Washington.

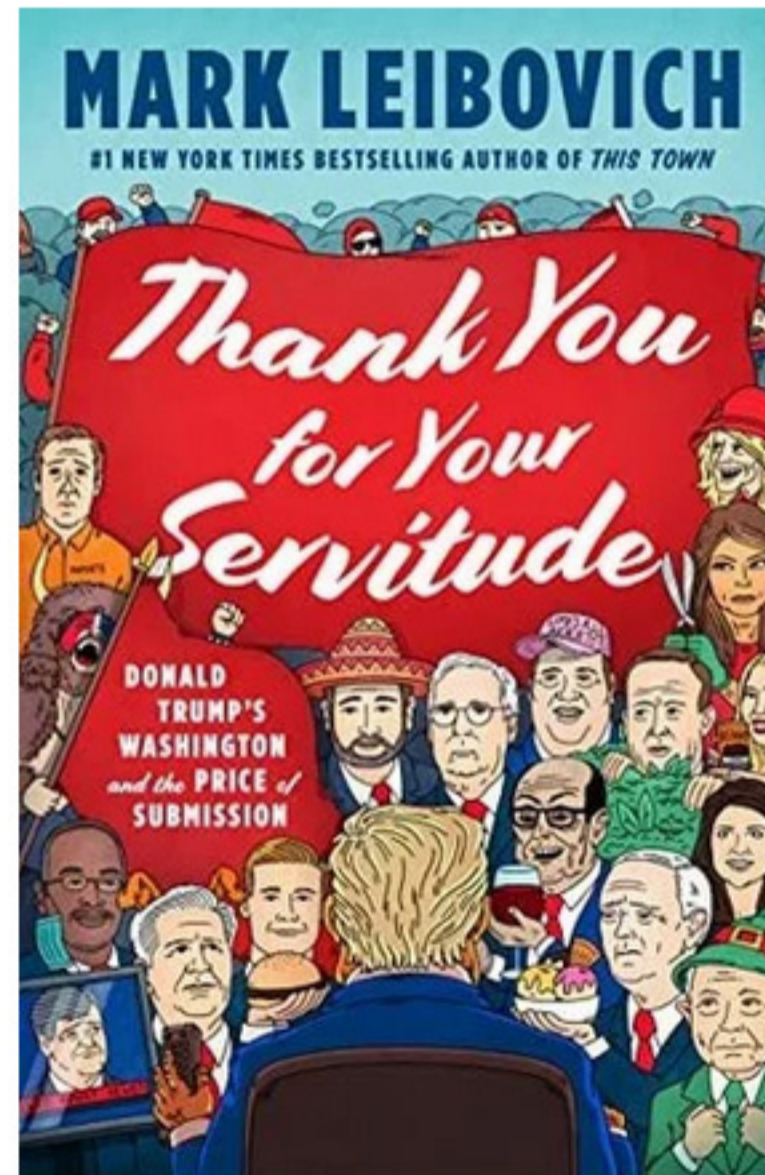
An added selling point for some is that this time the acerbic Leibovich trains his fire on one party — Trump's Republicans. *This Town* was about the first five years of the Barack Obama phenomenon in America. Republicans abound in that book, too, but Democrats and their media favorites were arguably its first focus. By contrast, the cover of *Thank You for Your Servitude* features cartoon caricatures of Trump staffers, prominent Republicans, conservative media personalities and a recognizable January 6 rioter with buffalo horns on his head. There is not a Democrat in sight. If it is possible to set partisanship aside in these tribal times, the main attraction to Leibovich's work is his wicked satirical talent. He comes at his interviewees with a skewer in one hand, a scalpel in the other and a glint in his eye. His frequent eviscerations of major figures range from subtle to scabrous. Two pages into the new book's prologue, the author refers to "Trump's usual collection of pet rocks" mentioning as examples Rudy Giuliani and former campaign strategists Steve Bannon and Corey Lewandowski. (Elsewhere, Giuliani will be described as "the master creature of the Trump swamp.") In the same paragraph, Leibovich refers to "Trump leg-humpers from the House" (meaning the U.S. House of Representatives) and dismisses Trump's best-known spokespersons as "C-listers bumped up temporarily to B-list status by their proximity" to the president. An added selling point for some is that this time the acerbic Leibovich trains his fire on one party — Trump's Republicans. *This Town* was about the first five years of the Barack Obama phenomenon in America. Republicans abound in that book, too, but Democrats and their media favorites were arguably its first focus. By contrast, the cover of *Thank You for Your Servitude* features cartoon caricatures of Trump staffers, prominent Republicans, conservative media personalities and a recognizable January 6 rioter with buffalo horns on his head. There is not a Democrat in sight. If it is possible to set partisanship aside in these tribal times, the main attraction to Leibovich's work is his wicked satirical talent. He comes at his interviewees with a skewer in one hand, a scalpel in the other and a glint in his eye. His frequent eviscerations of major figures range from subtle to scabrous. Two pages into the new book's prologue, the author refers to "Trump's

usual collection of pet rocks" mentioning as examples Rudy Giuliani and former campaign strategists Steve Bannon and Corey Lewandowski. (Elsewhere, Giuliani will be described as "the master creature of the Trump swamp.") In the same paragraph, Leibovich refers to "Trump leg-humpers from the House" (meaning the U.S. House of Representatives) and dismisses Trump's best-known spokespersons as "C-listers bumped up temporarily to B-list status by their proximity" to the president.

Hanging out in the lobby The framing image for *Thank You* is not the White House but the lobby of the Trump Hotel, the true citadel of the Trump administration a few blocks away down Pennsylvania Avenue. The scene is regularly crowded with acolytes of varying status, all anticipating a chance to see Trump and be seen by him and by others waiting to see him. Leibovich slips onstage with these characters, off to one side, usually with other reporters such as his colleagues from *The New York Times*, where he worked before joining *The Atlantic* as a staff writer. The lobby scenes allow Leibovich to introduce (and often lampoon) various figures from the first seven years of the Trump era (which he properly dates from the candidate's storied descent down a golden escalator in Trump Tower in 2015). But the material in *Thank You* is new, much of it from interviews done since the 2020 election. Leibovich gives us the essence of his own interview with Trump early in his term, an apparently brief tete-a-tete in the dining room off the Oval Office, arranged by Trump aide Hope Hicks. He also shares a moment from an interview on the Trump campaign plane in 2016, when he interrupts Trump watching TV to ask him about expressing empathy. Trump, his face remaining "still and distant as though it were coated in plastic," says that, as president, the quality of empathy "would be one of the most important things about Trump." Continuing the quote, Leibovich records the future president saying: "When I'm in that position, when we have horrible hurricanes, all kinds of horrible things happen, you've got to have empathy." To which the author adds: "Trump then returned to watching himself on the small screen." If Leibovich can be occasionally brutal in his assessments, Trump brings out the worst: "Trump has a way of wearing you down," the author observes. "He invades your habitat, like the opossum that gets into the attic, dies, stinks and attracts derivative nuisances." But while Trump remains an eminence throughout, the author's true subject here is Trump's stable of enablers and the transformation they have wrought on their party and themselves. Leibovich dutifully walks us back through the major incidents of Trump's time in office — the controversy over his Inauguration Day crowd, the firing of FBI Director James Comey, the Russian interference probe, the impeachment over his "perfect phone call" to the leader of Ukraine, the street protests following the murder of George Floyd and the notorious clearing of Lafayette Square to facilitate Trump's Bible-dangling photo op. We also see the highlights, if that is the word, of the 2020 election campaign and election night, including the notorious and spurious claim of victory. Along the way, we meet Joe Biden, whose unique path to the nomination (fourth in the Iowa caucuses, fifth in New Hampshire) reaches a high point in his first debate with Trump. As he is being repeatedly interrupted by the president, Biden closes his eyes and says "Will you shut up, man?" Leibovich appropriates this rhetorical question as a national *crisis de coeur* and at least a partial explanation for Trump's defeat in 2020: He had worn people out. The author also catalogs, mostly in passing, the legislative milestones of the term, the struggle to repeal Obamacare, the tax cut bill, the showdown over the Mexican wall that closed government for five weeks in 2019 and even the confirmation of three Supreme Court justices. These are scenery along the way, as Leibovich keeps his attention on the personalities. It is not as though he does not know how much these substantive debates mattered, he clearly does. But his particular contribution is to bring to life some of the characters who enlivened those debates.

A gallery of miniatures Leibovich made his reputation writing profiles at *The Washington Post* and then at *The New York Times*, where he was the national political correspondent for the Sunday magazine. He published a collection of these years ago, but *Thank You* offers fresh evidence of his forte. He guides us through a portrait gallery of those who have mattered in Trump's remastered GOP. These are not full-length profiles but miniature character studies, or in some cases lack-of-character studies. Kevin McCarthy, the Republican leader in the House, seems to have given the author repeated interviews but struggles with his questions. "Why do you keep asking about Trump?" he asks him. "Why do you keep asking about January 6th?" In an unguarded moment, McCarthy mentions the need to "keep Trump in the party," an imperative shared at times by other prominent Republicans. The party's national chair, Ronna McDaniel, has gone to great lengths to forestall the formation of a Trump-led third party that many regard as an existential threat. Leibovich also peers over at McCarthy's Senate counterpart, Mitch McConnell, quite often. But when he chases down the Senate GOP leader he usually winds up watching while the Kentuckian does another of his silent "zombie walks," disappearing down a Capitol hallway without acknowledging the repeated questions. Other senators prove more than willing to talk to Leibovich, apparently less worried about being hoist on his petard. Chief among these is Lindsey Graham, the South Carolinian who more than anyone personifies the Republican shift in ethos and attitude toward Trump. In 2015, Graham called Trump a kook, "crazy" and "a race-baiting xenophobic bigot" who was "unfit for office." But he turned quickly when Trump became The Man, soon finding a place in the warmth of Trump's sun. "When I talked to the people in Pakistan they know I'm close to the president and that I'm going to be able to report back to him," Graham tells Leibovich. "I've never had that kind of influence before. To me, it's exciting" — and also gratifying to the primary voters back home. Graham responds to a blunt question about his conversion to "presidential confidant" by saying "If you know anything about me, it'd be odd not to do this...to try to be relevant." Graham's willingness to engage with the author is unusual among his party colleagues. But it does not earn him much leeway with Leibovich, who uses the South Carolinian's boyhood nickname ("Stinkball") as his chapter title in *Thank You*. "Graham's Senate colleagues described him as a kind of sitcom sidekick with a knack for finding himself in sad-sack situations," Leibovich writes.

Erstwhile rivals take a knee Others who ran against Trump in 2016 but failed to resist or to distance themselves when he seized the nomination also come in for rough treatment. Leibovich gives us the juicy quotes from each before recounting their remarkable conversions. Thus Marco Rubio, the senator from Florida, is seen flogging his Trump credentials despite his historic humiliation at the hands of candidate Trump. "I couldn't help contemplating Rubio's sad slide into slavish devotion to someone he previously called 'the most vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency,'" writes Leibovich, summing up how the Florida senator Trump had derided as "Liddle Markoe" on Twitter had refigured himself as "a fully co-opted minion." We get similar glimpses of Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and even former Rep. Mike Pompeo of Kansas, who was Trump's second secretary of state. All are said to be "in on the joke," a phrase some of Leibovich's interviewees use on the record and others only off. Adam Kinzinger, the Illinois Republican now famous for his role on the January 6th investigation committee, puts it this way to the author: "For all but a handful of members, if you put them on truth serum, they knew the election was fully legitimate and Donald Trump was a joke. The vast majority of people get the joke. I think Kevin McCarthy gets the joke. Lindsey gets the joke. The problem is that the joke isn't even funny anymore." The joke as a metaphor image recurs often in *Thank You*. It seems to explain the double-think practiced by so many the author expects to know better. The point of the joke is that all know what they really think but act otherwise because it serves their own purposes to do so — and preserves the GOP from the challenge of a Trump-led third party. This is a message to be found in the descriptions of Trump's purported acolytes and his critics as well. Leibovich serves up generous helpings of earnest-sounding Republicans who dared to cross The Man, including former Speaker Paul Ryan and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Florida Rep. Tom Rooney. There are also syncretic



Penguin Press

Grove of giant sequoias threatened by California wildfire

today



1 of 14

The Washburn Fire burns in Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias in Yosemite National Park, Calif., on Friday, July 8, 2022. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — The largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park was closed Friday and hundreds of people ordered evacuated nearby as a wildfire burning through dense forest became the latest in recent years to threaten the world's largest trees.

A team was being sent to the Mariposa Grove to wrap some of the massive trunks in fire-resistant foil to protect them as the blaze burned out of control, said Nancy Phillippe, a Yosemite fire information spokesperson.

More than 500 mature sequoias were threatened but there were no reports of severe damage to any named trees, such as the 3,000-year-old Grizzly Giant.

The cause of the fire was under investigation and the rest of the park remained open as nearly 300 firefighters tried to control the flames with the help of two water-dropping helicopters and an air tanker dumping flame retardant, Phillippe said.

The giant sequoias, native in only about 70 groves spread along the western slope of California's Sierra Nevada range, were once considered impervious to flames but have become increasingly vulnerable as wildfires fueled by a buildup of undergrowth from a century of fire suppression and drought exacerbated by climate change have become more intense and destructive.



Choose your reality: Trust wanes, conspiracy theories rise

By DAVID KLEPPER today



FILE - Rioters wave flags on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021. As public trust in democratic institutions declines, conspiracy theories are filling the void. In some cases, that's leading believers to doubt even their own allies. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana, File)

Daniel Charles Wilson believes the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, were an inside job. The war in Ukraine is "totally scripted" and COVID-19 is "completely fake." The Boston Marathon bombing? Mass shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, and Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas? "Crisis actors," he says.

Wilson, a 41-year-old from London, Ontario, has doubts about free elections, vaccines and the Jan. 6 insurrection, too. He accepts little of what has happened in the past 20 years and cheerfully predicts that someday, the internet will make everyone as distrustful as he is. "It's the age of information, and the hidden government, the people who control everything, they know they can't win," Wilson told The Associated Press. "They're all lying to us. But we're going to break through this. It will be a good change for everyone."

Wilson, who is now working on a book about his views, is not an isolated case of perpetual disbelief. He speaks for a growing number of people in Western nations who have lost faith in democratic governance and a free press, and who have turned to conspiracy theories to fill the void. Rejecting what they hear from scientists, journalists or public officials, these people instead embrace tales of dark plots and secret explanations. And their beliefs, say experts who study misinformation and extremism, reflect a widespread loss of faith in institutions like government and media. A poll conducted last year by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that just 16% of Americans say democracy is working well or extremely well. Another 38% said it's working only somewhat well. Other surveys reveal how many people in the United States now doubt the media, politicians, science and even each other. The distrust has gone so deep that even groups that seem ideologically aligned are questioning each others' motives and intentions.

On the day before Independence Day in Boston this year, a group of about 100 masked men carrying fascist flags marched through the city. Members proudly uploaded videos and photos of the march to online forums popular with supporters of former President Donald Trump and QAnon adherents, who believe a group of satanic, cannibalistic child molesters secretly runs the globe.

Instead of praise, the white supremacists were met with incredulity. Some posters said the marchers were clearly FBI agents or members of antifa — shorthand for anti-fascists — looking to defame Trump supporters. It didn't matter that the men boasted of their involvement and pleaded to be believed. "Another false flag," wrote one self-described conservative on Telegram. Similarly, when an extremist website that sells unregulated ghost guns — firearms without serial numbers — asked its followers about their July 4th plans, several people responded by accusing the group of working for the FBI. When someone claiming to be Q, the figure behind QAnon, reappeared online recently, many conservatives who support the movement speculated that the new Q was actually a government plant. This past week, when a Georgia monument that some conservative Christians criticized as satanic was bombed, many posters on far-right message boards cheered. But many others said they didn't believe the news. "I don't trust it. I'm still thinking ff," wrote one woman on Twitter, referencing "false flag," a term commonly used by conspiracy theorists to describe an event they think was staged.

The global public relations firm Edelman, based in New York City, has conducted surveys about public trust for more than two decades, beginning after the 1999 World Trade Organization's meeting in Seattle was marred by anti-globalization riots. Tonia Reis, director of Edelman's Trust Barometer surveys, said trust is a precious commodity that's vital for the economy and government to function. "Trust is absolutely essential to everything in society working well," Reis said. "It's one of those things that, like air, people don't think about it until they realize they don't have it, or they've lost it or damaged it. And then it can be too late." For experts who study misinformation and human cognition, the fraying of trust is tied to the rise of the internet and the way it can be exploited on contentious issues of social and economic change.

Distrust and suspicion offered obvious advantages to small bands of early humans trying to survive in a dangerous world, and those emotions continue to help people gauge personal risk today. But distrust is not always well suited to the modern world, which requires people to trust the strangers who inspect their food, police their streets and write their news. Democratic institutions, with their regulations and checks and balances, are one way of adding accountability to that trust.

When that trust breaks down, polarization and anxiety increases, creating opportunities for people pushing their own "alternative facts." "People can't fact check the world," said Dr. Richard Friedman, a New York City psychiatrist and professor at Weill Cornell Medical College who has written about the psychology of trust and belief. "They're awash in competing streams of information, both good and bad. They're anxious about the future, and there are a lot of bad actors with the ability to weaponize that fear and anxiety." Those bad actors include grifters selling bad investments or sham remedies for COVID-19, Russian disinformation operatives trying to undermine Western democracies, or even home-grown politicians like Trump, whose lies about the 2020 election spurred the Jan. 6 attack.

Research and surveys show belief in conspiracy theories is common and widespread. Believers are more likely to get their information from social media than professional news organizations. The rise and fall of particular conspiracy theories are often linked to real-world events and social, economic or technological change.

Like Wilson, people who believe in one conspiracy theory are likely to believe in others too, even if they are mutually contradictory. A 2012 paper, for instance, looked at beliefs surrounding the death of Princess Diana of Wales in a 1997 car crash. Researchers found that subjects who believed strongly that Diana was murdered said they also felt strongly that she could have faked her own death.

Wilson said his belief in conspiracies began on Sept. 11, 2001, when he couldn't accept that the towers could be knocked down by airliners. He said he found information on the internet that confirmed his beliefs, and then began to suspect there were conspiracies behind other world events.

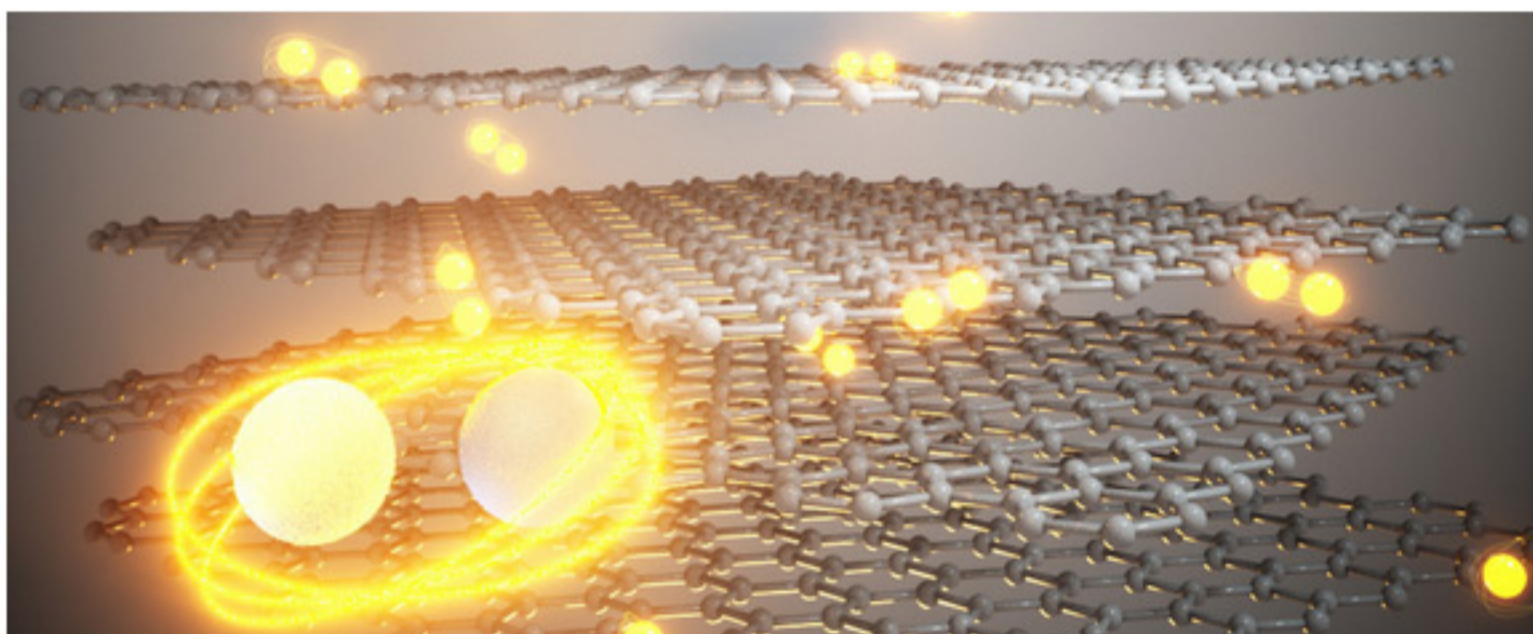
"You have to put it all together yourself," Wilson said. "The hidden reality, what's really going on, they don't want you to know."

Physicists discover a “family” of robust, superconducting graphene structures

The findings could inform the design of practical superconducting devices.

Jennifer Chu | MIT News Office

July 8, 2022



An illustration showing superconducting Cooper pairs in magic-angle multilayer graphene family. The adjacent layers are twisted in an alternating fashion.

Credit: Ella Maru Studio

When it comes to graphene, it appears that superconductivity runs in the family. Graphene is a single-atom-thin material that can be exfoliated from the same graphite that is found in pencil lead. The ultra-thin material is made entirely from carbon atoms that are arranged in a simple hexagonal pattern, similar to that of chicken wire. Since its isolation in 2004, graphene has been found to embody numerous remarkable properties in its single-layer form. In 2018, MIT researchers found that if two graphene layers are stacked at a very specific “magic” angle, the twisted bilayer structure could exhibit robust superconductivity, a widely sought material state in which an electrical current can flow through with zero energy loss. Recently, the same group found a similar superconductive state exists in twisted trilayer graphene — a structure made from three graphene layers stacked at a precise, new magic angle. Now the team reports that — you guessed it — four and five graphene layers can be twisted and stacked at new magic angles to elicit robust superconductivity at low temperatures. This latest discovery, published this week in *Nature Materials*, establishes the various twisted and stacked configurations of graphene as the first known “family” of multilayer magic-angle superconductors. The team also identified similarities and differences between graphene family members.

The findings could serve as a blueprint for designing practical, room-temperature superconductors. If the properties among family members could be replicated in other, naturally conductive materials, they could be harnessed, for instance, to deliver electricity without dissipation or build magnetically levitating trains that run without friction. “The magic-angle graphene system is now a legitimate ‘family,’ beyond a couple of systems,” says lead author Jeong Min (Jane) Park, a graduate student in MIT’s Department of Physics. “Having this family is particularly meaningful because it provides a way to design robust superconductors.” Park’s MIT co-authors include Yuan Cao, Li-Qiao Xia, Shuwen Sun, and Pablo Jarillo-Herrero, the Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics, along with Kenji Watanabe and Takashi Taniguchi of the National Institute for Materials Science in Tsukuba, Japan.

“No limit” Jarillo-Herrero’s group was the first to discover magic-angle graphene, in the form of a bilayer structure of two graphene sheets placed one atop the other and slightly offset at a precise angle of 1.1 degrees. This twisted configuration, known as a moiré superlattice, transformed the material into a strong and persistent superconductor at ultralow temperatures. The researchers also found that the material exhibited a type of electronic structure known as a “flat band,” in which the material’s electrons have the same energy, regardless of their momentum. In this flat band state, and at ultracold temperatures, the normally frenetic electrons collectively slow down enough to pair up in what are known as Cooper pairs — essential ingredients of superconductivity that can flow through the material without resistance. While the researchers observed that twisted bilayer graphene exhibited both superconductivity and a flat band structure, it wasn’t clear whether the former arose from the latter. “There was no proof a flat band structure led to superconductivity,” Park says. “Other groups since then have produced other twisted structures from other materials that have some flattish band, but they didn’t really have robust superconductivity. So we wondered: Could we produce another flat band superconducting device?”

As they considered this question, a group from Harvard University derived calculations that confirmed mathematically that three graphene layers, twisted at 1.6 degrees, would exhibit also flat bands, and suggested they may superconduct. They went on to show there should be no limit to the number of graphene layers that exhibit superconductivity, if stacked and twisted in just the right way, at angles they also predicted. Finally, they proved they could mathematically relate every multilayer structure to a common flat band structure — strong proof that a flat band may lead to robust superconductivity. “They worked out there may be this entire hierarchy of graphene structures, to infinite layers, that might correspond to a similar mathematical expression for a flat band structure,” Park says. Shortly after that work, Jarillo-Herrero’s group found that, indeed, superconductivity and a flat band emerged in twisted trilayer graphene — three graphene sheets, stacked like a cheese sandwich, the middle cheese layer shifted by 1.6 degrees with respect to the sandwiched outer layers. But the trilayer structure also showed subtle differences compared to its bilayer counterpart. “That made us ask, where do these two structures fit in terms of the whole class of materials, and are they from the same family?” Park says.

An unconventional family In the current study, the team looked to level up the number of graphene layers. They fabricated two new structures, made from four and five graphene layers, respectively. Each structure is stacked alternately, similar to the shifted cheese sandwich of twisted trilayer graphene. The team kept the structures in a refrigerator below 1 kelvin (about -273 degrees Celsius), ran an electrical current through each structure, and measured the output under various conditions, similar to tests for their bilayer and trilayer systems. Overall, they found that both four- and five-layer twisted graphene also exhibit robust superconductivity and a flat band. The structures also shared other similarities with their three-layer counterpart, such as their response under a magnetic field of varying strength, angle, and orientation. These experiments showed that twisted graphene structures could be considered a new family, or class of common superconducting materials. The experiments also suggested there may be a black sheep in the family: The original twisted bilayer structure, while sharing key properties, also showed subtle differences from its siblings. For instance, the group’s previous experiments showed the structure’s superconductivity broke down under lower magnetic fields and was more uneven as the field rotated, compared to its multilayer siblings. The team carried out simulations of each structure type, seeking an explanation for the differences between family members. They concluded that the fact that twisted bilayer graphene’s superconductivity dies out under certain magnetic conditions is simply because all of its physical layers exist in a “nonmirrored” form within the structure. In other words, there are no two layers in the structure that are mirror opposites of each other, whereas graphene’s multilayer siblings exhibit some sort of mirror symmetry. These findings suggest that the mechanism driving electrons to flow in a robust superconductive state is the same across the twisted graphene family. “That’s quite important,” Park notes. “Without knowing this, people might think bilayer graphene is more conventional compared to multilayer structures. But we show that this entire family may be unconventional, robust superconductors.”

This research was supported, in part, by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Ramon Areces Foundation, and the CIFAR Program on Quantum Materials.

The Fed's housing market 'reset' has us in a housing correction. Here's what to expect next

BY LANCE LAMBERT

July 8, 2022 1:42 AM PDT



How the Fed's efforts to control inflation will impact the ...

Through the first 24 months of the pandemic, U.S. home prices soared 38.5%. In some markets, like Phoenix and Dallas, home prices grew by more than 50%.

The Federal Reserve wasn't a fan. As the pandemic housing boom raged along, it pushed up prices across the economy. Higher home prices pushed up rents. Elevated homebuilding levels—which hit a 15-year high during the pandemic—put upward price pressure on everything from windows to lumber while also adding stress to an already stressed global supply chain. Not to mention, cash flowed into the economy from homeowners who tapped into that record home equity. That's why the central bank, who has a mandate from Congress to tackle runaway inflation, has targeted the U.S. housing market. How? It put immense upward pressure on mortgage rates. While the Fed doesn't directly set mortgage rates, it has the levers to see that financial markets do so. Once the Fed made it clear this year what lay ahead for monetary tightening, markets quickly pushed the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate above 5%.

In June, Fed Chair Jerome Powell finally made it clear this is all by design. Powell would like to see the U.S. housing market return to a more balanced state. In his own words, he calls it a "reset." "I'd say if you are a homebuyer, somebody or a young person looking to buy a home, you need a bit of a reset. We need to get back to a place where supply and demand are back together and where inflation is down low again, and mortgage rates are low again," Powell told reporters last month. "We saw [home] prices moving up very, very strongly for the last couple

of years. So that changes now. And rates have moved up. We are well aware that mortgage rates have moved up a lot. And you are seeing a changing housing market. We are watching it to see what will happen. How much will it really affect residential investment? Not really sure. How much will it affect housing prices? Not really sure." Already, spiking mortgage rates have pushed the U.S. housing market into cool-down mode. As April and May housing data trickled in, it became clear the pandemic housing boom was fizzling out. In June and July, the pace of the cooling picked up.

To find evidence of the accelerated rate of cooling, just look at inventory data. Among the nation's 100 largest housing markets, the median market saw inventory rise 1% between January and April, according to Fortune's analysis of realtor.com data. That was before spiking mortgage rates kicked off the housing correction. Among those same 100 largest housing markets, the median market saw inventory rise 50% between April and June.

Across the country, the U.S. housing market is slowing. Mortgage applications are down 17% on a year-over-year basis, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. New home sales and existing home sales are falling sharply. Homebuilding has slowed. And more home sellers are slashing their list price.

That said, this housing correction—or as Fortune calls it, the Great Deceleration—is hardly uniform across the country. It has hit Southwest, Mountain West, and West Coast housing markets particularly hard. Among the 10 housing markets that have seen inventory levels rise the most this year, every single one is located in those regions. That group is led by Sherman, Tex. (+332% inventory); San Francisco (+285%); Santa Fe (+272%); Denver (+247%); and Austin (+220%).

The reason? Across the nation, the pandemic housing boom saw home prices become detached from underlying economic fundamentals. That detachment has been even more pronounced in markets across the Southwest, Mountain West, and West Coast. Now that mortgage rates are above 5%, buyers in those "overvalued" markets are feeling particularly squeezed. Some would-be buyers are choosing to remain on the sidelines. Others simply can't afford a mortgage at a 5% rate.

Heading into the year, Logan Mohtashami, lead analyst at HousingWire, was already clamoring for higher mortgage rates. His thinking was that higher mortgage rates would be the only way to sideline buyers and allow inventory breathing room to climb to a healthier level. So far, Mohtashami likes what he's seeing.

"We still have some work to do to get a balanced market. However, with higher rates, we have a shot to get back to peak inventory levels in 2019, which is a balanced market," Mohtashami says. "All my inventory issues go away once we are back to 2019 levels, and only then can I remove the savagely unhealthy housing market theme."

While inventory is rising quickly, it still remains far below pre-pandemic levels: Among the 917 regional housing markets measured by realtor.com, 601 markets are still at least 50% below their pre-pandemic level. Mohtashami wants to see that gap close.

For months, Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi has been calling this slowing a "housing correction." He doesn't see it stopping this year. Through the summer, he expects home sales to continue falling. By this time next year, Zandi expects year-over-year home price growth to slow to 0%. That'd be quite the deceleration considering that the latest reading sits at 20.4%.

But not every housing market will be so lucky. The pandemic housing boom saw markets like Phoenix, Boise, and Las Vegas become what Moody's Analytics deems significantly "overvalued." Now they're at risk of a price correction. As inventory in those places continues marching upward, Zandi predicts those significantly "overvalued" markets will see home prices fall by 5% to 10%. But if a recession actually materializes, Moody's Analytics predicts U.S. home prices would fall by 5% while significantly "overvalued" markets, like Charlotte and Tampa, would see home prices fall by 15% to 20%.

SPORTS

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina wins her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon

July 9, 2022 · 12:56 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina holds the trophy as she celebrates after beating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur to win the Wimbledon women's single final Saturday.

Kirsty Wigglesworth/AP

Rybakina was born in Moscow and has represented Kazakhstan since 2018, when that country offered her funding to support her tennis career. The switch has been a topic of conversation during Wimbledon, because it barred all players who represent Russia or Belarus from entering the tournament due to the war in Ukraine.



SPORTS

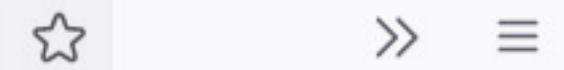
The world's best women's tennis player, Ash Barty, is retiring at age 25

Elena Rybakina



Rybakina at the 2021 French Open

Native name	Елена Андреевна Рыбакина
Country (sports)	Russia Kazakhstan (since 2018)
Residence	Moscow, Russia ^[1]
Born	17 June 1999 (age 23) Moscow, Russia
Height	1.84 m (6 ft 0 in)
Turned pro	2016
Plays	Right-handed (two-handed backhand)
Coach	Stefano Vukov (2019–)
Prize money	US\$ 3,523,116
Singles	
Career record	230–108 (68.0%)
Career titles	3 WTA, 4 ITF
Highest ranking	No. 12 (17 January 2022)
Current ranking	No. 23 (27 June 2022)



Roll over image to zoom in



Lotuscrafts Meditation Cushion Zafu Zen - Comfortable & Deep Meditation - Height 15 cm - Washable Cover Made of Organic Cotton - Meditation Pillow with Buckwheat Filling - GOTS Certified

Visit the Lotuscrafts Store
★★★★☆ 413 ratings

\$34⁹⁵

prime & FREE Returns

Color: Black



Color	Black
Brand	Lotuscrafts
Size	1 Count (Pack of 1)
Fill Material	Buckwheat
Shape	Round

About this item

- COMFORTABLE & DEEP MEDITATION - Our meditation cushion supports you to keep a straight spine during meditation. This helps you to feel more comfortable and experience a deeper meditation.
- INDIVIDUAL SEAT HEIGHT - The yoga cushion is 15 cm high. The buckwheat hull filling can be easily adjusted, so you can find your optimal seat height for meditation.
- ECOLOGICAL & BIO-CERTIFIED - The GOTS seal of the yoga pillow guarantees controlled organic cotton, ecological dyeing, as well as fair and safe working conditions.
- WASHABLE COVER - Thanks to the durable zipper of the meditation floor cushion, the organic cotton cover can be easily removed and machine-washed.
- COMBINEABLE - The round meditation pillow can be optimally combined with a Zabuton meditation mat. This will give you an even better support during meditation.

Customer ratings by feature

Durability	★★★★★	5.0
Sturdiness	★★★★☆	4.8
See more		

\$34⁹⁵

prime & FREE Returns

FREE delivery Tuesday, July 12. Order within 14 hrs 36 mins

Deliver to Dan - San Diego 92104

Only 6 left in stock - order soon.

Qty: 1

Add to Cart

Buy Now

Secure transaction

Ships from Amazon
Sold by Lotuscrafts Inc

Return policy: Eligible for Return, Refund or Replacement within 30 days of receipt

Add a gift receipt for easy returns

Add to List

Have one to sell?
Sell on Amazon

Cornbread (graffiti artist)

Darryl McCray (born 1953), better known by his tagging name **Cornbread**, is an American graffiti writer from Philadelphia. He is widely considered the world's first modern graffiti artist.^{[1][2][3]} McCray was raised in Brewerytown, a neighborhood of North Philadelphia. During the late 1960s, he and a group of friends started doing graffiti in Philadelphia, by writing their monikers on walls across the city.^[4] The movement spread to New York City and blossomed into the modern graffiti movement, which reached its peak in the U.S. in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and then spread to Europe. McCray later worked with the Philadelphia's Anti-Graffiti Network and Mural Arts Program to help combat the spread of graffiti in the city. He is currently a public speaker and a youth advocate.



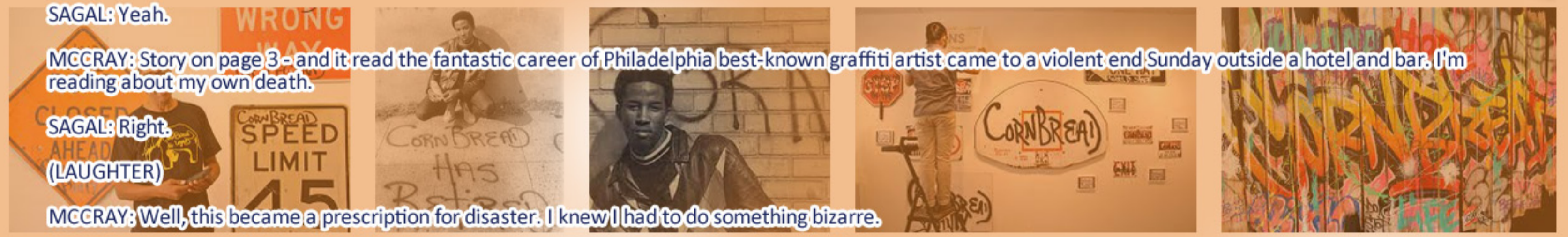
MCCRAY: Well, I started working bus routes. And I'm going to work one day. I always buy the newspaper so I could read while I ride. On the front page of the newspapers, Cornbread is shot to death. Who else could this be?

SAGAL: Yeah.

MCCRAY: Story on page 3 - and it read the fantastic career of Philadelphia best-known graffiti artist came to a violent end Sunday outside a hotel and bar. I'm reading about my own death.

SAGAL: Right.
(LAUGHTER)

MCCRAY: Well, this became a prescription for disaster. I knew I had to do something bizarre.



SAGAL: I'm getting the idea. So in order to prove to the world that you were still out there, you had to do something bigger than you'd ever done before.

MCCRAY: You know what I did.

SAGAL: Right. So you broke into the Philadelphia...

MCCRAY: I didn't break into the zoo.

SAGAL: No.
(LAUGHTER)

SAGAL: Sorry.



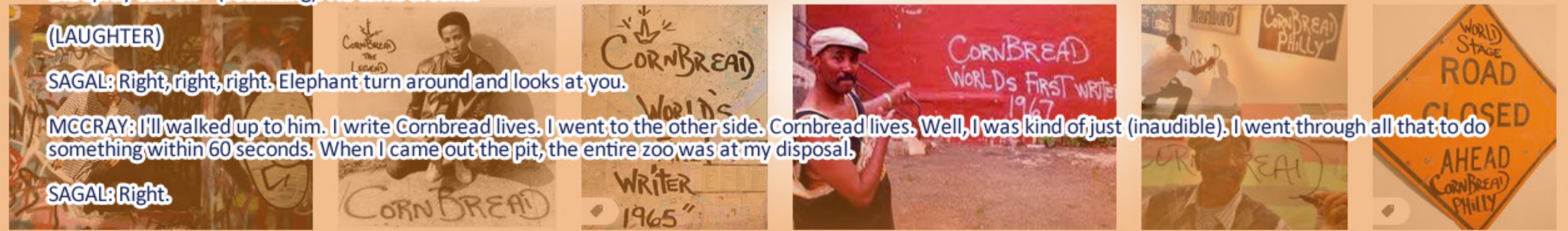
MCCRAY: I came to the back of the zoo, and I came over the fence. I came down to the enclosure where he was at. I hopped into the pit. I walked up to him. I took the spray can off - (vocalizing). He turns around.

(LAUGHTER)

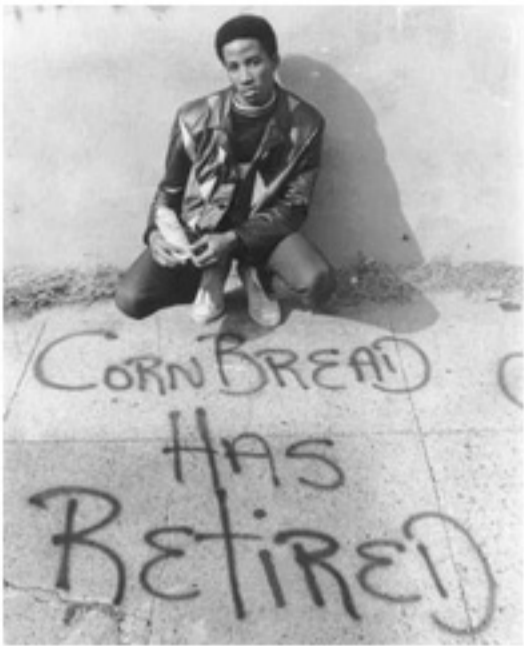
SAGAL: Right, right, right. Elephant turn around and looks at you.

MCCRAY: I'll walked up to him. I write Cornbread lives. I went to the other side. Cornbread lives. Well, I was kind of just (inaudible). I went through all that to do something within 60 seconds. When I came out the pit, the entire zoo was at my disposal.

SAGAL: Right.



Cornbread



Darryl McCray, known by his tagging name, "Cornbread," is a graffiti artist from Philadelphia, credited with being the first modern graffiti artist. Darryl McCray was born in North Philadelphia in 1953 and raised in Brewerytown, a neighborhood of North Philadelphia. During the late 1960's, he and a group of friends started "tagging" Philadelphia, by writing their nicknames on walls across the city. The movement spread to New York and blossomed into the modern graffiti movement, which reached its peak in the U.S. in the 1980's and then spread to Europe. Since his tagging days, McCray has developed a close relationship with The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program. He is a public speaker and a youth advocate.



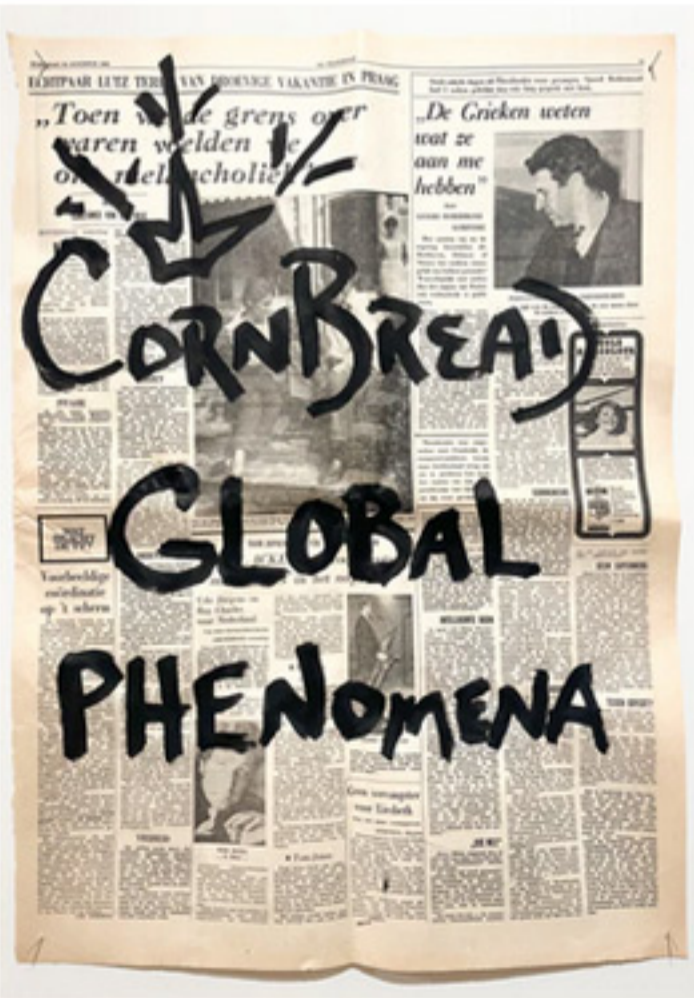
Darryl "Cornbread" McCray
Cornbread Marlboro #1
\$2,700.00



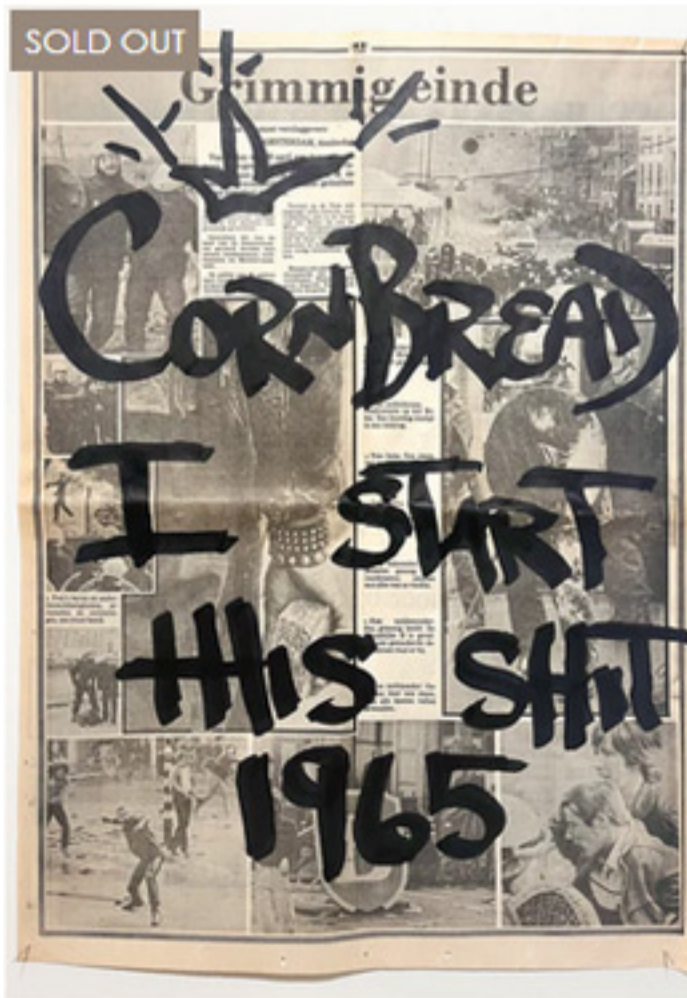
Darryl "Cornbread" McCray
"Cornbread #2"
\$550.00



Darryl "Cornbread" McCray
Burma, The Indian Elephant at America's
First Zoo Postcard
\$290.00



Darryl "Cornbread" McCray
Cornbread Tags De Telegraaf: Global
Phenomena
\$500.00



Darryl "Cornbread" McCray
Cornbread Tags De Telegraaf: I Start This
Shit 1965
\$500.00



Darryl "Cornbread" McCray
Cornbread Tags De Telegraaf: I Start This
Shit 1965 #3
\$500.00



Darryl "Cornbread" McCray
Cornbread Tags De Telegraaf: I Start This
Shit 1965 #2
\$500.00



 **The Uber files**

Uber broke laws, duped police and secretly lobbied governments, leak reveals

by [Harry Davies](#), [Simon Goodley](#), [Felicity Lawrence](#), [Paul Lewis](#) and [Lisa O'Carroll](#)

- Former Uber CEO told executives **'violence guarantees success'**
- More than 124,000 confidential documents leaked to the Guardian
- Files expose attempts to lobby Joe Biden, Olaf Scholz and George Osborne
- [Emmanuel Macron](#) secretly aided Uber lobbying in France, texts reveal
- Company used 'kill switch' during raids to stop police seeing data

A leaked trove of confidential files has revealed the inside story of how the tech giant Uber flouted laws, duped police, exploited violence against drivers and secretly lobbied governments during its aggressive global expansion. The unprecedented leak to the Guardian of more than 124,000 documents – known as the Uber files – lays bare the ethically questionable practices that fuelled the company's transformation into one of Silicon Valley's most famous exports. The leak spans a five-year period when Uber was run by its co-founder Travis Kalanick, who tried to force the cab-hailing service into cities around the world, even if that meant breaching laws and taxi regulations. During the fierce global backlash, the data shows how Uber tried to shore up support by discreetly courting prime ministers, presidents, billionaires, oligarchs and media barons. Leaked messages suggest Uber executives were at the same time under no illusions about the company's law-breaking, with one executive joking they had become "pirates" and another conceding: "We're just fucking illegal." The cache of files, which span 2013 to 2017, includes more than 83,000 emails, iMessages and WhatsApp messages, including often frank and unvarnished communications between Kalanick and his top team of executives.

In one exchange, Kalanick dismissed concerns from other executives that sending Uber drivers to a protest in France put them at risk of violence from angry opponents in the taxi industry. "I think it's worth it," he shot back. "Violence guarantee[s] success."



French taxi drivers protesting against private hire services such as Uber. Photograph: Olivier Coret/Rex/Shutterstock

Politicians now also face questions about whether they took direction from Uber executives.

When a French police official in 2015 appeared to ban one of Uber's services in Marseille, Mark MacGann, Uber's chief lobbyist in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, turned to Uber's ally in the French cabinet.

"I will look at this personally," Macron texted back. "At this point, let's stay calm."

Uber broke laws, duped police and secretly lobbied governments, leak reveals

The Guardian · 3 hours ago



- **Uber leak: Company used covert tech to thwart European raids under Travis Kalanick**

The Washington Post · 17 hours ago

- **Leaked documents reveal Uber's secretive relationship with top politicians**

Fox Business · 17 hours ago

- **The Uber files tell a simple truth: democracy depends on curbing mercenary tech giants**

The Guardian · 7 hours ago · Opinion

- **Uber leak: Company used violence against its drivers to win favor over taxis**

The Washington Post · 17 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



by [Harry Davies](#), [Simon Goodley](#), [Felicity Lawrence](#), [Paul Lewis](#) and [Lisa O'Carroll](#)

- Former Uber CEO told executives 'violence guarantees success'

- More than 124,000 confidential documents leaked to the Guardian

The Uber Files say the company cut its tax bill by millions of dollars by sending profits through Bermuda and other tax havens, then "sought to deflect attention from its tax liabilities by helping authorities collect taxes from its drivers."

- [secretly aided Uber lobbying in France, texts reveal](#)

- [Company used 'kill switch' during raids to stop police seeing data](#)

A leaked trove of confidential files has revealed the inside story of how the tech giant Uber flouted laws, duped police, exploited violence against drivers and secretly lobbied governments during its aggressive global expansion. The unprecedented leak to the Guardian of more than 124,000 documents – known as the Uber files – lays bare the ethically questionable practices that fuelled the company's transformation into one of Silicon Valley's most famous exports. The leak spans a five-year period when Uber was run by its co-founder Travis Kalanick, who tried to force the cab-hailing service into cities around the world, even if that meant breaching laws and taxi regulations. During the fierce global backlash, the data shows how Uber tried to shore up support by discreetly courting prime ministers, presidents, billionaires, oligarchs and media barons. Leaked messages suggest Uber executives were at the same time under no illusions about the company's



Opinion

The Uber files tell a simple truth: democracy depends on curbing mercenary tech giants

Rafael Behr



These revelations reveal the political credulity and negligence that has surrounded the growing power of Silicon Valley

- [What are the Uber files? A guide to cab-hailing firm's ruthless expansion tactics](#)

Mon 11 Jul 2022 01:00 EDT

"I will look at this personally," Macron texted back. "At this point, let's stay calm."



Eric Greitens poses with a high-powered rifle and commandos in a political ad. Eric Greitens

Militant white identity politics on full display in GOP political ads featuring high-powered weapons

Published: July 11, 2022 8:29am EDT

by [Ryan Neville-Shepard](#), *University of Arkansas*, [Casey Ryan Kelly](#), *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Republican Eric Greitens, a candidate for Missouri's open U.S. Senate seat, shocked viewers with a new online political ad in June 2022 that encouraged his supporters to go "RINO hunting." Appearing with a shotgun and a smirk, Greitens leads the hunt for RINOs, shorthand for the derisive "Republicans In Name Only." Along with armed soldiers, Greitens is storming a house under the cover of a smoke grenade. "Join the MAGA crew," Greitens says in the video. "Get a RINO hunting permit. There's no bagging limit, no tagging limit and it doesn't expire until we save our country." The ad comes from a candidate who has repeatedly found himself in controversy, having resigned as Missouri's governor amid accusations of sexual assault and allegations of improper campaign financing that sparked an 18-month investigation that eventually cleared him of any legal wrongdoing. The political ad was also launched – and quickly removed – from Facebook and flagged by Twitter at a time when the nation is still coming to terms with the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and reeling from mass shootings in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Uvalde, Texas, Buffalo, New York and Highland Park, Illinois. The ad continues to circulate on YouTube via various news sources. Greitens's call to political arms is hardly new. In his 2016 gubernatorial ads, Greitens appeared firing a Gatling-style machine gun into the air and using an M4 rifle to create an explosion in a field to demonstrate his resistance to the Obama administration. What Greitens' ad represents, in our view, is the evolution of the use of guns in political ads as a coded appeal for white voters. While they might have been a bit more ambiguous in the past, candidates are increasingly making these appeals appear more militant in their culture war against ideas and politicians they oppose.

Guns as a symbol of whiteness As communication scholars, we have studied the ways that white masculinity has influenced contemporary conservative populism. We have also examined the ways that racial appeals to white voters have evolved under the GOP's Southern strategy, the long game that conservatives have played since the 1960s to weaken the Democratic Party in the South by exploiting racial animus.

In some of our latest work, we have examined the ways that guns have been used in campaign ads to represent white identity politics, or what political scientist Ashley Jardina has explained as the way that white racial solidarity and fears of marginalization have manifested in a political movement. **Symbolically, guns in the U.S. have historically been linked to defending the interests of white people.** In her book *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*, historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz documents how **America's Founding Fathers originally conceived of the Second Amendment as protection for white frontier militias in their efforts to subdue and exterminate Indigenous people. The Second Amendment was also designed to safeguard Southern slave owners who feared revolts. As a result, the right to bear arms was never imagined by the founders to be an individual liberty held by Indigenous people and people of color.** As illustrated in Richard Slotkin's book *Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in Twentieth-Century America*, the popular film and literary genre of the Western glamorized white, hypermasculine cowboys and gunslingers "civilizing" the wild frontier to make it safe for white homesteaders. Drawing from this lore, contemporary gun culture romanticizes the "good guy with a gun" as the patriotic protector of the peace and a bulwark against government overreach. Contemporary gun laws reflect a historic racial disparity concerning who is authorized and under what circumstances individuals are allowed to use lethal force. For example, so-called "stand your ground" laws have been used historically to justify the killing of Black men, most notably in the Trayvon Martin case. Gun control advocates *Everytown for Gun Safety* have found that **homicides resulting from white shooters killing Black victims are "deemed justifiable five times more frequently than when the shooter is Black and the victim is white."**

Militant white identity politics: Featuring a gun in a political ad has become an easy way to get attention, but our research has found that its meaning has shifted in recent years. In a 2010 race for Alabama agriculture commissioner, Dale Peterson was featured in an ad holding a gun, wearing a cowboy hat and talking in a deep Southern drawl about the need to challenge the "thugs and criminals" in government. His style proved entertaining. A white man wearing a white cowboy hat has a rifle on his shoulder as he stands near a horse. Though Peterson placed third in his race, political analysts like *Time* magazine's Dan Fletcher raved that he created one of the best campaign ads ever. In the same year, Arizona Republican Pam Gorman ran for U.S. Congress. She took the use of guns in political ads even further by appearing at a backyard range and firing a machine gun, pistol, AR-15 and a revolver in the same ad. Though she gained attention for her provocative tactics, Gorman eventually lost to Ben Quayle, son of former Vice President Dan Quayle, in a 10-candidate primary. Aside from the shock value, guns in ads became a symbol of opposition to the Obama administration. For instance, in 2014, U.S. congressional candidate Will Brooke of Alabama ran an online ad in a Republican primary showing him loading a copy of the Obamacare legislation into a truck, driving it into the woods and shooting it with a handgun, rifle and assault rifle. Not done, the remains of the copy were then thrown into a wood chipper. Although Brooke lost the seven-way primary, his ad received national attention. The call to defend a conservative way of life got increasingly bizarre – and became a common tactic for GOP candidates. Well before Greitens, U.S. congressional candidate Kay Daly from North Carolina fired a shotgun at the end of an ad during her unsuccessful campaign in 2015 asking supporters to join her in hunting RINOs. The ad attacked her primary opponent, incumbent Rep. Renee Elmers, a Republican from North Carolina, for funding Obamacare, "Planned Butcherhood" and protecting rights of "illegal alien child molesters." Before he drew the ire of Trump, Brian Kemp climbed the polls in Georgia's race for governor in 2018 with an ad titled "Jake" in which he interviewed his daughter's boyfriend. Holding a shotgun in his lap as he sat in a chair, Kemp portrayed himself as a conservative outsider ready to take a "chainsaw to government regulations" and demanding respect as his family's patriarch. The ads of the most recent cycle build on this development of the gun as a symbol of white resistance. Conservative GOP Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, from Georgia, ran an ad for a gun giveaway in 2021 that she made in response to what she claimed was Biden's arming of Islamic terrorists as well as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's allegedly sneaking the Green New Deal and other liberal legislation into a budget proposal. Firing a weapon from a truck, she announced she would "blow away the Democrats' socialist agenda."

The culture wars continue: Surrounding himself with soldiers, Greitens goes further than those before him in this latest iteration of the Republican use of guns. But his strategy is not out of the ordinary for a party that has increasingly relied on provocative images of violent resistance to speak to white voters. Despite the violence of Jan. 6, conservatives are still digging their own trenches.



Ada Limón

American poet

CULTURE

Ada Limón named new U.S. poet laureate

July 12, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET

MEGHAN COLLINS SULLIVAN

Ada Limón was named Tuesday by the Library of Congress as the nation's 24th poet laureate.

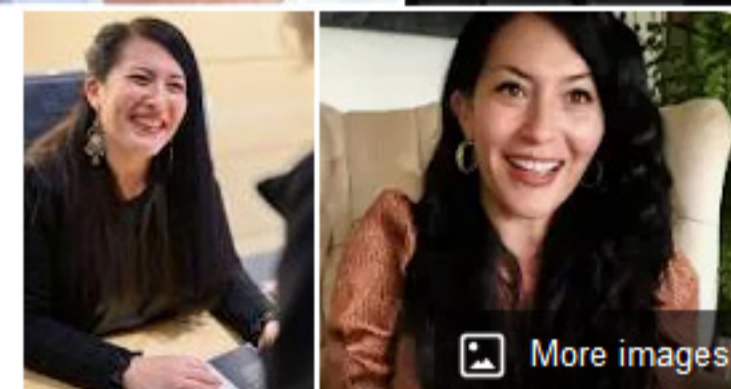
She will take over in September from Joy Harjo, who has held the position since 2019. Harjo was only the second poet laureate to be named to a third term; Robert Pinsky also holds that honor.

Limón's latest collection, *The Hurting Kind*, was published in May. In a review of the book, NPR's Jeevika Verma notes: "As in her previous notable collections — *The Carrying* won the National Book Critics Circle Award and before that, *Bright Dead Things* was a National Book Award finalist — Limón is acutely aware of the natural world in *The Hurting Kind*. And she has a knack for acknowledging its little mysteries in order to fully capture its history and abundance."

"I think that it's really important to remember that even in this particularly hard moment, divided moment, poetry can really help us reclaim our humanity," Limón told All Things Considered. "I think we need to remember that we possess the full spectrum of human emotions. And I think moving through that grief and trauma, anger, rage — through poetry I think we can actually remember that on the other side of that is also contentment, joy, a little peace now and again, and that those are all a part of the same spectrum. And that without one, we don't have the other."



Ada Limón.
Shawn Miller/Library of Congress



The Hurting Kind 2022	Bright Dead Things 2015	The Carrying: Poems 2018	Sharks in the Rivers 2010
--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------

Ada Limón is an American poet.^[1]

Ada Limón



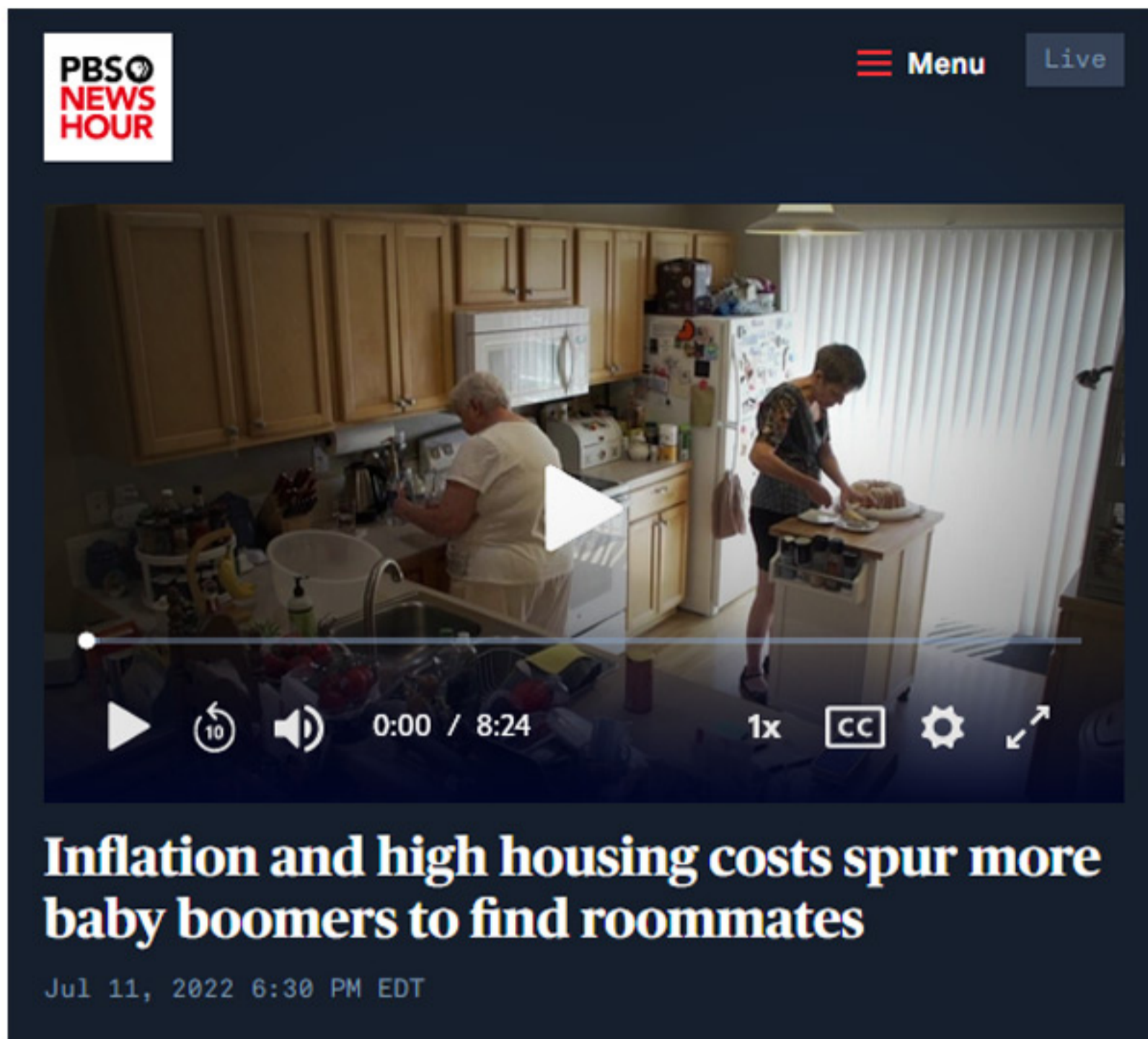
Limón in San Francisco (2019)

Alma mater [University of Washington](#)
[New York University](#)

Genre Poetry

Limón, who is of Mexican-American descent, grew up in Sonoma, California. She attended the drama school at the University of Washington, where she studied theatre. After taking writing courses from professors including Colleen J. McElroy, she went on to receive her MFA from New York University in 2001, where she studied with Sharon Olds, Philip Levine, Marie Howe, Mark Doty, Agha Shahid Ali, and Tom Sleigh.

Upon graduation, Limón received a fellowship to live and write at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. In 2003, she received a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts, and in the same year won the Chicago Literary Award for Poetry.^[citation needed]



Amid high inflation and rising housing costs, some seniors are turning to home-sharing. Economics correspondent Paul Solman has the story about a growing number of baby boomers who are becoming "boommates."

Brenda Atchison:

Being housing-insecure, being — that's not comfortable. It's not. I can tell you, it's not a comfortable feeling. I lived on that edge for quite some time. So I don't ever want to go back to that.

It's the social piece that means more to me now than the financial piece ever could.

Paul Solman:

Becky Miller, she agrees.

Paul Solman:

As more boomers retire and if the cost of living keeps climbing, home-sharing may become a common place, says Silvernest's Riley Gibson.

Riley Gibson:

We're going to have to get creative and try some new things, find some new ways of living, finding new ways to think about the single-family home, because we have to.

Paul Solman:

Brenda Atchison is glad she did.

Becky Miller:

I get a feeling of peace. I have always been by myself. And I discovered that I have room in my heart for another person.

Paul Solman:

Relationships born of necessity that have grown into something a lot less transactional.

For the "PBS NewsHour," Paul Solman.

Boommates

by Jim the Realtor | Feb 26, 2022 | Boomer Liquidations, Boomers



Excerpts from the [wapo](#):

Maybe this could free up some homes for sale. Move in with your friend or neighbor!

Faced with escalating home prices and rents in tight housing markets, as well as careers or earnings curtailed by age or the pandemic, some boomers are looking to share their homes. Enter the boommates.

“With the boomers aging, you see higher and higher numbers in shared housing,” said Rodney Harrell, vice president of family, home and community at AARP, pointing out that boomers are more open than previous generations to trying alternative solutions to the traditional aging trajectory.

In an 1987 interview with NPR, the late Betty White noted that the four women who lived together in “The Golden Girls” did so for social reasons rather than financial necessity. “All that I think we have accomplished is to show that there is an alternative lifestyle,” White told “Fresh Air” about the success of the show. “If you notice, ‘The Golden Girls’ are not together for economic reasons. They’re together for sociological reasons. It combats the loneliness.”

Four decades later, the idea of housemates late into adulthood is experiencing a revival, but with financial factors front and center. As boomers live longer and retire without the financial safety net of employer-sponsored pensions, covering the rising costs of food, housing and insurance become major considerations. Linda Hoffman, president and CEO of the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, which runs a home-sharing program, noted an increasing number of applications as finances become more of a stressor.

“When we started the home-sharing program in 1981, relieving feelings of isolation and loneliness was the primary need,” Hoffman said. **“Now, an affordable place to live is the number one need. Hosts need help in meeting their housing expenses.”** Even for housemates who entered into the arrangement for social reasons, the extra money has become more important as their financial picture changed with the pandemic.

“The majority of people considering home sharing with a friend or family member tells me that there’s an opportunity there for more people to take advantage of that excess housing stock that we already have within our own homes, and that perhaps meet your needs, and those of a friend or neighbor,” Harrell said. “Or maybe companionship that may help with costs, such as caregiving. There’s just so much advantage there. And we’re just not necessarily taking advantage of it. It’s nowhere near its potential.”

WEBMD NEWS BRIEF

First Cases of Newest Omicron Subvariant Reported in U.S.

By Carolyn Crist



NBC Chicago
New Highly Contagious Coronavirus Mutant BA.2.75 Raises Concerns

12 hours ago

WKYC
New omicron subvariant BA.2.75 detected in at least 10 countries; here's w...

16 hours ago

NBC 7 San Diego
BA.2.75 Omicron Variant is Surging. Here's What to Know

13 hours ago

Fortune
New Omicron spawn like 'Centaurus' and 'Bad Ned' may be the reason you hav...

3 days ago

WTOP
What's known about BA.2.75, the new COVID-19 strain

15 hours ago

INDEPENDENT
Covid: Global warning over 'exponential' increase in cases with new mutant s...

18 hours ago

San Francisco Chronicle
COVID in California: First case of BA.2.75 subvariant detected in the state

1 day ago

July 8, 2022 -- The U.S. has identified cases of the latest Omicron subvariant, dubbed "Centaurus" and known as BA.2.75 in the scientific community, according to Fortune.

Two cases have been detected in the U.S. so far, with the first identified on June 14, a spokesperson for the CDC told the news outlet.

The WHO announced this week that it has begun tracking the subvariant, which was identified in India in early June and has been reported in several other countries. BA.2.75 hasn't yet been declared a variant of concern, WHO officials said, and researchers are still learning about the transmissibility, severity and potential for immune evasion.

The CDC doesn't publicly report on emerging variants until they account for about 1% of cases. So far, cases of BA.2.75 are being reported on the CDC data tracker under BA.2 cases, which made up about 2.8% of U.S. cases last week.

The most prominent subvariants in the U.S. right now are BA.5, which accounted for 53.6% of new cases last week, followed by BA.2.12.1 with 27.2% of cases and BA.4 with 16.5% of cases.

In India, BA.2.75 is rising in prominence and is competing with BA.5 as the most contagious strain. So far, BA.2.75 has also been detected in Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand and the U.K.

Public health experts have posted on Twitter this week about the new subvariant, raising concerns about the potential for higher transmissibility and a better ability to escape vaccines.

Along with the usual Omicron mutations, BA.2.75 has nine additional changes, which could help the subvariant to spread more quickly and more broadly than previous Omicron subtypes.

At the same time, researchers can't definitively say whether BA.2.75 will take over in countries where BA.5 is dominant, such as the U.S.

The subvariant "may just spread for some period of time until it runs into BA.5 and is outcompeted for people to infect," Amesh Adalja, MD, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, told Fortune.

"I don't know at this time that BA.2.75 will be anything more than a regional issue that eventually gets overwhelmed by BA.5," he said.

James Webb Space Telescope: An astronomer explains the stunning, newly released first images

Silas Laycock, *UMass Lowell*

During his testimony before congressional investigators, former Oath Keepers spokesman Jason Van Tatenhove left little doubt about the intentions of the white nationalist militia group when its members stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Tatenhove explained that Jan. 6 "could have been a spark that started a new civil war." "We need to quit mincing words and just talk about truths," Tatenhove said, "and what it was going to be was an armed revolution."

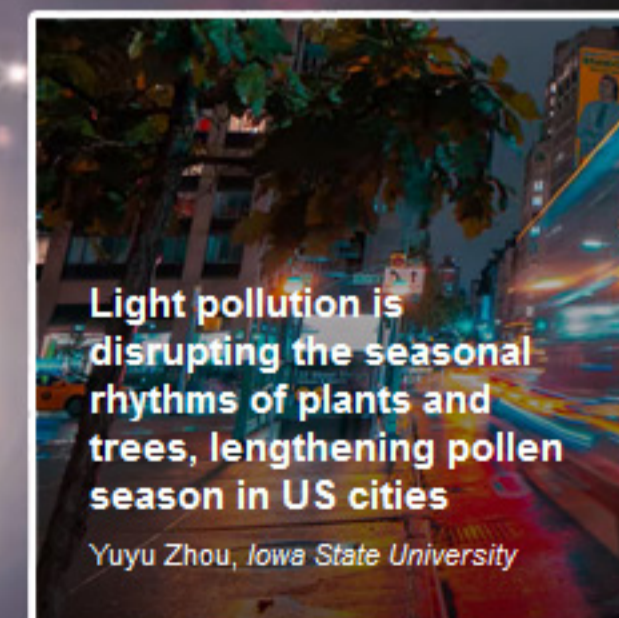
Former Oath Keeper reveals racist, antisemitic beliefs of white nationalist group – and their plans to start a civil war

Sara Kamali, *University of California Santa Barbara*



US abortion restrictions are unlikely to influence international trends, which are largely becoming more liberal

Martha Davis, *Northeastern University*



Light pollution is disrupting the seasonal rhythms of plants and trees, lengthening pollen season in US cities

Yuyu Zhou, *Iowa State University*

Why this key chance to getting permanent birth control is often missed

July 12, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET
Heard on Morning Edition



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



Maria Fabrizio for NPR

Dr. Rachel Flink, an obstetrician and gynecologist recently looked to see how many post-childbirth tubal procedures got done where she was working, Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., and found that the majority of women who'd requested it left the hospital with their tubes still intact. "I certainly had a sense that we weren't completing all of them or close to all of them," says Flink. "But the fact that it was fewer than half, I think was a little bit of a shock."

Doctors say they're seeing a surge in the number of women who want their "tubes tied." But hospital capacity, paperwork, religion and personal opinion are just some of the reasons requests get denied.

▶ LISTEN · 6:38

+ PLAYLIST



- There are so many types of birth control. Here's how to choose what works for you
- Emergency contraception pills are safe and effective, but not always available

Secret schools enable Afghanistan's teen girls to skirt Taliban's education ban

July 12, 2022 · 4:06 PM ET

DIAA HADID

FAZELMINALLAH QAZIZAI



A teenage girl wearing a face mask, head scarf and long black robe listens to a math teacher at a tutoring center in Kabul. The center was established by a women's rights activist to circumvent a Taliban ban on girls attending secondary school. The activist said she has informal permission by Taliban authorities to run the center as long as teenage girls abide by a strict dress code.

KABUL, Afghanistan – Inside a small room in a house on Kabul's outskirts, about ten teenage girls are defying their Taliban rulers who have banned them from attending secondary school. "Let's learn," one student slowly reads to another as they review English lessons from a textbook. "Learn the words: Yellow, blue, red, green." The girls attend a secret school run by a young woman barely older than her students, 21-year-old Nazanin, whose lavender headscarf matched her nail polish on the day we visited. "When the Taliban said girls can't go to secondary school anymore, I thought to myself, 'what can I do?'," she tells NPR. "How can I raise the morale of the girls around me?" She and the young students requested they only be referred to by their first names, to avoid being identified by Taliban officials.

It's been nearly a year since the Taliban seized power and stopped some 850,000 Afghan girls from attending secondary school, according to UNICEF figures. The regime had promised to allow girls to return on March 23. But it appears a minority of senior hardliners had a change of heart. Teenage girls arrived to their old classrooms only to be sent home again, many in tears. The Taliban have been pressured to reverse their decision by the international community, Afghan women, girls — even prominent Afghan clerics known for their loyalty to the Taliban. An Education Ministry spokesman tells NPR they're ready to open those schools whenever their leadership says they can. But hopes are slim. At a nationwide conference of Taliban loyalist clerics and traders that took place from June 30 to July 2, local media reported that girls education was only mentioned by two of the 3,000 male attendees. The communique issued at the gathering's end called on the international community to recognize the Taliban administration but contained only a vague reference to education.

Secret schools and loopholes: Many Afghan girls aren't waiting for the Taliban government to change their minds. Nor are their teachers. "The fact that people have found all of these different ways to try to work around the Taliban ban is an indication of how desperately people want education for themselves, for their daughters, for the for the girls in their families," says Heather Barr, who for Human Rights Watch closely tracks violations against women and girls in Afghanistan.

Even the Taliban isn't 100% opposed to schooling for teen girls



Teenage girls take notes in an English class in a small secret school on the outskirts of Kabul.

The monkeypox outbreak was avoidable and warning signs were ignored, expert says

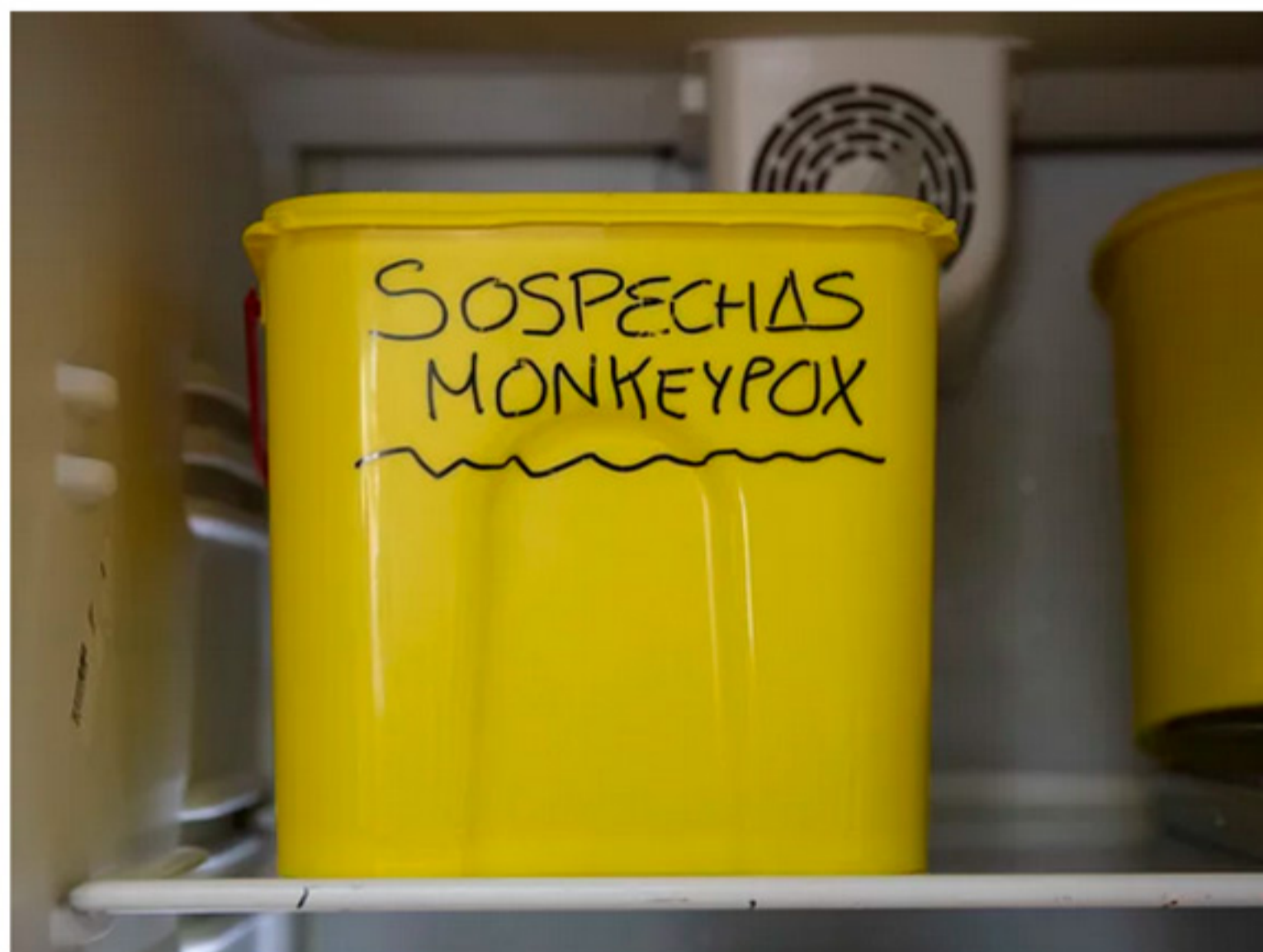
July 12, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



ARI SHAPIRO



PATRICK WOOD



A bucket with suspected monkeypox samples is stored at a laboratory in Spain in June.

Monkeypox has been a developing problem for decades and the current global outbreak was avoidable, but the looming threat was largely ignored, according to a leading expert on the virus. Dr. Anne Rimoin is a UCLA epidemiology professor and has spent the last two decades in the Democratic Republic of Congo working on monkeypox. She said it was only when the virus spread beyond rural Africa that it sparked a global response. **"This virus has been spreading in marginalized and vulnerable populations [in Africa] for decades, and we've done nothing about it,"** Rimoin said. **"We have known that monkeypox is a potential problem for decades."**

There are now confirmed cases in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, the Middle East and South America. The Centers for Disease Control says there are more than 750 monkeypox cases in the U.S. — across almost every state — but Rimoin said this was certainly an undercount because there was not enough testing available. **Monkeypox is rarely fatal and doesn't generally lead to hospitalization. It is mostly not spread through the air, and people have been getting it from close physical contact.**

So public health experts say the U.S. should have been able to handle the outbreak, and that the missteps right now look a lot like the start of the coronavirus pandemic: not enough tests or vaccines readily available, and an incomplete picture of the spread. "We have no concept of the scale of the monkeypox outbreak in the U.S.," biologist Joseph Osmundson at New York University told NPR in June. In response, in late June the CDC said it would "lean forward with an aggressive public health response to the monkeypox outbreak" and activate its emergency operations center. And on Monday, the CDC said commercial laboratories had now started testing for monkeypox. "This will not only increase testing capacity but also make it more convenient for providers and patients to access tests," CDC director Rochelle Walensky said in a statement.

Rimoin questioned why there wasn't a more concerted effort to address or prepare for the virus years earlier when monkeypox was spreading in rural Africa. She said she had co-authored a paper in 2010 that documented a large increase in monkeypox cases since the eradication of smallpox and the end of the smallpox vaccine, which also protects people from monkeypox.

"If we do want to get in front of emerging infectious diseases, we are going to have to prioritize dealing with emerging global disease threats at the site where they are spreading early on," Rimoin said. "We are totally interconnected by trade and travel, population growth, population movement, and we cannot make the mistake again of thinking that an infection that's happening somewhere in a remote area of the world isn't going to affect us right at home." "We will continue to be chasing behind them, and always be paying the price for not doing what's needed ahead of time."

For now, Rimoin said it was a matter of trying to contain a virus that was already spreading. "It's much easier to stay out of trouble than it is to get out of trouble," she said. "The good news is we have vaccines, we have therapeutics, we know a fair amount about this virus. The bad news is now we have to get the logistics together to be able to confront it head on."

The Coronavirus Crisis

A new dominant omicron strain in the U.S. is driving up cases — and reinfections

Updated July 11, 2022 · 12:39 PM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



ALLISON AUBREY



RACHEL TREISMAN



A Covid-19 testing site stands on a Brooklyn street corner in April.

Spencer Platt/Getty Images

For much of the pandemic, the only silver lining to coming down with a case of COVID-19 was that you likely wouldn't catch it again for a while (though there isn't exactly a definitive answer on how long that period of immunity typically lasts). Increasingly, however, more people appear to be contracting the virus multiple times in relatively quick succession, as another omicron subvariant sweeps through the U.S. The BA.5 variant is now the most dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And while it's hard to get an exact count — given how many people are taking rapid tests at home — **there are indications that both reinfections and hospitalizations are increasing.**

For example: Some 31,000 people across the U.S. are currently hospitalized with the virus, with admissions up 4.5% compared to a week ago. And data from New York state shows that reinfections started trending upwards again in late June.

Dr. Bob Wachter, the chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, says BA.5 is highly transmissible and manages to at least partially sidestep some of the immunity people may have from prior infections and vaccinations. "Not only is it more infectious, but your prior immunity doesn't count for as much as it used to," he explains. "And that means that the old saw that, 'I just had COVID a month ago, and so I have COVID immunity superpowers, I'm not going to get it again' — that no longer holds." So just how worried should you be, especially if you're vaccinated and taking precautions like wearing masks in crowds? Here's what some public health experts make of the latest surge.

Is BA.5 more dangerous? So far there is no evidence that this variant causes more serious illness. And infectious disease experts say that even though new infections are on the rise, the impact of BA.5 is unlikely to be on the scale of the surge we saw last winter — in part because the country is better equipped to manage it.

The U.S. is averaging about 300 deaths a day, compared to 3,000 last winter.

Dr. Anna Durbin, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, says the combination of prior infections and vaccinations is still protective, and COVID-19 treatments are better. "Most people have some underlying immunity that is helpful in fighting the virus," she explains. "We have antivirals ... And I think that because of that ... we're not seeing a rise in deaths. And that's very reassuring. It tells me that even this virus, even BA.5, is not so divergent that it is escaping all arms of the immune system." She adds that new booster shots specifically targeting omicron — which could roll out as soon as this fall — should also be helpful in preventing serious illness and deaths.

Are there long-term consequences for people who get COVID-19 multiple times? Findings of a pre-print study published in June suggest that people who get sick multiple times may have a higher risk of long-COVID symptoms. Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly, a clinical epidemiologist at Washington University in St. Louis, looked at thousands of cases of reinfection and saw a wide range of problems in the months that followed: certain respiratory conditions, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, brain fog and other conditions including metabolic disease, cardiac disease, kidney disease and diabetes. "Altogether, we concluded that reinfection contributes to additional risk," Al-Aly says. "So even if you're vaccinated ... it's absolutely best to avoid reinfection." And a study published last week in the journal *Cell* concludes that repeat infections are likely. Researchers studied blood samples from people who had been vaccinated and boosted, and they found they had a reduced ability to neutralize the BA.5 virus, compared to prior sub-variants, BA.1 and BA.2. In addition, blood from people who had breakthrough infections from BA.1 also showed reduced neutralization, "suggesting that repeat Omicron infections are likely in the population," the authors conclude.

What can people do to protect themselves? There are steps you can take to reduce your exposure to the virus, like masking up in crowded indoor spaces. Here's how to step up your mask game. Plus, children under the age of 5 are finally eligible to get vaccinated (and while many parents are hesitant, public health experts are encouraging them not to wait any longer). And adults ages 50 and older, as well as those over 12 with certain underlying conditions, can get a second booster shot. And, if you already have plans to travel or attend gatherings this summer, check out these tips for protecting yourself outdoors, improving indoor airflow and what to do if you get sick while on vacation.



WHAT HAPPENED TO MICHAEL FLYNN?

In military intelligence, he was renowned for his skill connecting the dots and finding terrorists. But somewhere along the way, his dot detector began spinning out of control.

JULY 8, 2022

By Barton Gellman

Michael Flynn faced the camera with brow creased and lips compressed. He hadn't been born yesterday, his expression said. He was not going to fall for trick questions. "General Flynn, do you believe the violence on January 6 was justified?" Representative Liz Cheney asked him in a video teleconference deposition for the January 6 committee. Flynn's lawyer pressed the mute button and switched off the camera. Ninety-six seconds passed. Flynn and the lawyer reappeared with a request for clarification. Did Cheney mean morally justified, or legally? Cheney obligingly asked each question in turn.

"Do you believe the violence on January 6 was justified morally?" she asked. Flynn squinted, truculent. "Take the Fifth," he said.

"Do you believe the violence on January 6 was justified legally?" Cheney asked. "Fifth," he replied.

Cheney moved on to the ultimate question. "General Flynn, do you believe in the peaceful transition of power in the United States of America?" she asked.

"The Fifth," he repeated.

It was a surreal moment: Here was a retired three-star general and former national security adviser refusing to opine on the foundational requirement of a constitutional democracy. Flynn had sworn an oath to protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Rule of law had been drilled into him for decades in the Army. Now, by invoking the right against self-incrimination, he was asserting that his beliefs about lawful succession could expose him to criminal charges. That could not be literally true—beliefs have absolute protection under the First Amendment—but his lawyer might well have worried about where Cheney's line of questioning would lead. Flynn had said publicly that President Donald Trump could declare martial law and "re-run" the presidential election he had lost. He and Sidney Powell, one of Trump's lawyers, had turned up in the Oval Office on December 18, 2020, with a draft executive order instructing the Defense Department to seize the voting machines that recorded Trump's defeat. Flynn and Roger Stone, the self-described political dirty trickster, were the two men Trump made a point of asking his chief of staff to call on January 5, on the eve of insurrection, according to Cassidy Hutchinson's recent testimony before the January 6 committee.

All of which raises a question: What happened to Michael Flynn? He has baffled old comrades with his transformation since being fired as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2014. He led chants to lock up Hillary Clinton in 2016. In 2020, he posted a video of himself taking an oath associated with QAnon. He has endorsed crackpot fabrications of the extreme right: that Italy used military satellites to switch votes from Trump to Biden in 2020, that COVID-19 was a hoax perpetrated by a malevolent global elite, that the vaccine infused recipients with microchips designed for mind control. Has Flynn always been susceptible to paranoid conspiracies? Or did something happen along the way that fundamentally shifted his relationship to reality? In recent conversations I had with the former general's close associates, some for attribution and some not, they offered a variety of theories. [...]

In the closing days of the 2016 presidential campaign, when Trump flew to as many as five campaign events a day, Flynn became his regular warm-up act. "He was an amazingly popular opener," Bannon told me. "He was as popular as Rudy [Giuliani], and Rudy's pretty fucking popular with the crowd. Flynn was the most popular opening act we had." Trump, according to contemporary news accounts, looked hard at Flynn as a running mate in 2016 before selecting Mike Pence. Some Trump allies think that Flynn, who recently visited the former president at Mar-a-Lago, is back on the menu for 2024. "I think Mike [Flynn] could very well be on the VP shortlist in '24," Bannon said. "And if the president doesn't run, I strongly believe Mike is running."

Roger Stone, the veteran operative of countless campaigns—and, like Flynn, the recipient of a pardon from Trump—told the Canton crowd to expect great things. "There is one person who is absolutely central to the future of this country," he said. "Absolutely central to the struggle for freedom that we face. This is a man who's not a politician. I don't think he much likes politics. This is a man who served his country. He's actually a war hero ... I speak of that great American patriot, General Michael Flynn." "And let me say this," he added. "General Flynn's greatest acts of public service lie ahead."



Wednesday, July 13, 2022

above my desk





above my desk



Experts rue simple steps not taken before latest COVID surge

By CARLA K. JOHNSON yesterday



With new omicron variants again driving COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths higher in recent weeks, states and cities are rethinking their responses and the White House is stepping up efforts to alert the public. Some experts said the warnings are too little, too late.

The highly transmissible BA.5 variant now accounts for 65% of cases with its cousin BA.4 contributing another 16%. The variants have shown a remarkable ability to get around the protection offered by infection and vaccination. “It’s well past the time when the warning could have been put out there,” said Dr. Eric Topol, head of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, who has called BA.5 “the worst variant yet.”

Global trends for the two mutants have been apparent for weeks, experts said — they quickly out-compete older variants and push cases higher wherever they appear. Yet Americans have tossed off their masks and jumped back into travel and social gatherings. And they have largely ignored booster shots, which protect against COVID-19’s worst outcomes. Courts have blocked federal mask and vaccine mandates, tying the hands of U.S. officials. “We learn a lot from how the virus is acting elsewhere and we should apply the knowledge here,” said Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle.

White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha appeared on morning TV on Wednesday urging booster shots and renewed vigilance. Yet Mokdad said federal health officials need to be push harder on masks indoors, early detection and prompt antiviral treatment.

“They are not doing all that they can,” Mokdad said.

The administration’s challenge, in the view of the White House, is not their messaging, but people’s willingness to hear it — due to pandemic fatigue and the politicization of the virus response. For months, the White House has encouraged Americans to make use of free or cheap at-home rapid tests to detect the virus, as well as the free and effective antiviral treatment Paxlovid that protects against serious illness and death. On Tuesday, **the White House response team called on all adults 50 and older to urgently get a booster if they haven’t yet this year — and dissuaded people from waiting for the next generation of shots expected in the fall when they can roll up their sleeves and get some protection now.**

Los Angeles County, the nation’s largest by population, is facing a return to a broad indoor mask mandate if current trends in hospital admissions continue, health director Barbara Ferrer told county supervisors Tuesday. “I do recognize that when we return to universal indoor masking to reduce high spread, for many this will feel like a step backwards,” Ferrer said. But she stressed that requiring masks “helps us to reduce risk.” The nation’s brief lull in COVID deaths has reversed. Last month, daily deaths were falling, though they never matched last year’s low, and deaths are now heading up again. The seven-day average for daily deaths in the U.S. rose 26% over the past two weeks to 489 on July 12.

The coronavirus is not killing nearly as many as it was last fall and winter, and experts do not expect death to reach those levels again soon. But hundreds of daily deaths for a summertime respiratory illness would normally be jaw-dropping, said Andrew Noymer, a public health professor at the University of California, Irvine. He noted that in Orange County, California, 46 people died of COVID-19 in June. “That would be all hands on deck,” Noymer said. “People would be like, ‘There’s this crazy new flu that’s killing people in June.’” Instead, simple, proven precautions are not being taken. Vaccinations, including booster shots for those eligible, lower the risk of hospitalization and death — even against the latest variants. But less than half of all eligible U.S. adults have gotten a single booster shot, and only about 1 in 4 Americans age 50 and older who are eligible for a second booster have received one.

“This has been a botched booster campaign,” Topol said, noting that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still uses the term “fully vaccinated” for people with two shots of Moderna or Pfizer. “They haven’t gotten across that two shots is totally inadequate,” he said. Noymer said if he were in charge of the nation’s COVID response he would level with the American people in an effort to get their attention in this third year of the pandemic. He would tell Americans to take it seriously, mask indoors and “until we get better vaccines, there’s going to be a new normal of a disease that kills over 100,000 Americans a year and impacts life expectancy.” That message probably wouldn’t fly for political reasons, Noymer acknowledged.

It also might not fly with people who are tired of taking precautions after more than two years of the pandemic. Valerie Walker of New Hope, Pennsylvania, is mindful of the latest surge but is hardly alarmed. “I was definitely concerned back then,” she said of the pandemic’s early days, with images of body bags on nightly news broadcasts. “Now there’s fatigue, things were getting better and there was a vaccine. So I would say from a scale between one and 10, I’m probably at a four.” **Even with two friends now sick with the virus, and her husband recently recovered, Walker says she has bigger problems.** “Sometimes when I think about it I still put a mask on when I go into a store, but honestly, it is not a daily thought for me,” she said.



Transmission electron microscope image of SARS-CoV-2. (NIAID-RML)

On a Scale of 1 to 10, Here's How Worried You Should Be About The COVID Variant BA.5

BI HILARY BRUECK, BUSINESS INSIDER
14 JULY 2022

There's a new coronavirus variant traveling around this summer at a record clip. It's a variant of Omicron called BA.5, and it's causing a stir largely because it has evolved even further away than other Omicron variants did from the coronavirus we already knew. Previously, getting infected with Omicron meant you probably had some protection against reinfection for a few months. But BA.5 is strategically evading our built-up defenses against prior versions of the virus. This all means that reinfections – even in vaccinated and recently infected people – are up, way up. So, yes, BA.5 is easier to catch than other variants have been, and it may feel like it's lurking everywhere right now, infecting anyone, whether or not you've already had a vaccine, a booster shot, and/or a recent bout of COVID-19. "If you were infected with BA.1, you really don't have a lot of good protection against BA.4/5," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the US's top infectious-disease expert, said Tuesday.

We asked four top public-health experts to help us figure out how worried we should be about this new, extra-stealthy Omicron subvariant. Telling us how concerned to be about new infectious-disease threats is typically what these people do for a living. But rating BA.5 gave them some pause. "I can't answer that," Dr. Celine Gounder, an infectious-disease expert and the editor at large for public health at Kaiser Health News, said. "Because it depends on your vaccination status, your age, your health, your occupation, your living situation, etc., etc." Others did give hard numbers, but there was variation in their answers based on where you may live or who you are.

If you're up to date on vaccines, one expert says your worry scale should register at '3 out of 10' Dr. Preeti Malani, an infectious-disease physician at the University of Michigan, was willing to give a hard and fast number. "I'd say 3 out of 10," she said, expressing mild concern about the new variant. "BA.5 is everywhere, and if you haven't gotten it yet, the odds are pretty good you will," Malani said, adding: "But if you are up to date on vaccines, the illness should be mild and without major medical consequences." While there's a "high risk of exposure" to this variant, she said there were also "lots of reasons to be hopeful." Early treatment with Paxlovid is now free for all Americans who may need it. "With home testing and rapid connection to treatment (for those at risk of complicated infection), COVID is manageable," Malani said.

Older adults without booster shots should be more worried In the UK, which is at least a few weeks ahead of the US in terms of variant spread, national health-security experts have assessed that the protection offered by vaccines against BA.5 "likely remains comparable to that observed previously," which means vaccinated and boosted people, while certainly at risk of getting sick with BA.5, likely won't end up in the hospital or dead. For those who aren't up to date on shots, and who don't have a COVID-19 action plan, outcomes could be bad. The European Union earlier this week released new recommendations for a second booster for all adults 60 and older, in line with what the US already recommends. "We are currently seeing increasing COVID-19-case notification rates and an increasing trend in hospital and ICU admissions and occupancy in several countries, mainly driven by the BA.5 sublineage of Omicron," Dr. Andrea Ammon, the director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, said. "There are still too many individuals at risk of severe COVID-19 infection whom we need to protect as soon as possible," she added.

Regional differences in vaccination rates and heat waves may complicate the calculation Katelyn Jetelina, a public-health expert who runs the popular Your Local Epidemiologist blog wasn't willing to give a single number for the entire US. She said the risk was too variable right now, based on where you live. "I'm quite worried about the South," she said, ranking it a 7 out of 10 because of low rates of booster shots, low Paxlovid usage, low testing, and "everyone going inside for the heat." The South also had a relatively low number of infections in the recent BA.2.12.1 wave, unlike the Northeast, where Jetelina said people should be at about a 4 out of 10 level of concern. **Bottom line:** If you're boosted, wearing masks when appropriate, and have a test and treatment action plan for if you do get sick, most experts agree this wave should turn out OK for you. But like all risk calculations, "the number is different based on who it is being applied to," as Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar at Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said.

"If it is a fresh lung-transplant patient, the number would be 10. For a healthy 18-year-old, it would be 0," he said. "Risk is not one-size-fits-all."

EXPLAINER: Why US inflation is so high, and when it may ease

By PAUL WISEMAN yesterday



WASHINGTON (AP) — **Inflation's relentless surge didn't merely persist in June. It accelerated.** For the 12 months ending in June, the government's consumer price index rocketed 9.1%, the fastest year-over-year jump since 1981. And that was nothing next to what energy prices did: Fueled by heavy demand and by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, energy costs shot up nearly 42% in the past 12 months, the largest such jump since 1980. Even if you toss out food and energy prices — which are notoriously volatile and have driven much of the price spike — so-called core inflation soared 5.9% over the past year. Consumers have endured the pain in everyday routines. Unleaded gasoline is up 61% in the past year. Men's suits, jackets and coats, 25%, Airline tickets, 34%. Eggs 33%. Breakfast sausage, 14%.

Under Chair Jerome Powell, the Federal Reserve never anticipated inflation this severe or persistent. Yet after having been merely an afterthought for decades, high inflation reasserted itself with ferocious speed as shortages of labor and supplies ran up against a propulsive rise in demand for goods and services across the economy. In February 2021, the consumer price index was running just 1.7% above its level a year earlier. From there, it accelerated — past 2% in March, past 4% in April and 5% in May. By December, consumer prices hit the 7% year-over-year barrier. And on and on it went: 7.5% in January, 7.9% in February. And the increases have topped 8% every month since March. The United States has endured worse inflation before, but not in many decades. The post-World War II inflation peak reached nearly 20% in 1947, a result of the lifting of wartime price curbs, supply shortages and pent-up consumer demand. The inflation of the 1970s and early 1980s peaked at 14.8% in March 1980 before the Fed exorcized high prices with aggressive rate hikes that caused brutal back-to-back recessions in 1980 and 1981-1982. For months, Powell and some others characterized high inflation as merely a "transitory" phenomenon while the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession faster than anyone had anticipated. No longer. Now, most economists expect inflation to remain painfully elevated well after this year, with demand outstripping supplies in numerous areas of the economy. So the Fed has radically changed course by imposing a succession of large rate hikes. The central bank is making a high-risk bet that it can slow the economy enough to rein in inflation without weakening it so much as to trigger a recession. The overall economy looks healthy for now, with a robust job market and extremely low unemployment. But many economists warn that the Fed's steady credit tightening will likely cause a downturn.

WHAT'S CAUSED THE SPIKE IN INFLATION? Good news — mostly. When the pandemic paralyzed the economy in the spring of 2020 and lockdowns kicked in, businesses closed or cut hours and consumers stayed home as a health precaution, employers slashed a breathtaking 22 million jobs. Economic output plunged at a record-shattering 31% annual rate in 2020's April-June quarter. Everyone braced for more misery. Companies cut investment and postponed restocking. A severe recession ensued. But instead of sinking into a prolonged downturn, the economy staged an unexpectedly rousing recovery, fueled by vast infusions of government aid and emergency intervention by the Fed, which slashed rates among other things. By spring of last year, the rollout of vaccines had emboldened consumers to return to restaurants, bars, shops, airports and entertainment venues. Suddenly, businesses had to scramble to meet demand. They couldn't hire fast enough to fill job openings or buy enough supplies to meet customer orders. As business roared back, ports and freight yards couldn't handle the traffic. Global supply chains seized up. With demand up and supplies down, costs jumped. And companies found that they could pass along those higher costs in the form of higher prices to consumers, many of whom had managed to pile up savings during the pandemic.

So the Fed has radically changed course by imposing a succession of large rate hikes. The central bank is making a high-risk bet that it can slow the economy enough to rein in inflation without weakening it so much as to trigger a recession. The overall economy looks healthy for now, with a robust job market and extremely low unemployment. But many economists warn that the Fed's steady credit tightening will likely cause a downturn.

WHAT'S CAUSED THE SPIKE IN INFLATION? Good news — mostly. When the pandemic paralyzed the economy in the spring of 2020 and lockdowns kicked in, businesses closed or cut hours and consumers stayed home as a health precaution, employers slashed a breathtaking 22 million jobs. Economic output plunged at a record-shattering 31% annual rate in 2020's April-June quarter. Everyone braced for more misery. Companies cut investment and postponed restocking. A severe recession ensued. **But instead of sinking into a prolonged downturn, the economy staged an unexpectedly rousing recovery, fueled by vast infusions of government aid and emergency intervention by the Fed, which slashed rates among other things.** By spring of last year, the rollout of vaccines had emboldened consumers to return to restaurants, bars, shops, airports and entertainment venues. **Suddenly, businesses had to scramble to meet demand. They couldn't hire fast enough to fill job openings or buy enough supplies to meet customer orders.** As business roared back, ports and freight yards couldn't handle the traffic. Global supply chains seized up. **With demand up and supplies down, costs jumped. And companies found that they could pass along those higher costs in the form of higher prices to consumers, many of whom had managed to pile up savings during the pandemic.** Critics blamed, in part, **President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, with its \$1,400 checks to most households, for overheating an economy that was already sizzling on its own.** Many others assigned a greater blame to supply shortages. **And some argued that the Fed kept rates near zero far too long, lending fuel to runaway spending and inflated prices in stocks, homes and other assets.**

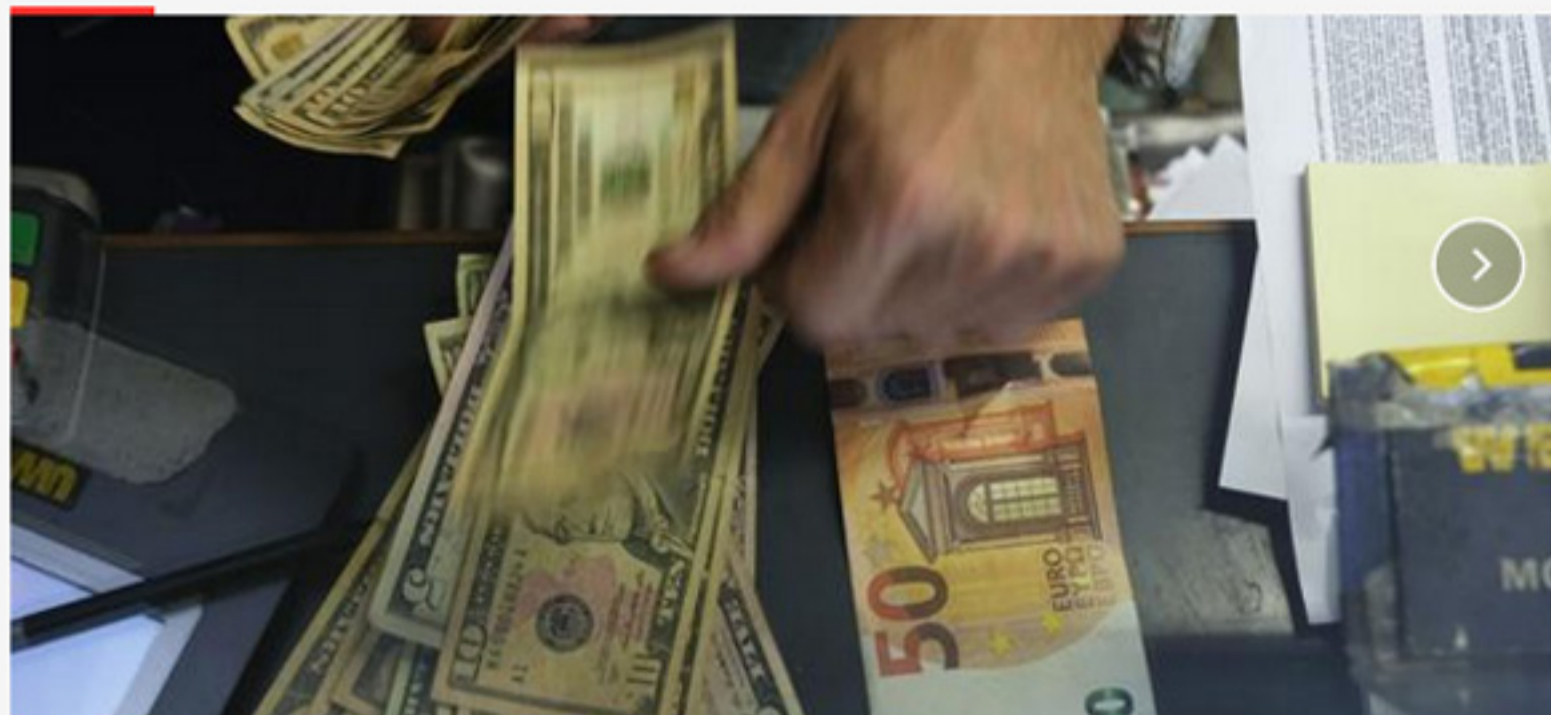
IS HIGH INFLATION AFFECTING JUST THE UNITED STATES? Not by a long shot. Prices are rising just about everywhere in the world, in part a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has elevated energy and food prices, and in part because of the supply chain bottlenecks that have driven U.S. prices up. Eurostat, the statistical service of the European Union, says it expects year-over-year inflation to hit 8.6% last month from a year earlier in the 19 countries that share the euro currency, and up from an annual increase of 8.1% in May. The International Monetary Fund has forecast that consumer prices in the world's advanced economies will jump 5.7% this year, the most since 1984. The IMF foresees 8.7% inflation in poorer emerging market and developing countries, the highest such rate since 2008.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST? No one knows for sure. Elevated consumer price inflation could endure as long as companies struggle to keep up with consumers' demand for goods and services. A recovering job market — employers added a record 6.7 million jobs last year and a healthy average of 457,000 a month so far this year — means that Americans as a whole can afford to keep spending. The Fed foresees inflation staying above its 2% annual target into 2024. But relief from higher prices might be coming. Oil prices have been tumbling on fears of an economic downturn. Jammed-up supply chains are showing some signs of improvement, at least in industries like transportation. Commodity prices have begun to fall. Pay increases have slowed. And surveys show that Americans' expectations for inflation over the long run have eased — a trend that often points to more moderate price increases over time. What's more, the Fed's pivot toward an aggressively anti-inflationary policy could eventually reduce consumer demand. Inflation itself is eroding purchasing power and might force some consumers to shave spending. At the same time, new COVID variants could cloud the outlook — either by causing outbreaks that force factories and ports to close and further disrupt supply chains or by keeping more people home and reducing demand for goods.

HOW ARE HIGHER PRICES AFFECTING CONSUMERS? **The strong job market is boosting workers' pay, though not enough to offset higher prices.** The Labor Department says that after accounting for higher consumer prices, hourly earnings for private-sector employees fell 3.6% last month from a year earlier, the 15th straight drop. There are exceptions: After-inflation wages rose more than 4% for hotel workers and 3% for those working in bars.

EXPLAINER: What's the impact of euro parity with the dollar?

By The Associated Press yesterday



A cashier changes a 50 Euro banknote with US dollars at an exchange counter in Rome, Wednesday, July 13, 2022. The euro on Tuesday fell to parity with the dollar for the first time in nearly 20 years. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

The euro is hovering close to parity with the dollar, falling to its lowest level in 20 years and even briefly touching a one-to-one exchange rate with the U.S. currency this week. It's a psychological barrier in the markets. But psychology is important, and what the euro's slide underlines is the foreboding in the 19 European countries using the currency as they struggle with an energy crisis caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. Here's why the euro's slide is happening and what impact it could have:

WHAT DOES EURO AND DOLLAR PARITY MEAN? It means the European and American currencies are worth the same amount. A currency's exchange rate can be a verdict on economic prospects, and Europe's have been fading. Expectations that the economy would see a rebound after turning the corner from the COVID-19 pandemic are being replaced by recession predictions. More than anything, higher energy prices and record inflation are to blame. Europe is far more dependent on Russian oil and natural gas than the U.S. to keep industry humming and generate electricity. Fears that the war in Ukraine will lead to a loss of Russian oil on global markets have pushed oil prices higher. And Russia has been cutting back natural gas supplies to the European Union, which EU leaders described as retaliation for sanctions and weapons deliveries to Ukraine.

Energy prices have driven euro-area inflation to a record 8.6% in June, making everything from groceries to utility bills more expensive. They also have raised fears about governments rationing natural gas to industries like steel, glassmaking and agriculture if Russia further reduces or shuts off the gas taps completely.

The sense of doom increased when the major Nord Stream 1 pipeline from Russia to Germany closed Monday for scheduled maintenance, raising fears the Kremlin won't restart deliveries this month. "What's the fall in the Euro saying? It's becoming increasingly clear that the Euro zone is heading into recession," Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance banking trade group, tweeted Tuesday.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE EURO WAS EQUAL TO THE DOLLAR? The euro hasn't been valued below \$1 since July 15, 2002. It's now below \$1.01. The European currency hit its all-time high of \$1.18 shortly after its launch on Jan. 1, 1999, but then began a long slide, falling through the \$1 mark in February 2000 and hitting a record low of 82.30 cents in October 2000. It rose above parity in 2002 as large trade deficits and accounting scandals on Wall Street weighed on the dollar. Then as now, what appears to be a euro story is also in many ways a dollar story. That's because the U.S. dollar is still the world's dominant currency for trade and central bank reserves. And the dollar has been hitting 20-year highs against the currencies of its major trading partners, not just the euro. The dollar is also benefiting from its status as a safe haven for investors in times of uncertainty.

WHY IS THE EURO FALLING? Many analysts attribute the euro's slide to expectations for rapid interest rate increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve to combat 40-year highs in inflation, which hit an annual 9.1% on Wednesday. As the Fed raises interest rates, the rates on interest-bearing investments tend to rise as well. If the Fed raises rates more than the European Central Bank, higher interest returns will attract investor money from euros into dollar-denominated investments. Those investors will have to sell euros and buy dollars to buy those holdings. That drives the euro down and the dollar up. The ECB has announced it will raise interest rates next week and add another increase in September. But if the economy sinks into recession, that could halt the ECB's series of rate increases. Meanwhile, the U.S. economy looks more robust, meaning the Fed could go on tightening — and widen the rate gap.

WHO WINS? American tourists in Europe will find cheaper hotel and restaurant bills and admission tickets. The weaker euro could make European export goods more competitive on price in the United States. The U.S. and the EU are major trade partners, so the exchange rate shift will get noticed. In the U.S., a stronger dollar means lower prices on imported goods — from cars and computers to toys and medical equipment — which could help moderate inflation. "The parity makes it easy for us, and a lot more money goes a lot further now, so we can do a lot more on our trip," said John Muldoon, who was visiting Rome this week from Delaware. Olivia Navarret, another Rome tourist from Pennsylvania, said the exchange rate meant a shirt she bought was less expensive. "It's cheaper to come here and buy stuff," she said. "So it's better to come here, I guess, and spend money here than spend money in the U.S."

WHO LOSES? American companies that do a lot of business in Europe will see the revenue from those businesses shrink when and if they bring those earnings back to the U.S. If euro earnings remain in Europe to cover costs there, the exchange rate becomes less of an issue. **A key worry for the U.S. is that a stronger dollar makes U.S.-made products more expensive in overseas markets, widening the trade deficit and reducing economic output, while giving foreign products a price edge in the United States.** A weaker euro can be a headache for the European Central Bank because it can mean higher prices for imported goods, particularly oil, which is priced in dollars. The ECB is already being pulled in different directions: It is set to raise interest rates, the typical medicine for inflation, but higher rates also can slow economic growth.

RAISING SUCCESSFUL KIDS

I talked to 70 parents who raised highly successful adults—here are 4 things they never did when their kids were young

Published Sat, Jul 9 2022 10:28 AM EDT Updated Mon, Jul 11 2022 1:32 PM EDT



Margot Machol Bisnow, Contributor



As parents, we hear a lot about the things we should do with our kids. But it's also important to flip that around and consider what we shouldn't do. As I researched and wrote my book, "Raising an Entrepreneur," I interviewed 70 parents who raised highly successful adults about how they helped their children achieve their dreams. Despite the diverse ethnic, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds, there were four things that the parents of these smart, driven and entrepreneurial individuals never did when their kids were young:

1. They never treated their kid's hobby as a waste of time. Sports, video games, debating, music, birdwatching — every child of the parents I spoke to had a passion outside of the classroom. The parents never veered their kids away from the hobby because they knew it was keeping them mentally active. Radha Agrawal is the founder of Daybreaker, a global morning dance movement with over 500,000 community members in 30 cities around the world. Previously, she was the CEO of Super Sproutz, a children's entertainment movement focused on healthy eating. But growing up, her passion was soccer. With support from her parents, she and her twin sister Miki played three hours a day, starting from when they were five years old. Eventually, they played at Cornell University, where they were known as the "Legendary Soccer Twins." Although her career today has nothing to do with soccer, Radha told me that she developed a lot of grit and resilience from the sport: "You have to be disciplined. You learn to be organized and focused. And you learn the politics of teamwork, and what it takes to be the captain."

2. They never made all the choices for their kids. It can be extremely tempting to constantly make decisions for your kids. After all, you're the adult — you know your children better than anyone else does, and you don't want them to suffer. **But successful parents resist that temptation.** Ellen Gustafson co-founded FEED Projects, providing food in schools for children. Today, she is a thought leader and regular speaker on social innovation. Her mother Maura said to me: "We encouraged her to be independent, and to think for herself. I'd tell her, 'Trust, but verify. Check it out. Be sure it's true. Don't drink the Kool-Aid. Just because everyone else is doing it, that doesn't mean you have to.' You want your kid to grow up to be cautious, but not fearful." "As a parent, you can see what their strengths are," she continued. "But you have to let them figure it out. The best way to do that is by asking questions like, 'What choice do you think would be more helpful to you in the future?'"

3. They never prized money or high-paying degrees over happiness. I have nothing against academic and professional degrees — my husband and I both have graduate degrees, and it has worked for us. But a degree may represent an expensive waste of your child's time if it has no connection to their interests. And if their only reason for being in school is to get the piece of paper or make the contacts needed to land a high-paying job. Someone who loves something enough and works hard at it will find a way to turn it into a living, even without a degree in that field. And they won't be afraid to tackle an opportunity that won't pay anything for a few years as they might be if they had to pay off high student debt every month.

4. They never neglected financial literacy. A final note about money: Although the parents I spoke to never pushed their kids towards pursuing a high-paying job, all of them made an effort to teach their kids about money in one form or another. Joel Holland sold half of his first company, Storyblocks, for \$10 million in 2012. He acquired a strong work ethic at an early age; he and his sister were given the job of sweeping to get their allowance. "The floors had to be clean enough to eat off of. It taught me about hard work," he said. "And in grade school, everyone had roller skates, but my parents wouldn't buy them for me. They told me, 'If you want them, you have to save your money.' It made me angry at the time, but it really made me appreciate the value of money." His parents also didn't pay for his college education. Joel went to Babson College on student loans and from the money he made from working. "Because I paid for college, I never missed a class. I'd calculated the cost of each class at \$500," he said. "If I was tempted to skip a class, I always thought there is nothing I could possibly do during this hour that's worth more than \$500." I love Joel's story because it illustrates why you shouldn't teach kids that they must go after high-paying careers, but that it is important to learn about money. If you're passionate about something, and get really good at it, and get to know it inside and out, you will see something that's missing, which you can turn into your business. Joel has done this twice.

SPACE

Scientists have picked up a radio signal 'heartbeat' billions of light-years away

July 14, 2022 · 5:06 AM ET

AYANA ARCHIE



This image released by NASA on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, combined the capabilities of the James Webb Space Telescope's two cameras to create a never-before-seen view of a star-forming region in the Carina Nebula. Captured in infrared light by the Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) and Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI), this combined image reveals previously invisible areas of star birth.

NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI via AP

Astronomers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have picked up repetitive radio signals from a galaxy billions of light-years from Earth.

Scientists have not been able to pinpoint the exact location of the radio waves yet, but suspect the source could be neutron stars, which are made from collapsed cores of giant stars.

The signals have been occurring steadily and last up to three seconds, researchers say. Most fast radio bursts, or FRBs, only last a few milliseconds.

"Within this window, the team detected bursts of radio waves that repeat every 0.2 seconds in a clear periodic pattern, similar to a beating heart," MIT said in a statement.

On Dec. 21, 2019, researchers at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia, Canada, picked up a signal of a potential FRB, according to the MIT statement.

"Not only was it very long, lasting about three seconds, but there were periodic peaks that were remarkably precise, emitting every fraction of a second — boom, boom, boom — like a heartbeat," said Daniele Michilli, a postdoctoral researcher in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research. "This is the first time the signal itself is periodic."

Data on the bursts, including their frequency and how they change based on where the source is located in proximity to Earth could help researchers determine at what speed the universe is expanding.

The announcement about the repetitive radio signals follows the release earlier this week of the first images of the universe from the James Webb Space Telescope. Those images reveal some galaxies formed more than 13 billion years ago.

There's a massive housing shortage across the U.S. Here's how bad it is where you live

July 14, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



CHRIS ARNOLD



ROBERT BENINCASA



JACQUELINE GANUN

HAIDEE CHU



Contractors work on the roof of a house under construction in Louisville, Ky., on July 1. "America's fallen 3.8 million homes short of meeting housing needs," says Mike Kingsella, the CEO of research group Up for Growth, which on Thursday released a study about the problem of housing shortages. "And that's both rental housing and ownership."

So Up for Growth's study took a look at what's happening in 800 cities and towns.

How severe are housing shortages in your area?

Housing shortages have remained problematic or worsened in hundreds of metro areas around the U.S. in the past decade, according to nonprofit research group Up for Growth.

San Diego

RANK	METRO AREA	2012-2014 STATUS	2017-2019 STATUS	ESTIMATED AVAILABLE UNITS	<% SHORTAGE	% SURPLUS>
36	San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA	Shortage	Shortage got worse	59,616 units short	-5%	

Notes

- Available units and housing supply percentages are based on a three-year average from 2017 through 2019.
- Percentages refer to under- or over-production compared with the total housing units in a metro area.

Source: Up for Growth
Credit: Haidee Chu/NPR

<https://www.upforgrowth.org/>

Up for Growth is a national, cross-sector member network committed to solving the housing shortage and affordability crisis through data-driven research and evidence-based policy. Our mission is to forge policies and partnerships to achieve housing equity, eliminate systemic barriers, and create more homes.



Up for Growth

@Up4Growth · Follow



Using census data, our new report quantifies housing underproduction for all 309 metro statistical areas in the U.S. and for 505 non-metro nationwide, creating the most detailed look at the U.S. housing shortage ever produced. Find out more on July 14. bit.ly/2vxuVd8



UP FOR GROWTH

The most detailed look at the U.S. housing shortage ever produced. Find out more July 14.

7:36 AM · Jul 13, 2022



21



Reply



Copy link

Explore what's happening on Twitter

A housing crash would sink these 16 housing markets —while these 23 markets would be spared

BY LANCE LAMBERT

July 15, 2022 1:50 AM PDT



The U.S. housing market is clearly caught between a rock (the Fed) and a hard place (runaway inflation). Over the past two years, the pandemic housing boom has driven up prices for everything from rents to lumber to windows. In the eyes of the Fed—which has used monetary tightening to apply upward pressure on mortgage rates—that inflationary engine must be stopped. The central bank's attack plan seems to be working: Spiking mortgage rates have already pushed the housing market into a "housing correction." Across the nation, home sales are plummeting and inventory levels are soaring.

While most housing economists insist this cooling won't lead us into another 2008-type housing crash, the housing correction does increase the possibility that some markets could see steep home-price declines. To find the housing markets at the highest risk of a housing crash, Fortune once again teamed up with Home.LLC, a startup that provides down-payment assistance to homebuyers in return for a share of any profits.

Among the nation's 100 largest housing markets, 23 markets fell into the low risk category. Meanwhile, 61 housing markets got the "moderate risk" label and 16 markets were labeled "high risk." That's a sizable shift since last month. Back in June, we labeled 37 markets as "low risk," 52 markets were labeled "moderate risk," and 11 markets were put in the "high risk" camp. It's striking how many "high risk" housing markets are located in the Sunshine State. Indeed, 8 of the 16 "high risk" housing markets call Florida home. Those "high risk" Florida markets include Cape Coral, Deltona, Jacksonville, Lakeland, Miami, North Port, Palm Bay, and Orlando. **"Most Florida markets face significant risk of oversupply of inventory,"** Nik Shah, CEO of Home.LLC, tells Fortune.

There's another threat in these "high risk" markets: investors. Over the past two years, markets like Atlanta, Jacksonville, and Phoenix were bombarded with interest from investors—everyone from mom-and-pops to institutional buyers. On the way up, it helps. But as things slow, those investors could put downward pressure on home prices. **"Live-in owners don't sell just because they think it's the top of the market or because prices are fading. But investors will [try to sell],** and we have a lot more investor-owned houses now than we used to," says John Wake, an independent real estate analyst based in Phoenix. "Investors were already big, but they really jumped into the Phoenix market big-time in 2021. But investors sometimes move in a herd. If Phoenix real estate isn't the cool investment anymore in 2022, it could have a big and quick impact on home sales. **If a lot of investors decide to sell...yikes."**

So far, "high risk" housing markets are among the places seeing the sharpest corrections. Between January and June, U.S. inventory climbed 51%. In places like Austin and Boise, inventory jumped 122% and 161%, respectively.

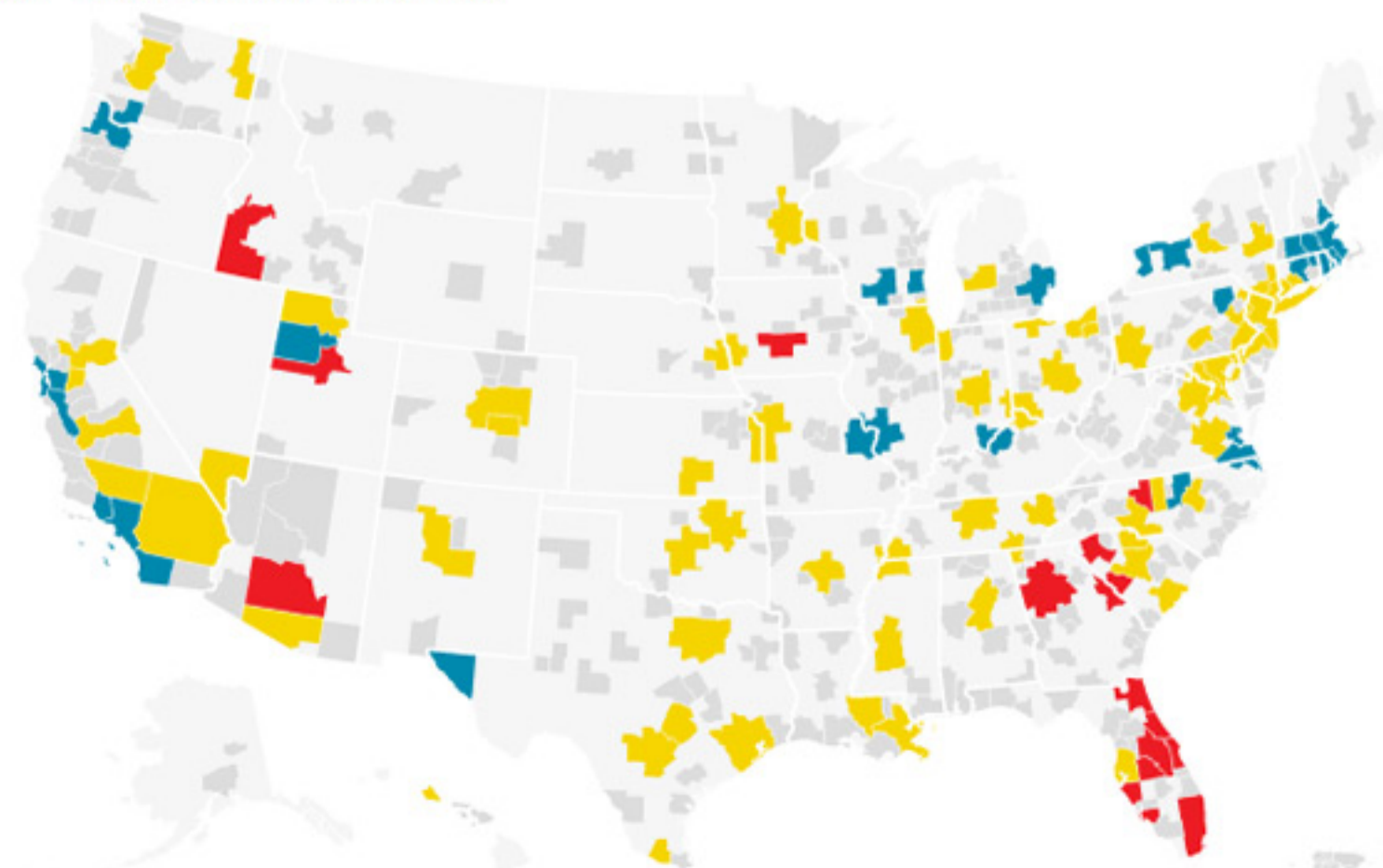
A growing chorus of economists believe bubbly housing markets, like Phoenix and Austin, have already entered into a home price correction. Look no further than Moody's Analytics, which forecasts that significantly "overvalued" markets will soon see home prices decline by 5% to 10%. If a recession hits, the firm predicts, those markets could see home prices fall by 15% to 20%.

"It's too late to sell at the top," Wake says.

The risk profile in each of America's 100 largest housing markets

The housing markets with the highest chance of experiencing a housing correction

■ LOW RISK ■ MODERATE RISK ■ HIGH RISK





Food prices are soaring. Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images

Swelling grocery bills are pummeling the poorest – who spend over a quarter of their incomes on food

Published: July 14, 2022 2:22pm EDT

David Soll, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

The cost of eggs and bread is soaring – a trend that’s particularly punishing for the poorest Americans. Average food prices climbed an annualized rate of 10.4% in June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on July 13, 2022. The gains were driven primarily by the cost of groceries, which jumped the most since the 1970s, by 12.2%. Overall inflation was up 9.1% from a year earlier. These sharp increases have startled consumers, in large part because food costs had been rising moderately for decades.

While all Americans have seen their grocery bills swell, many may not fully appreciate the enormous burden that rising food costs pose for low-income households. The reason is simple: Poor families spend a much larger share of their income on food than the median household. In 2020, the average middle-income American family spent roughly 12% of its earnings on food. In sharp contrast, poor households spent 27% on food that year. Explains this enormous discrepancy? The answer begins with a dramatic change in spending patterns among American households during the 20th century, which I learned while researching shifts in commuting practices.

12.2%

The year-over-year increase in the cost of groceries for US consumers, as of June 2022

In the 1900s, the bare necessities of life, including food, were enormously expensive compared with today, leaving little room for spending on other goods or services for most Americans, according to a 2006 study by the Department of Labor. On average, American families spent over 40% of their income on food in 1901, 23% on housing and 14% on clothing. But the relative cost of food and clothing decreased steadily over the next 100 years. By 2002, the two categories represented only 17.3% of a middle-class family’s expenditures and by 2020, the figure had fallen to 14.2%. The sharp drop in the cost of food and clothing led to a massive reshuffling of family budgets over roughly the past century. As people reduced their spending on these items, they spent more on housing, transportation and insurance. As the country became wealthier, discretionary spending increased, too. Most Americans had more room in their budgets for eating out, televisions and entertainment.

This revolution in household spending largely excluded poor Americans, who continue to devote most of their income to feeding their families and other necessities like shelter. As a result, they are particularly vulnerable to spikes in food costs.

Low-income households devote more than twice as large a share of their budgets to food as middle-income households. As a result, food inflation is around twice as burdensome for families of limited means. But this actually understates the burden of high food costs on the poor because, unlike middle-class families, they have little discretionary spending they can pare back to free up funds for food. American households are responding to soaring food inflation by eating out less frequently, buying generic brands and consuming less meat. For many, it may be the first time they’ve ever had to be so careful about what they spent on food. Poor families, however, have long been forced to deploy these tactics to keep food expenditures in check.

An estimated 38 million Americans are food insecure, meaning that they have insufficient means to obtain sufficient food. The concern is, with food inflation rising at the rate it is, more families will face the prospect of being unsure where their next meal is coming from.

Economy Food US Economy Inflation Poverty Food insecurity wealth gap
Consumer price index (CPI) US inflation Income gap Groceries
Significant Figures Food price inflation

Itching to get away this summer? Remember the six stages of transformative travel

Published: July 14, 2022 8.34am EDT

▼ **Jaco J. Hamman**, *Vanderbilt Divinity School*



Sightseeing buses at a pullout popular for taking in views of North America's tallest peak, Denali, in Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska, in 2016. AP Photo/Becky Bohrer

In June 2022, I set off on a 10,650-mile, six-week motorcycle trip from Tennessee to Alaska and back again, carrying not too much more than my GPS and phone. The ride kick-started a year of travel for research – and despite the horror stories of delayed and canceled flights, I couldn't be happier. Just about everywhere I went, even in remote parts of the Yukon and British Columbia, folks were traveling. Many of the trailers being pulled were brand-new, suggesting the owners had bought them recently. After yet another cooped-up pandemic winter, it seems people's appetite to get away is just as keen. But why do we travel in the first place? What is the allure of the open road? As a professor of religion, psychology and culture, I study experiences that lie at the intersection of all three. And in my research on travel, I'm struck by its unsolvable paradoxes: Many of us seek to get away in order to be present; we speed to destinations in order to slow down; we may care about the environment but still leave carbon footprints. Ultimately, many people hope to return transformed. Travel is often viewed as what anthropologists call a "rite of passage": structured rituals in which individuals separate themselves from their familiar surroundings, undergo change and return rejuvenated or "reborn." But travelers are not just concerned with themselves. The desire to explore may be a defining human trait, as I argue in my latest book, "Just Traveling: God, Leaving Home, and a Spirituality for the Road." The ability to do it, however, is a privilege that can come at a cost to host communities. Increasingly, the tourism industry and scholars alike are interested in ethical travel, which minimizes visitors' harm on the places and people they encounter. The media inundate tourists with advice and enticements about where to travel and what to do there. But in order to meet the deeper goals of transformative, ethical travel, the "why" and "how" demand deeper discernment. During my book research, I studied travel stories in sacred scriptures and researched findings from psychologists, sociologists, ethicists, economists and tourism scholars. I argue that meaningful travel is best understood not as a three-stage rite but as a six-phase practice, based on core human experiences. These phases can repeat and overlap within the same journey, just as adventures twist and turn.

1. Anticipating: Traveling begins long before departure, as we research and plan. But anticipation is more than logistics. The Dutch aptly call it "voorpret": literally, the pleasure before. How and what people anticipate in any given situation has the power to shape their experience, for better or worse – even when it comes to prejudice.

2. Leaving: Leaving can awaken deep emotions that are tied to our earliest experiences of separation. The attachment styles psychologists study in infants, which shape how secure people feel in their relationships, continue to shape us as adults. These experiences can also affect how comfortable people feel exploring new experiences and leaving home, which can affect how they travel.

3. Surrendering: Travelers cannot control their journey: Some psychological theories hold that the self longs for surrender, in the sense of liberation: letting down its defensive barriers and finding freedom from attempts to control one's surroundings. Embracing that view can help travelers cope with the reality that things may not go according to plan.

4. Meeting: Meeting is the invitation to discover oneself and others anew. All cultures have unconscious "rules of recognition," their own ingrained customs and ways of thinking, making it more difficult to forge cross-cultural connections. Starting to overcome these barriers demands an attitude known as cultural humility, which is deeper than "cultural competence" – simply knowing about a different culture. Cultural humility helps travelers ask questions like, "I don't know," "Please help me understand" or "How should I ...?"

5. Caring: Caring involves overcoming "privileged irresponsibility": when a traveler does not recognize their own privilege and take responsibility for it, or does not recognize other people's lack of privilege. Travel becomes irresponsible when tourists ignore injustices and inequities they witness or the way their travels contribute to the unfolding climate crisis. Ethically, "empathy" is not enough; travelers must pursue solidarity, as an act of "caring with." That might mean hiring local guides, eating in family-owned restaurants and being mindful of the resources like food and water that they use.

6. Returning: Travels do end, and returning home can be a disorienting experience. Coming back can cause reverse culture shock if travelers struggle to readjust. But that shock can diminish as travelers share their experiences with others, stay connected to the places they visited, deepen their knowledge about the place and culture, anticipate a possible return trip or get involved in causes that they discovered on their trip. I believe that reflecting on these six phases can invite the kind of mindfulness needed for transformative, ethical travel. And amid a pandemic, the need for thoughtful travel that prioritizes host communities' well-being is clear.



NATIONAL

An Indiana doctor told the state she performed abortion on 10-year-old girl, document shows



ASIA

The naming of an interim president puts an end to a political dynasty in Sri Lanka



POLITICS

The Secret Service erased texts from a two-day period spanning the Jan. 6 attack, watchdog says



ELECTIONS

North Carolina's Green Party says Democrats are working to keep it off the 2022 ballot

WFAE



NATIONAL

A self-serve grocery store helps feed a small Minnesota town



CULTURE

La Malinche was a young linguist forced to serve the Spanish conquerors

BUSINESS

China's economic growth slows following COVID lockdowns

China's economy contracted in the three months ending in June compared with the previous quarter after Shanghai and other cities shut down to fight coronavirus outbreaks.



If your spending is eating your savings, you might be experiencing 'lifestyle creep'

Updated July 15, 2022 · 12:17 AM ET ⓘ



RUTH TAM



MICHELLE ASLAM

The cost of your lifestyle can creep up on you, like mold festering in your refrigerator. You don't notice it until one day — bam! — the impact is clear, and it's not pleasant. Have you always shopped online so frequently? Without much thought, all these charges add up to a much larger bill at the end of the month. This uncomfortable growth is called "lifestyle creep" or "lifestyle inflation," and it happens when you have access to more money.

Writer, artist and financial planner Paco de Leon shares tips about how to manage your money, as well as your emotions, to achieve inner wealth and prevent lifestyle creep.

Save money dynamically: During times of inflation, it may be harder to do this, but always pay attention to how much you're saving and whether it's going up with how much you're earning.

Avoid impulse purchases with a "buy list": De Leon says a buy list "re-creates the experience of shopping" but prevents her from buying things carelessly.

Know that it's OK to treat yourself sometimes: It's OK to spend some of your money on yourself! Staying strict with your spending can cause you to "explode in ways that are not so great," says de Leon. Our relationship with money is emotional. How to make the most of your cash

Ask yourself: What is enough? Often, our life goals are this moving target, says de Leon. To decouple these goals from material things, think about how you want your life to feel on a daily basis. Ask yourself what would truly make you happy and joyful. What would that cost you? How much money do you need to make, how much money do you need to save for emergencies and what do you need to invest for the future? Use these answers as building blocks to get to a place where you can appreciate what you have instead of always desiring more.

Making more money tends to lead to spending more money. It's a phenomenon known as "lifestyle creep." Paco de Leon, author of *Finance for the People*, shares advice on keeping your long-term financial goals in check and fending off the subconscious urge to automatically increase spending when your income increases.

Work on your mental and emotional health: "The more you work on your relationship with yourself," says de Leon, "the more you're going to see your relationship across all other things in your life improve."



FINANCE FOR THE PEOPLE



PACO DE LEON
FOUNDER OF THE HELL YEAH GROUP

Hi, I'm Paco!

I started writing here in 2016 to share what I'd learned while working in various financial services jobs. My day job is running a bookkeeping agency for production companies and creative agencies. What I'm currently working on is my forthcoming book, *Finance for the People: Getting a Grip on Your Finances*. I also publish a weekly newsletter called the Nerdletter.

Jim Thorpe is reinstated as the sole winner of two events in the 1912 Olympics

July 15, 2022 · 2:29 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jim Thorpe, the famed American athlete and U.S. Olympic great runs during a Junior Olympics event in Chicago on June 6, 1948. Thorpe has been reinstated as the sole winner of the 1912 Olympic pentathlon and decathlon.

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Jim Thorpe has been reinstated as the sole winner of the 1912 Olympic pentathlon and decathlon in Stockholm — nearly 110 years after being stripped of those gold medals for violations of strict amateurism rules of the time.

The International Olympic Committee announced the change Friday on the 110th anniversary of Thorpe winning the decathlon and later being proclaimed by King Gustav V of Sweden as "the greatest athlete in the world."

Thorpe, a Native American, returned to a ticker-tape parade in New York, but months later it was discovered he had been paid to play minor league baseball over two summers, an infringement of the Olympic amateurism rules. He was stripped of his gold medals in what was described as the first major international sports scandal.

"Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world."

Thorpe to some remains the greatest all-around athlete ever. He was voted as the Associated Press' Athlete of the Half Century in a poll in 1950. In 1982 — 29 years after Thorpe's death — the IOC gave duplicate gold medals to his family but his Olympic records were not reinstated, nor was his status as the sole gold medalist of the two events. Two years ago, a Bright Path Strong petition advocated declaring Thorpe the outright winner of the pentathlon and decathlon in 1912. The IOC had listed him as a co-champion in the official record book. "We welcome the fact that, thanks to the great engagement of Bright Path Strong, a solution could be found," IOC President Thomas Bach said. "This is a most exceptional and unique situation, which has been addressed by an extraordinary gesture of fair play from the National Olympic Committees concerned."

Thorpe's Native American name, Wa-Tho-Huk, means "Bright Path." The organization with the help of IOC member Anita DeFrantz had contacted the Swedish Olympic Committee and the family of Hugo Wieslander, who had been elevated to decathlon gold medalist in 1913. "They confirmed that Wieslander himself had never accepted the Olympic gold medal allocated to him, and had always been of the opinion that Jim Thorpe was the sole legitimate Olympic gold medalist," the IOC said, adding that the Swedish Olympic Committee agreed.

"The same declaration was received from the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports, whose athlete, Ferdinand Bie, was named as the gold medalist when Thorpe was stripped of the pentathlon title," the IOC said. Bie will be listed as the silver medalist in the pentathlon, and Wieslander with silver in the decathlon. World Athletics, the governing body of track and field, has also agreed to amend its records, the IOC said.

Bright Path Strong commended the IOC for "setting the record straight" about the Sac and Fox and Potawatomi athlete. "We are so grateful this nearly 110-year-old injustice has finally been corrected, and there is no confusion about the most remarkable athlete in history," said Nedra Darling, the organization co-founder and citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As the first Native American to win an Olympic gold medal for the United States, Thorpe "has inspired our people for generations," said Fawn Sharp, president of the National Congress of American Indians.

In Stockholm, Thorpe tripled the score of his nearest competitor in the pentathlon and had 688 more points than the second-placed finisher in the decathlon. During the closing ceremony, King Gustav V told Thorpe: "Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world."

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Diego Unified Bringing Back Indoor Mask Mandate Now That County Sits in CDC's Highest Risk Level

By NBC 7 Staff and City News Service • Published July 15, 2022 • Updated on July 15, 2022



COVID-19 mask hanging inside school on locker in this file photo.

The San Diego Unified School District is reintroducing its indoor mask mandate for students and staff, at least until the end of summer school, now that the CDC says the risk of transmitting COVID-19 in San Diego County is high.

In May, the district said all schools and district sites would move back under the mandate if the county moved into the highest risk level, which is determined by the CDC and based on hospital capacity-related indicators. Hospitalization rates in San Diego triggered the move into the highest risk category on Thursday.

The summer school mask mandate starts Monday, July 18.

"If you are working at a central office or summer school site, please be sure to wear your mask indoors. Masks will be provided for those who need them. Students and staff will be required to wear their masks while indoors only," a letter to SDUSD staffers read.

Sharon McKeeman, founder of the anti-mask mandate group Let Them Breathe, said the district's decision is harmful and isn't based on science.

"San Diego Unified's return to masking Monday July 18th is not supported by science and will be harmful to students in summer school who are trying to recuperate from learning loss incurred during school closures. Studies show that masking children makes NO difference in transmission rates, but it does harm social and linguistic development. Let Them Breathe and local families will oppose any returns to forced masking and SDUSD needs to follow the science and revise their policy," a statement from McKeeman read.

← **matthew pierce**

14.1K Tweets



matthew pierce

@MatthewEPierce

sullen and aloof irl. 1/2 of @FSBibleTime. new book "Evangelical Thought Leader" is available now in kindle

📍 alabama 🔗 amazon.com/dp/B09BTQYSKT/

📅 Joined February 2011

109 Following 18.9K Followers

Follow the Author



Matthew Pierce

Evangelical Thought Leader: The Liturgy of Radically Engaging the Culture of Paradigm Shifts Kindle Edition

by Matthew Pierce (Author) | Format: Kindle Edition

★★★★☆ 74 ratings

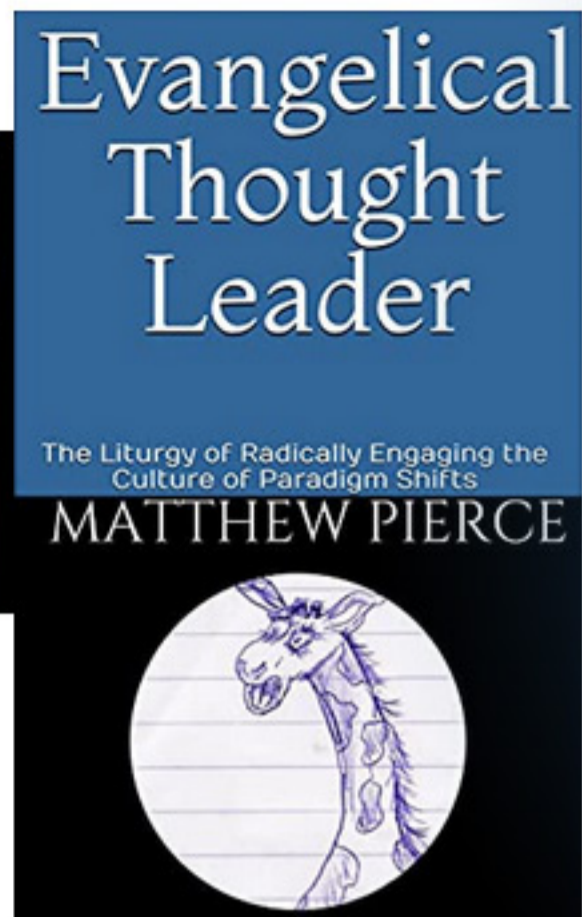
Guys, isn't it time a Christian wrote a book?

In these unprecedented times, there are so many questions facing today's believer:

- Can single people be Christians?
- Why are women's bosoms so sinful?
- Which kinds of worship music should I hate?

Let's get down to brass facts: There has never been a more important book for your evangelical brand. You will learn how to supercharge your personal holiness, avoid the bad sins, fix race and gender issues in the church, and destroy your theological rivals. How is this possible in such a small book? Your youth pastor says a Proverbs 31 wife won't care how long your book is.

↩ [Read less](#)



Pinned Tweet

matthew pierce @MatthewEPierce · Aug 11, 2021

kindle version is live this morning. 4 bucks

- totally fixes race and gender issues in the church
- completely explains theology
- teaches you how to become famous enough to have your own scandal

Proverbs 31

- 1 The sayings of King Lemuel--an oracle [1] his mother taught him:
- 2 "O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, [2]
- 3 do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings.
- 4 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel-- not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer,
- 5 lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.
- 6 Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish;
- 7 let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.
- 8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
- 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
- 10 [3] A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
- 29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- 31 Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

[1] Or of Lemuel king of Massa, which

[2] Or / the answer to my prayers

[3] Verses 10-31 are an acrostic, each verse beginning with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

http://web.mit.edu/jywang/www/cef/Bible/NIV/NIV_Bible/PROV+31.html

Through all Trump's legal wars and woes, one lawyer's influence still holds sway

July 17, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET



RON ELVING



Attorney Roy Cohn, left, confers with red-hunting Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wisc., during Senate hearings in 1954.

In March of 2017, as clashes with the FBI director and attorney general were erupting just weeks into his presidency, Donald Trump was asking out loud: **"Where's my Roy Cohn?"** In December of 2020, with just weeks left in his term, Trump still had not had his question answered. He was surrounded by lawyers. But none could play the role — or take the place — of the controversial counselor who decades earlier had changed his life. Cohn was already a legend when Trump met him in 1973. Cohn had been in the news for decades, prosecuting nuclear espionage or searching for communists or defending celebrity clients. **Among those he represented were Cardinal Francis Spellman, New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner and the New York crime bosses Carmine Galante and John Gotti.**

Cohn was known for telling clients to fight all charges, to counter-sue when sued and to never concede defeat. Trump has followed his formula for half a century, and that has come to matter a great deal to the nation.

Cohn was a prodigy, the son of a New York judge well acquainted with street politics as well as those of City Hall. Young Roy grew up immersed in both worlds. He would later be known for saying "Don't tell me what the law is, tell me who the judge is." After rocketing through college and Columbia Law School, he was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney in New York at 20 (not old enough to vote at the time). Four years later he prosecuted Julius and Emily Rosenberg, accused of helping the Soviet Union access nuclear weapons secrets. Both went to the electric chair. In the early 1950s, Cohn would be lead counsel for Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy when the first-term Republican from Wisconsin was chairman of a Senate committee looking for communists in government. Cohn was at his side as McCarthy was dominating the news and being mentioned for the Republicans' national ticket in 1952. Although McCarthy never actually unmasked any actual communists, he destroyed many careers and lives. Along the way his name became synonymous with an era and with the tactic of making baseless but damaging accusations that did real damage despite being untrue.

In her 2017 profile of Trump and Cohn's relationship in *Vanity Fair*, journalist Marie Brenner quoted Trump recalling his first meeting with Cohn at Le Club in 1973. She quotes Trump saying he brought up a racial discrimination lawsuit the U.S. Justice Department had filed against the real estate company he and his father ran. He asked Cohn if they should comply or try to compromise. Cohn shot back: "Tell them to go to hell and fight the thing in court and let them prove you discriminated." The Trumps hired Cohn and soon announced they were suing the Justice Department for \$100 million for "defamation." They later dropped that suit and stipulated to measures designed to prevent future discrimination at their properties. Running for president, Trump would respond to questions about all that by emphasizing there had been "no admission of guilt."



As successful as he was over his 40-year career, **Cohn eventually ran afoul of the law himself. He was investigated by federal authorities for perjury and witness tampering, among other charges. In 1986, a panel of the New York State Supreme Court's Appellate Division disbarred him for unethical and unprofessional conduct.** A short while later, Cohn died of complications of AIDS (although he always insisted in public that he was suffering from liver cancer). What no client of Cohn's was ever left to wonder was whether or not Cohn was their champion. This may have been what shocked Trump most about being president. He expected the lawyers around him to be working for him, to be his champions. He discovered they saw their loyalty as being to their jobs, their oaths of office or the Constitution. Sometimes they agreed with him, sometimes they pushed back.

In his first weeks in office, Trump met with the FBI Director James Comey and asked repeatedly for a pledge of personal loyalty. Comey demurred and was soon fired. Trump had appointed Jeff Sessions, the Alabama Republican who had been his first supporter in the Senate, to be his attorney general. So he was stunned and enraged when Sessions recused himself from the investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Nearly four years later, after countless confrontations with the law and his own obligations to uphold it, Trump was still looking for a way around it. After the six-hour donnybrook of Dec. 18 had ended, and Chief of Staff Mark Meadows had personally escorted Giuliani out after midnight, Trump did not even wait for dawn to go on Twitter.

"Big protest in D.C. on January 6th," the president tweeted. "Be there, will be wild."

Riding Ukraine's last train line out of Donbas with families fleeing for their lives

Updated July 16, 2022 - 6:46 AM ET
Heard on All Things Considered

 ELEANOR BEARDSLEY   



Lidia Havrienko, 83, arrives from the eastern Ukrainian city of Druzhkivka with meager belongings, including her two cats, on an evacuation train carrying refugees from the Donbas region, on July 9.

Carol Guzy for NPR

Riding Ukraine's last train line out of Donbas with families fleeing for their lives

Updated July 16, 2022 - 6:46 AM ET

Heard on All Things Considered



ELEANOR BEARDSLEY



Havrilenko, from Druzhkivka, in the Donetsk oblast (region), says their town is being shelled night and day. Asked why she waited so long to leave, she says, "How could I leave my nest?"

"It's very hard to go," she says. "One option is bad but the other is also as bad." She says they have no idea where they're going or if they'll ever return.






Lidia Havrilenko carries her two cats, Kuzma and Nyusya, in plastic grocery bags as she flees the Donbas region.

Carol Guzy for NPR

Riding Ukraine's last train line out of Donbas with families fleeing for their lives

Updated July 16, 2022 - 6:46 AM ET
Heard on All Things Considered

 ELEANOR BEARDSLEY   



Irina Garmash, a mother of four from the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk, sits on an evacuation train that has stopped in the center-eastern city of Dnipro, on July 8. The train carries residents from the eastern Donbas region fleeing war during the Russian invasion.

Carol Guzy for NPR

Angel Blue plans to bow out of an opera after the venue staged a blackface show

July 16, 2022 - 5:37 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Soprano Angel Blue won't perform in an opera in Italy this month because blackface was used in the staging of another work this summer.

Jason DeCrow/AP

ROME — Soprano Angel Blue says she won't perform in an opera in Italy this month because blackface was used in the staging of a different work this summer on the same stage.

Referring to Arena's decision to use blackface makeup in "Aida," the singer wrote: "Let me be perfectly clear: the use of blackface under any circumstances, artistic or otherwise, is a deeply misguided practice based on archaic theatrical traditions which have no place in modern society. It is offensive, humiliating and outright racist."

She wrote that she couldn't "in good conscience associate myself with an institution which continues this practice."

The theater's statement said "Angel Blue knowingly committed herself to sing at the Arena" even though the "characteristics" of the 2002 Zeffirelli staging were "well known."

Still, the theater stressed its hope that her protest would ultimately improve understanding between cultures as well as educate Italian audiences.

"Every country has different roots, and their cultural and social structures developed along different historical and cultural paths," said the statement by the Arena of Verona Foundation. "Common convictions have often been reached only after years of dialogue and mutual understanding."

The Arena statement stressed dialogue, "in effort to understand others' point of view, in respect of consciously assumed artistic obligations."

A 150-year-old San Luis Valley farm stops growing food to save a shrinking water supply. It might be the first deal of its kind in the country

By Michael Elizabeth Sakas · Jul. 11, 2022, 4:00 am



Hart Van Denburg/CPR News

A disused well pump head stands in the midst of parched farmland east of Moffat in the San Luis Valley on Thursday, June 30, 2022.

Republican State Sen. Cleave Simpson, who represents part of the valley and is the head of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, uses groundwater to irrigate about 2,000 acres of family farmland. The operation mostly grows alfalfa, which Simpson said is the most water-intensive crop you can grow in the region. "I lay awake at night thinking, 'I don't think I can keep doing what I've been doing and what my family has been doing for decades,'" Simpson said.

Simpson said the option of a groundwater conservation easement could help keep that water in the valley. He said other farmers and ranchers have reached out to him about the idea, which would allow them to suspend just a portion of their groundwater use. That would enable them to continue some amount of farming and ranching while getting paid not to use all of their water.

"If we don't come together and work together to manage this more appropriately, we'll look similar to some parts of California where people just keep deepening the well as far as they can," Simpson said. "And the last one with the most money is the last one left to pump."

Sarah Parmar, the director of conservation with Colorado Open Lands, a non-profit that works to protect land from development, looks down at the brittle ground and recounts her first visit to this farm last summer.

Sarah Parmar, the director of conservation with Colorado Open Lands, a non-profit that works to protect land from development, looks down at the brittle ground and recounts her first visit to this farm last summer.



Sarah Parmar, as the director of conservation for Colorado Open Lands, helped negotiate an agreement with a San Luis Valley farmer to create a groundwater conservation easement that would halt irrigation water pumping on the land, and in turn help replenish the aquifer under the region. Photographed Thursday, June 30, on a dry field in the San Luis Valley.

"The farmer had a mix of peas and oats that he was growing, and they were up to his waist," Parmar said. "It's definitely a very productive farm."

No food grows here now. The farmer has stopped watering these 1,800 acres. Instead, he's working with Parmar on a deal to leave that water alone to save the area's shrinking groundwater supply and keep other farms in operation.

The farmer plans to sign a contract with Parmar to permanently end the use of his water rights to grow food here, and that rule would apply to any future owner of the property. Parmar calls the agreement a groundwater conservation easement — and said it could be the first of its kind in the country.

Conservation easements are legal arrangements that typically aim to protect a farm or a ranch by tying the land and its water rights together so it can't be divided up and turned into a housing development. In this case, Parmar said the groundwater conservation easement means changing the property's use to provide a more regional public benefit.



Colorado Open Lands

86 subscribers



For Love of the Land
114 views · 1 month ago



About Riparian Reconnect
89 views · 1 year ago

Opinion: 2 Earthquakes Within Hours Are a Wakeup Call for San Diego Residents



by Chris Jennewein

2 days ago



Damage from a 6.4-magnitude quake near Trona on July 4, 2019. Courtesy Caltrans

San Diego County was bookended by two earthquakes just hours apart on Wednesday morning. They weren't big — both under magnitude 4 — but should serve as a wakeup call for preparedness.

A 3.6-magnitude quake struck in the Pacific Ocean south of Navy-administered San Clemente Island at 3:28 a.m. followed by a 3.3-magnitude temblor north of Borrego Springs at 9:01 a.m.

Those of us lucky enough to live in America's Finest City and surrounding communities don't think much about earthquakes, leaving those concerns to residents of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

But our county is crisscrossed by major faults, including the Rose Canyon Fault beneath downtown San Diego and along the coast, and the Elsinore and San Jacinto faults in East County.

The legendary San Andreas Fault to the north can cause strong local shaking, but geologists say **Rose Canyon is the most dangerous here. It's capable of generating earthquakes of magnitude 6.5 to 6.8.**

That's not necessarily "the big one," but more than enough to cause major damage in densely populated parts of the county.

So what should you do in San Diego? Here are five things:

- Download the free MyShake App to your smartphone. This can give you warnings of impending quakes and useful information after they occur.
- Know how to protect yourself and practice. Drop to the ground, cover your head
 - with your arms, and hold onto your neck until shaking stops. Do not stand in a doorway. Stay away from large glass windows and mirrors.
 - Pack an emergency kit. Include a radio, first-aid kit, flashlight, batteries, water bottles, and nonperishable food for your family and pets
 - Develop an emergency preparedness plan. Think through what you and your family would do in different situations.
 - Update your earthquake insurance. The state Legislature set up the not-for-profit California Earthquake Authority to work with insurance companies to ensure that earthquake policies are available to Golden State residents.

Science can't yet accurately predict earthquakes, and they can strike at any time, but at least we can take some simple precautions.

Hopefully the next time two quakes hit on the same day they'll be equally small. But if not, at least we can be better prepared.

Chris Jennewein is editor and publisher of Times of San Diego.



HERE'S WHAT I PLAN TO DO:

NOT WRITE BORING BOOKS.

Well, if you've made it here, that means you've survived the huge picture of my face! Congrats! And to reward you, I'm going to tell you all about...me. Sorry. No cake. No confetti. No money falling from the ceiling...this time.

So, I'm a writer. And when I say I'm a writer, I mean it in the same way a professional ball player calls himself an athlete. I practice everyday and do the best I can to be better at this writing thing, while hopefully bringing some cool stories to the world. The stories are kinda like my slam dunks. Except, I'm dunking words. In your FACE! Ha!

I graduated from the University of Maryland (where I spent about 65% of my time writing and reciting poetry all over campus...yeah, that was me) with a B.A. in English, then packed my bags and moved to Brooklyn because somebody told me they were giving away dream-come-true vouchers.

And if I ever find the person who told me that... let's just say, no one was giving away anything. ANYTHING. Lucky for me I had all these crazy stories to keep me going. Ten years later, here I am, doing my best to string together an "ABOUT" section on my own website about my own books. Crazy.

Here's what I know: I know there are a lot — A LOT — of young people who hate reading. I know that many of these book haters are boys. I know that many of these book-hating boys, don't actually hate books, they hate boredom. If you are reading this, and you happen to be one of these boys, first of all, you're reading this so my master plan is already working (muahahahahahaha) and second of all, know that I feel you. I REALLY do. Because even though I'm a writer, I hate reading boring books too.

Jason Reynolds



Reynolds in 2020

Born December 6, 1983 (age 38)
Washington, D.C., U.S.

Author Jason Reynolds on sharing personal stories

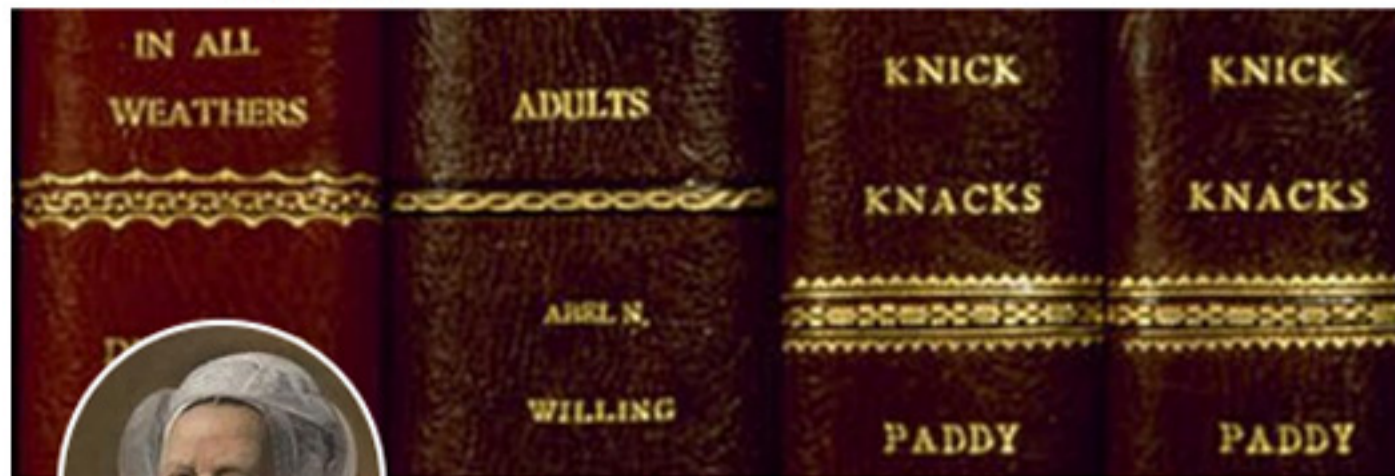
Jason Reynolds, the prolific and bestselling author of young people's literature, uses his own childhood experiences to encourage kids to use their imagination to tell their stories. "Sunday Morning" anchor Jane Pauley talks with Reynolds about writing stories, and the complicated conversations they can evoke.

4H AGO

Notable works

- When I Was the Greatest*
- Boy in the Black Suit*
- As Brave as You*
- Ghost* (Track series)
- Miles Morales: Spider-Man*
- Long Way Down*
- Look Both Ways*

87K Tweets



Follow

Duchess Goldblatt

@duchessgoldblat

BECOMING DUCHESS GOLDBLATT (HMH; 2020). Beloved inspirational author of FEASTING ON THE CARCASSES OF MY ENEMIES: A LOVE STORY; AN AXE TO GRIND.

📍 Crooked Path, NY duchessgoldblatt.com

📅 Joined August 2012

669 Following 58.6K Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

📌 Pinned Tweet



Duchess Goldbl... @duchessgold... · Jan 20, 2021 ...

And now, if there's nothing else, I'd like to get back on my bullshit.

💬 112 ↻ 323 ❤️ 2,820 ↗



Duchess Goldblatt @duchessgoldblat · Jul 14 ...

If you're attracting negative energy to your life, have you tried luring it away with an open a can of tuna at the edge of a cliff?

💬 29 ↻ 53 ❤️ 524 ↗



Duchess Goldblatt @duchessgoldblat · Jul 11 ...

Most tithing — and I think my fellow cult leaders would agree with me here — was traditionally done via quick breads. Your banana, your lemon poppyseed, and so on.

💬 24 ↻ 13 ❤️ 553 ↗



Duchess Goldblatt @duchessgoldblat · Jul 11 ...

I'd go so far as to accept a celebratory zucchini bread.

💬 17 ↻ ❤️ 268 ↗

[Show this thread](#)



Duchess Goldblatt @duchessgoldblat · Jul 11 ...

My phone is at 12% but it hardly matters. No one's made me an offer of marriage or slain a fatted calf in Goldblattian celebration in hours upon hours.

💬 26 ↻ 10 ❤️ 460 ↗

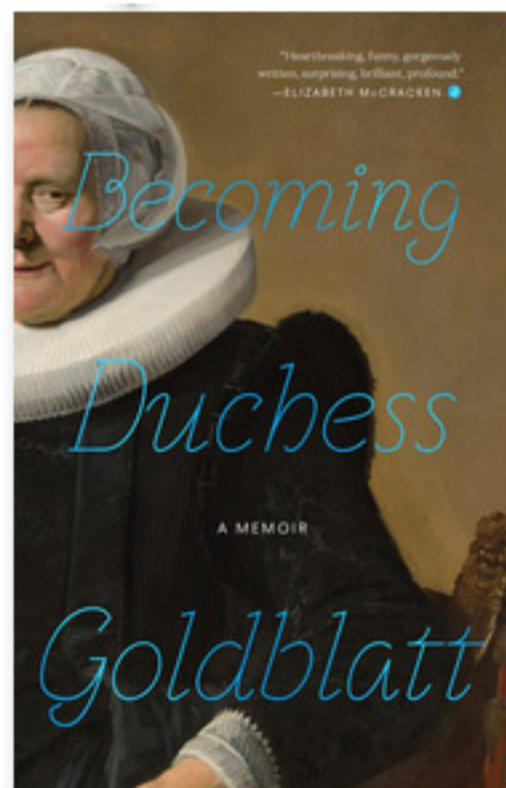
[Show this thread](#)

Becoming Duchess Goldblatt: A Memoir

by Duchess Goldblatt

★★★★★ 4.09 · Rating details · 6,296 ratings · 1,185 reviews

Part memoir and part joyful romp through the fields of imagination, the story behind a beloved pseudonymous Twitter account reveals how a writer deep in grief rebuilt a life worth living.

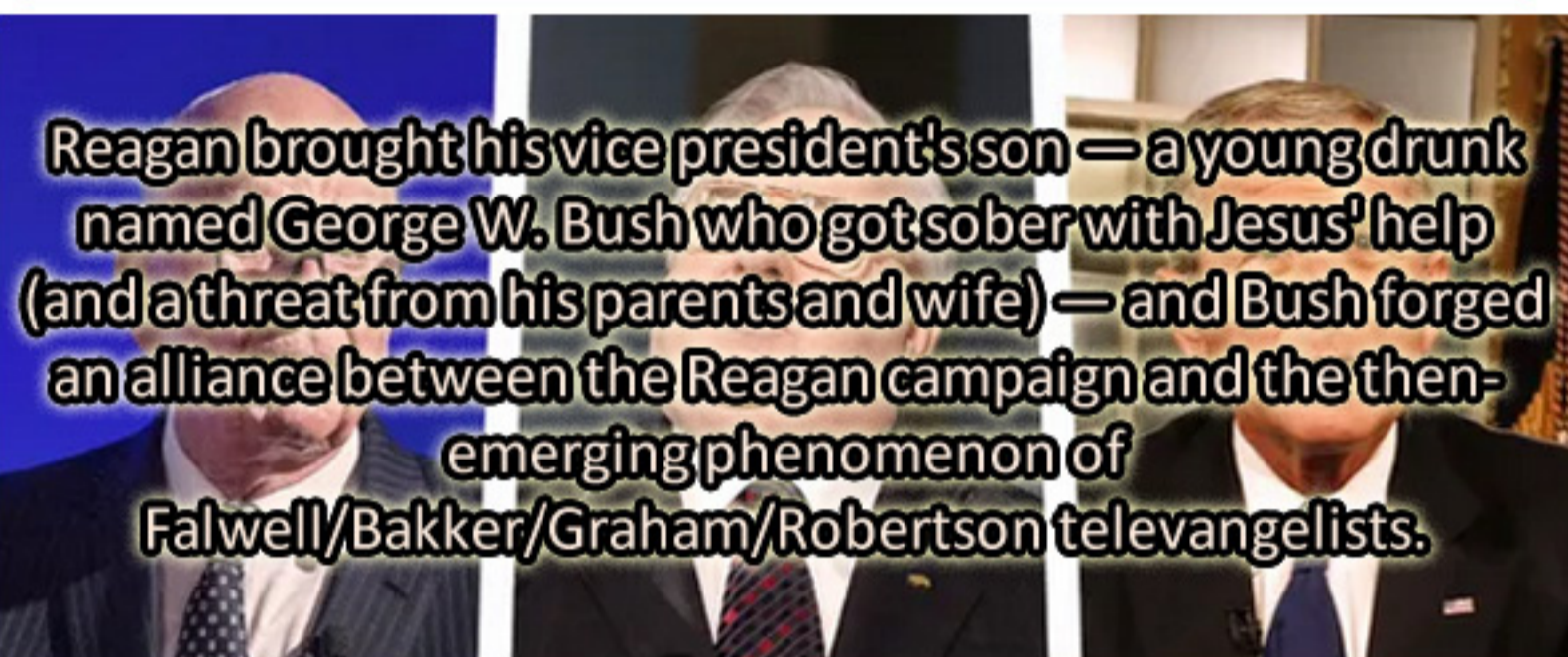


So where did all this right-wing religious nuttery come from?

Most Americans — and most Christians — don't want religious doctrine dominating our laws. So how did we get here?

By **THOM HARTMANN**

PUBLISHED JULY 12, 2022 6:30AM (EDT)



Rupert Murdoch, Jerry Falwell and George W. Bush (Photo illustration by Salon/Getty Images)

..., it's because a small group of right-wing billionaires didn't want to pay their taxes, wanted to get rid of their unions and didn't want regulation of the pollution from their refineries and other operations. **Seriously.** They put billions of dollars over five decades into a project to seize control of the legislatures of a majority of the states, jam up the U.S. Congress and pack the Supreme Court — and it was all about taxes, unions and regulation. **So where did the religious nuttery come from?** Why did all this happen? Because a few right-wing billionaires didn't want to pay taxes and wanted to ditch their unions and pollute as much as they liked.

The right-wing billionaires and the corporations and foundations aligned with them knew back in 1971 — when Lewis Powell laid out their strategy in his infamous "Powell Memo," the year before Richard Nixon put him on the Supreme Court — that most Americans wouldn't happily vote to lower billionaires' taxes, end unions and regulation of gun manufacturers, or increase the amount of refinery poisons in our air.

So the strategy they came up with to capture control of our government was pretty straightforward:

- Convince Americans that taxes aren't "the cost of a civil society" but, instead, a "burden" that they were unfairly bearing. Once Republicans were elected on that tax-cut platform, they'd massively cut the taxes of the morbidly rich while throwing a small bone to the average person.
- Convince Americans that regulations that protect consumers and the environment are also "burdens" from an out-of-control "nanny state," even though such regulations save lives and benefit Americans far more than they cost.
- Convince Americans that unions aren't "democracy in the workplace" that protect workers' rights but, instead, an elaborate scam to raid workers' paychecks to the benefit of "corrupt union bosses."

To pull these off, they spent five decades and billions of dollars to subsidize think tanks and policy groups at both the federal and state level; there's now an extensive network of them reaching from coast to coast, all turning out policy papers and press releases the way bunnies have babies. But it wasn't quite enough to get the political power they needed. They sponsored right-wing talk radio to the tune of millions of dollars a year (Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity's shows got over a million a year each) and Australian billionaire Rupert Murdoch rolled out Fox News to complement the propaganda campaign. Later would come social media bots and trolls, along with thousands of new websites pretending to be local newspapers. Still, that wasn't quite enough to get them the political power they needed. They hooked up with the NRA, which helped sponsor the Reagan Revolution and was richly rewarded with laws that forbade the federal government from compiling gun death statistics and gave complete immunity from lawsuits to weapons manufacturers and sellers for the damage their products cause (the only industry in America that enjoys such immunity). And they finally got a lot of Americans to go along with their plan, because they'd added in a religious "secret sauce."

Now that the Supreme Court has struck down *Roe v. Wade*, however, people are waking up to this unholy alliance between religious grifters in the white evangelical movement, the Supreme Court and the GOP. Half the population is now in their crosshairs. It's no longer just a matter of that \$50 trillion transfer of wealth from middle America to the top 1% through changes in tax law, or a few hundred thousand children downstream of coal mines getting permanent neurological damage, or workers thinking that maybe they'd have better wages and benefits if they had a union. Now America is seeing clearly what the Republican coalition has brought us, from mass shootings to medical bankruptcies to student debt to homelessness. Literally none of these things were major societal problems the year Reagan was elected; all are the direct result of Republican policies, and all were made possible, in part, by this unholy alliance of church and state that our nation's founders warned us against. And now they're coming for your birth control. Will enough Americans finally wake up to this 40-year gift to put an end to it and return our country to sanity? We'll find out this November.

These 10 Billionaires Went All-In Trying to Get Donald Trump Reelected

Meet the top individual financiers of the "Coup Caucus." January 15, 2021

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2021/01/meet-donald-trumps-top-10-billionaire-enablers/>

The Top 10 Billionaire Trump Victory Donors

Kelcy Lee Warren
Net worth (est.): \$2.9 billion
Source of wealth: Gas pipelines; Chair and CEO of Energy Transfer Partners

Isaac Perlmutter
Net worth (est.): \$5.8 billion
retired CEO of Marvel Entertainment

Kenny Troutt
Est. net worth: \$1.5 billion
telecom; founded Excel Communications

Robert Duggan
Net worth (est.): \$2.6 billion
biotech and investing; former CEO of Pharmacyclics
Fun fact: Duggan is a devoted Scientologist, and one of the Church of Scientology's top donors

Steve Wynn
Net worth (est.): \$3 billion
Source of fortune: casinos; developed the Mirage, the Golden Nugget, and the Bellagio, among others

Phillip Gene Ruffin
Net worth (est.): \$2.3 billion
casinos; owns Treasure Island and Circus Circus

Diane Hendricks
Net worth (est.): \$8 billion
Source of fortune: roofing materials; she and her late husband cofounded ABC

Sheldon Adelson
Net worth (est.): ~\$36 billion
casinos; founded Las Vegas Sands Corp.

Daniel Andrew Beal
Net worth (est.): \$7.5 billion
Source of fortune: banking; founded Beal Bank

David Duffield
Net worth (est.): \$13.3 billion
software; cofounded PeopleSoft and Workday

John Paulson
Net worth (est.): \$4.2 billion
Source of fortune: Hedge funds

Robert Wood Johnson IV
Net worth (est.): \$2.5 billion
Source of fortune: inheritance (Johnson & Johnson)

Stephen Schwarzman
Net worth (est.): ~\$21 billion
private equity; cofounded the Blackstone Group

Ronald Steven Lauder
Net worth (est.): \$5.2 billion
inheritance (Estée Lauder Companies)

A Guide to the Billionaires Bankrolling the GOP Candidates

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/04/a-guide-to-the-billionaires-bankrolling-the-gop-candidates/391233/>

These mega-donors may determine which Republicans get a real shot at the White House.

By Russell Berman | April 24, 2015

Charles and David Koch
Estimated net worth: \$100 billion
Koch Industries,

Foster Friess
Estimated net worth: \$530 million as of 2012,
Mutual-fund investing

Paul Singer
Estimated net worth: \$1.92 billion
Hedge funds

Robert Mercer
Estimated net worth: Unknown
Renaissance Technologies, a hedge-fund company

Woody Johnson
Estimated net worth:
Inheritance of Johnson & Johnson,

Norman Braman
Estimated net worth: \$1.89 billion
How he made his money: Selling cars

Ken Langone
Estimated net worth: \$2.7 billion
co-founded Home Depot.

Joe Ricketts
Estimated net worth: \$1.67 billion
co-founded Ameritrade

Peter Thiel
Estimated net worth: \$2.2 billion
invested early in Facebook and co-founded PayPal.
Thiel now runs Founders Fund, a venture capital firm.

Billionaires backed Republicans who sought to reverse US election results

Stephanie Kirchgaessner | Fri 15 Jan 2021

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/15/trump-republicans-election-defeat-club-for-growth>

Guardian analysis shows **Club for Growth** has spent \$20m supporting 42 rightwing lawmakers who voted to invalidate Biden victory The Club for Growth's biggest beneficiaries include Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz, above, the duo who led the effort to overturn the election result.

Public records show the Club for Growth's largest funders are the billionaire Richard Uihlein, the Republican co-founder of the Uline shipping supply company in Wisconsin, and Jeffrey Yass, the co-founder of Susquehanna International Group, an options trading group based in Philadelphia that also owns a sports betting company in Dublin.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Club_for_Growth

The Club for Growth is a 501(c)(4) conservative organization active in the United States, with an agenda focused on cutting taxes and other economic policy issues. Club for Growth's largest funders are the billionaires Jeff Yass and Richard Uihlein. The club has two political arms: an affiliated traditional political action committee, called the Club for Growth PAC, and Club for Growth Action, an independent-expenditure only committee or Super-PAC

These Billionaire Donors Spent The Most Money On The 2020 Election

Michela Tindera | Feb 25, 2021,07:05am EST

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michelatindera/2021/02/25/these-billionaire-donors-spent-the-most-money-on-the-2020-election/>

They collectively shelled out \$2.3 billion, more than twice as much as Joe Biden's entire campaign.

1. **Michael Bloomberg**
Net worth: \$54.9 billion
Contributions: \$1.2 billion

2. **Tom Steyer & Kat Taylor**
Net worth: \$1.4 billion
Contributions: \$414.9 million

3. **Sheldon & Miriam Adelson**
Net worth: \$29.8 billion*
Contributions: \$218.4 million

4. **Ken Griffin**
Net worth: \$15 billion
Contributions: \$67.6 million

5. **Dustin Moskovitz & Cari Tuna**
Net worth: \$18.1 billion
Contributions: \$51.8 million

6. **Stephen & Christine Schwarzman**
Net worth: \$22.5 billion
Contributions: \$48 million

7. **Jim & Marilyn Simons**
Net worth: \$23.5 billion
Contributions: \$25.9 million

8. **Bernard & Billi Marcus**
Net worth: \$7.3 billion
Contributions: \$24.8 million

9. **Isaac & Laura Perlmutter**
Net worth: \$6.1 billion
Contributions: \$24.3 million

10. **J. Joe & Marlene Ricketts**
Net worth: \$3.7 billion
Contributions: \$22.3 million

11. **Charles & Helen Schwab**
Net worth: \$10.5 billion
Contributions: \$21.2 million

12. **Linda McMahon, wife of Vince McMahon**
Spouse's net worth: \$1.9 billion
Contributions: \$18.4 million

13. **Stephen & Susan Mandel**
Net worth: \$2.8 billion
Contributions: \$18.2 million
Equivalent donation for American household: \$791

14. **Warren & Harriet Stephens**
Net worth: \$2.7 billion
Contributions: \$18.1 million

15. **Paul Singer**
Net worth: \$3.6 billion
Contributions: \$16.8 million

16. **Patrick & Shirley Ryan**
Net worth: \$3.4 billion
Contributions: \$16.2 million

17. **Reid Hoffman & Michelle Yee**
Net worth: \$2 billion
Contributions: \$15.1 million

18. **Henry & Marsha Laufer**
Net worth: \$2.1 billion
Contributions: \$14.8 million

19. **Steve & Andrea Wynn**
Net worth: \$3 billion
Contributions: \$14.8 million

20. **Kelcy & Amy Warren**
Net worth: \$3.2 billion
Contributions: \$14 million



I Was A COVID Doctor. Here's The One Thing I Refuse To Do As We 'Get Back To Normal.'

"For the past two years, I have wanted a megaphone to drown out the voices of those who didn't seem to mind if their policies landed me in a body bag."

By Dipti S. Barot, Guest Writer

Mar 15, 2022, 09:00 AM EDT



A nurse gives medication to a patient with COVID-19 in the medical intensive care unit at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center on April 24, 2020, in New York City. ROBERT

So we have moved on to the “live with it” part of the pandemic, even though more than 1,000 Americans a day are still in the “die with it” part of the pandemic. And with this push toward individual responsibility, we shift the burden onto individual clinics and onto already overstretched primary care clinicians who face the daunting task of trying to get antivirals to patients with COVID within the first five days of symptoms. It’s a task that can be achieved in well-staffed, patient-centered, functional health care systems. Ask your doctor whether we have one of those.

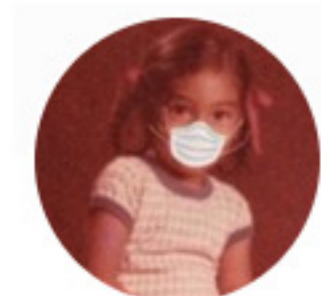
The reach of the powerful continues to do harm, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his recent mask tantrum in front of high school students, in which he accused them of COVID theatrics. Casey DeSantis, his wife, was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent treatment during the pandemic. Cancer patients have increased risks of poor outcomes if they catch COVID, and having family members with cancer myself, I know all too well the bullets you have to dodge to keep them safe. Thus, I have watched in horror as Ron DeSantis has paraded around maskless with his adoring, sycophantic crowds, a more polished mirror image of Trump, nudging children at podiums to parrot anti-mask talking points. I have worried about Casey DeSantis every time I see Ron DeSantis at another presser, putting more lies out into the world about vaccines and masks — making the world less safe for her and people like her.

We have a saying in my culture: “Bhanela, pan ganela nahi,” which means “educated, but lacking sense.” Perhaps that applies in this case. But more than likely it is a choice, a choice to do whatever it takes to aggregate power — a thirst for power so acute, you are willing to make the world more dangerous for everyone, including your own wife.

So I am taking this moment, here and now, to say loud and clear that while there are many things I will be doing as we “get back to normal” — including continuing to advocate for vaccine equity, pushing for access to therapeutics for everyone, pushing to prioritize the immunocompromised and most vulnerable in this effort to reopen — there is one thing I refuse to do: stay in my own lane.

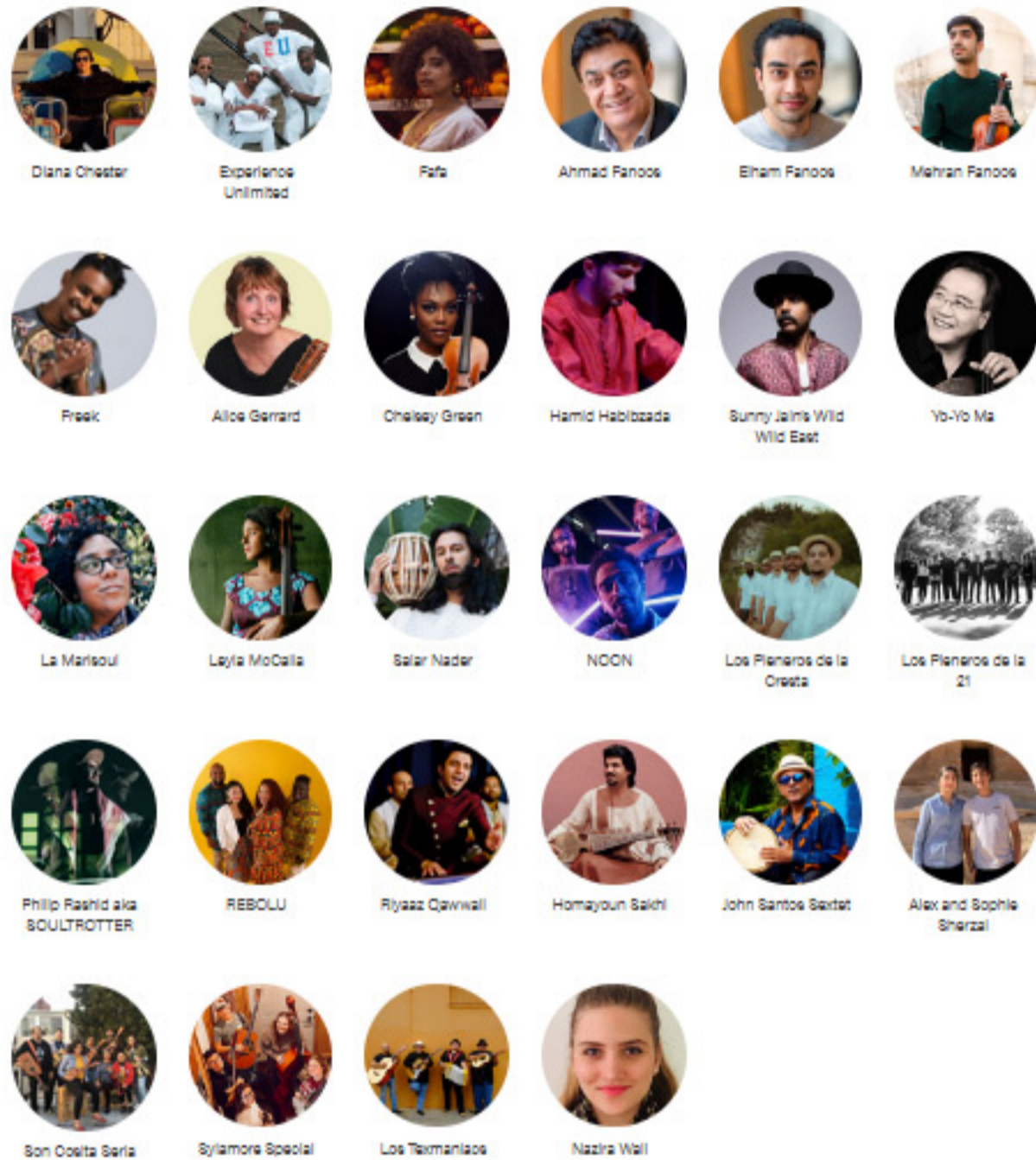
Clinicians don’t have the luxury of staying in our lane anymore after politicians have rammed their way into ours. Politicians have inserted themselves into our clinic rooms, violating that sacred space between clinician and patient, and we must act and react accordingly.

Dipti S. Barot is a primary care doctor and freelance writer in the San Francisco Bay Area. You can follow her on Twitter at @diptisbarot.

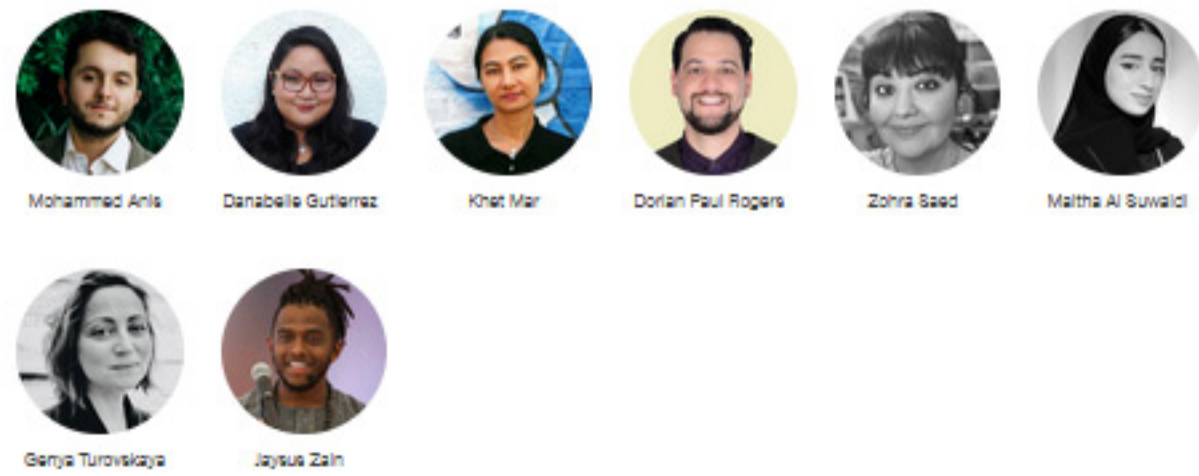


Dipti S. Barot
@diptisbarot

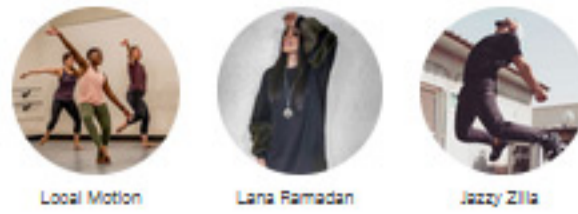
MUSICIANS



POETS



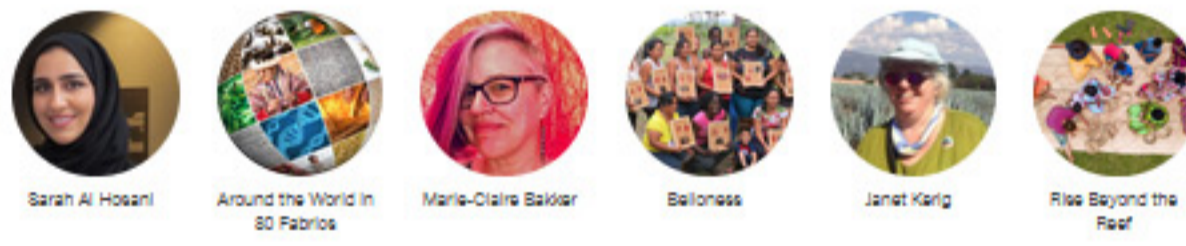
DANCERS



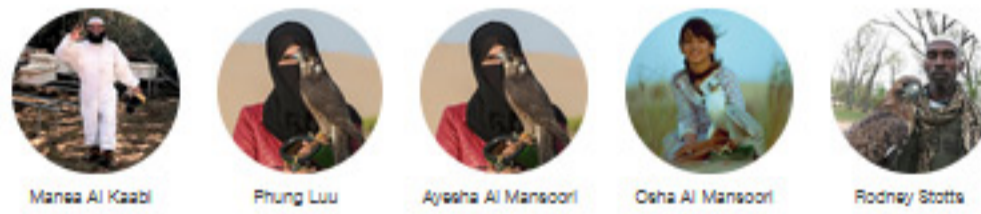
COOKS



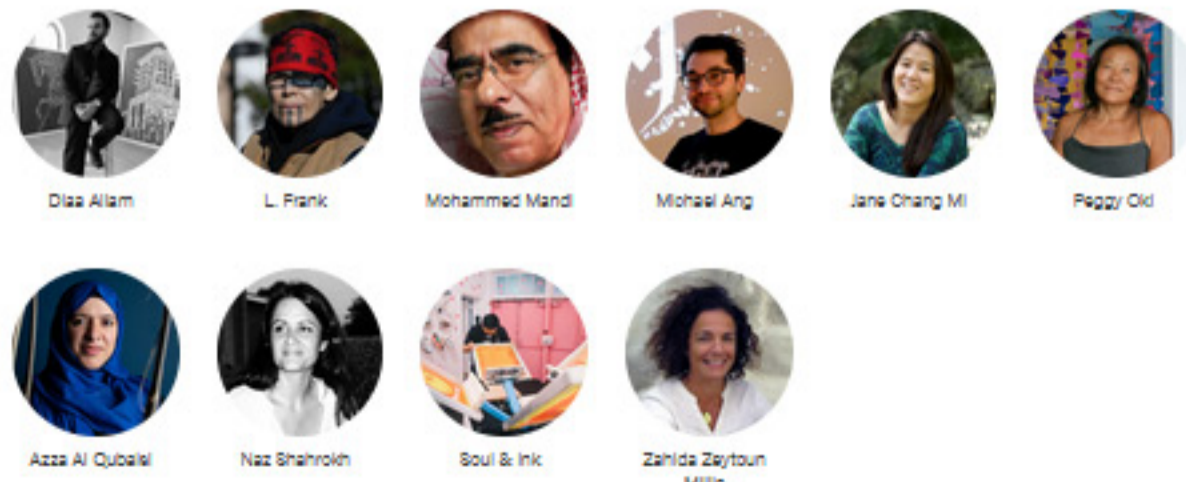
ARTISANS



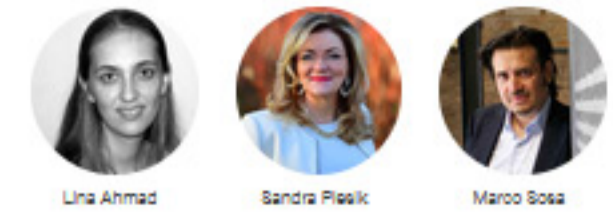
ANIMAL EXPERTS



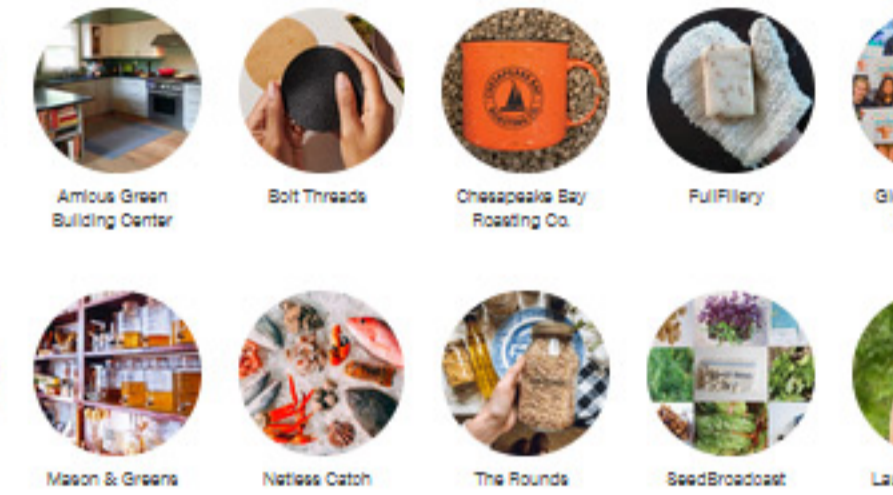
VISUAL ARTISTS



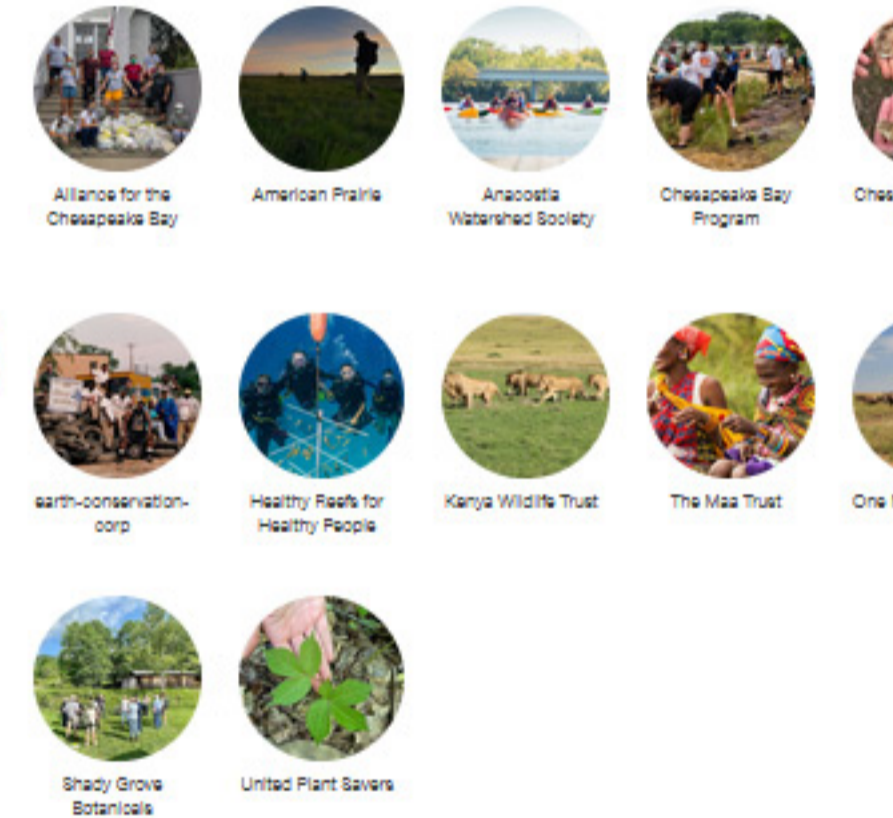
ARCHITECTS & BUILDING ARTISTS



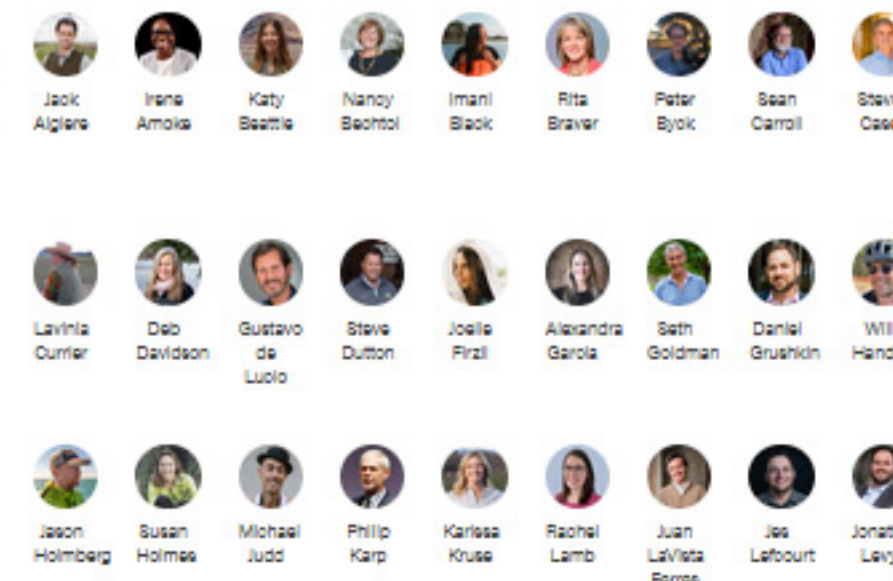
ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS



CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS



STUDIO SPEAKERS



Why are drug names so long and complicated? A pharmacist explains the logic behind the nomenclature

Published: July 19, 2022 8.26am EDT

▼ [Jasmine Cutler](#), *University of South Florida*

As long as a drug compound isn't trademarked, drug companies decide on a proprietary brand name for the medications they sell. Usually the brand name relates to the conditions the drug is intended to treat and is easy for both providers and patients to remember but doesn't follow a standardized naming guideline. For example, the drug Lopressor helps lower blood pressure. On the other hand, generic drug names all follow a standard nomenclature that helps medical providers and researchers more easily recognize and classify the drug. Lopressor, for example, has a generic name of metoprolol tartrate. **The U.S. Adopted Names Council, composed of representatives from the Food and Drug Administration, American Medical Association, U.S. Pharmacopeia and American Pharmacists Association, works with the World Health Organization to assign international nonproprietary names, or INNs, to drug compounds. Similar organizations exist internationally. A globally recognized naming process makes an otherwise confusing name game more manageable.** It helps the medical community easily learn and categorize newly approved medications and reduce prescribing errors by providing a unique, standard name that reflects each active ingredient in the drug.

Religious liberty has a long and messy history – and there is a reason Americans feel strongly about it

Published: July 19, 2022 8.25am EDT

▼ [James Hudnut-Beumler](#), [James P. Byrd](#), *Vanderbilt Divinity School*

No sooner had Roger Williams, a Puritan educated at the University of Cambridge, landed in New England than he began challenging Puritan authorities, saying that civil courts should not enforce religious belief and that the right to worship (or not) according to one's own conscience was fundamental. **He noted that the American Indians, to whom his fellow Christians considered themselves superior, were often better people than the English.** These beliefs terrified and infuriated Puritan leaders, who promptly banished radical Roger from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He later resurfaced in what became the colony of Rhode Island, where he helped to start a new settlement called Providence, which, unlike Puritan-controlled Massachusetts Bay, would allow religious liberty for all who lived there. Although the Puritans thought Williams' ideas were dangerous, Williams believed the greatest danger was in government trying to legislate religion. He only had to point to the fact that more blood had been shed over religion than just about any issue, with Protestants fighting Catholics, Christians fighting Muslims, and European empires trying to forcibly convert Indigenous Americans in so-called "missions."

What really drives anti-abortion beliefs? Research suggests it's a matter of sexual strategies

Published: July 19, 2022 8.25am EDT

▼ [Jaimie Arona Krems](#), *Oklahoma State University*, [Martie Haselton](#), *University of California*,



There's an interesting evolutionary benefit for some women if the consequences of casual sex are high.

More "sexually restricted" people tend to shun casual sex and instead invest heavily in long-term relationships and parenting children. In contrast, more "sexually unrestricted" people tend to pursue a series of different sexual partners and are often slower to settle down. Researchers have found that sexually restricted people oppose not only abortion and birth control, but also marriage equality, because they perceive homosexuality as associated with sexual promiscuity, and recreational drugs, presumably because they associate drugs like marijuana and MDMA with casual sex. We suspect this list likely also includes transgender rights, public breastfeeding, premarital sex, what books children read (and if drag queens can read to them), equal pay for women, and many other concerns that have yet to be tested. No other theories we are aware of predict these strange attitudinal bedfellows.

When did the first fish live on Earth – and how do scientists figure out the timing?

Published: July 18, 2022 8.27am EDT

▼ [Isaac Skromne](#), *University of Richmond*

The oldest Haikouichthys fossils of animals resembling a fish date back between 518 million and 530 million years ago. Scientists, using radiometric dating, estimate the Earth itself is 4.5 billion years old. For a long time on Earth, there was no life at all. Then microorganisms like bacteria showed up. It's only relatively recently that plants and animals began living on Earth. In fact, if you think of Earth's age until now as a 24-hour day, it turns out Haikouichthys lived 2 hours and 45 minutes before the end of the day. Humanlike animals appeared even more recently on Earth – about 5 million to 7 million years ago – only a few minutes before the end of the hypothetical day.

HOUSE JAN. 6 COMMITTEE HEARINGS

With the midterms in their sights, defending Trump isn't a Republican priority

"The RNC and Republicans on Capitol Hill know they are poised for a great election year and what's the biggest thing that could be a hurdle to that? Donald Trump," says one longtime GOP consultant.



J. Scott Applewhite/AP

Doug Heye, a former communications director for the Republican National Committee, says "So it's not their job to defend trump and sometimes you just don't want to defend the indefensible." A big argument from Trump allies is that these January 6th hearings are one-sided and dull. Filling inboxes and airwaves with rapid response messaging could undermine that argument. Said Matt Schlapp, who runs the pro-Trump group CPAC, "It was a little dramatic in the beginning but over time it's been more of a dud," he said.



NATIONAL
Dan Cox, an election denier, wins the Maryland Republican primary for governor

WYPR - 88.1 FM



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS
'Time bomb' lead pipes will be removed. But first water utilities have to find them

MIDWEST NEWSROOM



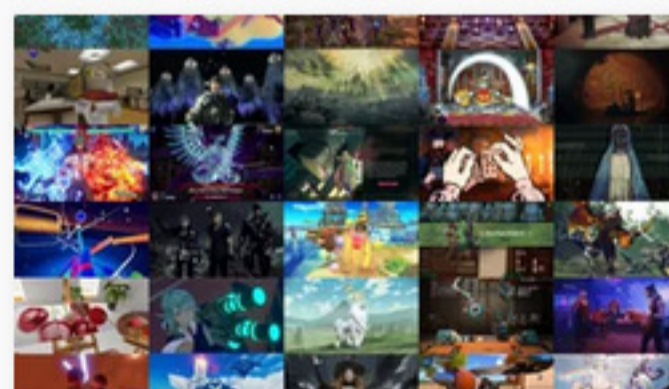
SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS
U.S. death toll from drug overdoses is rising fast among Black and Indigenous people



WEATHER
Why 100-degree heat is so dangerous in the United Kingdom



CULTURE
Netflix loses nearly 1 million subscribers. And that's the good news



JOIN THE GAME
The best games of 2022 so far, picked by the NPR staff

It didn't take long for 2022 to deliver on a deep roster of long-awaited games, from blockbusters like Elden Ring and Horizon Forbidden West, to breakout indies like Tunic and Norco. Whether you're interested in story-driven experiences or challenges to your wits and reflexes, there's plenty to love in these 30 games. ...more brutal boss battles ...It's time to duel ...Norco uses its setting in sci-fi Louisiana to evoke a world familiar to those who grew up in the post-industrial South of suburbs, shuttered factories and industrial waste. ...Pokémon has been my favorite gaming universe ever since I got Pokémon Red for Christmas when I was six. ...Your whole job is to clean the grim covering everything from bikes to shoe-shaped houses to the Mars Rover, with a collection of power washers, nozzles, and soaps ... if you play your cards right, you may just crack an occult mystery and save a life or two. ...Take my one love from high school — the trading card game Magic: the Gathering — and combine it with my other love from high school — the rich fantasy roleplay of Dungeons & Dragons — and you get Commander Legends: Battle for Baldur's Gate. ...As a 30-plus-year veteran of Square Enix titles, I was beyond stoked to see a modern Final Fantasy Tactics emerge. ...I'm not the biggest gamer in the world, but The Stanley Parable: Ultra Deluxe was one of those games I could (and did) play for hours on end.

Dan Cox, backed by former President Donald Trump, has won the Republican primary for governor in Maryland. Cox, a first-term state lawmaker in the Maryland House of Delegates, helped to spread Trump's lies that he won the 2020 election. The Democratic Governors Association spent more than \$1 million running ads touting Cox's record supporting Trump, abortion restrictions and gun rights. It's a strategy we've seen in other states this year. State Republican leaders say the ads were designed to help Cox win Tuesday's primary, giving Democrats a leg up in November, but the DGA says they're designed to be attack ads and that they're starting the general election fight early.

On Tuesday, parts of England hit a temperature above 40 degrees Celsius — or 104 degrees Fahrenheit — a first in the U.K.'s recorded history. "I wasn't expecting to see this in my career," said Stephen Belcher, the chief scientist at the U.K.'s Meteorological Office. With much of the U.S. facing its own heat wave, it could be easy for Americans to wonder why the extreme heat has been so disruptive in the U.K. In short: Because it's not a common occurrence there, the country and its residents are less equipped to deal with heat, officials and experts say — even as climate change means extreme days are more likely in the years to come.

Historic rises in drug overdose deaths are disproportionately affecting Black and Indigenous people in the United States. ...fatal overdoses increased by 44% among Black people in 2020 compared with the year prior, American Indian and Alaska Native people saw a 39% increase, which far outpaced the 22% increase in drug overdoses seen among white people during the same time period.

Unpopular Sri Lankan PM elected president; risks new turmoil

19 minutes ago



Ukrainian forces strike key bridge in Russia-occupied south

25 minutes ago



Stay or go? Italy's premier to brief Parliament on crisis

37 minutes ago



EU draws up energy plan in case of Russian gas cutoff

1 hour ago



UK weather turmoil disrupts train travel for 3rd day

2 hours ago



Dan Cox, backed by Trump, wins Maryland GOP governor primary

2 hours ago



Report: Brazil authorities turn blind eye to deforestation

2 hours ago



US rabbi reviving Jewish roots in her family's Italian town

3 hours ago



Stanton, Buxton HRs lead AL over NL for 9th straight ASG win

7 hours ago



Ukraine graft concerns resurface as Russia war goes on

7 hours ago



Trump, Pence rivalry intensifies as they consider 2024 runs

7 hours ago



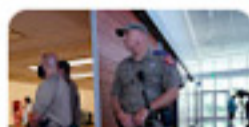
'Forgotten' US victims of Mexican drug lord want justice

13 minutes ago



Frequent lockdowns may have contributed to Uvalde tragedy

8 hours ago



Abortion doctor signals she'll sue Indiana AG over comments

10 hours ago



House passes same-sex marriage bill in retort to high court

10 hours ago



FDA weighs oversight changes after formula, Juul troubles

10 hours ago



Georgia fake electors may face charges in election probe

11 hours ago



Netflix Q2 subscriber loss widens, but not as much as feared

12 hours ago



Elections officials urged to prepare for shortages, delays

12 hours ago



CDC endorses more traditional Novavax COVID shot for adults

13 hours ago



Partisan lines form over Dem drug price curbs, economic plan

12 hours ago



Hoover Dam transformer explodes; no one hurt

12 hours ago



Putin heads to Tehran for talks with leaders of Iran, Turkey

13 hours ago



WASHINGTON (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's dismissal of senior officials is casting an inconvenient light on an issue that the Biden administration has largely ignored since the outbreak of war with Russia: Ukraine's history of rampant corruption and shaky governance. Zelenskyy's weekend firings of his top prosecutor, intelligence chief and other senior officials have resurfaced those concerns and may have inadvertently given fresh attention to allegations of high-level corruption in Kyiv made by one outspoken U.S. lawmaker. Even as Russian troops were massing near the Ukrainian border last fall, the Biden administration was pushing Zelenskyy to do more to act on corruption — a perennial U.S. demand going back to Ukraine's early days of independence. Price declined to comment further on Zelenskyy's reasoning for the dismissals or address the specifics but said there was no question that Russia has been trying to interfere in Ukraine. "Moscow has long sought to subvert, to destabilize the Ukrainian government," Price said. "Ever since Ukraine chose the path of democracy and a Western orientation this has been something that Moscow has sought to subvert." "Given that we're in a state of war, we need to give President Zelenskyy and his team the benefit of the doubt," Igor Novikov, a Kyiv-based former adviser to Zelenskyy said. "Until we win this war, we have to trust the president who stayed and fought with the people."



Netflix Chief Reed Hastings Says 'the End of Linear TV' Is Coming 'Over the Next 5-10 Years'

14 hours ago



Co-CEO Reed Hastings kicked off the streaming service's pre-recorded Q2 earnings interview on Tuesday, declaring the death of cable and satellite TV within the next decade. "Streaming is working everywhere," Hastings said. "Everyone is pouring in. **It's definitely the end of linear TV over the next five, 10 years.**" 13 hours ago

https://www.indiewire.com > 2022/07 > netflix-ceo-reed-h...

Netflix CEO Reed Hastings: 'End of Linear TV' by 2032 Likely

Linear television

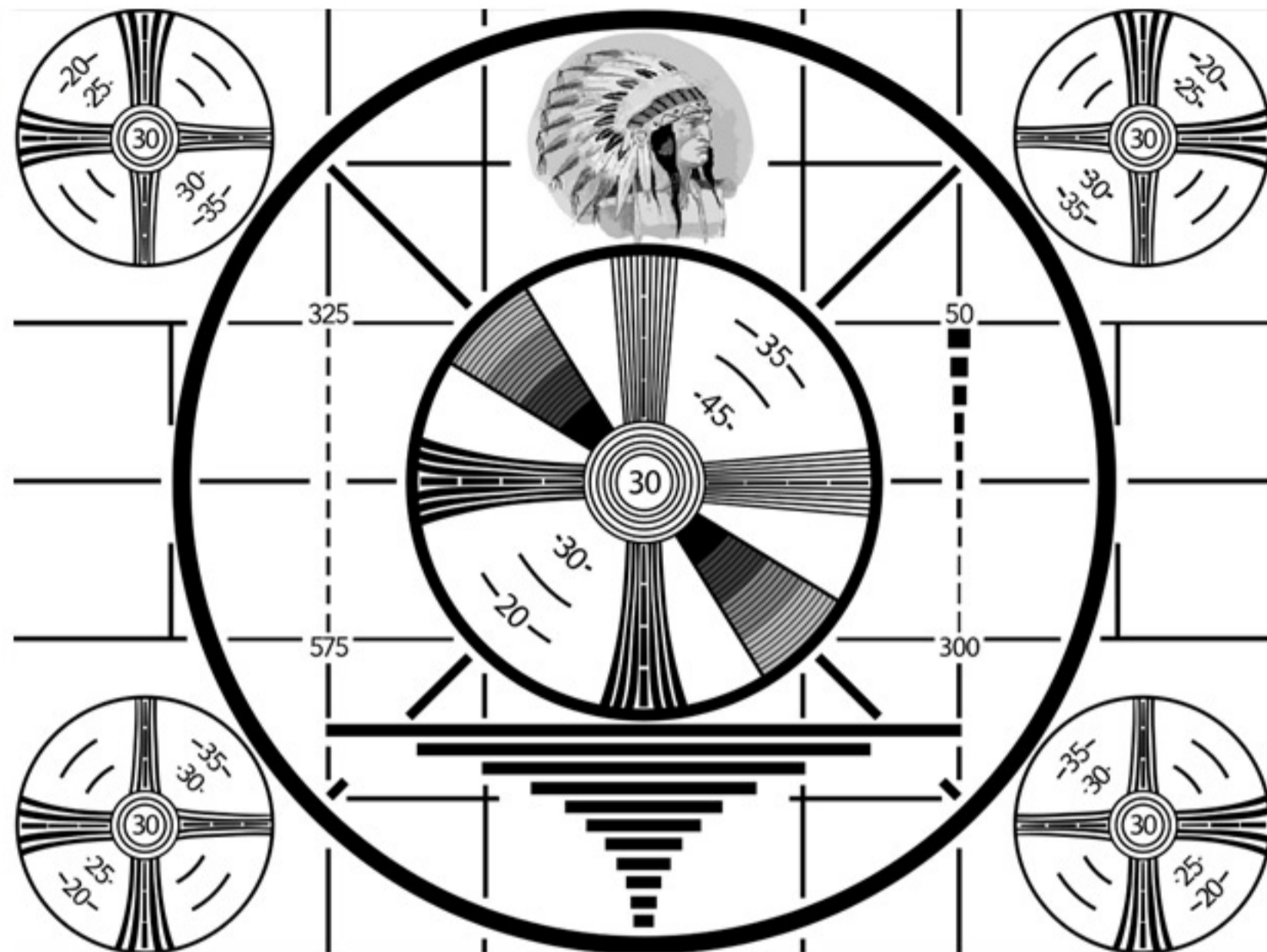
Linear TV is defined as **the traditional form of TV, which is programmed and watched as scheduled through satellite or cable, and is not streamed to a specific user on demand.** It generally caters to prime time viewing, which is when most people are in front of their screens.

https://mountain.com > Advertising

Linear TV Advertising versus Performance TV - MNTN

What is linear vs non linear TV?

We defined **linear TV as content consumed at a set time and on a set TV channel.** **Non-linear TV removes these limitations.** The viewer decides what to watch and when to watch it. OTT TV and CTV fall under the umbrella term non-linear TV. Feb 10, 2021



Linear TV, meanwhile, is "old school TV" — the kind that cable, broadcast and satellite has delivered for decades. It's called linear because **viewing is limited to what's airing at a particular time on a particular channel** — whatever is lined up for that moment in time.

May 7, 2021



Linear TV has the ability to **target specific content and demographics.** Television has been a brand-building favorite for decades, and now through cross channel coordination (data-driven Connected TV), TV can play a role in full-funnel attribution with Linear driving mass reach and awareness.



Subject (philosophy)

A **subject** is a being who has a [unique consciousness](#) and/or unique [personal experiences](#), or an entity that has a relationship with another entity that exists outside itself (called an "object").

A *subject* is an observer and an *object* is a thing observed. This concept is especially important in [Continental philosophy](#), where 'the subject' is a central term in debates over the nature of the self.^[1] The nature of the subject is also central in debates over the nature of [subjective experience](#) within the Anglo-American tradition of [analytical philosophy](#).

The sharp distinction between subject and object corresponds to the distinction, in the philosophy of [René Descartes](#), between [thought](#) and [extension](#).

Descartes believed that thought ([subjectivity](#)) was the essence of the mind, and that extension (the occupation of space) was the essence of matter.^[2]

Subject	Object
The person or thing that is doing the action.	The person or thing that is receiving the action.
<p>The <u>cow</u> eats <u>grass</u>.</p> 	<p>Tina <u>plays</u> the <u>piano</u>.</p> 

Objectification

In [social philosophy](#), **objectification** is the act of treating a person, or sometimes an animal,^[1] as an [object](#) or a thing. It is part of [dehumanization](#), the act of disavowing the humanity of others. [Sexual objectification](#), the act of treating a person as a mere object of sexual desire, is a subset of objectification, as is [self-objectification](#), the objectification of one's self. In [Marxism](#), the objectification of social relationships is discussed as "[reification](#)".

Definitions

According to [Martha Nussbaum](#), a person is objectified if one or more of the following properties are applied to them:^[2]

1. Instrumentality – treating the person as a [tool](#) for another's purposes
2. Denial of [autonomy](#) – treating the person as lacking in autonomy or [self-determination](#)
3. Inertness – treating the person as lacking in [agency](#) or [activity](#)
4. [Fungibility](#) – treating the person as interchangeable with (other) objects
5. Violability – treating the person as lacking in boundary integrity and violable, "as something that it is permissible to break up, smash, break into."
6. [Ownership](#) – treating the person as though they can be owned, bought, or sold (such as slavery)
7. Denial of [subjectivity](#) – treating the person as though there is no need for concern for their experiences or feelings

[Rae Langton](#) proposed three more properties to be added to Nussbaum's list:^[3]

1. Reduction to body – the treatment of a person as identified with their body, or body parts
2. Reduction to appearance – the treatment of a person primarily in terms of how they look, or how they appear to the senses
3. Silencing – the treatment of a person as if they are silent, lacking the capacity to speak

What does free market mean in history? ^

A free market is **one where voluntary exchange and the laws of supply and demand provide the sole basis for the economic system, without government intervention.** A key feature of free markets is the absence of coerced (forced) transactions or conditions on transactions.

A free market is **one where voluntary exchange and the laws of supply and demand provide the sole basis for the economic system, without government intervention.** A key feature of free markets is the absence of coerced (forced) transactions or conditions on transactions.

Nobody invented the free market; it arose organically as a social institution for trade and commerce. While some free-trade purists oppose all government intervention and regulation, certain legal frames such as private property rights, limited liability, and bankruptcy laws have helped stimulate free markets.

Who started free market economy?

Adam Smith Invented Modern Free-Market Economics. Nov 23, 2012

What was the first free market economy? ^

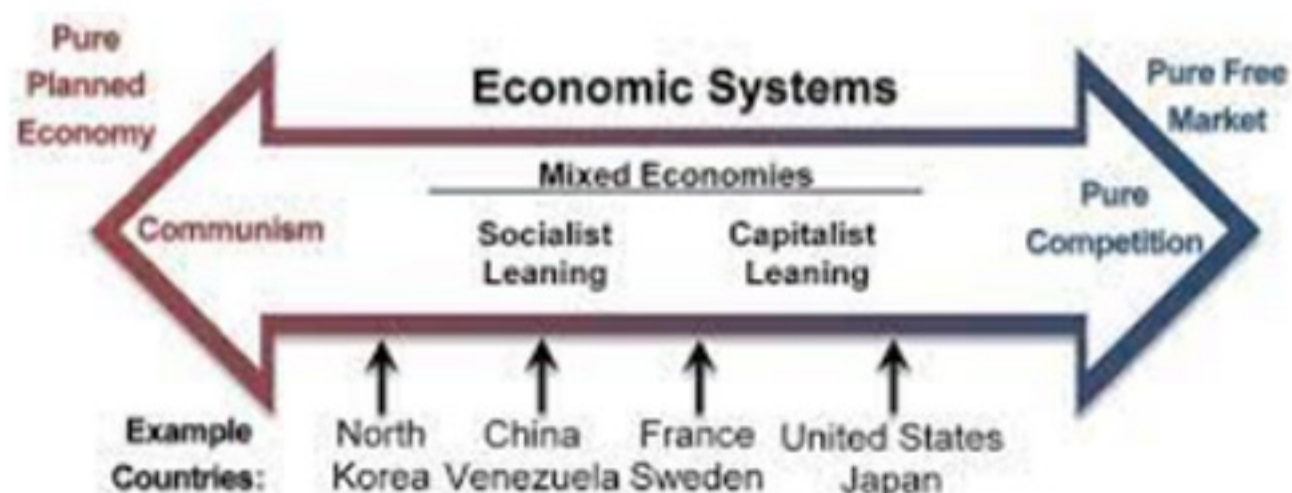
The term was introduced in the 19th century in France and it was called **laissez-faire**. Laissez-faire means 'hands-off'. Nov 3, 2016

When was the free market economy developed? ^

Historically, laissez-faire capitalism was most common in Britain during the **18th and 19th centuries** in the timeframe of the Industrial Revolution. At the time, it was a revolutionary idea, because in the previous centuries, mercantilism had been the dominant economic system.

When did the US become a free-market?

The Sherman Antitrust Act of **1890** outlawed monopolies.



In economics, a free market is a system in which the prices for goods and services are self-regulated by buyers and sellers negotiating in an open market without market coercions. In a free market, the laws and forces of supply and demand are free from any intervention by a government or other authority other than those interventions which are made to prohibit market coercions. Examples of such prohibited market coercions include: economic privilege, monopolies, and artificial scarcities. Proponents of the concept of free market contrast it with a regulated market in which a government intervenes in the exchange of property for any reason other than reducing market coercions.

Scholars contrast the concept of a free market with the concept of a coordinated market in fields of study such as political economy, new institutional economics, economic sociology and political science. All of these fields emphasize the importance in currently existing market systems of rule-making institutions external to the simple forces of supply and demand which create space for those forces to operate to control productive output and distribution. Although free markets are commonly associated with capitalism in contemporary usage and popular culture, free markets have also been components in some forms of market socialism.

Criticism of the theoretical concept may regard realities of the difficulty of regulating systems to prevent significant market dominance, inequality of bargaining power, or information asymmetry, in order to allow markets to function more freely.

What is mercantilism in simple terms? ^

What is mercantilism? Mercantilism is **an economic practice by which governments used their economies to augment state power at the expense of other countries.** Governments sought to ensure that exports exceeded imports and to accumulate wealth in the form of bullion (mostly gold and silver).



history of free market economy X | 🔍

Your Trip has been Canceled

We'll send a confirmation email to @ Any Delta eCredits are available for immediate use and any refunds to your original form of payment may take up to 7 days to be processed.

CANCELED TRIP

SAN → BOS

Jul 28, 2022 - Aug 1, 2022
Round-Trip, 1 Passenger

MODIFY MORE FLIGHTS

DAN LANDRUM

Delta eCredit Issued
\$ 378.20 USD

Delta eCredit #
Issued to DAN LANDRUM
Expires Dec 31, 2023

REDEEM DELTA ECREDIT

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

How to Use Delta eCredits
Get step by step instructions on the [How to Use Delta eCredits](#) page.

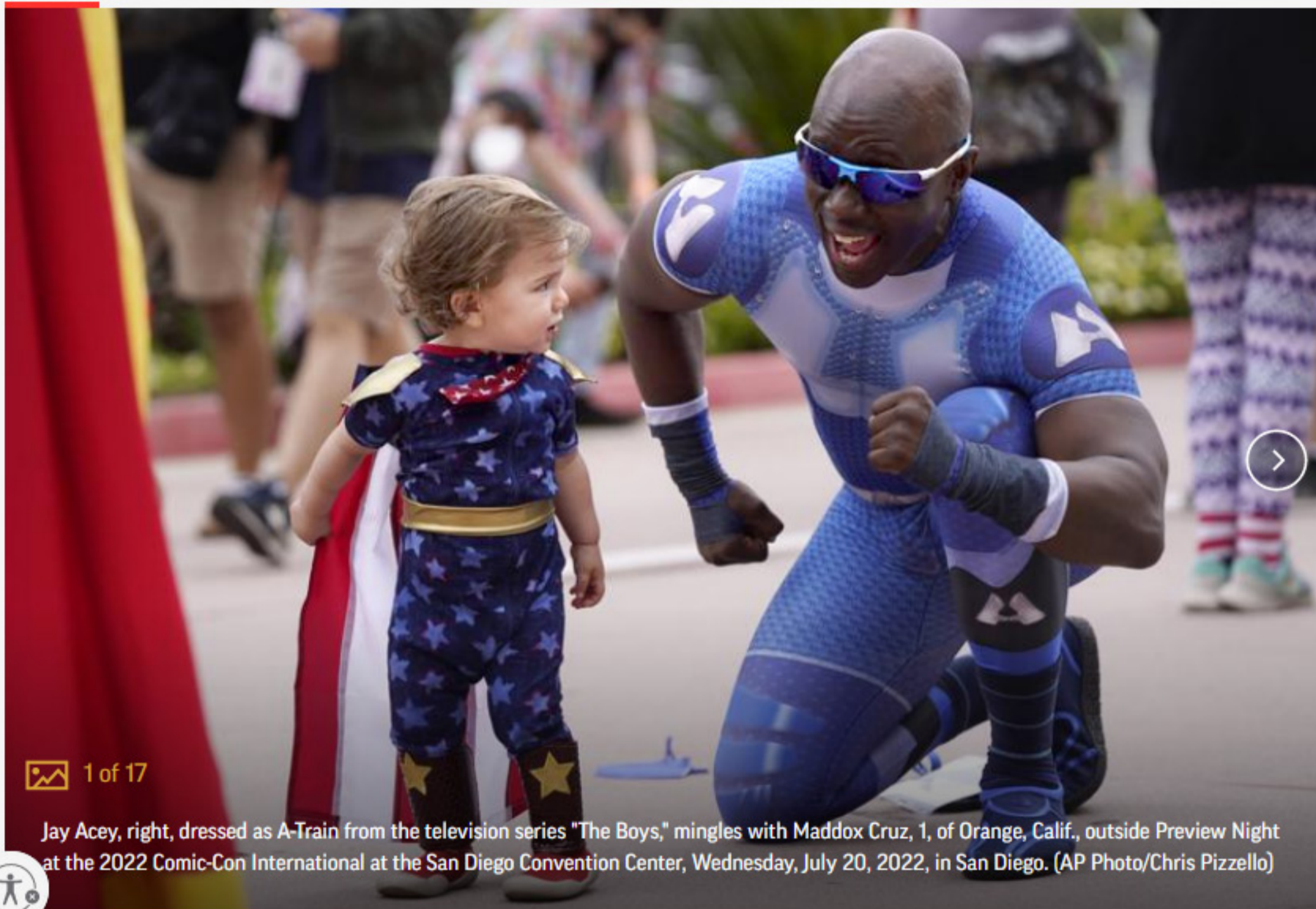
Where We Fly
Ready to use your Delta eCredit? Find out where we're currently flying [here](#).

A Syrian child studies outside her family's tent at a refugee camp in the town of Bar Elias, in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, July 7, 2022. The Lebanese government's plan to start deporting Syrian refugees has sent waves of fear through vulnerable refugee communities already struggling to survive in their host country. Many refugees say being forced to return to the war shattered country would be a death sentence. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)



Comic-Con returns in full force with costumes, crowds

today



1 of 17

Jay Acey, right, dressed as A-Train from the television series "The Boys," mingles with Maddox Cruz, 1, of Orange, Calif., outside Preview Night at the 2022 Comic-Con International at the San Diego Convention Center, Wednesday, July 20, 2022, in San Diego. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

COMIC-CROWDS

The pandemic necessitated virtual versions of Comic-Con in the summers of 2020 and 2021, and a scaled-back in-person version in November, but none were anything like the usual spectacle, with lovers of all things geeky descending from around the globe and arena-sized panels on films and TV shows that resemble sporting events.

It's not clear whether the convention will draw the estimated 135,000 people who flooded San Diego before the pandemic. But when the doors of the Convention Center opened for Wednesday's preview night, the fans came in droves, mobbing the convention floor. As required, nearly all wore masks — the protective kind, not the super-villain kind, though there were plenty of those too — and the excitement amid the crowd was palpable.



EXPLAINER: Foot-and-mouth disease and the efforts to stop it

By VICTORIA MILKO today



A man walks past cows he sells ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday under a flyover in Jakarta, Indonesia on July 8, 2022. Thousands of cattle are covered in blisters from highly infectious foot-and-mouth disease in Indonesia, sounding the alarm for the country, its Southeast Asian neighbors and Australia.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of cattle are covered in blisters from highly infectious foot-and-mouth disease in Indonesia, sounding the alarm for the country, its Southeast Asian neighbors and Australia. **The virus found in two provinces in May has now infected several hundred-thousand animals across multiple provinces, including the popular tourist destination of Bali.** Indonesia is now taking measures to curb the spread of the disease. Australia has offered assistance in hopes of preventing the disease and its economic and environmental consequences from crossing its borders. Here's a look at the disease and what's happening in Indonesia.

WHAT IS FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE? Foot-and-mouth disease is caused by a virus that infects cattle, sheep, goats, swine and other cloven-hoofed animals. While death rates are typically low, the disease can make animals ill with fever, decreased appetite, excessive drooling, blisters and other symptoms. The disease was once found worldwide but has since been erased from some regions, including western Europe and North America. Parts of Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia and Thailand, have had regular outbreaks, but Indonesia until now had been free from the disease since 1986. The ongoing outbreak is concentrated in dairy and beef cattle, but the spread to other susceptible animals can't be ruled out.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? The virus spreads easily through contact and airborne transmission and can quickly infect entire herds. People can spread the disease through things like farming equipment, shoes, clothing, vehicle tires and more that have come in contact with the virus. Though it's considered rare, humans can also carry the virus in their nose for short periods of time, infecting animals, said Michael Ward, chair of the Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety at the University of Sydney. Livestock feed and animal products such as meat and hides can also carry and spread the virus. More than 300,000 livestock in Indonesia had foot-and-mouth disease by the first week of July. In the same month, the Eid al-Adha festival — a Muslim holiday marked with ritual animal sacrifice — resulted in large movement of animals around the country, which is considered to have accelerated the spread of the disease.

WHY ARE OFFICIALS WORRIED? Because it is so easily spread, the virus can be incredibly difficult to get rid of once there is an outbreak. In poorer countries, sick animals affect people's access to food. In middle-income and richer countries, the disease affects the livestock trade and related industries. One paper estimated that foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks can cost billions of dollars, highlighting the damage to governments and farmers. Australia, which is currently free of foot-and-mouth disease, has expressed particular worry about the spread from Indonesia. The resort island of Bali is a popular tourist destination for Australians and has confirmed cases of the disease.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO COMBAT THE OUTBREAK? Indonesia is using animal testing, vaccination, treatment, and conditional slaughter to try to curb the outbreak. The Ministry of Agriculture launched a vaccination program for livestock in mid-June, prioritizing doses for healthy animals at high risk of infection, such as those at crowded places such as livestock breeding centers, community-owned dairy farms, dairy cooperatives, and beef cattle farms. The Australian government has offered financial and vaccine assistance for Indonesia's response to the recent outbreak. The vaccination program is likely to focus on support for the small-holder farm sector, which accounts for 90% of Indonesia's cattle industry. In Australia, the government announced it would install disinfectant mats at airports that are intended to capture potentially contaminated dirt from the shoes of those returning from overseas. Government officials also promised more stringent biosecurity checks, such as sniffing detector dogs, for those returning from overseas.

CAN PEOPLE GET FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE? No. Foot-and-mouth disease is often confused with hand, foot and mouth disease, which is caused by a different virus and mostly infects young children. People do not get the animal disease, and animals do not get the human disease, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

White House insiders to talk about Trump's actions on Jan. 6

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and JILL COLVIN today



FILE - Former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger departs after President Donald Trump awarded the Medal of Honor to Army Sgt. Maj. Thomas P. Payne in the East Room of the White House, Sept. 11, 2020, in Washington. Pottinger and Sarah Matthews will be the key witnesses at the House Jan. 6 committee's prime-time hearing on July 21, as the panel examines what Trump was doing as his supporters broke into the Capitol.

FILE - In this image from video released by the House Select Committee, an exhibit shows Sarah Matthews, former White House deputy press secretary, during a video deposition to the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, that was displayed at the hearing Thursday, June 16, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Matthew Pottinger and Matthews, will be the key witnesses at the House Jan. 6 committee's prime-time hearing on July 21, as the panel examines what Trump was doing as his supporters broke into the Capitol. (House Select Committee via AP)

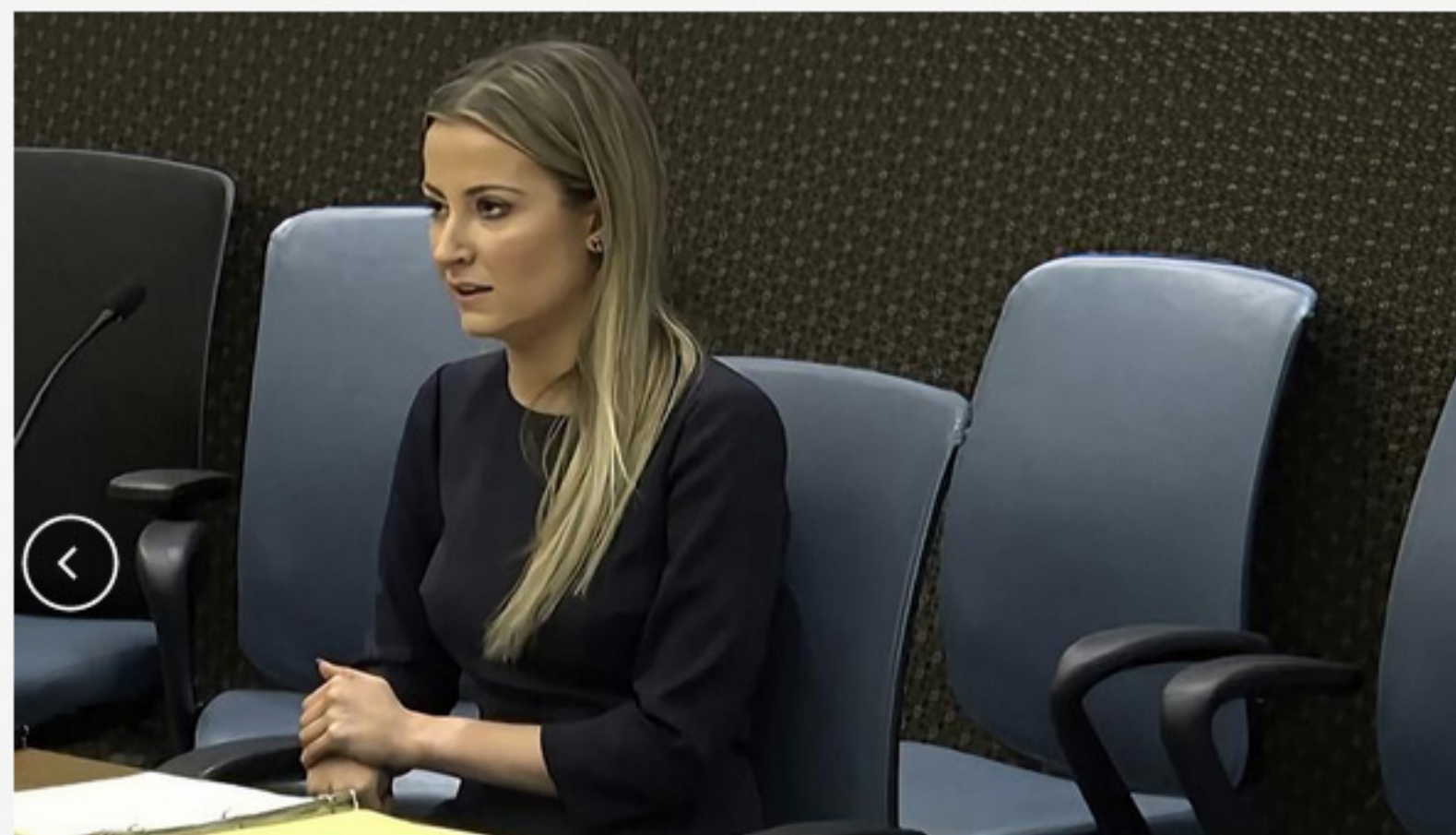
WASHINGTON (AP) — Matthew Pottinger was a journalist in China, concerned about the country's drift toward authoritarianism, when he decided — at age 31 — to enlist in the U.S. Marines after the invasion of Iraq.

“Our form of government is not inevitable,” Pottinger recalled thinking during an interview two years ago with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “And it shouldn't be taken for granted. But it's a form of government very much worth fighting for.”

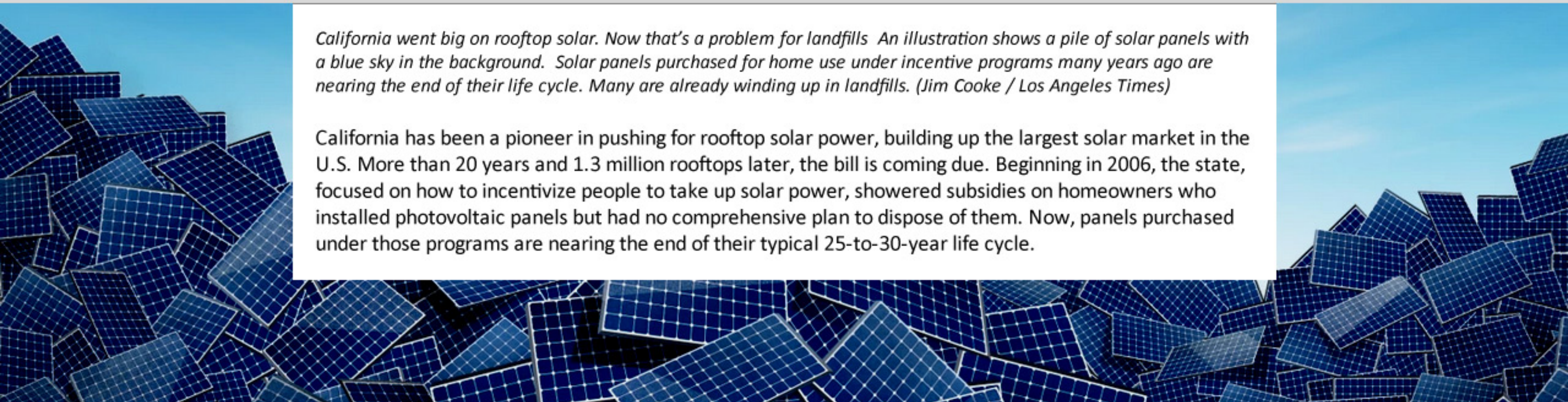
Pottinger had no way of knowing when he put on his military uniform for the first time how close to home that battle for democracy would get. He became deputy national security adviser to President Donald Trump, and he resigned after the Jan. 6 attack that tried to stop the peaceful transfer of power to President Joe Biden.

On Thursday, he'll be one of the key witnesses at a prime-time hearing of the select House committee investigating the attack. The other is Sarah Matthews, who resigned from her position as a deputy press secretary the same day.

Pottinger and Matthews will join Cassidy Hutchinson, a former assistant to Mark Meadows, Trump's final chief of staff, in the exclusive club of Trump White House insiders who have appeared publicly. Their appearances stand in blunt contrast to the cadre of Trump loyalists who have tried to defy the committee's subpoenas, remained silent or continued to dismiss the investigation's findings.



California went big on rooftop solar. Now that's a problem for landfills



California went big on rooftop solar. Now that's a problem for landfills. An illustration shows a pile of solar panels with a blue sky in the background. Solar panels purchased for home use under incentive programs many years ago are nearing the end of their life cycle. Many are already winding up in landfills. (Jim Cooke / Los Angeles Times)

California has been a pioneer in pushing for rooftop solar power, building up the largest solar market in the U.S. More than 20 years and 1.3 million rooftops later, the bill is coming due. Beginning in 2006, the state, focused on how to incentivize people to take up solar power, showered subsidies on homeowners who installed photovoltaic panels but had no comprehensive plan to dispose of them. Now, panels purchased under those programs are nearing the end of their typical 25-to-30-year life cycle.

By Rachel Kisela

Published July 14, 2022 Updated July 15, 2022 7:13 PM PT

In April 2022, Santa Monica concluded a solar panel recycling pilot program in partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council, a public-private partnership. The stewardship council surveyed local residential solar owners and found that many, at a loss for what to do with end-of-life panels, called up installers for help.

“We did find that the solar installers were the best contact for us to learn about how many decommissioned panels were in our region,” said Drew Johnstone, a sustainability analyst for Santa Monica. “Some contractors did end up just having to pile them in their warehouses, because there’s no good solution for where to bring them.”

Johnstone says the universal waste reclassification has made a big difference, cutting down on cost and paperwork needed for handling modules, and more handlers can accept the panels from generators.

“It’s going to be a really large issue in a number of years,” Johnstone said. “So it would behoove local governments, county, state, and it can go federal too, to have a plan in place for all these panels that will reach their end of life in 10 to 15 years.”

For the record: 7:13 p.m. July 15, 2022

An earlier version of this article mischaracterized the environmental risk posed by heavy metals in consumer photovoltaic arrays. This story has been edited to clarify that panels containing toxic materials are routed for disposal to landfills with extra safeguards against leakage, and to note that panels that contain cadmium and selenium are primarily used in utility-grade applications.

An earlier version of this article also misattributed a statement by Evelyn Butler, vice president of technical services at the Solar Energy Industries Assn., to Jen Bristol, the group’s senior director of communications. It also misidentified the group as the Solar Energy Industry Assn.

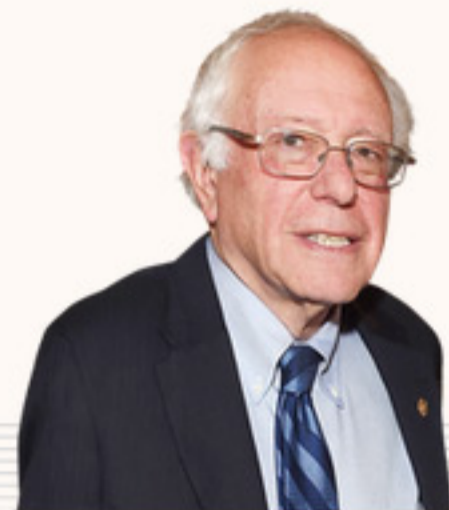
An earlier version of this article also failed to properly attribute quotes by Jigar Shah, director of the Department of Energy’s Loan Programs Office, to their source, a 2020 interview with PV Magazine. The article has also been updated to reflect Shah’s current professional affiliation as well as that of Sam Vanderhoof.

An earlier version of this article also stated that 25 years was the life cycle of photovoltaic panels; the text has been updated to reflect that 25 to 30 years is the typical service life but not a fixed limit. Additionally, in a discussion of transporting photovoltaic panels to recycling or hazardous waste disposal facilities, the word “cells” has been changed to “panels” for accuracy.

Opinion

Let's rebuild the US microchip industry - not give it a \$50bn-plus check

Bernie Sanders



If private companies are going to benefit from taxpayer subsidies, the financial gains made by these companies must be shared with the American people

Thu 14 Jul 2022 10.03 EDT

For two months, a 107-member conference committee has been working to finalize an agreement on the US Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) which would provide more than \$50bn in corporate welfare to the highly profitable microchip industry with no strings attached. There is no doubt that there is a global shortage in microchips and semiconductors which is making it harder for manufacturers to produce the cars, cellphones and electronic equipment that we need. This shortage is costing American workers good jobs and raising prices for families. That is why I fully support efforts to expand US microchip production. But the question is: should American taxpayers provide the microchip industry with a blank check of over \$50bn at a time when semiconductor companies are making tens of billions of dollars in profits and paying their executives exorbitant compensation packages? I think the answer to that question should be a resounding NO.

Let's review some recent history. Over the last 20 years, the microchip industry has shut down more than 780 manufacturing plants in the United States and eliminated 150,000 American jobs while moving most of its production overseas – after receiving over \$9.5bn in government subsidies and loans. In other words, in order to make more profits, these companies took government money and used it to ship good-paying jobs abroad. Now, as a reward for that bad behavior, these same companies are in line to receive a giant taxpayer handout to undo the damage that they did. That may make sense to someone. It does not make sense to me. In total, it has been estimated that five big semi-conductor companies will receive the lion's share of this taxpayer handout: Intel, Texas Instruments, Micron Technology, GlobalFoundries and Samsung. These five companies made \$70bn in profits last year.

The company that will probably benefit the most from this taxpayer assistance is Intel. I have nothing against Intel. I wish them well. But, let's be clear. Intel is not a poor company. It is not going broke. In 2021, Intel made nearly \$20bn in profits. During the pandemic, Intel had enough money to spend \$16.6bn, not on research and development, but on buying back its own stock to reward its executives and wealthy shareholders. Last year, Intel could afford to give its CEO, Pat Gelsinger, a \$179m compensation package. Over the past 20 years, Intel spent more than \$100m on lobbying and campaign contributions while shipping thousands of jobs to China and other low-income countries. **Does it sound like this company really needs corporate welfare?** Another company that would receive taxpayer assistance under this legislation is Texas Instruments. Last year, Texas Instruments made \$7.8bn in profits. In 2020, this company spent \$2.5bn buying back its own stock while it has outsourced thousands of good-paying American jobs to low-wage countries. In 1968, Dr Martin Luther King Jr said: "The problem is that we all too often have socialism for the rich and rugged free enterprise capitalism for the poor." I am afraid what King said 54 years ago was accurate back then and it is even more accurate today.

We have heard a lot of talk in the halls of Congress about the need to create public-private partnerships – and that all sounds very good. But when the government adopts an industrial policy that socializes all the risk and privatizes all the profits that's not a partnership. That is crony capitalism.

In my view, we must prevent microchip companies from receiving taxpayer assistance unless they agree to issue warrants or equity stakes to the federal government. If private companies are going to benefit from generous taxpayer subsidies, the financial gains made by these companies must be shared with the American people, not just with wealthy shareholders. In other words, if microchip companies make a profit as a direct result of these federal grants, the taxpayers of this country have a right to get a reasonable return on that investment.

Further, **if microchip companies receive taxpayer assistance, they must agree that they will not buy back their own stock, outsource American jobs overseas or repeal existing collective bargaining agreements, and they must remain neutral in any union organizing effort. This is not a radical idea. All of these conditions were imposed on companies that received taxpayer assistance during the pandemic and passed the Senate by a vote of 96-0.**

Bottom line: let us rebuild the US microchip industry, but let's do it in a way that benefits all of our society, not just a handful of wealthy, profitable and powerful corporations.

Vaccine-Induced Immune Response to Omicron Wanes Substantially Over Time

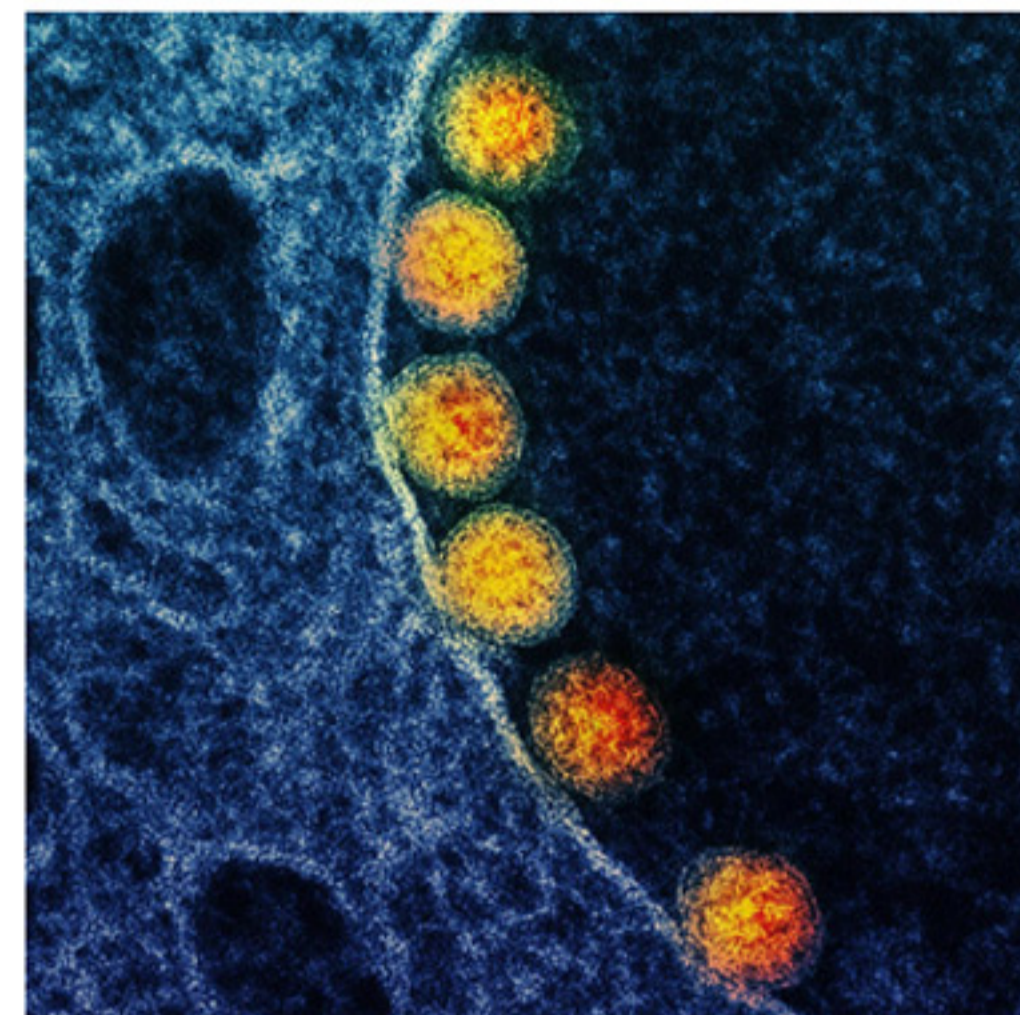
What

Although COVID-19 booster vaccinations in adults elicit high levels of neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, antibody levels decrease substantially within 3 months, according to new clinical trial data. The findings, published today in *Cell Reports Medicine*, are from a study sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. The trial was led by NIAID's Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium.

As part of a "mix and match" clinical trial, investigators administered COVID-19 booster vaccines to adults in the United States who had previously received a primary COVID-19 vaccination series under Emergency Use Authorization. Some participants received the same vaccine as their primary series, and others received a different vaccine. Investigators then evaluated immune responses over time. Results previously reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed all combinations of primary and booster vaccines resulted in increased neutralizing antibody levels in the recipients.

In the new analysis, investigators report that nearly all vaccine combinations evaluated (see table) elicited high levels of neutralizing antibodies to the Omicron BA.1 sub-lineage. However, antibody levels against Omicron were low in the group that received Ad26.COV2.S as both a primary vaccine and boost. Moreover, immune responses to Omicron in all groups waned substantially, with neutralizing antibody levels decreasing 2.4- to 5.3-fold by three months post-boost. Omicron sub-lineages BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/BA.5 were 1.5 and 2.5 times less susceptible to neutralization, respectively, compared to the BA.1 sub-lineage, and 7.5 and 12.4 times less susceptible relative to the ancestral D614G strain. BA.5 currently is the dominant variant in the U.S.

The authors note that the findings are consistent with real-world reports showing waning protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection during the Omicron wave in people who received a primary vaccine series plus a booster shot. Additionally, the immune response to Omicron sub-lineages show reduced susceptibility to these rapidly emerging subvariants. The data could be used to inform decisions regarding future vaccine schedule recommendations, including the need for variant vaccine boosting.



Transmission electron micrograph of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles (gold) within endosomes of a heavily infected nasal Olfactory Epithelial Cell. NIAID

Primary Vaccination Series	Single Booster Vaccination
Two doses of mRNA-1273 administered 28 days apart	mRNA-1273 (100 microgram dose)
Two doses of mRNA-1273 administered 28 days apart	mRNA-1273 (50 microgram dose)
One dose of Ad26.COV2.S	Ad26.COV2.S
Two doses of BNT162b2 administered 21 days apart	BNT162b2
One dose of Ad26.COV2.S	BNT162b2
Two doses of BNT162b2 administered 21 days apart	Ad26.COV2.S

The table above shows the COVID-19 vaccine combinations from the "mix & match" study evaluated in this report.

Articles: KE Lyke et al. Rapid Decline in Vaccine-Boosted Neutralizing Antibodies Against SARS CoV-2 Omicron Variant. *Cell Reports Medicine* DOI: 10.1016/j.xcrm.2022.100679 (2022). AND RL Atmar et al. Homologous and heterologous COVID-19 booster vaccinations. *The New England Journal of Medicine* DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2116414 (2022).

Who: Dr. John H. Beigel, associate director for clinical research in NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, is available to discuss the study.

These 18 Republicans Voted Against Sweden and Finland's Accession to NATO

BY BRENDAN COLE ON 7/19/22 AT 7:17 AM EDT



Although the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a resolution expressing support for Finland and Sweden to join NATO, 18 Republican lawmakers voted in opposition.

Monday's vote came two months after the Nordic countries applied to join NATO in the face of Russian aggression in Ukraine and three weeks after the alliance had officially invited them to join.

The resolution cleared the House in a 394-18 vote, with only GOP lawmakers voting in opposition. Two Democrats and 17 Republicans did not vote.

The bipartisan measure backed Finland and Sweden's move to join NATO and opposed any attempt by Moscow to obstruct their membership. It also called for NATO members to meet a pledge made in 2014 to spend at least two percent of their GDP on defense.

"We cannot add Finland and Sweden to NATO," tweeted Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), who was among those who opposed the measure. "The United States should not expand alliances that will further require us to serve as the military for the world. Virtually all NATO members routinely ignore the required military spending guidelines."

Here is a list of the GOP lawmakers who voted "no"

Andy Biggs, Arizona	Dan Bishop, North Carolina
Lauren Boebert, Colorado	Madison Cawthorn, North Carolina
Ben Cline, Virginia	Michael Cloud, Texas
Warren Davidson, Ohio	Matt Gaetz, Florida
Bob Good, Virginia	Marjorie Taylor Greene, Georgia
Morgan Griffith, Virginia,	Thomas Massie, Kentucky
Tom McClintock, California	Mary Miller, Illinois
Ralph Norman, South Carolina,	Matt Rosendale, Montana
Chip Roy, Texas	Jefferson Van Drew, New Jersey

"This historic step will add value to our alliance and strengthen our global partnership, tweeted Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL). "I hope to see our NATO allies quickly ratify their membership." Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) described it as "a historic moment for transatlantic unity in the face of Russian aggression." Some of those who opposed the resolution had previously voted against other measures supporting Ukraine in the chamber and their stance sparked criticism from some on social media. **"Patriots. Putin patriots," Russian opposition activist and former chess champion Garry Kasparov tweeted. "What possible American value would lead you to vote 'no' to extending NATO membership to Finland and Sweden?" tweeted author and former FBI agent Peter Strzok.**

Earlier this month, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had warned of a response from Russia to the addition of Sweden and Finland to NATO, saying that "options are being worked out" in the Ministry of Defense. Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that his country could still scupper the membership bid of the Nordic countries unless they met Ankara's security demands. He said that if the countries "do not take the necessary steps to fulfill our conditions, we will freeze" the accession process, the Associated Press reported. Turkey had initially objected to the countries' membership aspirations which required the approval of all the bloc's members. But a joint memorandum signed last month during a NATO summit signaled that Ankara was warming to their membership bids if its security demands are met. Turkey has accused the Scandinavian countries of harboring extremist Kurdish groups and supporters of Fethullah Gülen, the U.S.-based preacher whose supporters Ankara says carried out a coup attempt in 2016, which he and his supporters reject.

In a statement to Newsweek, the Swedish foreign ministry said "that the agreement with Turkey will be honored," and that "support for the resolution in the House of Representatives was overwhelming, which of course we appreciate."

Growing support for political violence raises alarms

BY JOHN KRUZEL AND REBECCA BEITSCH - 07/16/22 5:00 PM ET

Just hours after his arrest last month near the home of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a 26-year-old California man carrying a Glock 17 pistol, burglary tools and zip ties told an FBI agent what had inspired his cross-country trip to assassinate the conservative Supreme Court justice. The suspect, who has pleaded not guilty and faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted, said he was upset about the leaked draft opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade* and the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, that killed two teachers and 19 children. According to court records, the suspect believed Kavanaugh would vote to further loosen gun laws, and said that killing the justice before turning the gun on himself would give his life purpose. The chilling incident is among a series of violent threats recently that have targeted political figures and comes amid a shifting landscape in which the share of partisans who think violence is sometimes justified to achieve political ends has grown significantly. “The idea that violence is legitimate for political purposes has moved into the mainstream,” said Robert Pape, a political science professor at the University of Chicago. “It’s still a minority. ... But if you’ve got 10 percent or 15 percent of a community that believes that violence is acceptable for some political causes, that just encourages more violence for those causes.”

A rash of recent violent threats against U.S. lawmakers has raised new concerns about the safety of political figures, particularly after the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe illustrated in the starkest possible terms the stakes of a heightened threat environment. And the Jan. 6 coup attempt served to remind Americans that the U.S. is not immune from the kind of political violence that is relatively common in some parts of the world. One recent high-profile incident came earlier this week when a man was arrested for allegedly threatening to kill Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), who leads the Congressional Progressive Caucus. According to law enforcement, officers discovered the suspect in the street outside Jayapal’s Seattle home on the evening of July 9 standing with his hands in the air and a handgun holstered on his waist. A neighbor told officers that they heard the man yell, “Go back to India, I’m going to kill you” and saw his vehicle drive by Jayapal’s residence about three times while he yelled profanities, according to legal records. The 48-year-old suspect was released from jail Wednesday after police were unable to adequately show he had made the alleged threats, according to the *Seattle Times*, which reported that law enforcement had obtained a court order requiring the man to surrender his guns, citing concerns about his mental health. Earlier this month, Rep. Adam Kinzinger (Ill.), one of two Republicans on the House Jan. 6 select committee, shared threatening letters and voicemails he’s received. “I hope you naturally die as quickly as f—ing possible,” one caller said. “Going to come protest in front of your house this weekend. We know who your family is and we’re going to get you,” another caller said. “Gonna get your wife, gonna get your kids.” The calls were compiled in a video that Kinzinger described in an accompanying tweet. “Threats of violence over politics has increased heavily in the last few years,” he wrote. “But the darkness has reached new lows.” According to Pape, the rising threat of violence that he and his colleagues at the Chicago Project on Security and Threats study is not exclusive to the political left or right, with Pape citing as examples the attempt on Kavanaugh’s life and the white supremacist mass shooting in May at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y.

Rather, the issue comprises multiple factors, which Pape analogized to a three-legged stool: These include an individual’s volatility and opportunity to inflict harm, as well as the degree of community support for politically inspired acts of violence. Although it’s difficult to pinpoint when sympathy for political violence began “seeping into the mainstream,” he said, “we can be confident that these community sentiments for violence are here today.” Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-Pa.) attributed much of the trend not only to former President Trump, who was well known for promoting violence at his rallies and continues to push lies about the election, but also to those Republicans in Congress who continue to defend the former president and his actions surrounding Jan. 6.

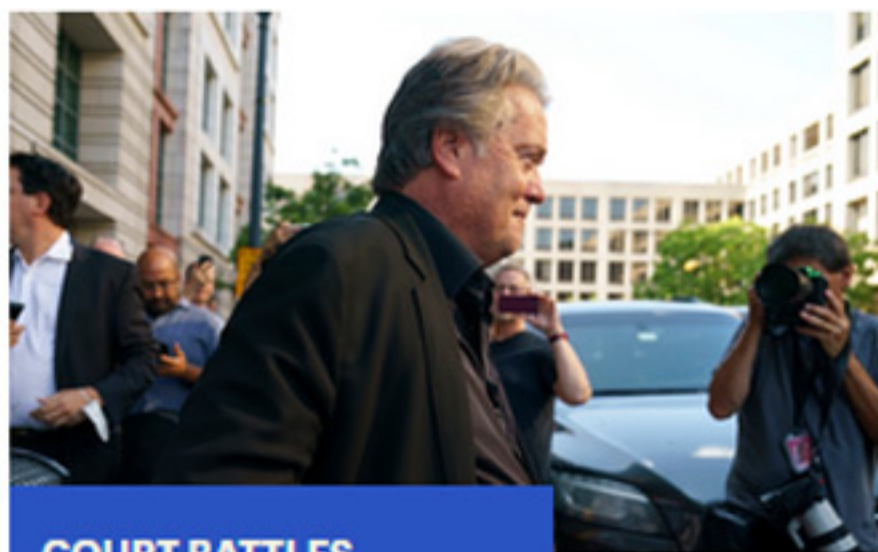
“Everybody gets threats these days, and it’s made worse by the fact that certain of our members fail to condemn political violence, particularly when it’s directed at the Capitol, the vice president, the Speaker,” Scanlon said. “I only came in in 2018, and the threats that I’ve received have always been in connection to the former president,” she continued. “Certainly we saw a coarsening of public dialogue, a willingness to throw around baseless accusations that the former president supported — modeled as behavior — and I would attribute much of it to his example to the country.” U.S. government agencies appear increasingly concerned about heightened risk of political hostility in America, as well as the international dimension of the problem. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has warned that violence in the U.S. is increasingly likely to be politically motivated, a trend that could collide with concerns over the threat from lone actors. In a June terrorism advisory bulletin, the agency noted a wide range of divisive topics, from abortion to the border, could be motivators for those likely to use violence to express discontent. It’s something already being played upon by foreign actors. **“Chinese, Iranian, Russian, and other foreign malign influence actors have sought to contribute to U.S. internal discord and weaken its focus and position internationally,”** DHS wrote. “These actors have amplified narratives that radicalized individuals have cited to justify violence, including conspiracy theories and false or misleading narratives promoting U.S. societal division.”

Rachel Kleinfeld, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told *The Hill* that the quantity of threats has risen considerably since 2016. “Violence and intimidation on the right started following the election cycle in 2016. And so we would see justifications for violence among regular people rising at the election period – 2016, 2018 at Trump’s impeachment – obviously at the different events leading up to certification over January 6,” she said. “There’s a sense that this violence is increasingly targeted at politics.” The authors of a recent book “*Radical American Partisanship: Mapping Violent Hostility, Its Causes, and the Consequences for Democracy*” found that the share of **partisans who say violence by their own party is at least a little justified to advance their party’s goals has risen steadily over recent years, up to around one in five.**

Nathan Kalmoe, a professor at Louisiana State University who co-authored the new book with professor Lilliana Mason of Johns Hopkins University, said that polling results varied depending how questions were worded and the severity of violence at issue. But the overall upward trend in public support is clear, he said. “Rising favorable views toward violence certainly elevate the risk of more threats and acts of violence against leaders,” Kalmoe said, “and **it creates a broader political environment that is more encouraging of extreme political actions.**”

More Regulation News

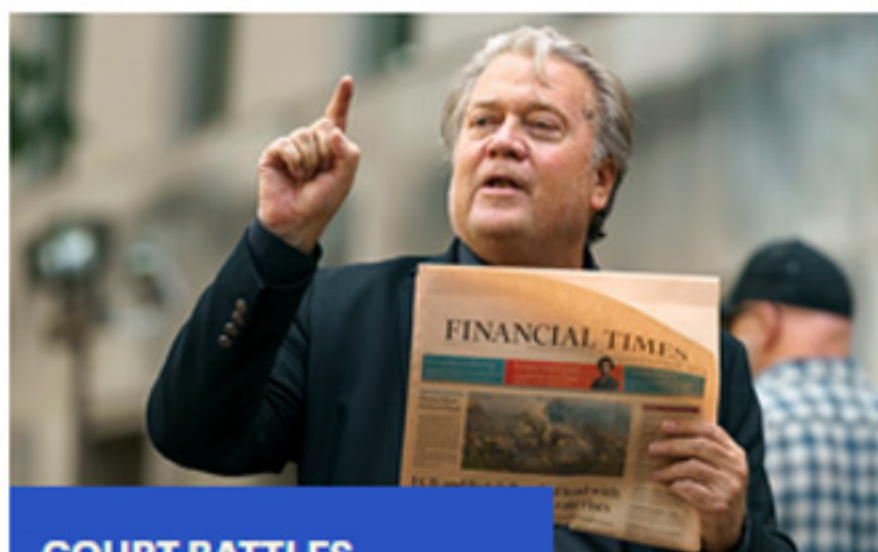
SEE ALL



COURT BATTLES

Prosecutors rest their case against Bannon after two witnesses testify

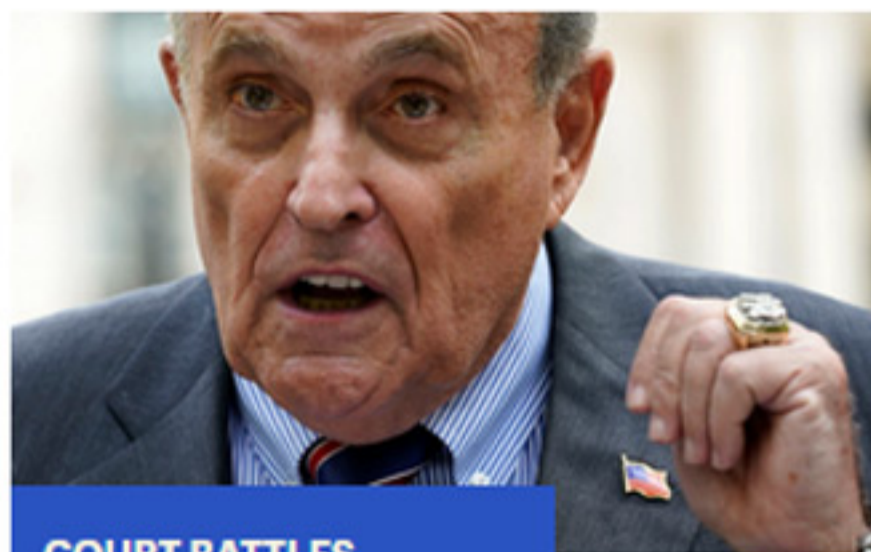
BY HARPER NEIDIG
14 HOURS AGO



COURT BATTLES

Judge warns against Bannon trial becoming 'political circus'

BY HARPER NEIDIG
21 HOURS AGO



COURT BATTLES

Giuliani ordered to testify in Georgia 2020 election probe

BY KATE BRUMBACK, ASSOCIATED PRESS
21 HOURS AGO



COURT BATTLES

Bannon attorney asks jurors to consider if contempt case 'affected by politics'

BY HARPER NEIDIG
2 DAYS AGO

Growing support for political violence raises alarms

BY JOHN KRUZEL AND REBECCA BEITSCH
07/16/22 5:00 PM ET



REGULATION



Harper Neidig
@hneidig

Legal affairs reporter for @thehill
1,476 Following 1,362 Followers

Food expiration dates don't have much science behind them – a food safety researcher explains another way to know what's too old to eat

Published: July 21, 2022 8.26am EDT

▼ [Jill Roberts](#), *University of South Florida*



Without obvious signs of contamination like the mold in this jam, consumers use expiration dates to decide whether to keep or throw away food. Ralf Geithe via iStock/Getty Images

Avoiding unseen food hazards is the reason people often check the dates on food packaging. And printed with the month and year is often one of a dizzying array of phrases: “best by,” “use by,” “best if used before,” “best if used by,” “guaranteed fresh until,” “freeze by” and even a “born on” label applied to some beer.

People think of them as expiration dates, or the date at which a food should go in the trash. But the dates have little to do with when food expires, or becomes less safe to eat. I am a microbiologist and public health researcher, and I have used molecular epidemiology to study the spread of bacteria in food. A more science-based product dating system could make it easier for people to differentiate foods they can safely eat from those that could be hazardous.

Scientific formula

Infant formula is the only food product with a “use by” date that is both government regulated and scientifically determined. It is routinely lab tested for contamination. But infant formula also undergoes nutrition tests to determine how long it takes the nutrients - particularly protein - to break down. To prevent malnutrition in babies, the “use by” date on baby formula indicates when it's no longer nutritious.

Nutrients in foods are relatively easy to measure. The FDA already does this regularly. The agency issues warnings to food producers when the nutrient contents listed on their labels don't match what FDA's lab finds. Microbial studies, like the ones we food safety researchers work on, are also a scientific approach to meaningful date labeling on foods. In our lab, a microbial study might involve leaving a perishable food out to spoil and measuring how much bacteria grows in it over time. Scientists also do another kind of microbial study by watching how long it takes microbes like listeria to grow to dangerous levels after intentionally adding the microbes to food to watch what they do, noting such details as growth in the amount of bacteria over time and [when there's enough to cause illness].

Consumers on their own

Determining the shelf life of food with scientific data on both its nutrition and its safety could drastically decrease waste and save money as food gets more expensive. But in the absence of a uniform food dating system, consumers could rely on their eyes and noses, deciding to discard the fuzzy bread, green cheese or off-smelling bag of salad. People could also might pay close attention to the dates for more perishable foods, like cold cuts, in which microbes grow easily. They can also find guidance at [FoodSafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov).



Expiration dates could be more meaningful if they were based on scientific studies of a food's rate of nutrient loss or microbial growth. Thomas Faul/iStock via Getty Images



Supreme Court reversed almost 200 years of US law and tradition upholding tribal sovereignty in its latest term

Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation Chuck Hoskin Jr. speaks in Tahlequah, Okla. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling is upending decades of law in support of tribes. AP Photo/Michael Woods

Published: July 21, 2022 8.25am EDT

▼ [Kirsten Matoy Carlson](#), *Wayne State University*

Over the past 50 years, Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court have increasingly diverged in how they view the laws that relate to Indian tribes. Congress has passed significant legislation that expands tribal governments' sovereignty and control over their land, while the Supreme Court has ignored and reversed long-standing principles of federal Indian law that protected tribal sovereignty and prevented the states from exercising authority in Indian country. This trend at the court was seen most recently in a ruling from late June, which, as one longtime court observer put it, wiped away "centuries of tradition and practice." Justice Neil Gorsuch scorned the ruling in his dissent: "Truly, a more ahistorical and mistaken statement of Indian law would be hard to fathom." From my perspective as an expert in federal Indian law, the most recent case is noteworthy because it says that states may exercise authority in Indian Country even without express congressional authorization. For centuries, that was not the case.

Here's the background: The U.S. Constitution gives Congress authority over Indian affairs, including the power to diminish and restore tribal powers. Since 1885, Congress has granted authority to federal prosecutors to try major crimes committed in Indian Country, such as murder and rape, in federal courts. Tribal governments can probably try these crimes, but Congress has limited the sentences tribal courts can impose on convicted offenders. As a result, the federal government has been the primary enforcer of criminal law in Indian Country for a long time. With limited exceptions, the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to say that the states do not have authority in Indian Country unless Congress expressly grants such authority. Congress has rarely authorized states to exercise authority in Indian Country, and it has required tribal consent before granting any such authority to a state since 1968.

The background to this allocation of authority is a long history of states' trying to usurp tribal sovereignty by asserting jurisdiction over Indians in Indian Country. States' early attempts to govern Indians led to violence and encouraged the Founding Fathers to grant all powers over Indian affairs to the federal government in the Constitution. **The latest case:** Yet on June 29, 2022, in *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta*, the Supreme Court ruled that Oklahoma could prosecute Manuel Castro-Huerta, a non-Indian, in a case of neglect and abuse of an Indian child on the Cherokee reservation. By ruling that Oklahoma may prosecute non-Indians for crimes committed against Indians in Indian Country, the court granted states authority in Indian Country, even though the relevant law does not expressly authorize states to do that. It was a serious blow to tribal governments across the nation.

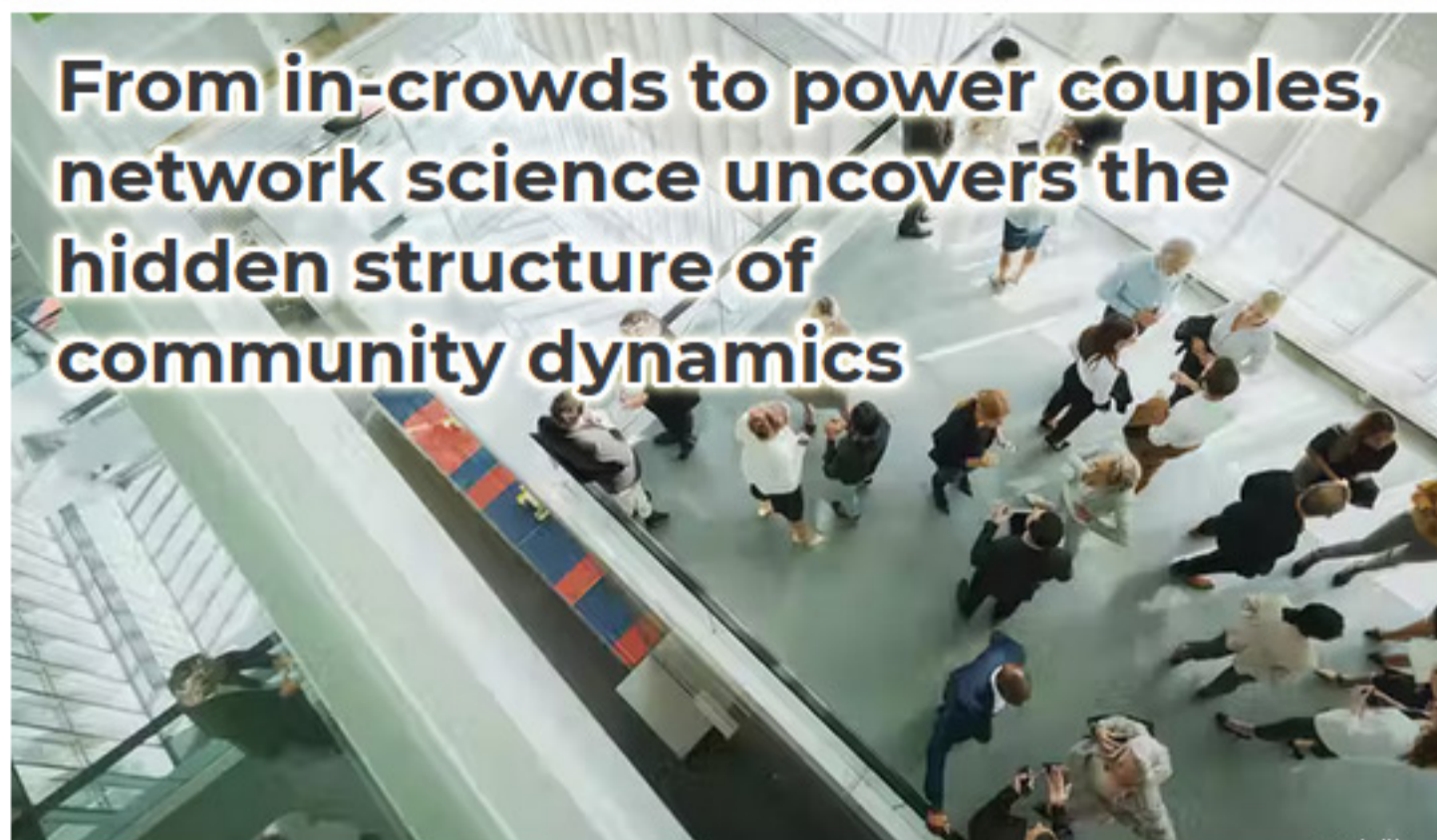
The Castro-Huerta case arose out of the state of Oklahoma's prosecution and conviction in 2015 of Castro-Huerta in the neglect of his legally blind and developmentally disabled 5-year-old Cherokee stepdaughter by severely undernourishing her. While his appeal was pending, the Supreme Court in 2020 decided *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, which held that the Muscogee Creek reservation in Oklahoma is Indian Country. That ruling meant that federal criminal laws applied to much of eastern Oklahoma as Indian Country and enabled the federal government – instead of the state of Oklahoma – to prosecute crimes committed by and against Indians there. Courts have since held that the lands in Oklahoma of five additional tribes – the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation, the Seminole Nation, the Chickasaw Nation and the Quapaw Nation – also remain Indian Country. This meant that the relevant law, enacted in 1817 and known as the General Crimes Act, extends federal criminal laws even farther into eastern Oklahoma and enables federal prosecution of crimes committed against Indians there.

In light of the *McGirt* decision, Castro-Huerta claimed that only the federal government had the authority to prosecute him, not the state, because his crimes occurred against an Indian within Indian country. Before this case, no state had argued that states, in addition to the federal government, had criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country under the General Crimes Act. Yet the state of Oklahoma made just this argument in response to Castro-Huerta's claims. It also actively resisted implementation of the *McGirt* decision and asked the Supreme Court to reverse it over 40 times. Conflicts between state and tribal governments are not new; states have long tried to assert power – often violently – over sovereign tribes. In 1790, the first Congress enacted the Trade and Intercourse Act, which confirmed federal government power over almost all aspects of Indian affairs. Criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country has been considered federal and tribal ever since, with only one limited exception, for crimes committed by non-Indians against non-Indians.

In 1832, the Supreme Court interpreted the U.S. Constitution as giving Indian affairs jurisdiction exclusively to the federal government and confirmed that state law had no force in Indian Country without specific congressional authorization. The majority in *Castro-Huerta* departs from this long-established premise, concluding that state jurisdiction should be presumed absent congressional action to preempt it. The court then rejected Castro-Huerta's claim that Oklahoma did not have jurisdiction over non-Indians committing crimes against Indians in Indian Country. The dissent presented a very different view. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that the U.S. Constitution, Congress and the court's own previous precedents treat tribes as separate sovereign governments. He focused on Congress, which has authorized only a few states – not including Oklahoma – to exercise criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country. Gorsuch concluded by calling on Congress to correct the outcome of the decision and restore the presumption that states do not have authority in Indian Country absent express congressional authorization.

Congress' support of sovereignty: *Castro-Huerta* is the most recent example of a growing divide between the Supreme Court and Congress over federal Indian law. As my research shows, Congress has actively remade federal Indian law over the past 50 years. Members of Congress introduced almost 8,000 bills related to Indian affairs from 1975 to 2012. Congress enacted almost 13% of them – double the percentage of bills enacted by Congress generally. Congress has supported tribal sovereignty through legislation that has promoted tribal legal systems, ensured tribes operate effective child welfare systems, treated tribes like states for tax and environmental purposes, entered into compacts with tribal governments to provide federal services to their communities, and restored tribal criminal jurisdiction over specific crimes committed by non-Indians in Indian Country. At the same time, it has refused to grant states authority in Indian Country absent tribal consent. The Supreme Court has repeatedly limited tribal sovereignty, often when confronted with conflicting state claims of authority. It has not deferred to Congress as the Constitution requires but has usurped lawmaking power for itself. The result has been confusion within federal Indian law and on the ground in Indian Country. Nowhere has this divide between the court and Congress' visions of federal Indian law been more evident than in the criminal law context. Congress has repeatedly limited Supreme Court decisions that interfere with its framework for criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country. In doing so, it has promoted tribal jurisdiction, not state jurisdiction, over alleged criminals in Indian Country.

As the primary lawmaker in the United States, Congress can enact laws to reverse or change certain Supreme Court decisions. In 1991, Congress overturned the court's decision in *Duro v. Reina* and recognized that tribal governments have criminal jurisdiction over non-member Indians. More recently, in 2013 and 2022, Congress started to reverse the court's decision in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Tribe* by restoring tribal authority over nine crimes committed by non-Indians in Indian Country. *Castro-Huerta* arose from a dispute between a state government and the federal and tribal governments but it reflects a larger conflict between Congress and the Supreme Court over federal Indian law. It is unlikely that the decision will resolve either. It may be time for Congress, as Gorsuch urges, to step back in. But even that may not end the conflict.



Can you tell who in this picture wields soft power? A new technique for analyzing networks can.

Published: July 21, 2022 8:24am EDT

Mayank Kejriwal, University of Southern California

The world is a networked place, literally and figuratively. The field of network science is used today to understand phenomena as diverse as the spread of misinformation, West African trade and protein-protein interactions in cells. Network science has uncovered several universal properties of complex social networks, which in turn has made it possible to learn details of particular networks. For example, the network consisting of the international financial corruption scheme uncovered by the Panama Papers investigation has an unusual lack of connections among its parts. But understanding the hidden structures of key elements of social networks, such as subgroups, has remained elusive. My colleagues and I have found two complex patterns in these networks that can help researchers better understand the hierarchies and dynamics of these elements. We found a way to detect powerful “inner circles” in large organizations simply by studying networks that map emails being sent among employees. We demonstrated the utility of our methods by applying them to the famous Enron network. Enron was an energy trading company that perpetrated fraud on a massive scale. Our study further showed that the method can potentially be used to detect people who wield enormous soft power in an organization regardless of their official title or position. This could be useful for historical, sociological and economic research, as well as government, legal and media investigations.

From pencil and paper to artificial intelligence: Sociologists have been constructing and studying smaller social networks in careful field experiments for at least 80 years, well before the advent of the internet and online social networks. The concept is so simple that it can be drawn on paper: Entities of interest – people, businesses, countries – are nodes represented as points, and relationships between pairs of nodes are links represented as lines drawn between the points. Using network science to study human societies and other complex systems took on new meaning in the late 1990s when researchers discovered some universal properties of networks. Some of these universal properties have since entered mainstream pop culture. One concept is the Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon, based on the famous empirical finding that any two people on Earth are six or fewer links apart. Similarly, versions of statements such as “the rich get richer” and “winner takes all” have also been replicated in some networks. These global properties, meaning ones applying to the entire network, seemingly emerge from the myopic and local actions of independent nodes. When I connect with someone on LinkedIn, I am certainly not thinking of the global consequences of my connection on the LinkedIn network. Yet my actions, along with those of many others, eventually lead to predictable, rather than random, outcomes about how the network will evolve. My colleagues and I have used network science to study human trafficking in the U.K., the structure of noise in artificial intelligence systems’ outputs, and financial corruption in the Panama Papers.

Groups have their own structure: Along with studying emergent properties like the Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon, researchers have also used network science to focus on problems such as community detection. Stated simply, can a set of rules, otherwise known as an algorithm, automatically discover groups or communities within a collection of people? Today there are hundreds, if not thousands, of community detection algorithms, some relying on advanced AI methods. They are used for many purposes, including finding communities of interest and uncovering malicious groups on social media. Such algorithms encode intuitive assumptions, such as the expectation that nodes belonging to the same group are more densely connected to one another than nodes belonging to different groups. Although an exciting line of work, community detection does not study the internal structure of communities. Should communities be thought of only as collections of nodes in networks? And what about communities that are small but particularly influential, such as inner circles and in-crowds?

Two hypothetical structures for influential groups: In a manner of speaking, you likely already have some inkling of the structure of very small groups in social networks. The truth of the adage that “a friend of my friend is also my friend” can be tested statistically in friendship networks by counting the number of triangles in the network and determining whether this number is higher than chance alone could explain. And indeed, many social network studies have been used to verify the claim. Unfortunately, the concept starts breaking down when extended to groups with more than three members. Although motifs have been well studied in both algorithmic computer science and biology, they have not been reliably linked to influential groups in real communication networks. Building on this tradition, my doctoral student Ke Shen and I found and presented two structures that seem elaborate but turn out to be quite common in real networks. The first structure extends the triangle, not by adding more nodes, but by directly adding triangles. Specifically, there is a central triangle that is flanked by other peripheral triangles. Importantly, the third person in any peripheral triangle must not be linked to the third person on the central triangle, thereby excluding them from the true inner circle of influence. The second structure is similar but assumes that there is no central triangle, and the inner circle is just a pair of nodes. A real-life example might be two co-founders of a startup like Sergey Brin and Larry Page of Google, or a power couple with joint interests, common in global politics, like Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Understanding influential groups in an infamous network: We tested our hypothesis on the Enron email network, which is well studied in network science, with nodes representing email addresses and links representing communication among those addresses. Despite being elaborate, not only were our proposed structures present in the network in greater numbers than chance alone would predict, but a qualitative analysis showed that there is merit to the claim that they represent influential groups.

The main characters in the Enron saga are well documented by now. Intriguingly, some of these characters do not seem to have had much official influence but may have wielded significant soft power. An example is Sherri Reinartz-Sera, who was the longtime administrative assistant of Jeffrey K. Skilling, the former chief executive of Enron. Unlike Skilling, Sera was only mentioned in a New York Times article following investigative reporting that took place during the course of the scandal. However, our algorithm discovered an influential group with Sera occupying a central position.

Dissecting power dynamics

Society has intricate structures at the levels of individuals, friendships and communities. In-crowds are not just ragtag groups of characters talking to one another, or a single ringleader calling all the shots. Many in-crowds, or influential groups, have a sophisticated structure.

While much still remains to be discovered about such groups and their influence, network science can help uncover their complexity.

Beloved monarch butterflies are now listed as endangered

July 21, 2022 - 9:52 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Monarch butterflies land on branches at Monarch Grove Sanctuary in Pacific Grove, Calif., in 2021.

The monarch butterfly fluttered a step closer to extinction Thursday, as scientists put the iconic orange-and-black insect on the endangered list because of its fast dwindling numbers. "It's just a devastating decline," said Stuart Pimm, an ecologist at Duke University who was not involved in the new listing. "This is one of the most recognizable butterflies in the world."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature added the migrating monarch butterfly for the first time to its "red list" of threatened species and categorized it as "endangered" — two steps from extinct.

The group estimates that the population of monarch butterflies in North America has declined between 22% and 72% over 10 years, depending on the measurement method. "What we're worried about is the rate of decline," said Nick Haddad, a conservation biologist at Michigan State University. "It's very easy to imagine how very quickly this butterfly could become even more imperiled."

Haddad, who was not directly involved in the listing, estimates that the population of monarch butterflies he studies in the eastern United States has declined between 85% and 95% since the 1990s.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature added the migrating monarch butterfly for to its "red list" of threatened species and categorized it as "endangered" — two steps from extinct.

- **What happened to the butterflies? Climate and deforestation threaten monarch migration**
- **Monarch butterflies born in captivity have trouble migrating south, study says**

In North America, millions of monarch butterflies undertake the longest migration of any insect species known to science. After wintering in the mountains of central Mexico, the butterflies migrate to the north, breeding multiple generations along the way for thousands of miles. The offspring that reach southern Canada then begin the trip back to Mexico at the end of summer. "It's a true spectacle and incites such awe," said Anna Walker, a conservation biologist at New Mexico BioPark Society, who was involved in determining the new listing.

A smaller group spends winters in coastal California, then disperses in spring and summer across several states west of the Rocky Mountains. This population has seen an even more precipitous decline than the eastern monarchs, although there was a small bounce back last winter.



The Xerces Society @xercessociety · 4h

...

Migratory monarch butterfly now Endangered - IUCN Red List

Emma Pelton of the nonprofit Xerces Society, which monitors the western butterflies, said the butterflies are imperiled by loss of habitat and increased use of herbicides and pesticides for agriculture, as well as climate change. "There are things people can do to help," she said, including planting milkweed, a plant that the caterpillars depend upon. Nonmigratory monarch butterflies in Central and South America were not designated as endangered.

The United States has not listed monarch butterflies under the Endangered Species Act, but several environmental groups believe it should be listed.

Beloved monarch butterflies are now listed as endangered

July 21, 2022



out my front door

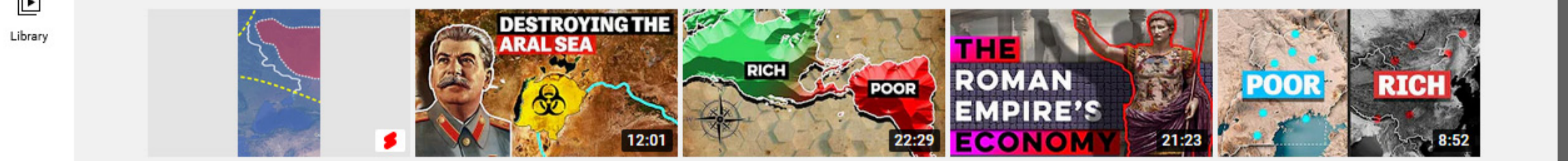


out my front door





How Norway Got Insanely Rich 1.6M views • 2 weeks ago CC
Why Sri Lanka's Economy is Collapsing : The First of... 287K views • 1 month ago CC
Why Venezuela's Economy is so Terrible 639K views • 3 months ago CC
Russia China Talks #shorts 656K views • 4 months ago CC
How Putin's Invasion is Changing China Forever 547K views • 4 months ago CC



Why does Russia want Ukraine #shorts 5.4M views • 5 months ago CC
Destroying Nature for Economic Growth 315K views • 6 months ago CC
Why Is Latin America still Poor 3.5M views • 6 months ago CC
Roman Style Economics was Insane and Here's Why. 752K views • 7 months ago CC
Why Africa Will Stay Poor 802K views • 7 months ago CC



Why Botswana is the Fastest Growing Economy Ever 493K views • 8 months ago CC
Soviet Style Economics is Insane and Here's Why. 1.3M views • 8 months ago CC

CASUAL SCHOLAR Casual Scholar 135K subscribers
The Ultimate channel For Economics, History, Geopolitics, and more.
Joined Oct 15, 2021
16,417,361 views

← **Grant Hurst** 🇺🇸 🇩🇪
5,500 Tweets



Follow

Grant Hurst 🇺🇸 🇩🇪
@GrantGHurst

Lutheran. Owner of the @CasualHistorian YouTube channel. Business contact grantghurst@gmail.com. Twitter is being extra stupid right now, so I'm taking a break.

📍 California, USA 🔗 youtube.com/granthurst 📅 Joined September 2012

297 Following 632 Followers



My name is Grant Hurst. I am an independent historian, YouTuber, and recovering activist. I received a BA in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Modesto Junior College, and a Bachelor's Degree in History from the California State University of Stanislaus. I have dabbled in making YouTube videos since 2007, with my current channel coming into being in 2013. I tried numerous styles of videos until I stumbled upon history. In the process of making videos I have learned how to research, write, and edit video and audio. Every video, article, and podcast you find here are (with the exception of the Casual Historian Podcast) one man projects.

For years I was an activist for the Republican Party. I was a member of my Junior College's chapter of the College Republicans, serving in nearly every officer role the club had to offer. I represented my chapter at larger statewide meetings of the CRs, as well as at the meetings of the local GOP. I have served as a voting member of the Stanislaus County Republican Party Central Committee, where I helped craft part of the organization's charter. I have volunteered on numerous campaigns, knocking on doors and phone banking for Mayoral, State legislative, and Congressional offices.

I retired from political activism in 2016 when I saw US national politics heading in a direction I didn't like. At that point I decided to focus on my studies, and start getting serious about YouTube, podcasting, and everything else I'm doing now.

Casual Historian
76.7K subscribers



My name is Grant, and welcome to Casual Historian. I make videos about stuff that not only your history classes probably aren't going to teach you, but other educational channels won't either. I cover interesting and niches subjects of history. The "Casual" in my channel name isn't in reference to what I cover or, but how I cover it. I think educational content should be understandable by everyone, and you shouldn't need a PHD to do so.

Joined Mar 4, 2013

6,741,064 views



This direct air capture plant in Iceland was designed to capture 4,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. Climeworks 2021 via AP Photos

How not to solve the climate change problem

Published: July 20, 2022 12.08am EDT

Kevin Trenberth, University of Auckland

How much does all this cost?

Scientists have been measuring carbon dioxide at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, since 1958 and elsewhere. The average annual increase in carbon dioxide concentration has accelerated, from about 1 part per million by volume per year in the 1960s to 1.5 in the 1990s, to 2.5 in recent years since 2010.

This relentless increase, through the pandemic and in spite of efforts in many countries to cut emissions, shows how enormous the problem is.



World Resources Inst

@WorldResources

Addressing earth's biggest challenges in food, forests, water, ocean, cities, energy and climate through business, equity, economics and finance.

16.8K Following 195.2K Followers

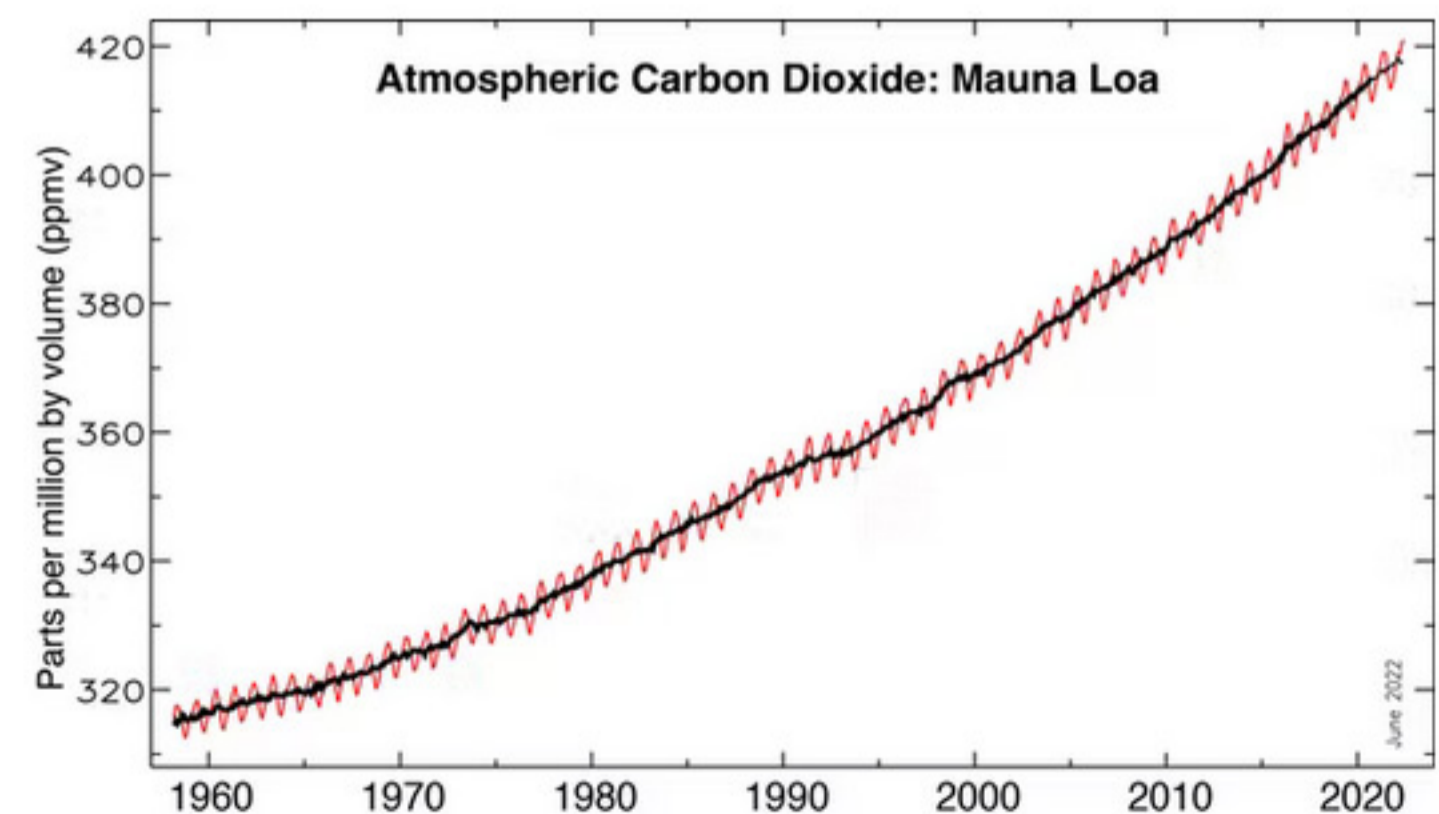
According to the *World Resources Institute*, the range of costs for direct air capture vary between US\$250 and \$600 per metric ton of carbon dioxide removed today, depending on the technology, energy source and scale of deployment. Even if costs fell to \$100 per metric ton, the cost of reducing the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide by 1 part per million is around \$780 billion.

Keep in mind that the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere has risen from about 280 parts per million before the industrial era to around 420 today, and it is currently rising at more than 2 parts per million per year.

Tree restoration on one-third to two-thirds of suitable acres is estimated to be able to remove about 7.4 gigatons of carbon dioxide by 2050 without displacing agricultural land, by WRI's calculations. That would be more than any other pathway. This might sound like a lot, but 7 gigatons of carbon dioxide is 7 billion metric tons, and so this is less than 1 part per million by volume. The cost is estimated to be up to \$50 per metric ton. So even with trees, the cost to remove 1 part per million by volume could be as much as \$390 billion.

Geoengineering is also expensive. **So for hundreds of billions of dollars, the best prospect with these strategies is a tiny dent of 1 part per million by volume in the carbon dioxide concentration.**

This arithmetic highlights the tremendous need to cut emissions. There is no viable workaround.



Carbon dioxide concentrations at Mauna Loa, Hawaii. The monthly mean, in red, rises and falls with the growing seasons. The black line is adjusted for the average seasonal cycle. Kevin Trenberth, based on NOAA data, CC BY-ND

Global Forest Watch



What We Do

WRI is a global research organization that works with governments, businesses, multilateral institutions and civil society groups to develop practical solutions that improve people's lives and ensure nature can thrive. We organize our work around seven global challenges: Food, Forests, Water, Energy, Climate, the Ocean and Cities. We analyze these issues through the lenses of our four Centers of Excellence: Business, Economics, Finance and Equity.



World Resources Inst @WorldResources · 5h
The One Soul One Tree campaign in Surabaya, Indonesia protected 5,000 #mangrove trees and encouraged residents to harvest their syrup as a new source of income.

Learn more about creating greener, more inclusive cities



wri.org
Green Space: An Underestimated Tool to Create More Equal Cities
The correlation between urban tree cover and income is w...

3 3

Insights

What's Needed to Modernize America's Electricity Grid?



World Resources Inst @WorldResources

Addressing earth's biggest challenges in food, forests, water, ocean, cities, energy and climate through business, equity, economics and finance.

16.8K Following 195.2K Followers

Featured Statement

JUNE 30, 2022

US Supreme Court Curtails EPA's Authority to Regulate Power Plant Emissions

The ruling "will result in higher costs and worse air pollution across the United States," said WRI US Director Dan Lashof.

Pinned Tweet



World Resources Inst @WorldResources · Jul 11
Building "15-minute communities," where basic needs like good schools and fresh foods are within a 15-minute walk or bike ride, is one way for cities to reduce transportation emissions.

Learn more about the future of low-carbon cities



wri.org
For Vibrant US Cities, Invest in Multi-modal Transportation

1 60 155



World Resources Inst @WorldResources · 1h
With 2°C in global temperature rise, 37% of the world's population can expect to face severe heat at least once every five years.

Every fraction of a degree makes a world of difference.

HALF A DEGREE OF WARMING MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE:
EXPLAINING IPCC'S 1.5°C SPECIAL REPORT

HALF A DEGREE OF WARMING MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE: EXPLAINING IPCC'S 1.5°C SPECIAL REPORT

Ukraine invasion — explained

A deal for Ukraine grain exports is due to be sealed in Istanbul

July 22, 2022 · 4:49 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A cargo ship anchored in the Marmara Sea awaits access to the Bosphorus Straits in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 13, 2022.

Khalil Hamra/AP

ISTANBUL — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan were due on Friday to oversee the signing of a key agreement that would allow Ukraine to resume its shipment of grain from the Black Sea to world markets and Russia to export grain and fertilizers — ending a standoff that has threatened world food security.

Last week, the sides reached a tentative agreement on a U.N. plan that would enable Ukraine to export 22 million tons of desperately needed grain and other agricultural products that have been stuck in Ukraine's Black Sea ports due to the war. The unblocking of the grain stockpiles will help ease a food crisis that has sent prices of vital commodities like wheat and barley soaring.

The deal foresees the establishment of a control center in Istanbul, to be staffed by U.N., Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian officials, which would run and coordinate the grain exports, officials have said. Ships would be inspected to ensure that they are carrying grains and fertilizer and not weapons. It also makes provision for the safe passage of the ships.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion and a blockade of its ports have halted their shipment.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. welcomes the agreement in principle. "But what we're focusing on now is holding Russia accountable for implementing this agreement and for enabling Ukrainian grain to get to world markets. It has been for far too long that Russia has enacted this blockade," Price said.

Ukraine invasion — explained

A deal for Ukraine grain exports is due to be sealed in Istanbul

July 22, 2022 · 4:49 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

July 23, 2022 · 6:43 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

Russia strikes Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa just hours after a grain deal is signed

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry denounced Saturday's strike as "spit in the face" of Turkey and the United Nations, which brokered the grain export agreements.

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian missiles hit Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa hours after Moscow and Kyiv signed deals to allow grain exports to resume from there. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry denounced Saturday's strike as "spit in the face" of Turkey and the United Nations, which brokered the agreements.

ISTANBUL — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan were due on Friday to oversee the signing of a key agreement that would allow Ukraine to resume its shipment of grain from the Black

— ending a stand-

plan that would
d grain and other
ea ports due to
food crisis that
ing.

stanbul, to be staffed
run and coordinate
to ensure that
makes provision



Nariman El-Mofty/AP

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion and a blockade of its ports have halted their shipment.

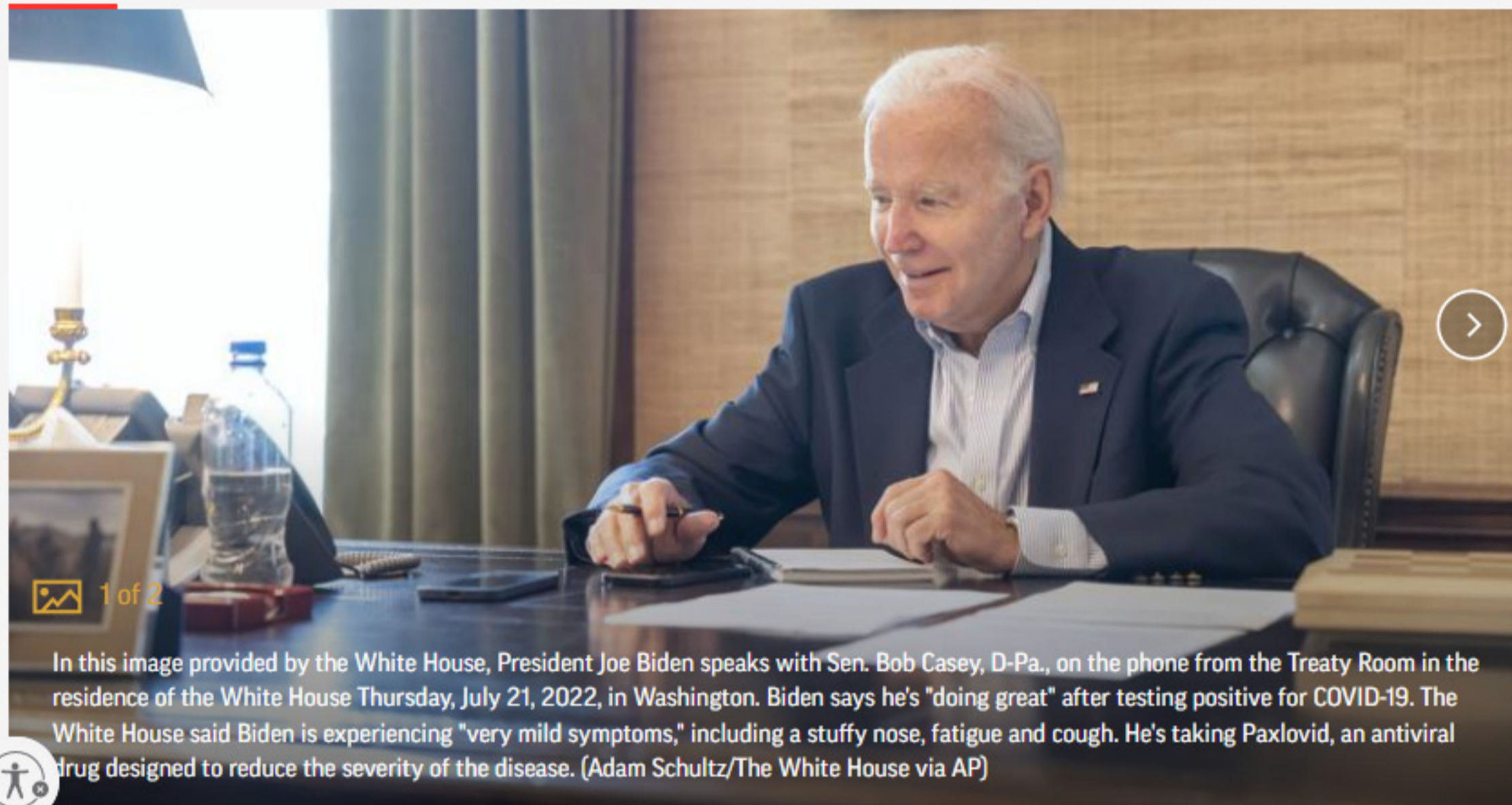
In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. welcomes the agreement in principle. "But what we're focusing on now is holding Russia accountable for implementing this agreement and for enabling Ukrainian grain to get to world markets. It has been for far too long that Russia has enacted this blockade," Price said.

A cargo ship anchored in the Marmara Sea awaits access to the Bosphorus Straits in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 13, 2022.

Khalil Hamra/AP

White House tries to make Biden's COVID a 'teachable moment'

By WILL WEISSERT and CHRIS MEGERIAN 42 minutes ago



WASHINGTON (AP) — For more than a year, President Joe Biden's ability to avoid the coronavirus seemed to defy the odds. When he finally did test positive, the White House was ready. It set out to turn the diagnosis into a "teachable moment" and dispel any notion of a crisis.

"The president does what every other person in America does every day, which is he takes reasonable precautions against COVID but does his job," White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain told MSNBC late in the afternoon on Thursday.

It was a day that began with Biden's COVID-19 results and included repeated assurances over the coming hours that the president was hard at work while isolating in the residential areas of the White House with "very mild symptoms" including a runny nose, dry cough and fatigue.

Biden, in a blazer and Oxford shirt, recorded a video from the White House balcony telling people: "I'm doing well, getting a lot of work done. And, in the meantime, thanks for your concern. And keep the faith. It's going to be OK."

"Keeping busy!" he also tweeted.

On Friday, Biden was scheduled to meet virtually with his economic team and senior advisors to discuss congressional priorities.

It was all part of an administration effort to shift the narrative from a health scare to a display of Biden as the personification of the idea that most Americans can get COVID and recover without too much suffering and disruption if they've gotten their shots and taken other important steps to protect themselves.

Jan. 6 hearing dominates top TV networks – except one

By DAVID BAUDER today



A video of President Donald Trump recording a statement on Jan. 7, 2021, is played, as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds a hearing at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, July 21, 2022. (Al Drago/Pool via AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — America’s top television networks on Thursday turned prime time over to a gripping account of former President Donald Trump’s actions during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol — with one prominent exception.

The top-rated news network, Fox News Channel, stuck with its own lineup of commentators. Sean Hannity denounced the “show trial” elsewhere on TV just as he was featured in it, with the House’s Jan. 6 committee examining his tweets to Trump administration figures.

Hannity aired a soundless snippet of committee members entering the hearing room as part of a lengthy monologue condemning the proceedings.

That was all Fox News Channel viewers saw of the hearing.

“It’s really just a cheap, selectively edited political ad,” Hannity told his viewers.

Meanwhile, ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, CNN and MSNBC aired the second prime-time hearing, focusing on Trump’s real-time response to the riot. The committee said it was the last hearing until September.

“This very much sounded like a closing argument, certainly of this chapter of their investigation, and it was profound,” ABC News anchor David Muir said.

About 20 million people watched the first prime-time hearing on June 9, the Nielsen Company said. Generally, reaching that big an audience in mid-July would be a long shot, as it is the least-watched television month of the year.

SEAN HANNITY TEXT TO MARK MEADOWS

SEAN HANNITY JAN 6, 2021 3:31 PM

Can he make a statement. I saw the tweet. Ask people to peacefully leave the capital.

SEAN HANNITY TEXT TO KAYLEIGH MCENANY

SEAN HANNITY JAN 7, 2021 7:37 PM

- 1- No more stolen election talk.
- 2- Yes, impeachment and 25 th amendment are real, and many people will quit.
- 3- He was intrigued by the Pardon idea!! (Hunter)
- 4- Resistant but listened to Pence thoughts, to make it right.
- 5- Seemed to like attending Inauguration talk.



ozone air purifier crackling



[All](#) [Shopping](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Tools](#)

About 1,840,000 results (0.55 seconds)

Moisture in the air can condense on the electrodes and electrode wires and short-circuit the system. When this happens, the pops can occur so closely together that they turn into a crackling sound. You can stop the crackling by unplugging the machine and wiping the electrodes and wires with a dry rag.

<https://www.hunker.com> > ... > Appliance Repair

[Troubleshooting Air Purifiers - Hunker](#)



ozone air purifier side effects



[All](#) [Shopping](#) [News](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [More](#) [Tools](#)

About 1,080,000 results (0.54 seconds)

Relatively low amounts of ozone can cause **chest pain, coughing, shortness of breath and, throat irritation.** It may also worsen chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma as well as compromise the ability of the body to fight respiratory infections.

<https://www.epa.gov> > indoor-air-quality-iaq > ozone-gen...

[Ozone Generators that are Sold as Air Cleaners | US EPA](#)

Ozone is a powerful oxidant (far more so than dioxygen) and has many industrial and consumer applications related to oxidation. This same high oxidizing potential, however, causes ozone to damage mucous and respiratory tissues in animals, and also tissues in plants, above concentrations of about 0.1 ppm. While this makes ozone a potent respiratory hazard and pollutant near ground level, a higher concentration in the ozone layer (from two to eight ppm) is beneficial, preventing damaging UV light from reaching the Earth's surface.

Ozone is created naturally in the Earth's stratosphere, but is also created in the troposphere from human efforts.



COVID booster effectiveness wanes after 3 months, study shows

Data in a new clinical trial was consistent with real-world reports showing waning protection against COVID-19 infection during the Omicron wave in people who received vaccines and a booster.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF Published: JULY 21, 2022 03:55

Updated: JULY 21, 2022 13:07



COVID-19 vaccines have successfully prevented hospitalizations and deaths, but a new study confirms that the antibody levels they provide decrease substantially within three months.

The research, conducted in a clinical trial by the National Institutes of Health, was published Tuesday in Cell Reports Medicine. It looked specifically at the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which has been notoriously tricky, evading the body's defenses from prior vaccinations in a way earlier variants had not been able to and causing the extremely aggressive fifth wave of the pandemic at the end of 2021.

To test the theory, investigators administered COVID-19 booster vaccines to adults in the United States who had previously received a primary COVID-19 vaccination series under Emergency Use Authorization. Some participants received the same vaccine as their initial series, while others received a different vaccine. Their immune responses were watched over a period of time.

Booster shots crucial

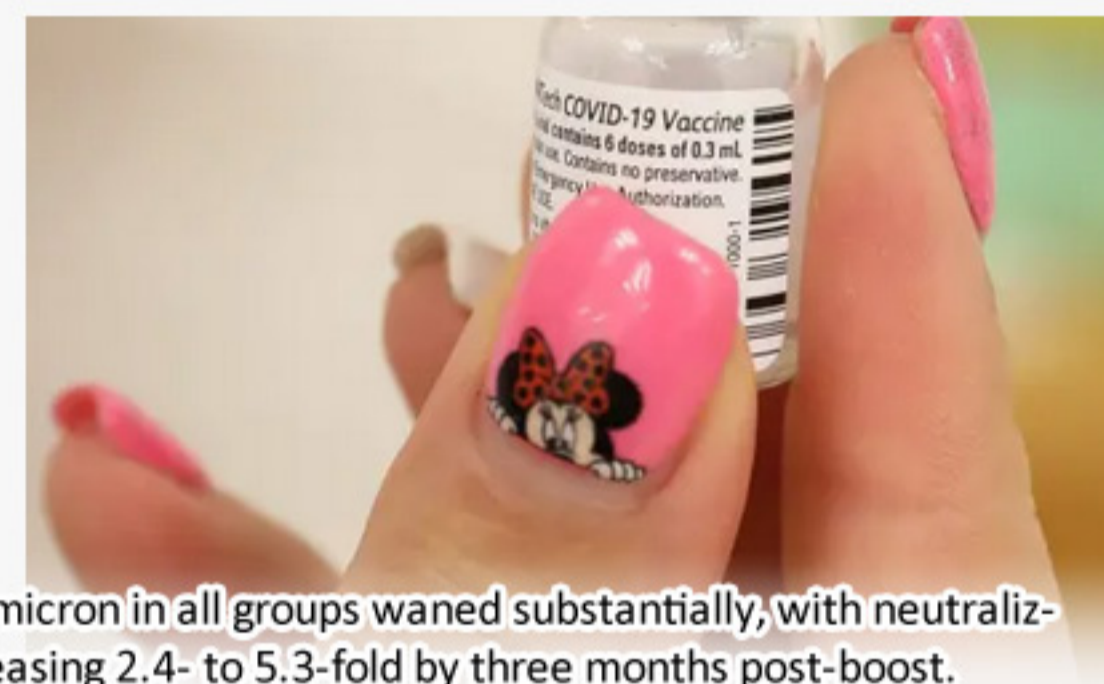
Despite short-lived protection, coronavirus vaccine boosters are crucial in order to maintain the body's immunity to infection, a different study, also published this week, said.

COVID-19 booster shots are crucial, according to a Yale study

New study by Yale, UNC, shows that peak antibody levels achieved by getting vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine exceed those gained from natural infection.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF Published: JULY 16, 2022 12:21

Updated: JULY 18, 2022 12:32



Study results

Immune responses to Omicron in all groups waned substantially, with neutralizing antibody levels decreasing 2.4- to 5.3-fold by three months post-boost.

Researchers said that the data was consistent with real-world reports showing waning protection against coronavirus infection during the Omicron wave in people who received a primary vaccine series plus a booster shot. They noted that the findings could be used to inform decisions regarding future vaccine schedule recommendations, including the need for variant vaccine boosting.

Booster shots crucial

Despite short-lived protection, coronavirus vaccine boosters are crucial in order to maintain the body's immunity to infection, a different study, also published this week, said.

The new study by the Yale School of Public Health showed that peak antibody levels achieved by getting vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine exceed those gained from natural infection, meaning that those vaccinated are more protected from reinfection than those who are not vaccinated and have healed from COVID-19. The Yale study notes that one must keep up with booster shots because of waning.



'Bees are really highly intelligent': the insect IQ tests causing a buzz among scientists *i*

We all know these busy insects are good for crops and biodiversity, but proof is emerging that they are also clever, sentient and unique beings



Donna Ferguson

Sat 16 Jul 2022 12.00 EDT

"We now have suggestive evidence that there is some level of conscious awareness in bees – that there is a sentience, that they have emotion-like states," says Lars Chittka, professor of sensory and behavioural ecology at Queen Mary University of London. Chittka has been studying bees for 30 years and is considered one of the world's leading experts on bee sensory systems and cognition. In his latest book, *The Mind of a Bee*, published on 19 July, he argues that bees need our protection, not just because they are useful for crop pollination and biodiversity, but because they may be sentient beings – and humans have an ethical obligation to ensure their survival. "Our work and that of other labs has shown that bees are really highly intelligent individuals. That they can count, recognise images of human faces and learn simple tool use and abstract concepts."

Dr Jonathan Birch is leading a project on animal sentience at the London School of Economics: "My own view is it's more likely than not that bees are sentient." More evidence is needed, he said, but in the past, academics have not bothered to even ask these questions about insects. "And now they are starting to." He thinks the level of sophisticated cognition bees exhibit means it's unlikely they do not feel any emotions at all. "Sentience is about the capacity to have feelings," he says. "And what we're seeing now is some evidence that there are these ... emotion-like states in bees."

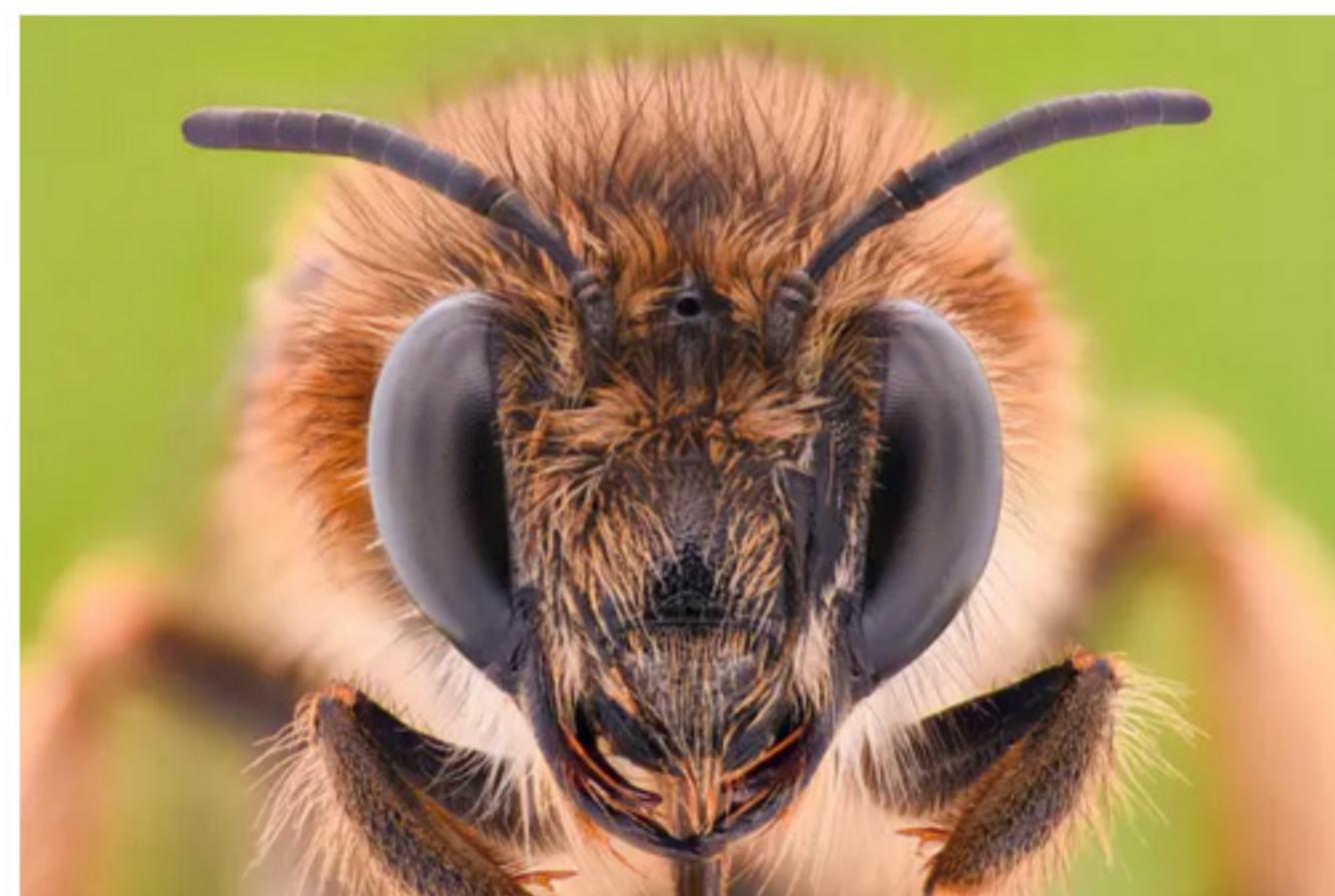
Chittka himself is "pretty convinced" that bees are sentient beings. "We're exposing them to challenges that no bee has ever encountered in its evolutionary history. And they're solving them."

A rich and surprising exploration of the intelligence of bees



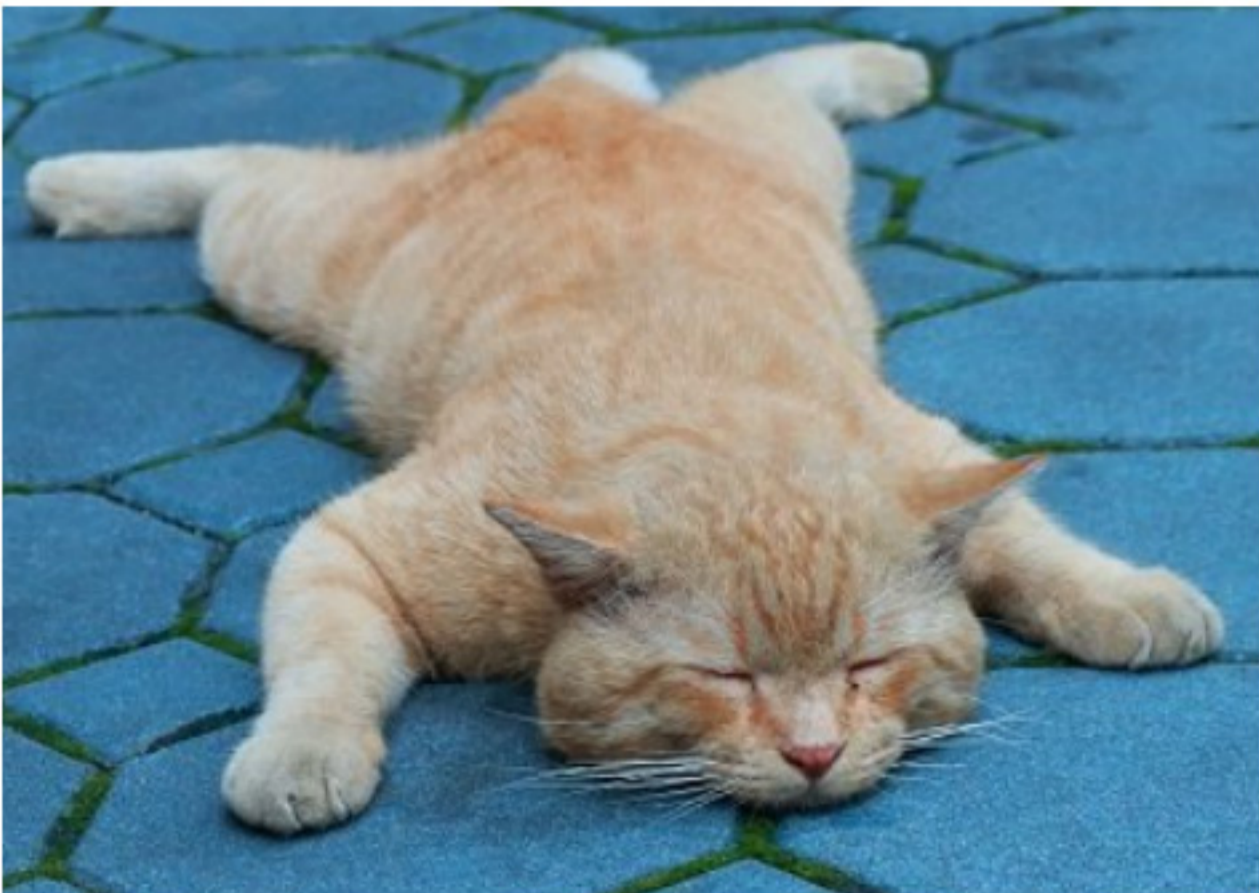
Most of us are aware of the hive mind—the power of bees as an amazing collective. But do we know how uniquely intelligent bees are as individuals? In *The Mind of a Bee*, Lars Chittka draws from decades of research, including his own pioneering work, to argue that bees have remarkable cognitive abilities. He shows that they are profoundly smart, have distinct personalities, can recognize flowers and human faces, exhibit basic emotions, count, use simple tools, solve problems, and learn by observing others. They may even possess consciousness.

Taking readers deep into the sensory world of bees, Chittka illustrates how bee brains are unparalleled in the animal kingdom in terms of how much sophisticated material is packed into their tiny nervous systems. He looks at their innate behaviors and the ways their evolution as foragers may have contributed to their keen spatial memory. Chittka also examines the psychological differences between bees and the ethical dilemmas that arise in conservation and laboratory settings because bees feel and think. Throughout, he touches on the fascinating history behind the study of bee behavior. Exploring an insect whose sensory experiences rival those of humans, *The Mind of a Bee* reveals the singular abilities of some of the world's most incredible creatures.



📷 Once one bee is trained, the skill spreads swiftly to the whole colony.

Splooting: when an animal lay on their stomachs with their hind legs stretched outward or behind them and flat, a tried-and-true method for staying cool.



Friday, July 22, 2022



As already mentioned, squatters' rights in California **require a squatter to have occupied a property for at least 5 years**. It also goes without saying that the entire five years must be uninterrupted. In other words, the squatter must not have abandoned the unit at any point during their 5-year occupation.

<https://www.peakresidential.com> › [california-squatters-rights](#) ⋮

Squatter's Rights California - a Guide to CA Adverse ...



S
Q
U
A
T
T
I
N
G

Squatting is the action of occupying an abandoned or unoccupied area of land or a building, usually residential, that the **squatter** does not [own](#), [rent](#) or [otherwise have lawful permission to use](#). The [United Nations](#) estimated in 2003 that there were one billion slum residents and squatters globally. Squatting occurs worldwide and tends to occur when people who are poor and homeless find empty buildings or land to occupy for housing. It has a long history, broken down by country below.

In [developing countries](#) and [least developed countries](#), [shanty towns](#) often begin as squatted settlements. In African cities such as [Lagos](#) much of the population lives in [slums](#). There are [pavement dwellers](#) in India and in Hong Kong as well as [rooftop slums](#). [Informal settlements](#) in Latin America are known by names such as [villa miseria](#) (Argentina), [pueblos jóvenes](#) (Peru) and [asentamientos irregulares](#) (Guatemala, Uruguay). In Brazil, there are [favelas](#) in the major cities and land-based movements.

In [industrialized countries](#), there are often residential squats and also political squatting movements, which can be [anarchist](#), [autonomist](#) or [socialist](#) in nature, for example in the [self-managed social centres of Italy](#) or [squats in the United States](#).

Oppositional movements from the 1960s and 1970s created freespaces in Denmark or squatting village in the [Netherlands](#), and in [England and Wales](#), there were estimated to be 50,000 squatters in the late 1970s. Each local situation determines the context: in Athens, Greece, there are [refugee squats](#); Germany has social centres; in [Spain](#) there are many squats.



Abahlali baseMjondolo protest in Durban

How long do you have to squat in a house to own it in California? ^

In California, it takes **5 years** of continuous use or maintenance for a squatter to make an adverse possession claim (CCP § 318, 325). When a squatter claims adverse possession, they can gain ownership of the property legally. Jan 20, 2022

<https://ipropertymanagement.com> › [laws](#) › [california-sq...](#) ▾

Squatter's Rights California [2022]: Adverse Possession Laws

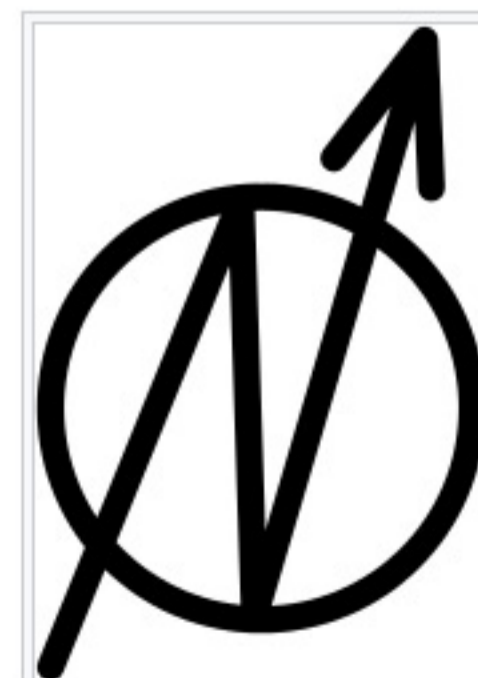
Is squatting illegal in California? ▾

What state has best squatters rights? ▾

Can police remove squatters? ▾

Why are squatters protected? ^

Why Do Squatters Have Rights? The main goal of squatters' rights is **to discourage the use of vigilante justice**. If landowners were allowed to use violence or the threat of violence to evict a squatter, the situation could quickly escalate and become dangerous.



The international squatters' symbol

Adverse possession ⋮

Adverse possession, sometimes colloquially described as "squatter's rights", is a legal principle in the Anglo-American common law under which a person who does not have legal title to a piece of ... [Wikipedia](#)

Books On Adverse Possession



Adverse Possession Adverse Possession - A Practi... Adverse Possession: First Sup... Adverse Possession: A Space...



Video cameras on city streets are only the most visible way your movements can be tracked. AP Photo/Mel

Surveillance is pervasive: Yes, you are being watched, even if no one is looking for you

Published: July 22, 2022 8:31am EDT

▼ [Peter Krapp](#), *University of California, Irvine*

The U.S. has the largest number of surveillance cameras per person in the world. Cameras are omnipresent on city streets and in hotels, restaurants, malls and offices. They're also used to screen passengers for the Transportation Security Administration. And then there are smart doorbells and other home security cameras. Most Americans are aware of video surveillance of public spaces. Likewise, most people know about online tracking – and want Congress to do something about it. But as a researcher who studies digital culture and secret communications, I believe that to understand how pervasive surveillance is, it's important to recognize how physical and digital tracking work together. Databases can correlate location data from smartphones, the growing number of private cameras, license plate readers on police cruisers and toll roads, and facial recognition technology, so if law enforcement wants to track where you are and where you've been, they can. They need a warrant to use cellphone search equipment: Connecting your device to a mobile device forensic tool lets them extract and analyze all your data if they have a warrant. However, private data brokers also track this kind of data and help surveil citizens – without a warrant. There is a large market for personal data, compiled from information people volunteer, information people unwittingly yield – for example, via mobile apps – and information that is stolen in data breaches. Among the customers for this largely unregulated data are federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

How you are tracked: Whether or not you pass under the gaze of a surveillance camera or license plate reader, you are tracked by your mobile phone. GPS tells weather apps or maps your location, Wi-Fi uses your location, and cell-tower triangulation tracks your phone. Bluetooth can identify and track your smartphone, and not just for COVID-19 contact tracing, Apple's "Find My" service, or to connect headphones. People volunteer their locations for ride-sharing or for games like Pokemon Go or Ingress, but apps can also collect and share location without your knowledge. Many late-model cars feature telematics that track locations – for example, OnStar or Bluelink. All this makes opting out impractical. The same thing is true online. Most websites feature ad trackers and third-party cookies, which are stored in your browser whenever you visit a site. They identify you when you visit other sites so advertisers can follow you around. Some websites also use key logging, which monitors what you type into a page before hitting submit. Similarly, session recording monitors mouse movements, clicks, scrolling and typing, even if you don't click "submit." Ad trackers know when you browsed where, which browser you used, and what your device's internet address is. Google and Facebook are among the main beneficiaries, but there are many data brokers slicing and dicing such information by religion, ethnicity, political affiliations, social media profiles, income and medical history for profit.

Private data brokers also track this kind of data and help surveil citizens – without a warrant. There is a large market for personal data, compiled from information people volunteer, information people unwittingly yield – for example, via mobile apps – and information that is stolen in data breaches.

Big Brother in the 21st century: People may implicitly consent to some loss of privacy in the interest of perceived or real security – for example, in stadiums, on the road and at airports, or in return for cheaper online services. But these trade-offs benefit individuals far less than the companies aggregating data. Many Americans are suspicious of government censuses, yet they willingly share their jogging routines on apps like Strava, which has revealed sensitive and secret military data.

In the post-Roe v. Wade legal environment, there are concerns not only about period tracking apps but about correlating data on physical movements with online searches and phone data. Legislation like the recent Texas Senate Bill 8 anti-abortion law invokes "private individual enforcement mechanisms," raising questions about who gets access to tracking data.

In the post-Roe v. Wade legal environment, there are concerns not only about period tracking apps but about correlating data on physical movements with online searches and phone data. Legislation like the recent Texas Senate Bill 8 anti-abortion law invokes "private individual enforcement mechanisms," raising questions about who gets access to tracking data. In 2019, the Missouri Department of Health stored data about the periods of patients at the state's lone Planned Parenthood clinic, correlated with state medical records. Communications metadata can reveal who you are in touch with, when you were where, and who else was there – whether they are in your contacts or not.

Location data from apps on hundreds of millions of phones lets the Department of Homeland Security track people. Health wearables pose similar risks, and medical experts note a lack of awareness about the security of data they collect. Note the resemblance of your Fitbit or smartwatch to ankle bracelets people wear during court-ordered monitoring.

The most pervasive user of tracking in the U.S. is Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which amassed a vast amount of information without judicial, legislative or public oversight. Georgetown University Law Center's Center on Privacy and Technology reported on how ICE searched the driver's license photographs of 32% of all adults in the U.S., tracked cars in cities home to 70% of adults, and updated address records for 74% of adults when those people activated new utility accounts. A streetlight post with a second boom with a round black sphere hanging off the end. Video cameras and license plate readers, like those attached to this Baltimore streetlight, monitor and record the comings and goings of pedestrians and cars on city streets. AP Photo/Julio Cortez
No one is watching the watchers

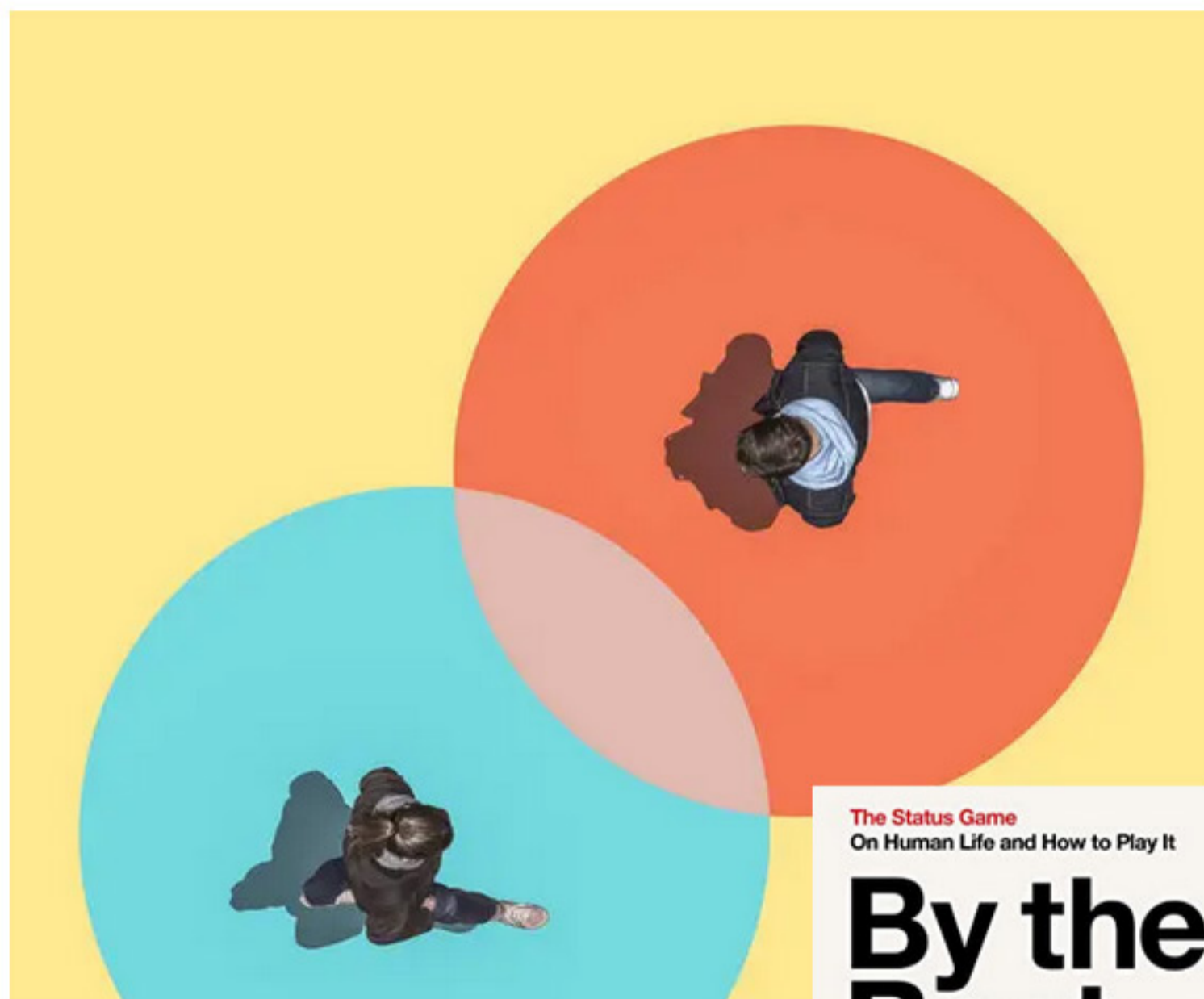
Nobody expects to be invisible on streets, at borders, or in shopping centers. But who has access to all that surveillance data, and how long it is stored? There is no single U.S. privacy law at the federal level, and states cope with a regulatory patchwork; only five states – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Utah and Virginia – have privacy laws. It is possible to limit location tracking on your phone, but not to avoid it completely. Data brokers are supposed to mask your personally identifiable data before selling it. But this "anonymization" is meaningless since individuals are easily identified by cross-referencing additional data sets. This makes it easy for bounty hunters and stalkers to abuse the system.

The biggest risk to most people arises when there is a data breach, which is happening more often – whether it is a leaky app or careless hotel chain, a DMV data sale or a compromised credit bureau, or indeed a data brokering middleman whose cloud storage is hacked.

This illicit flow of data not only puts fuzzy notions of privacy in peril, but may put your addresses and passport numbers, biometric data and social media profiles, credit card numbers and dating profiles, health and insurance information, and more on sale.

Is Life a Story or a Game?

July 21, 2022



The Status Game
On Human Life and How to Play It

By the
Best-
selling
author
Will
Storr

‘One of our best
journalists of ideas’
The Times



short shrift

/SHôrt SHriff/ noun

rapid and unsympathetic dismissal; curt treatment.

"the judge gave short shrift to an argument based on the right to free speech"

I’m a liberal arts type, so I see life as a story. Each person is born into a family. Over the course of life, we find things to love and commit to — a vocation, a spouse, a community. At times, we flounder and suffer but do our best to learn from our misfortunes to grow in wisdom, kindness and grace. At the end, hopefully, we can look back and see how we have nurtured deep relationships and served a higher good.

Will Storr, a writer whose work I admire enormously, says this story version of life is an illusion. In his book “The Status Game,” he argues that human beings are deeply driven by status. Status isn’t about being liked or accepted, he writes, it’s about being better than others, getting more: “When people defer to us, offer respect, admiration or praise, or allow us to influence them in some way, that’s status. It feels good.” I think Storr has been seduced by evolutionary psych fundamentalism. **He is in danger of becoming one of those guys who give short shrift to the loftier desires of the human heart, to the caring element in every friendship and family, and then says in effect, *We have to be man enough to face how unpleasant we are.***

People who see themselves playing a game often get lost in the make-believe world of the game and depart from the messiness of reality.

“For devoted players, status accrues to finding clues and providing compelling interpretations, while others can casually follow along with the story as the community reveals it. It is this collaboration — a kind of social sense-making — that builds the alternate reality in the minds of players.”

The role-playing game is to our century what the novel was to the 18th century, a new mode of experience and self-creation.

The status-mad world that Storr describes is so loveless — a world I recognize but not one I want to live in. Ultimately, games are fun, but gaming as a way of life is immature. Maturity means rising above the shallow desire — for status — that doesn’t really nourish us. It’s about cultivating the higher desires: The love of truth and learning and not settling for cheap conspiracy theories. The intrinsic pleasure the craftsman gets in his work, which is not about popularity.

The desire for a good and meaningful life that inspires people to commit daily acts of generosity. How do people gradually learn to cultivate these higher motivations? To answer that I’d have to tell you a story.

United States Mexico Economy Compare

Spanish



English

Economy

Source: CIA Factbook

mi dinero está tu dinero

my money is your money

United States China Economy Compare

Economy

United States

China

Economy - overview

The US has the most technologically powerful economy in the world, with a per capita GDP of \$59,500. US firms are at or near the forefront in technological advances, especially in computers, pharmaceuticals, and medical, aerospace, and military equipment; however, their advantage has narrowed since the end of World War II. Based on a comparison of GDP measured at purchasing power parity conversion rates, the US economy in 2014, having stood as the largest in the world for more than a century, slipped into second place behind China, which has more than tripled the US growth rate for each year of the past four decades.

In the US, private individuals and business firms make most of the decisions, and the federal and state governments buy needed goods and services predominantly in the private marketplace. US business firms enjoy greater flexibility than their counterparts in Western Europe and Japan in decisions to expand capital plant, to lay off surplus workers, and to develop new products. At the same time, businesses face higher barriers to enter their rivals' home markets than foreign firms face entering US markets.

Long-term problems for the US include stagnation of wages for lower-income families, inadequate investment in deteriorating infrastructure, rapidly

Since the late 1970s, China has moved from a closed, centrally planned system to a more market-oriented one that plays a major global role. China has implemented reforms in a gradualist fashion, resulting in efficiency gains that have contributed to a more than tenfold increase in GDP since 1978. Reforms began with the phaseout of collectivized agriculture, and expanded to include the gradual liberalization of prices, fiscal decentralization, increased autonomy for state enterprises, growth of the private sector, development of stock markets and a modern banking system, and opening to foreign trade and investment. China continues to pursue an industrial policy, state support of key sectors, and a restrictive investment regime. From 2013 to 2017, China had one of the fastest growing economies in the world, averaging slightly more than 7% real growth per year. Measured on a purchasing power parity (PPP) basis that adjusts for price differences, China in 2017 stood as the largest economy in the world, surpassing the US in 2014 for the first time in modern history. China became the world's largest exporter in 2010, and the largest trading nation in 2013. Still, China's per capita income is below the world average.

In July 2005 moved to an exchange rate system that references a basket of currencies. From mid-2005 to late



I WANT YOU

A fire near Yosemite has become one of California's largest blazes of the year

July 23, 2022 - 6:44 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



WAWONA, Calif. — A fast-moving brush fire near Yosemite National Park exploded in size Saturday into one of California's largest wildfires of the year, prompting evacuation orders for thousands of people and shutting off power to more than 2,000 homes and businesses.



Shipping ▾ Tracking ▾ Manage ▾ Support ▾



Owner Operators

Overview / Advantages

Programs

Communications

Online Tools

Owner Operators

The FedEx Custom Critical fleet is made up entirely of owner operators. If you own your vehicle, or have plans to purchase one, read on to learn about your opportunity as an independent contractor.

ROUGH TRANSLATION

What women truckers can tell us about living and working alone

American long-haul truckers share wisdom from the road on living where you work

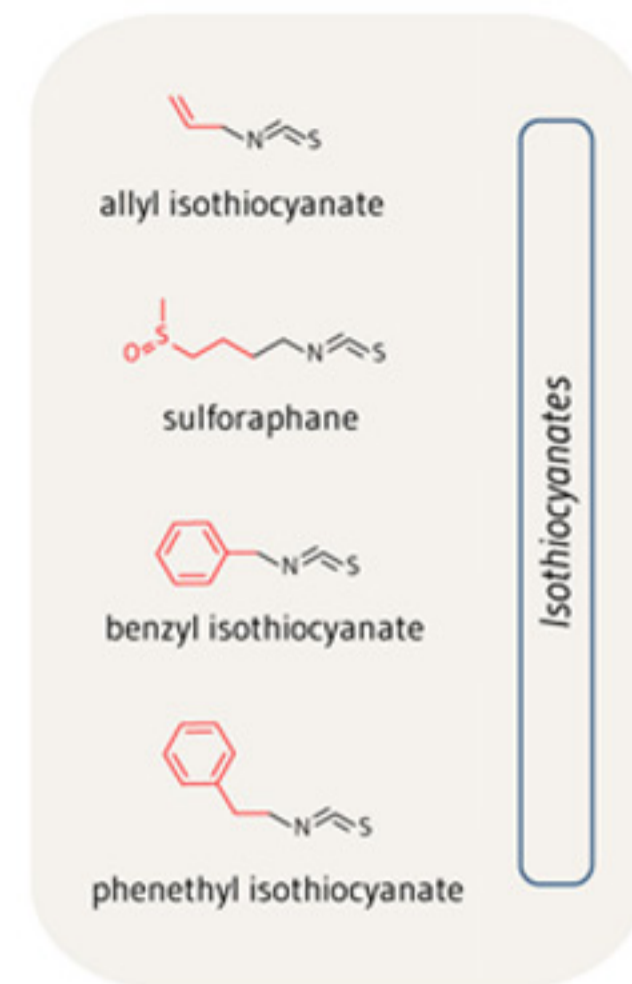


Brandie Diamond parks her FedEx Custom Critical Truck in a Walmart Supercenter Parking Lot for her day off in Columbus, Ohio.



Brandie Diamond describes herself now as a "transgender truck driver/chef/Jill-of-all-trades." But her career in trucking began in the mid-1980s, and she hadn't come out as trans back then.

10 Strongest Candida Killing Foods



A Taste: *antifungal crumble pie*

What sweets can I eat with candida?

very merry berry Cobbler

What food kills candida?

<Image result for antifungal crumble pie>

Cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, arugula, cabbage, and radishes, are among the most powerful foods that kill Candida. They contain isothiocyanates, which are sulfur- and nitrogen-containing compounds that inhibit the growth of Candida.

How many living organism live in the atmosphere?

Studying their genes back on Earth, the scientists counted an average of 5100 bacterial cells per cubic meter of air. Researchers have seen that certain cloud-borne species, if cultured in a lab, could certainly be altering the chemistry of atmospheric compounds involving carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen. Lofted species are doing more than just physically interacting with Earth's hydrological cycle (a big enough deal in its own right). There is evidence that there are metabolically active bacteria in the atmosphere. This was not a sure thing, microbes tend to work best together in physically associated colonies mingling with other species. As with much cutting-edge science, there are more questions than answers at the moment. But there seems to be evidence that airborne, metabolically active microbes are directly engaged in the core biogeochemical cycles of the Earth - churning through organic compounds as they float around the planet. Just as it took us a long time to recognize the ubiquity and scale of the subsurface biosphere of our world, we may have to further expand biology's scope to include the rich but largely invisible terrain of the air above our heads.

Cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage, and kale, are rich sources of sulfur-containing compounds called glucosinolates (see the article on Cruciferous Vegetables). Isothiocyanates are biologically active hydrolysis (breakdown) products of glucosinolates. Cruciferous vegetables contain a variety of glucosinolates, each of which forms a different isothiocyanate when hydrolyzed (Figure 1) (1). For example, broccoli is a good source of glucoraphanin, the glucosinolate precursor of sulforaphane, and sinigrin, the glucosinolate precursor of allyl isothiocyanate (AITC) (see Food sources) (2). Watercress is a rich source of gluconasturtiin, the precursor of phenethyl isothiocyanate (PEITC), while garden cress is rich in glucotropaeolin, the precursor of benzyl isothiocyanate (BITC) (see Food sources). At present, scientists are interested in the cancer-preventive activities of vegetables that are rich in glucosinolates (see the article on Cruciferous Vegetables), as well as individual isothiocyanates (3).

{atmospheric-microbiome NOTEs > <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/life-unbounded/the-atmospheric-microbiome/> + <https://www.science.org/content/article/microbes-survive-and-maybe-thrive-high-atmosphere>}



A world of life in a single cubic foot

Photographer David Liittschwager captures the beauty of biodiversity by placing a cube in a variety of habitats and recording whatever moves through it. The fate of humanity may depend on these micro-environments

John Vidal

Sat 10 Nov 2012 19.04 EST

Long live the creepy crawlies, the bugs, the tiny wigglers and wrigglers, the minuscule parasites and nematodes, the mites and oribatids and all the myriad life forms that buzz, crawl and throb below our feet. Most have barely been given a second thought by science, but biologists now think that these mostly named creatures make up the beating heart of the biosphere and that the fate of all life may depend on the wellbeing of their fragile worlds.

Thanks to photographer David Liittschwager, we now have a visual inkling of what exactly lives high in the cloud forest canopy, below our feet in the parks, in the sediments of rivers and on coral reefs. Liittschwager, primarily a portrait photographer, had the idea of taking a one-cubic-foot metal frame and recording what moved through this habitat over the course of a day and night. He then made portraits of the life that could be seen with the naked eye.

What was found even in fairly nondescript places was wondrous. When the metal frame was dropped in the Duck river in Tennessee, it recorded 32 fish species, and nearly 100 others in the day. "Dig a few handfuls of sediment from the bottom and the river's significance begins to reveal itself. Half of what you hold in your hands is sand and gravel, and the rest is live species – mussels, snails, juvenile crayfish, the larvae of stoneflies and dragonflies. It seems possible that the driving force of planetary life is actually very small and that its intricacies are lost on most of us," author Alan Huffman remarks in an essay accompanying the pictures.

A whole, unknown world was found when the cube was suspended from the branch of a tree in Costa Rica's rainforest. This time, 145 species – birds, mammals, mosses, bromeliads and epiphytes – were recorded. "This is the last biotic frontier, the missing pieces of the phenomenal jigsaw puzzle that is the tropical rainforest. How forest canopy populations become established, grow and disperse to other sites remains wholly unknown," said canopy researcher Nalini Nadkarni.

The cubic foot was dropped on Temae coral reef near Tahiti in the Pacific. There, 600 individual animals and plants more than a millimetre in size – some living permanently in the space, others swimming or floating through – were recorded. "And this is not counting the many thousands of smaller creatures that floated by each hour. Wrasses, sea slugs, a baby octopus, shrimp, worms and crabs as small as the letters on the page were all recorded," reported author Elizabeth Kolbert.

Jasper Slingsby, a researcher at the South Africa environmental observational network, recorded life in a cubic foot of Table Mountain national park in South Africa. "In the course of 24 hours, the one cubic foot of mountain fynbos that we sampled revealed almost 30 plant species and roughly 70 invertebrates. But being stationary the cube could not capture what is arguably the most amazing component of fynbos diversity – how much it changes from location to location. If we picked the cube up and walked 10ft we could get as much as 50% difference in plant species we encountered. If we moved it uphill, we might find none of the species. There are multitudes of species many orders of magnitude smaller than the smallest mite we found. Indeed, it would take more than a lifetime simply to document the diversity of life in one cubic foot here. Even one cubic inch is a world worth contemplating," he wrote.

Science is only slowly catching up with biodiversity, partly thanks to the great US biologist EO Wilson, who, apart from studying ants, has best communicated the interlocking mechanisms of life. "When you thrust a shovel into the soil or tear off a piece of coral, you are, godlike, cutting through an entire world. You have crossed a hidden frontier known to very few. Immediately close at hand, around and beneath our feet, lies the least explored part of the planet's surface. It is also the most vital place on Earth for human existence," he says in a foreword.

"In any habitat, on the ground, in the forest canopy, or in the water, your eye is first caught by the big animals – birds, mammals, fish, butterflies. But gradually the smaller inhabitants, far more numerous, begin to eclipse them. There are the insect myriads creeping and buzzing among the weeds, the worms and unnameable creatures that squirm or scuttle for cover when you turn garden soil for planting."

Wilson takes fungi as a starting point to illustrate nature's abundance. "So far, about 60,000 species of fungi have been discovered and studied, including mushrooms, rusts and moulds. But specialists estimate that more than 1.5m species exist on Earth. Along with them in the soil thrive some of the most abundant animals in the world, the nematodes, also known as roundworms. Tens of thousands of roundworm species are known, and the true number could be in the millions. Both fungi and roundworms are outdone dramatically in turn by still smaller organisms. In a pinch of garden soil, about a gram in weight, live millions of bacteria, representing several thousand species. Most of them are unknown to science.

"Life at the ground level is not just a random mix of species, not an interspersed of fungi, bacteria, worms, ants and all the rest. The species of each group are strictly stratified by depth. In passing from just above the surface on down, the conditions of the micro-environment change gradually but dramatically. Inch by inch, there are shifts in light and temperature, the size of the cavities, the chemistry of the air, soil or water, the kind of food available, and the species of organisms. The combination of these properties, down to a microscopic level, defines the surface ecosystem. Each species is specialised to survive and reproduce best in its particular niche.

"It may seem that the whole icky lot of them, and the miniature realms they inhabit, are unrelated to human concerns. But scientists have found the exact opposite to be true. Together with the bacteria and other invisible micro-organisms swimming and settled around the mineral grains of the soil, the ground dwellers are the heart of life on Earth. The terrain they inhabit is not just a matrix of dirt and rubble. The entire ground habitat is alive. Living forms create virtually all of the substances that flow around the inert grains."

Among the photographic celebration of life's abundance and complexity lies the tragedy. Liittschwager's pictures record the beauty, weirdness, elegance and sheer extraordinariness of life, but, as nearly every commentator in the book notes, these habitats are fast disappearing in what is becoming known as the sixth great extinction.

The testaments of the experts are terrifying. "Even as I make my measurements of the abundance of canopy life in the protected forests of Costa Rica, I can hear chainsaws. From Cameroon to Costa Rica logging, development, climate change and changes in agricultural land use have led to the disappearance and fragmentation of rainforests at an alarming pace. We canopy researchers hang from our arboreal perches, [but] we can see clear cuts just beyond," writes Nadkarni.

"If nothing is done to reduce [climate change] emissions, many scientists believe that, by mid-century, reefs world-wide will no longer be able to sustain themselves and will slowly disappear. With them will go the wealth of life they support. As the creatures from just this one cubic foot attest, the losses up and down the food chain would be staggering," says Kolbert.

Earth, says Wilson, is the only planet we know that has a biosphere. "It alone is able to maintain the exact environment we ourselves need to stay alive. If all the organisms were to disappear from any one of the cubic spaces depicted, the environment in it would shift to a radical new state. The molecules of the soil or streambed would become smaller and simpler. The ratios of oxygen, carbon dioxide and other gases in the air would change. A new equilibrium would be approached, at which the cubic foot would resemble that on some distant sterile planet."

A small world, says Liittschwager, awaits exploration. "In time, we will come fully to appreciate the magnificent little ecosystems that have fallen under our stewardship." Unless, of course, we leave it too late.



Life, Unbounded

The Atmospheric Microbiome

For single-celled organisms, Earth's atmosphere represents transport, refuge and possibly a habitat

By Caleb A. Scharf on September 8, 2019



Credit: C. Scharf 2019

The classic vision of Earth from space is a bluish planet painted with an ever changing, deeply textured wash of white clouds. Often we peer between the gaps in these clouds, looking for the recognizable continents and oceans of the surface, because that's our domain, and the obvious domain of life.

But life doesn't stop at the rocks and liquids of Earth, it permeates the atmosphere too. Birds, insects, plants, and fungi all exploit the world-spanning fluid of the air and its currents and turbulence. It also seems that the vast microbial biosphere extends well into this domain.

On the face of things it's not surprising that there are single-celled organisms floating through the air. At scales of a few micrometers a bacterium, for instance, is easily lofted into the jumble of atmospheric molecules. Plants, oceans, land, and human urban areas are constantly spewing microbes. Soil erosion lofts soil microbes, ocean evaporation lofts marine microbes, and every coughing spluttering animal helps inject microscopic organisms into the air.

Atmospheric sampling suggests that there is an appreciable biological load at least up and into the bottom of Earth's stratosphere at around 7 kilometers altitude at polar regions all the way up to about 20 kilometers at the equator, with seasonal variation. These measurements are not easy, in part because the number of organisms in a given volume is quite low by surface standards - between around 100 to 10,000 cells in every cubic centimeter. But also because of the sheer genomic diversity.

A big question is whether or not microbial species that frequently end up airborne also take advantage of this - or indeed have evolved to exploit not just the global transport system of the atmosphere but some of its other properties.

So called 'rain-making' bacteria have been in the news over the years. Any kind of precipitation of water tends to involve the nucleation or seeding of droplets or crystals of condensing water vapor. Since biological particulates (not just things like bacteria but also biologically produced compounds like dimethyl sulfide made by phytoplankton that turns into atmospheric sulfate particles) make up somewhere between 20% and 70% of atmospheric aerosols, it seems that life can play a big role. Indeed, there is evidence that phytoplankton blooms in the Southern Ocean can seed their own cloud cover. Globally it looks like biological aerosols boost cloud droplet numbers by as much as 60%.

But it also seems that lofted species are doing more than just physically interacting with Earth's hydrological cycle (a big enough deal in its own right). There is evidence that there are metabolically active bacteria in the atmosphere. This was not a sure thing, microbes tend to work best together in physically associated colonies mingling with other species.

Over the years researchers have seen that certain cloud-borne species, if cultured in a lab, could certainly be altering the chemistry of atmospheric compounds involving carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen. Other studies, that attempt to measure the in-situ metabolisms, suggest that species in the family of Acetobacteraceae could be active. These ferment ethanol to acetic acid - and ethanol is (perhaps surprisingly) typically present in Earth's atmosphere, as part of the complex chemical mix that circulates around us. Other species utilize sunlight and use simple organic acid compounds to grow; the kinds of organic acids that wildfires produce.

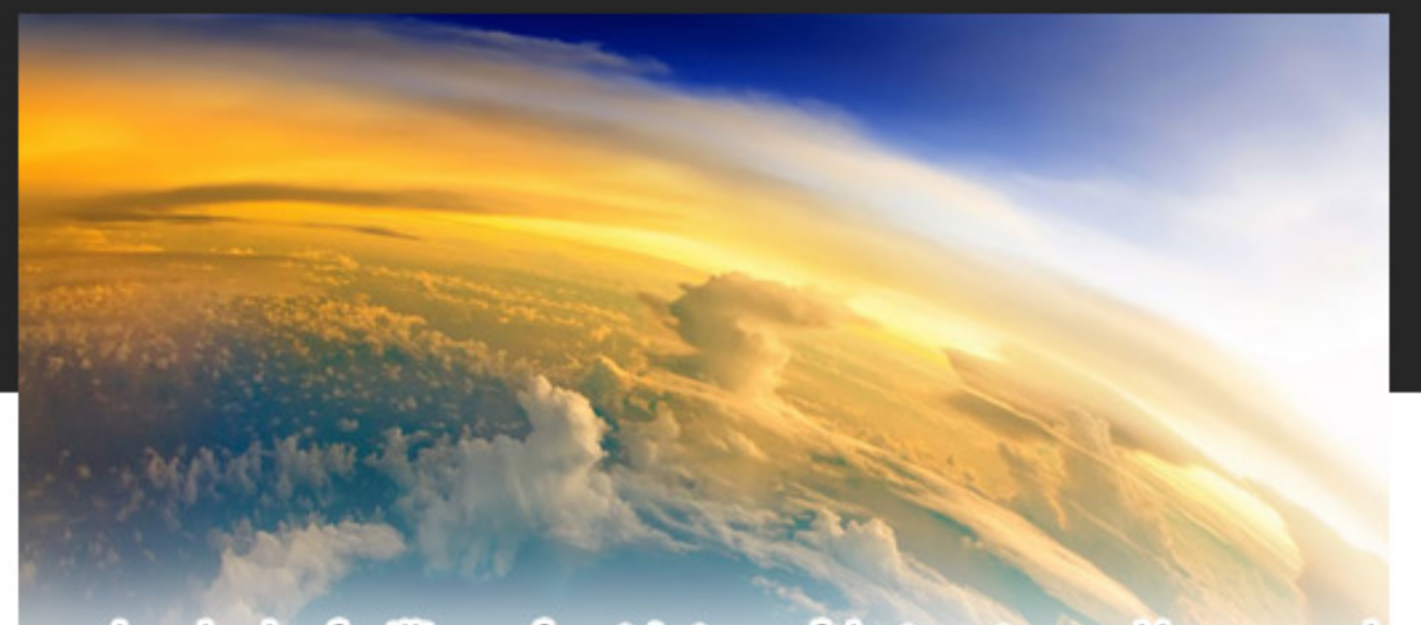
As with much cutting-edge science, there are more questions than answers at the moment. But there seems to be evidence that airborne, **metabolically active microbes are directly engaged in the core biogeochemical cycles of the Earth - churning through organic compounds as they float around the planet.**

Just as it took us a long time to recognize the ubiquity and scale of the sub-surface biosphere of our world, we may have to further expand biology's scope to include the rich but largely invisible terrain of the air above our heads.

Microbes Survive, and Maybe Thrive, High in the Atmosphere

Bacteria, fungi, and other organisms may form an ecosystem in the clouds

28 JAN 2013 • BY [LIZZIE WADE](#)



Each year, hundreds of millions of metric tons of dust, water, and humanmade pollutants make their way into the atmosphere, often traveling between continents on jet streams. Now a new study confirms that some microbes make the trip with them, seeding the skies with billions of bacteria and other organisms—and potentially affecting the weather. What's more, some of these high-flying organisms may actually be able to feed while traveling through the clouds, forming an active ecosystem high above the surface of the Earth.

The discovery came about when a team of scientists based at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta hitched a ride on nine NASA airplane flights aimed at studying hurricanes. Previous studies carried out at the tops of mountains hinted that researchers were likely to find microorganisms at high altitudes, but no one had ever attempted to catalog the microscopic life floating above the oceans—let alone during raging tropical storms. After all, it isn't easy to take air samples while your plane is flying through a hurricane.

Despite the technical challenges, the researchers managed to collect thousands upon thousands of airborne microorganisms floating in the troposphere about 10 kilometers over the Caribbean, as well as the continental United States and the coast of California. Studying their genes back on Earth, the scientists counted an average of 5100 bacterial cells per cubic meter of air, they report online today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Although the researchers also captured various types of fungal cells, the bacteria were over two orders of magnitude more abundant in their samples. Well over 60% of all the microbes collected were still alive.

The researchers cataloged a total of 314 different families of bacteria in their samples. Because the type of genetic analysis they used didn't allow them to identify precise species, it's not clear if any of the bugs they found are pathogens. Still, the scientists offer the somewhat reassuring news that bacteria associated with human and animal feces only showed up in the air samples taken after Hurricanes Karl and Earl. In fact, these storms seemed to kick up a wide variety of microbes, especially from populated areas, that don't normally make it to the troposphere.

This uptick in aerial microbial diversity after hurricanes supports the idea that the storms "serve as an atmospheric escalator," plucking dirt, dust, seawater, and, now, microbes off Earth's surface and carrying them high into the sky, says Dale Griffin, an environmental and public health microbiologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in St. Petersburg, Florida, who was not involved in the study.

Although many of the organisms borne aloft are likely occasional visitors to the upper troposphere, 17 types of bacteria turned up in every sample. Researchers like environmental microbiologist and co-author Kostas Konstantinidis suspect that these microbes may have evolved to survive for weeks in the sky, perhaps as a way to travel from place to place and spread their genes across the globe. "Not everybody makes it up there," he says. "It's only a few that have something unique about their cells" that allows them survive the trip.

The scientists point out that two of the 17 most common families of bacteria in the upper troposphere feed on oxalic acid, one of the most abundant chemical compounds in the sky. This observation raises the question of whether the traveling bacteria might be eating, growing, and perhaps even reproducing 10 kilometers above the surface of Earth. "That's a big question in the field right now," Griffin says. "Can you view [the atmosphere] as an ecosystem?"

David Smith, a microbiologist at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, warns against jumping to such dramatic conclusions. He also observed a wide variety of microbes in the air above Oregon's Mount Bachelor in a separate study, but he believes they must hibernate for the duration of their long, cold trips between far-flung terrestrial ecosystems. "While it's really exciting to think about microorganisms in the atmosphere that are potentially making a living, there's no evidence of that so far."

Even if microbes spend their atmospheric travels in dormancy, that doesn't mean they don't have a job to do up there. Many microbial cells are the perfect size and texture to cause water vapor to condense or even form ice around them, meaning that they may be able to seed clouds. If these microorganisms are causing clouds to form, they could be having a substantial impact on the weather. By continuing to study the sky's microbiome, Konstantinidis and his team hope to soon be able to incorporate its effects into atmospheric models.

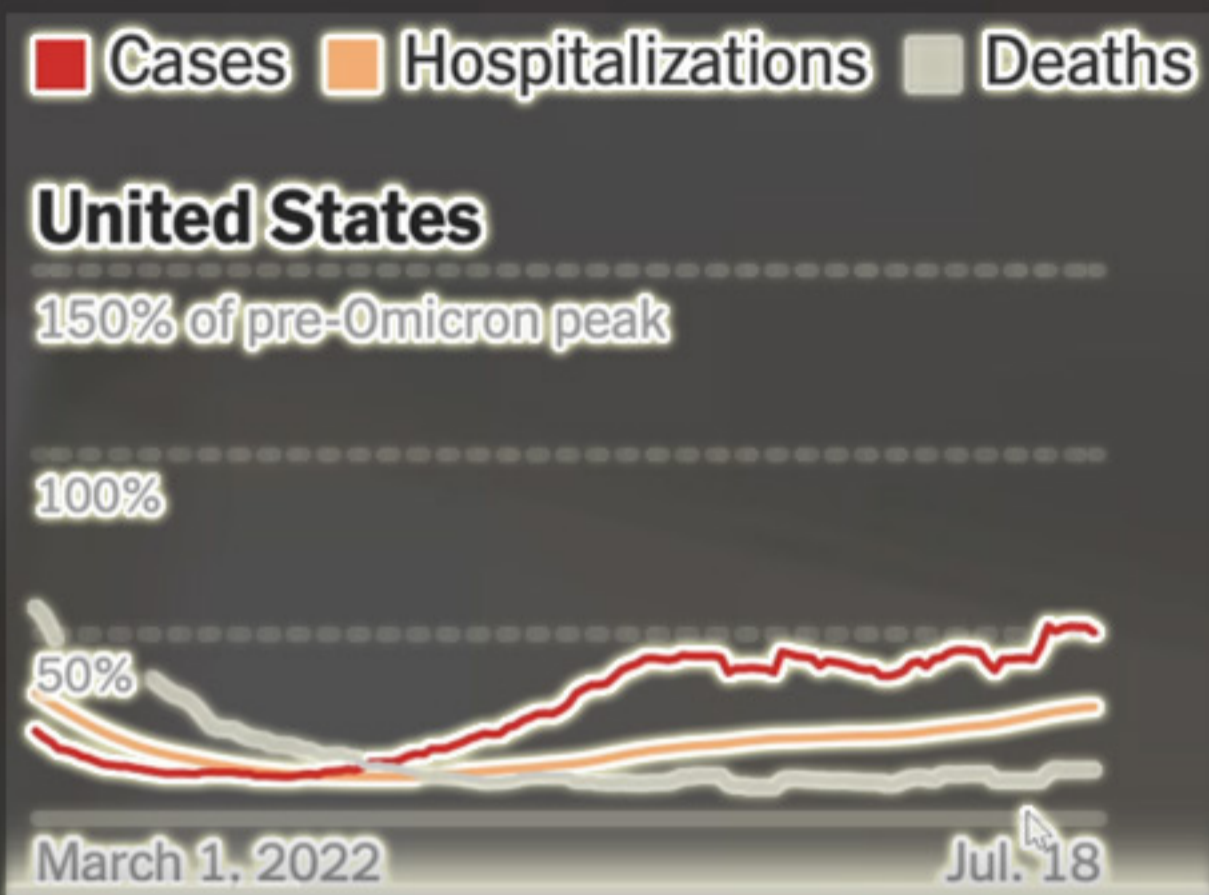
Unstable endemicity



<https://youtu.be/wLyTAsoz6X0>

545,588 views • Jul 19, 2022

Expert predictions rapidly fail, need always to keep up to date with the latest real world situation. Science must be constantly corrected to be consistent with external objective reality.

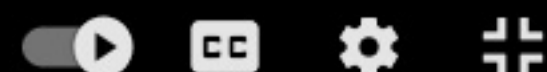


- 0:56 but the increase in hospitalizations in
- 0:58 the united states and that's the deaths
- 1:00 there which are fairly flat to low
- 1:02 this is a very comparable picture to
- 1:04 what we're getting in the united kingdom

0:42 > some pretty good indicators of where the united states is at, we see it here so the cases obviously are pretty irrelevant because we don't have the testing, but the increase in hospitalizations in the united states and that's the deaths there, which are fairly flat to low --this is a very comparable picture to what we're getting in the united kingdom, so i suspect that the infections in the united states are really quite similar because we're getting similar increases in hospitalization ,not huge increases and the patients aren't particularly ill, but nevertheless comparable. So where are we going with this virus at the moment is the key thing. I actually um anticipated this pandemic in january 2020, so got that bit right. **I anticipated we could eradicate the disease altogether got that bit completely wrong -- that's not happening in the foreseeable future!**

Play (k)

0:10 / 13:59



But now, they're also focusing on a potential new threat: **variants that could do an end run around the human immune response**. Such "immune escapes" could mean more people who have had COVID-19 remain susceptible to reinfection, and that proven vaccines may, at some point, need an update.

<https://www.science.org> > [doi](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.371.6527.329) > [science.371.6527.329](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.371.6527.329)

New mutations raise specter of 'immune escape' - Science

Antigenic escape, immune escape, immune evasion or escape mutation

Antigenic escape

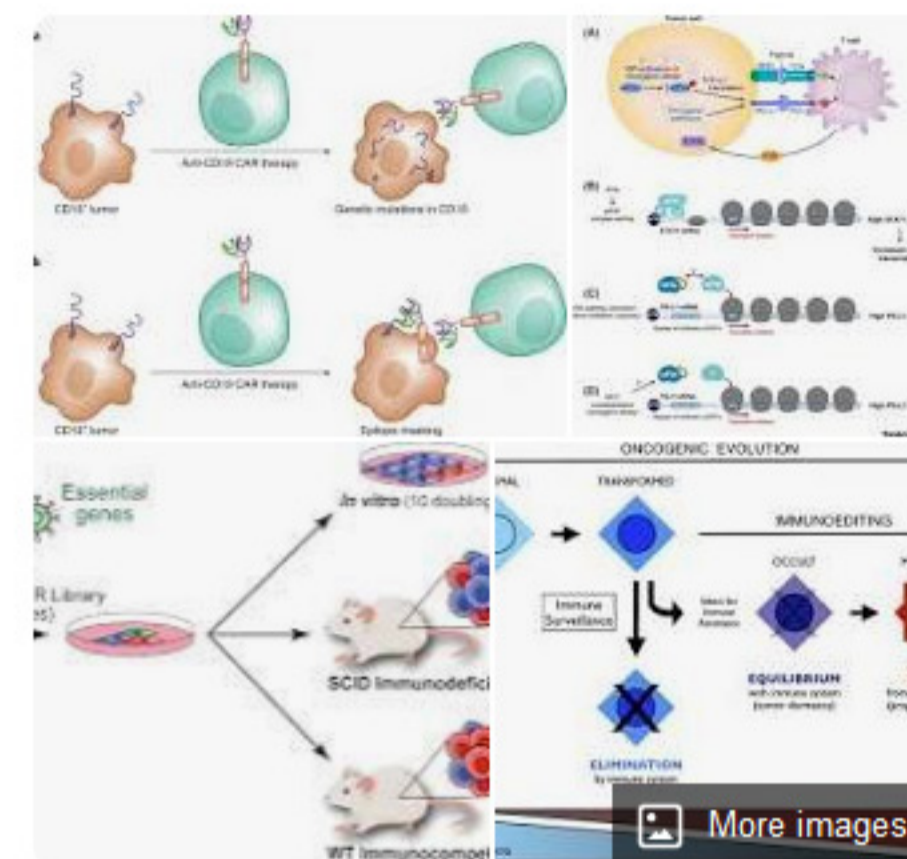
See also: *Variants of SARS-CoV-2*

Antigenic escape, immune escape, immune evasion or **escape mutation** occurs when the **immune system** of a **host**, especially of a human being, is unable to respond to an **infectious agent**: the host's immune system is no longer able to recognize and eliminate a **pathogen**, such as a **virus**. This process can occur in a number of different ways of both a genetic and an environmental nature.^[1] Such mechanisms include **homologous recombination**, and manipulation and resistance of the host's immune responses.^[2]

Different **antigens** are able to escape through a variety of mechanisms. For example, the African **trypanosome** parasites are able to clear the host's **antibodies**, as well as resist **lysis** and inhibit parts of the **innate immune response**.^[3] A bacteria, *Bordetella pertussis*, is able to escape the immune response by inhibiting **neutrophils** and **macrophages** from invading the infection site early on.^[4] One cause of antigenic escape is that a pathogen's **epitopes** (the binding sites for **immune cells**) become too similar to a person's naturally occurring **MHC-1** epitopes, resulting in the immune system becoming unable to distinguish the infection from self-cells.

Antigenic escape is not only crucial for the host's natural immune response, but also for the resistance against **vaccinations**. The problem of antigenic escape has greatly deterred the process of creating new vaccines. Because vaccines generally cover a small ratio of strains of one virus, the recombination of antigenic DNA that lead to diverse pathogens allows these invaders to resist even newly developed vaccinations.^[5] Some antigens may even target pathways different from those the vaccine had originally intended to target.^[4] Recent research on many vaccines, including the **malaria vaccine**, has focused on how to anticipate this diversity and create vaccinations that can cover a broader spectrum of **antigenic variation**.^[5] On 12 May 2021, scientists reported to **The United States Congress** of the continuing threat of **COVID-19 variants** and COVID-19 escape mutations, such as the **E484K virus mutation**.^[6]

Antigenic escape :



New mutations raise specter of 'immune escape' SARS-CoV-2 variants found in Brazil and South Africa may evade human antibodies.

Kai Kupferschmidt
Science | 22 Jan 20

Antigenic escape, immune escape, immune evasion or escape mutation occurs when the immune system of a host, especially of a human being, is unable to respond to an infectious agent: the host's immune system is no longer able to recognize and eliminate a pathogen, such as a virus. [Wikipedia](#)

Escape from vaccination [edit]

Consequences of recent vaccines [edit]

While vaccines are created to strengthen the immune response to **pathogens**, in many cases these vaccines are not able to cover the wide variety of strains a pathogen may have. Instead they may only protect against one or two strains, leading to the escape of strains not covered by the vaccine.^[5] This results in the pathogens being able to attack targets of the immune system different than those intended to be targeted by the vaccination.^[4] This parasitic antigen diversity is particularly troublesome for the development of the **malaria vaccines**.^[5]

Solutions to escape of vaccination [edit]

In order to fix this problem, vaccines must be able to cover the wide variety of strains within a bacterial population. In recent research of *Neisseria meningitidis*, the possibility of such broad coverage may be achieved through the combination of multi-component **polysaccharide conjugate vaccines**. However, in order to further improve upon broadening the scope of vaccinations, epidemiological surveillance must be conducted to better detect the variation of escape mutants and their spread.^[4]

Origin, virological features, immune evasion and intervention of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron sublineages

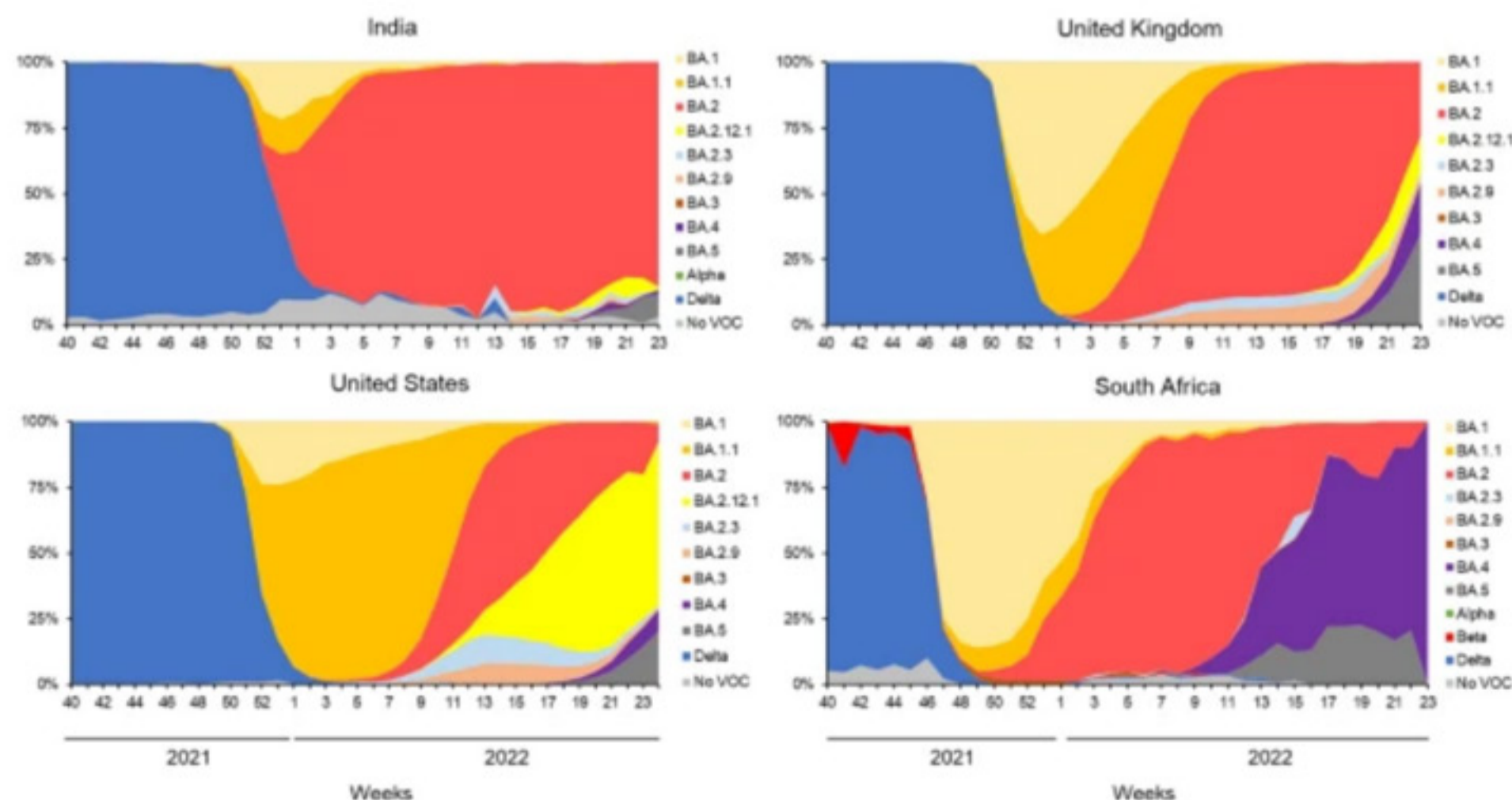
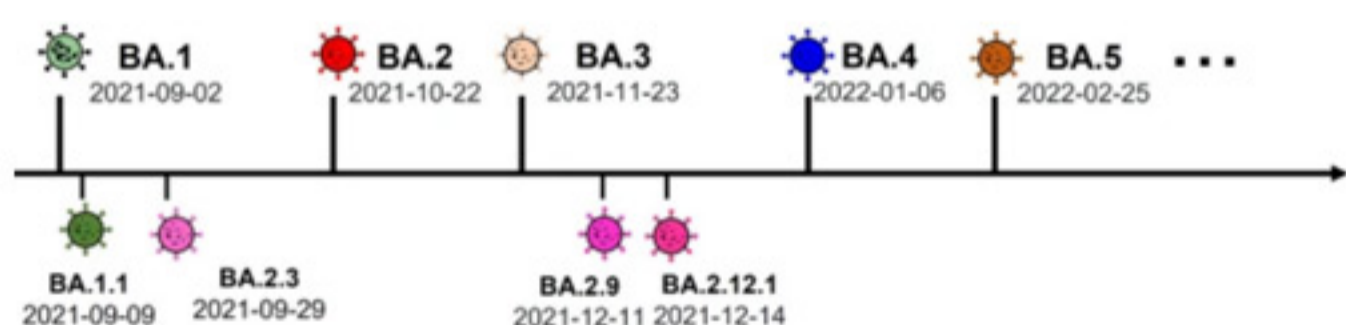
Shuai Xia, Lijue Wang, Yun Zhu, Lu Lu & Shibo Jiang | Published: 19 July 2022

Abstract

Recently, a large number of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) variants continuously emerged and posed a major threat to global public health. Among them, particularly, Omicron variant (B.1.1.529), first identified in November 2021, carried numerous mutations in its spike protein (S), and then quickly spread around the world. Currently, Omicron variant has expanded into more than one hundred sublineages, such as BA.1, BA.2, BA.2.12.1, BA.4 and BA.5, which have already become the globally dominant variants. Different from other variants of concern (VOCs) of SARS-CoV-2, the Omicron variant and its sublineages exhibit increased transmissibility and immune escape from neutralizing antibodies generated through previous infection or vaccination, and have caused numerous re-infections and breakthrough infections. In this prospective, we have focused on the origin, virological features, immune evasion and intervention of Omicron sublineages, which will benefit the development of next-generation vaccines and therapeutics, including pan-sarbecovirus and universal anti-CoV therapeutics, to combat currently circulating and future emerging Omicron sublineages as well as other SARS-CoV-2 variants.

Prospects

Recently, a large number of Omicron sublineages have continuously emerged, seriously threatening public health through vaccine breakthrough infections and reinfections. They have a significantly distinct immunological escape profile from that of ancestral SARS-CoV-2. Therefore, a bat coronavirus virologist proposed renaming these new Omicron sublineages as “SARS-CoV-3”.⁷⁵ Evolutionarily, however, the sequence identity between ancestral SARS-CoV-2 and Omicron or its sublineages (BA.2, BA.2.12.1, BA.4 and BA.5) is more than 99.5%,⁷⁶ which is much higher than that between SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV-1 (79%)⁷⁷ or MERS-CoV (55%).⁷⁸ Therefore, this proposed renaming is contrary to the principles of nomenclature determined by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.^{79,80} Of course, we cannot exclude the possibility of emergence of the real SARS-CoV-3, a new species rather than a new variant, in the near future. It was reported that some SARS-CoV-2-infected patients were co-infected by MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia.⁸¹ If this co-infection occurs in AIDS patients, emergence of SARS-CoV-3 is feasible through recombination by utilizing the identical Transcription Regulatory Sequences and/or cluster of sequence homologies at ORF1a and ORF1b in both SARS-CoV-2 and MERS-CoV.⁸² For the Omicron variant and its sublineages, many unsolved questions remain, including the reasons for their emergence, future evolutionary direction, and strategies for developing next-generation vaccines and therapeutics. Global surveillance and timely sequencing of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants are still of great importance currently. By targeting the conserved regions in spike protein, designing multivalent antigens, and utilizing potent adjuvants, it is feasible to develop pan-sarbecovirus vaccines for prevention of the current or further Omicron sublineages as well as the outbreaks of the potentially emerged SARS-CoV-3 in the future.



January 6 hearings

'US democracy will not survive for long': how January 6 hearings plot a roadmap to autocracy

Trump's efforts to subvert the elections laid bare the system's weaknesses, exposing it to greater exploitation



◀ The biggest moments from the Jan 6 hearings - video



Ed Pilkington

🐦 @edpilkington

Sun 24 Jul 2022 02:00 EDT

They promised the January 6 hearings would “blow the roof off the house”, presenting America with the truth about Donald Trump’s attack on democracy culminating in the US Capitol insurrection. In the end, the roof of the House, where the summer season of hearings reached their finale on Thursday night, remained intact, though mightily shaken.

It will take time for historians to assess whether the eight public sessions were comparable to the 1973 Watergate hearings, as Jamie Raskin, a Democratic member of the January 6 committee, predicted. Yet it’s already clear that after 19 hours and 11 minutes of testimony, filmed depositions, documentary evidence and raw footage of the Capitol attack the hearings have generated a mountain of words and images that will linger long in the collective memory.

We know now that on the day that the United States suffered the worst assault on the Capitol since the British ravaged it in 1814, Trump tried to grab the steering wheel from a secret service agent to turn his presidential SUV in the direction of the violent mob so he could join them. We know that when he exhorted his followers to march on the Capitol and “fight like hell” he was aware that many of them were armed with guns and wearing body armor.

We know from Thursday night that when his close aides pleaded with him to call off the attack, he refused, spending 187 minutes watching events unfold on TV in the White House dining room while swatting away increasingly desperate pleas for him to act until it was clear that his hopes of violently overthrowing the election had faded.

To those who track anti-democratic movements there is a chilling familiarity to this rich evocation of a president descending into an abyss of fantasy, fury and possible illegality. “The picture that the hearings depict is of a coup leader,” said the Harvard political scientist Steven Levitsky. “This is a guy who was unwilling to accept defeat and was prepared to use virtually any means to try to stay illegally in power.”

Levitsky is co-author of the influential book *How Democracies Die* which traces the collapse of once-proud democratic nations – in some cases through wrenching upheavals, but more often in modern times through a tip-toeing into authoritarianism. Levitsky is also an authority on Latin America, a region from which he draws a compelling parallel.

Levitsky told the Guardian that the Trump who emerges from the hearings was a coup leader, “but not a very sophisticated one. Not a very experienced one. A petty autocrat. A type of leader more familiar to someone like me, a student of Latin American politics.”

If Trump’s Latin American-style authoritarianism rang out from the hearings for scholars like Levitsky, a more vexed question is whether it similarly pierced the consciences of the wider American people. It is in their hands that the fate of the January 6 committee’s prime objective now rests: ensuring that a head-on as-

Joni Mitchell - A Case of You (w/ Brandi Carlile) Live at Newport Folk Festival 2022



<https://youtu.be/NIB2V2X-Z8g>

"I'd still be on my feet!"



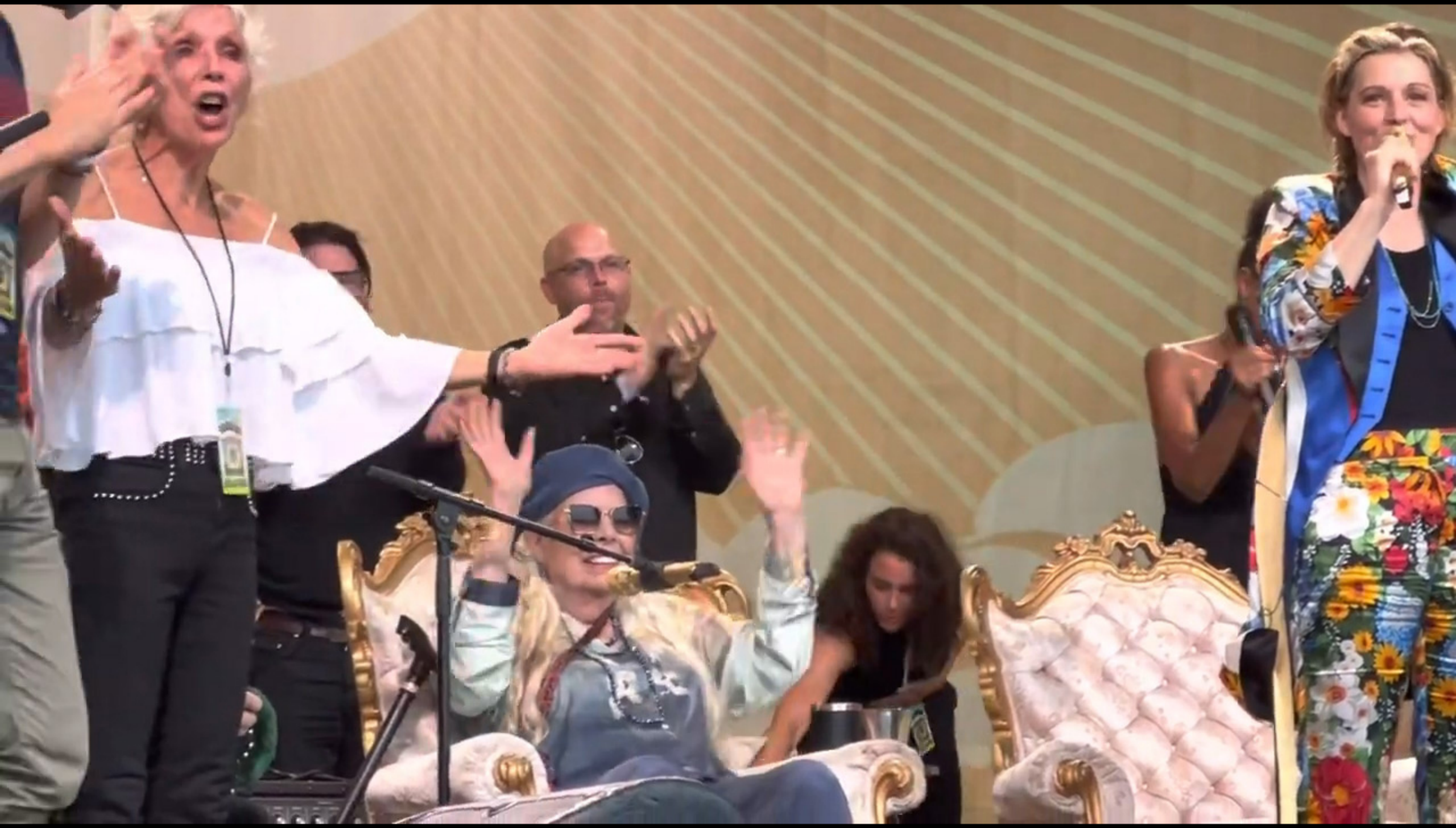
Play (k)

Joni Mitchell "Circle Game" Live at Newport Folk Festival, Sunday, July 24, 2022



<https://youtu.be/b50lIk1g3yA>

"So fun"



Emmylou Harris

Joni Mitchell

Brandi Carille

Joni Mitchell sings, steals show with surprise Newport Folk Festival concert

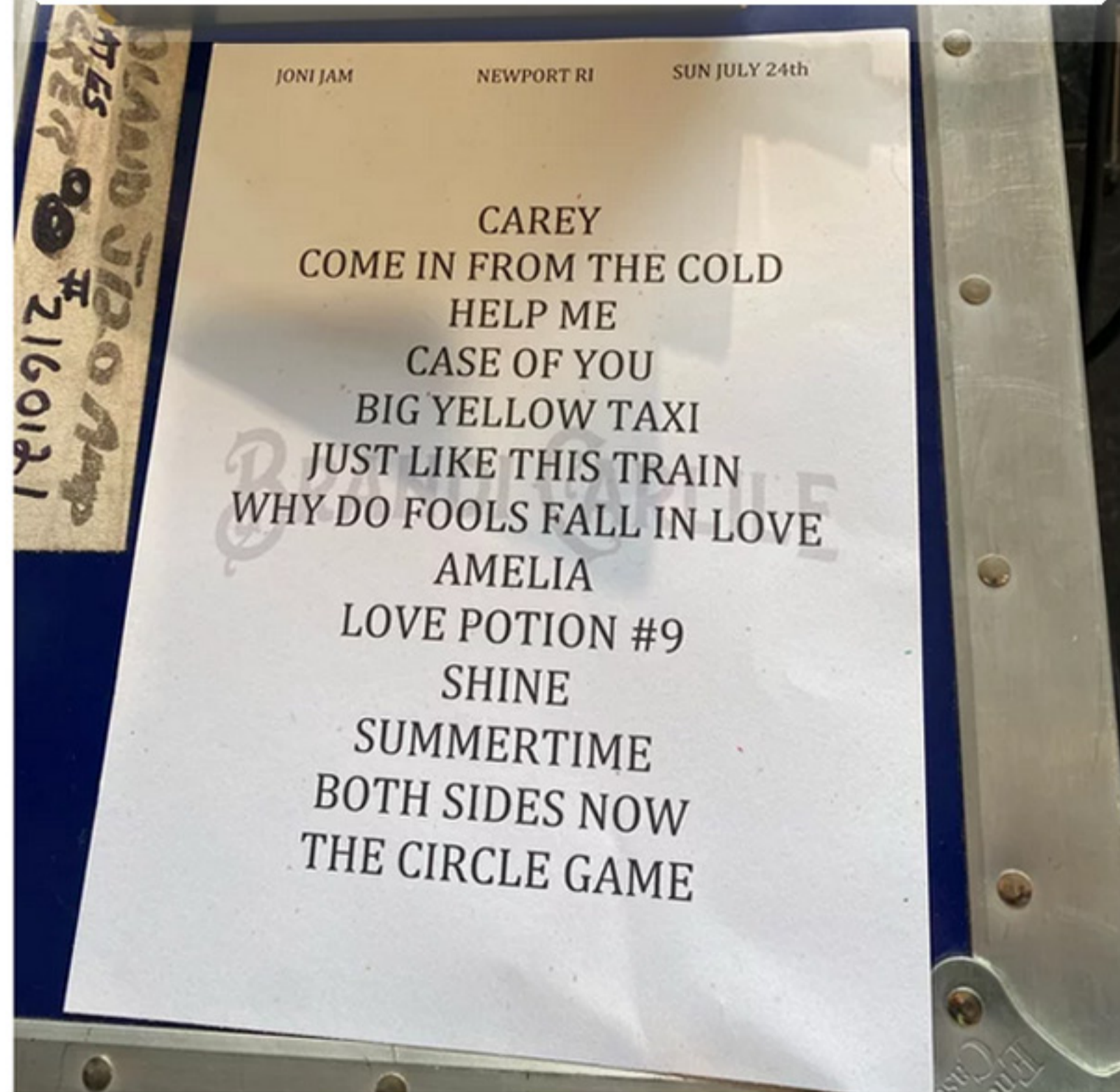
July 25, 2022 · 12:26 AM ET

 ANN POWERS 



YouTube

A woman who believed in a young Joni Mitchell's music brought her to the Newport Folk Festival for the first time in 1967, and another brought the 78-year-old legend back for a historic set to close the Rhode Island fest this year. The first was Judy Collins, who invited a then-undiscovered Mitchell to join in an afternoon celebrating emerging singer-songwriters in folk music, alongside other future icons like Leonard Cohen. On Sunday night, Brandi Carlile was the force behind Mitchell's return to the stage. The crowd was beyond elated as the voice behind classics like "Both Sides Now" graced Fort Adams for the first time since an evening appearance there in 1969, in what was her first full-length public concert anywhere since 2000. [...] The set concluded with "The Circle Game," one of the songs Mitchell had sung 55 years ago on the afternoon that ensured her place as an exploding nova in the folk firmament. Old fans in the crowd were surely pinching themselves at that moment; new ones rushed off ready to explore Mitchell's vast catalog. "Joni Mitchell at Newport Folk Fest I think just changed my life," one young convert tweeted. His words echoed across the decades, intersecting with those of all who've felt that way before.



The historic set list to Joni Mitchell's return to the stage - and the Newport Folk Festival.

Jay Sweet/Courtesy of Newport Folk Festival



Home sales are slowing as the Fed hikes rates. AP Photo/John Raoux

Dispirited homebuyers show why Fed's unprecedented fight against inflation is beginning to succeed

Published: July 25, 2022 8:11am EDT

▼ [Mark Flannery](#), *University of Florida*

I've studied finance and financial markets since the 1970s, and I have never seen the Federal Reserve's monetary policy get such prominent news coverage as it has this past year. And with good reason. What the Fed does has profound implications for companies, consumers and the U.S. economy, especially now as the U.S. central bank tries to tame the fastest jump in consumer prices in decades. **In short, the Fed is jacking up interest rates in hopes that doing so slows the economy enough to bring down inflation.** The housing market is the sector most substantially influenced by interest rate changes, and as such, it's a key indicator of whether the Fed's plans are succeeding. To see why, I need only consider the experience of my son – or the many other Americans hunting for a new home at a time of rising interest rates.

What the Fed is doing: The Federal Reserve is raising interest rates at the fastest pace in its 108-year history as part of its inflation battle. Today's big policy steps are needed in part because the Fed and many others took awhile to understand what was causing the rise in inflation. In fall 2021, while the pace of inflation was accelerating past 4% – double the Fed's targeted rate – the prevailing view at the central bank and elsewhere was that it reflected temporary disruptions following two years of COVID-19-related slowdowns. The assumption was that inflation would abate automatically as supply chains worked themselves out.

Unfortunately, that assumption proved wrong because it did not recognize how much government COVID-19 relief spending had stimulated what economists call "aggregate demand" – in other words, the total demand for goods and services produced in an economy. Put another way, consumer spending spurred by government aid created strong demand across the economy. And so consumer prices continued to accelerate. Russia's war in Ukraine made the problem worse, especially by driving up global food and energy prices. As of June 2022, inflation was surging at 9.1%, the fastest pace since 1981.

While the Fed can't do much about the war or other supply-chain issues, it can address domestic aggregate demand. That's where higher interest rates come in. Higher borrowing costs choke off consumer demand for homes, cars and other goods and services that typically require a loan, while companies pare back their investments in factories and hiring, which should ease overall inflation. The trick to reducing inflation is to choke off enough aggregate demand to tame inflation without driving the economy into recession. One of the main ways to see whether this is happening is to look at housing, which has always been particularly sensitive to rate changes and constitutes more than one-quarter of total U.S. wealth. Because buying a house or apartment is such a large expenditure, nearly all purchasers must borrow a pretty big share of the purchase price. And just as record-low mortgages borrowing costs in 2021 helped fuel a housing market boom by lowering the cost of servicing that debt, higher rates increase the cost, discouraging housing purchases.

Housing starting to stall: In other words, higher mortgage rates lead individuals to invest less in housing. And the effect of falling demand doesn't stop with the house. When people buy a new house, they also tend to purchase new furniture, lawn equipment, televisions and so on. And buying a used home often requires hiring contractors and others to remodel the kitchen or build a new closet in the kids' room. So if people are buying fewer homes, they also are purchasing less furniture, electronics and lawnmowers and have less need for electricians and plumbers. The drop in demand for all these goods and services should take a meaningful bite out of inflation. While it's still too early to say if this part of the Fed plan is working, we can already see the effects of rising mortgage rates in recent housing data.

In recent months, fewer new houses are being built, fewer existing homes are being sold and homebuyers are walking away from signed deals at the highest rate since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, consumers and investors are beginning to anticipate less inflationary pressure in the next year or so.

What it means for homebuyers: So as the Fed prepares to hike benchmark rates again, what does all this mean for U.S. consumers, and especially my son and other people looking for a new home? For one thing, don't expect long-term interest rates, including for mortgages, to rise much, and certainly not by the same amount of the Fed's interest rate hike. Investors tend to factor expected Fed policy changes into its market rates. So unless there is a surprise from the Fed, like a full 1-point hike, **long-term rates are unlikely to change much. And they may even begin to fall soon, either because inflation is subdued or the U.S. slips into recession.** And while it would be nice to know how tighter monetary policy – that is, higher interest rates – will affect today's stratospheric house prices, this is hard to predict. **The withdrawal of some buyers from the market should depress house prices by reducing demand, but sellers may also simply decide to delay selling rather than accept a lower price. The challenge for would-be homebuyers like my son and his family is to find a seller who cannot hold their house off the market and to offer a lower price than the house would have attracted a few months ago to offset its higher financing cost. The more that happens, the more the Fed will know its rate hikes are working.**

Pope apologizes for 'catastrophic' school policy in Canada

By NICOLE WINFIELD and PETER SMITH today



Indigenous people hold up a banner while waiting for Pope Francis during his visit to Maskwacis, the former Ermineskin Residential School, Monday, July 25, 2022, in Maskwacis, Alberta. Pope Francis traveled to Canada to apologize to Indigenous peoples for the abuses committed by Catholic missionaries in the country's notorious residential schools. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

1 of 21

Pope Francis puts on an indigenous headdress during a meeting with indigenous communities, including First Nations, Metis and Inuit, at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Catholic Church in Maskwacis, near Edmonton, Canada, Monday, July 25, 2022. Pope Francis begins a "penitential" visit to Canada to beg forgiveness from survivors of the country's residential schools, where Catholic missionaries contributed to the "cultural genocide" of generations of Indigenous children by trying to stamp out their languages, cultures and traditions. Francis set to visit the cemetery at the former residential school in Maskwacis. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

MASKWACIS, Alberta (AP) — Pope Francis issued a historic apology Monday for the Catholic Church's cooperation with Canada's "catastrophic" policy of Indigenous residential schools, saying the forced assimilation of Native peoples into Christian society destroyed their cultures, severed families and marginalized generations. "I am deeply sorry," Francis said to applause from school survivors and Indigenous community members gathered at a former residential school south of Edmonton, Alberta. He called the school policy a "disastrous error" that was incompatible with the Gospel and said further investigation and healing is needed. "I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Francis said.

In the first event of his weeklong "penitential pilgrimage," Francis traveled to the lands of four Cree nations to pray at a cemetery and then deliver the long-sought apology at nearby powwow ceremonial grounds. Four chiefs escorted the pontiff in a wheelchair to the site near the former Ermineskin Indian Residential School, and presented him with a feathered headdress after he spoke, making him an honorary leader of the community. Francis' words went beyond his earlier apology for the "deplorable" abuses committed by missionaries and instead took institutional responsibility for the church's cooperation with Canada's "catastrophic" assimilation policy, which the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission said amounted to a "cultural genocide."

"Although Christian charity was not absent, and there were many outstanding instances of devotion and care for children, the overall effects of the policies linked to the residential schools were catastrophic," Francis said. "What our Christian faith tells us is that this was a disastrous error, incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

'The money is gone': Evacuated Ukrainians forced to return

By CARA ANNA

today



POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — The missile's impact flung the young woman against the fence so hard it splintered. Her mother found her dying on the bench beneath the pear tree where she'd enjoyed the afternoon. By the time her father arrived, she was gone.

Anna Protsenko was killed two days after returning home. The 35-year-old had done what authorities wanted: She evacuated eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region as Russian forces move closer. But starting a new life elsewhere had been uncomfortable and expensive.

Like Protsenko, tens of thousands of people have returned to rural or industrial communities close to the region's front line at considerable risk because they can't afford to live in safer places.

Protsenko had tried it for two months, then came home to take a job in the small city of Pokrovsk. On Monday, friends and family caressed her face and wept before her casket was hammered shut beside her grave.

I'm A Ukrainian Refugee. Here's What No One Is Telling You About The War.

"The weight of the war is on us, along with worry about our children's future ... All of that will slowly kill your spirit, as surely as a bomb will kill your body."

By Maria Zavalova

Jul 25, 2022, 04:31 PM EDT | Updated 17 hours ago



The author with her younger son and their dog on the first day in the Italian town they're calling home, which they reached after four days of travel. COURTESY OF MARIA ZAVIALOVA

People ask me how I'm doing in exile. Well, let's see — my city is being bombed, my country's future is under threat from a superpower, the father of my children is at war, and I'm a thousand miles from home in a country where I don't speak the language, have no job, and can only watch my savings dwindle to zero while I try to provide for my two boys, my mother and our dog. Then there's the guilt for abandoning the fight, when a big part of me would like to be in Donbas killing every Russian soldier I can find.

Until late February, I was an independent, self-supporting woman — a journalist and the main breadwinner for my family. When the bombs started to fall near our apartment in Kyiv, I had a terrible decision to make: stay and fight, or take my family away from the bombs. With no one else to ensure their safety, I chose the latter. As a journalist, I've covered refugee camps. Now, along the way, I found myself living in one. In my former life, I gave to charities (I still do, whenever I can). On the road, I was accepting the charity of strangers: food, transport, a night in a hotel when we were on the verge of collapse.

We know who really cares about us. They're the people who write, as five of my friends did one recent day when bombs fell on Kyiv: "It's too dangerous. Stay where you are." Still, many of the refugees I meet are mired in despair, sadness and depression, which seem to be the only socially acceptable emotions for them to feel or express. God forbid anyone should post a photo of themselves on the beach or at a football match. Such a person would have to be a heartless traitor! But succumbing to that view is a crime in two ways: It doesn't make our lives easier, and it won't help win the war.

Instead, I don't let my emotions stop me from doing everything I can to contribute to the war effort, and I encourage others to do the same. It's hard to be productive or creative when you're depressed, so I fight it. I share, tweet and retweet constantly. I speak to my foreign friends about Ukraine, about our courage and all the best of our nation. I use social media to spread the truth about Ukraine, because Russia never stops spouting its lies. When I can, I use my contacts to facilitate the shipment of ammo, flak jackets and medicine to our brave fighters. And I try not to feel guilty about those moments when I can enjoy life — when I can laugh with my kids, sample the local food, and yes, even go to the beach.

When I was a journalist traveling in Donbas and Crimea from 2014 through 2021, my colleagues and I had a motto: "Enjoy life whenever you can." We would go out for dinners and vodka, and laugh while the bombs fell, because we knew the next one could fall on us. Here in exile, we are safe from the bombs. But the weight of the war is on us, along with worry about our children's future and fear for our friends and family left behind. And the guilt is here, too, in spite of my efforts to shed it. All of that will slowly kill your spirit, as surely as a bomb will kill your body.

We Ukrainians have had enough sadness and despair to last the rest of our lives, and there's likely more to come. In the meantime, we must all do our part, and respect and love each other for it.

And, to our foreign friends: We are no longer in the headlines every day, but please do not forget us. We need all of you — not just your governments — to do everything you can to help us secure our democracy and protect the West from Russia's aggression. (Two organizations that are doing excellent work and could use more support are the Women Veterans Foundation and Come Back Alive.)

So, how am I doing? On the bright side, I learned to make pizza.



Maria Zavalova is a Ukrainian journalist living temporarily in exile. You can find more from her on Twitter.

Follow

я така ніяка (I'm not like that)

@nobody_in_ua

Стоїмо, не провокуємо #укрві #ukraine

© Kyiv 📅 Joined December 2009

593 Following 242 Followers

I'm A Ukrainian Refugee. Here's What No One Is Telling You About The War.

"The weight of the war is on us, along with worry about our children's future ... All of that will slowly kill your spirit, as surely as a bomb will kill your body."

By Maria Zavialova

Jul 25, 2022, 04:31 PM EDT | Updated 17



and love each other for it.

huffpost.com

I'm A Ukrainian Refugee. Here's What No One Is Telling You About The...

"The weight of the war is on us, along with worry about our children's future ... All of that will slowly kill your spirit, as surely as a bomb will kill your body."

The author with her younger son and their dog on the first day of their journey, calling home, which they reached after four days of travel. COURTESY OF MARIA ZAVIALOVA

People ask me how I'm doing in exile. Well, let's see — not being bombed, not worrying about my country's future is under threat from a superpower, the father of my children is at war, and I'm a thousand miles from home in a country where I don't speak the language, have no job, and can only watch my savings dwindle to zero while I try to provide for my two boys, my mother and our dog. Then there's the guilt for abandoning the fight, when a big part of me would like to be in Donbas killing every Russian soldier I can find.

Until late February, I was an independent, self-supporting woman — a journalist and the main breadwinner for my family. When the bombs started to fall near our apartment in Kyiv, I had a terrible decision to make: stay and fight, or take my family away from the bombs. With no one else to ensure their safety, I chose the latter. As a journalist, I've covered refugee camps. Now, along the way, I found myself living in one. In my former life, I gave to charities (I still do, whenever I can). On the road, I was accepting the charity of strangers: food, transport, a night in a hotel when we were on the verge of collapse.

We know who really cares about us. They're the people who write, as five of my friends did one recent day when bombs fell on Kyiv: "It's too dangerous. Stay where you are." Still, many of the refugees I meet are mired in despair, sadness and depression, which seem to be the only socially acceptable emotions for them to feel or express. God forbid anyone should post a photo of themselves on the beach or at a football match. Such a person would have to be a heartless traitor! But succumbing to that view is a crime in two ways: It doesn't make our lives easier, and it won't help win the war.

...

Instead, I don't let my emotions stop me from doing everything I can to contribute to the war effort, and I encourage others to do the same. It's hard to be productive or creative when you're depressed, so I fight it. I share, tweet and retweet constantly. I speak to my foreign friends about Ukraine, about our courage and all the best of our nation. I use my voice because Russia never stops spouting its lies about the shipment of ammo, flak jackets and other supplies. I'm not guilty about those moments when I eat the local food, and yes, even go to the gym.

From 2014 through 2021, my life was a constant state of "you can." We would go out for dinner because we knew the next one could fall on us. But the weight of the war is on us, and for our friends and family left behind, it's hard to shed it. All of that will slowly kill your spirit.

and pair to last the rest of our lives, and must all do our part, and respect

in the headlines every day, but please do not forget us, we need all of you — not just your governments — to do everything you can to protect the West from Russia's aggression. and could use more support are the Women Veterans Foundation and Come Back Alive.)

So, how are you doing? On the bright side, I learned to make pizza.



Maria Zavialova is a Ukrainian journalist living temporarily in exile. You can find more from her on Twitter.

Follow

я така ніяка (I'm not like that) @nobody_in_ua

Стоїмо, не провокуємо #укртіві #ukraine

Kyiv Joined December 2009

593 Following 242 Followers

US to plant 1 billion trees as climate change kills forests

By MATTHEW BROWN today



1 of 2

FILE - A burned hillside where crews are planting seedlings including Giant Sequoia in Mountain Home State Demonstration Forest outside Springville, Calif., on April 26, 2022. Destructive fires in recent years that burned too hot for forests to quickly regrow have far outpaced the government's capacity to replant trees. (Carlos Avila Gonzalez/San Francisco Chronicle via AP, File)

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The Biden administration on Monday said the government will plant more than one billion trees across millions of acres of burned and dead woodlands in the U.S. West, as officials struggle to counter the increasing toll on the nation's forests from wildfires, insects and other manifestations of climate change.

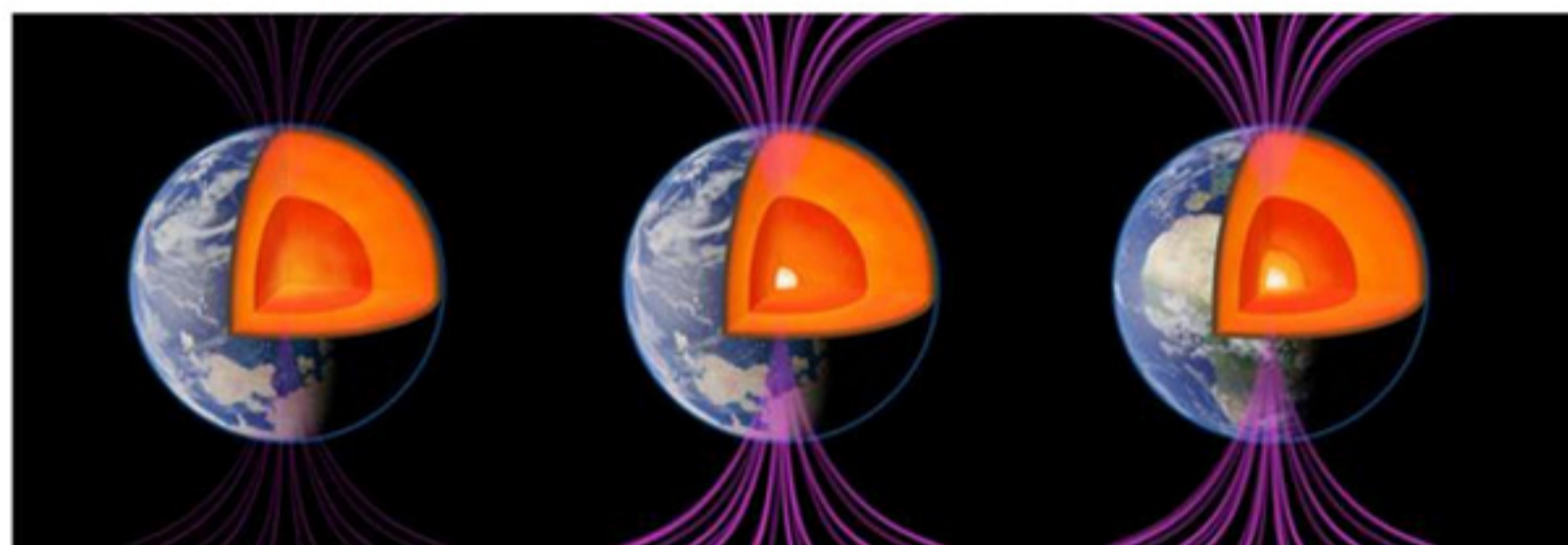
FILE - Contract workers hired by the State of California carry giant sequoia seedlings to be planted on a hillside in Mountain Home State Demonstration Forest outside Springville, Calif., on April 26, 2022. The Biden administration on Monday, July 25, 2022, said it plans to replant trees on millions of acres of burned and dead woodlands as officials struggle to counter the increasing toll on the nation's forests from wildfires, insects and other manifestations of climate change. (Carlos Avila Gonzalez/San Francisco Chronicle via AP,



JULY 25, 2022

How did Earth avoid a Mars-like fate? Ancient rocks hold clues

by Lindsey Valich, University of Rochester



A depiction of Earth, first without an inner core; second, with an inner core begin...

Approximately 1,800 miles beneath our feet, swirling liquid iron in the Earth's outer core generates our planet's protective magnetic field. This magnetic field is invisible but is vital for life on Earth's surface because it shields the planet from solar wind—streams of radiation from the sun. About 565 million years ago, however, the magnetic field's strength decreased to 10 percent of its strength today. Then, mysteriously, the field bounced back, regaining its strength just before the Cambrian explosion of multicellular life on Earth.

What caused the magnetic field to bounce back? According to new research from scientists at the University of Rochester, this rejuvenation happened within a few tens of millions of years—rapid on geological timescales—and coincided with the formation of Earth's solid inner core, suggesting that the core is likely a direct cause. "The inner core is tremendously important," says John Tarduno, the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and dean of research for Arts, Sciences & Engineering at Rochester. "Right before the inner core started to grow, the magnetic field was at the point of collapse, but as soon as the inner core started to grow, the field was regenerated."

In the paper, published in *Nature Communications*, the researchers determined several key dates in the inner core's history, including a more precise estimate for its age. The research provides clues about the history and future evolution of Earth and how it became a habitable planet, as well as the evolution of other planets in the solar system.

Unlocking information in ancient rocks: Earth is composed of layers: the crust, where life is situated; the mantle, Earth's thickest layer; the molten outer core; and the solid inner core, which is in turn composed of an outermost inner core and an innermost inner core. Earth's magnetic field is generated in its outer core, where swirling liquid iron causes electric currents, driving a phenomenon called the geodynamo that produces the magnetic field. Because of the magnetic field's relationship to Earth's core, scientists have been trying for decades to determine how Earth's magnetic field and core have changed throughout our planet's history. They cannot directly measure the magnetic field due to the location and extreme temperatures of materials in the core. Fortunately, minerals that rise to Earth's surface contain tiny magnetic particles that lock in the direction and intensity of the magnetic field at the time the minerals cool from their molten state. To better constrain the age and growth of the inner core, Tarduno and his team used a CO₂ laser and the lab's superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) magnetometer to analyze feldspar crystals from the rock anorthosite. These crystals have minute magnetic needles within them that are "perfect magnetic recorders," Tarduno says. By studying the magnetism locked in ancient crystals—a field known as paleomagnetism—the researchers determined two new important dates in the history of the inner core:

- 550 million years ago: the time at which the magnetic field began to renew rapidly after a near collapse 15 million years before that. The researchers attribute the rapid renewal of the magnetic field to the formation of a solid inner core that recharged the molten outer core and restored the magnetic field's strength.
- 450 million years ago: the time at which the growing inner core's structure changed, marking the boundary between the innermost and outermost inner core. These changes in the inner core coincide with changes around the same time in the structure of the overlying mantle, due to plate tectonics on the surface.

"Because we constrained the inner core's age more accurately, we could explore the fact that the present-day inner core is actually composed of two parts," Tarduno says. "Plate tectonic movements on Earth's surface indirectly affected the inner core, and the history of these movements is imprinted deep within Earth in the inner core's structure."

Avoiding a Mars-like fate: Better understanding the dynamics and growth of the inner core and the magnetic field has important implications, not only in uncovering Earth's past and predicting its future, but in unraveling the ways in which other planets might form magnetic shields and sustain the conditions necessary to harbor life. Researchers believe that Mars, for example, once had a magnetic field, but the field dissipated, leaving the planet vulnerable to solar wind and the surface without oceans. While it is unclear whether the absence of a magnetic field would have caused Earth to meet the same fate, "Earth certainly would've lost much more water if Earth's magnetic field had not been regenerated," Tarduno says. "The planet would be much drier and very different than the planet today."

In terms of planetary evolution, then, the research emphasizes the importance of a magnetic shield and a mechanism to sustain it, he says. **"This research really highlights the need to have something like a growing inner core that sustains a magnetic field over the entire lifetime—many billions of years—of a planet."**

Fate of San Diego's free trash pickup could be decided by voters



By: Marie Coronel

Posted at 11:21 AM, Jul 25, 2022 and last updated 12:37 PM, Jul 25, 2022

SAN DIEGO (KGTV) - The People's Ordinance has been in the city of San Diego's books for more than a hundred years, but a City Council vote could put this issue on the ballot allowing people to vote on whether or not changes can be made to the rule regarding trash pickup.

San Diego City Council President Sean Elo Rivera said, "What we need to do is to allow our city to have the space to work with the residents and provide them a 21st century waste collection system."

As it stands right now, in the city of San Diego, if you live in a single-family home in the city, you likely aren't paying for trash pickup, while others who may live in a condo or apartment may have to pay based on where you live.

San Diego resident Debora Samuels said, "We pay fees. We carry the burden of paying these fees without seeing any benefits in my community."

Elo-Rivera and Councilman Joe LaCava want to change that. On Monday morning, they held a news conference in support of a change to the People's Ordinance.

If the City Council chooses to put the issue on the November ballot, voters will be able to decide if the ordinance can be changed. Elo-Rivera said if that happens, San Diego residents could still be several years away from determining a dollar amount for trash pickup fees.

Elo-Rivera added, "We understand it's a tough economy — costs have gone up in a lot of ways. People are worried about that, and what we say to that is that's not what we are asking folks to approve right now."

If the city begins charging for trash pickup, the money will go to the general fund, which could help pay for other projects such as parks, libraries, and public safety.

We're living in an age of permanent crisis – let's stop planning for a 'return to normal'

James Meadway

Current plans predicated on stable growth seem foolish when we know that shocks such as global heating aren't going away

Fri 22 Jul 2022 07:00 EDT



Temperatures in Britain hit 40C. Runways melt at major airports. The London fire brigade reports its busiest single day since the second world war as fires rage around the city. The Met Office warns of temperatures so high they “could lead to serious illness or loss of life”. Meanwhile, inflation grinds inexorably upwards. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is part of it, but other pressures were already apparent. Staples such as coffee saw price rises as a result of extreme weather disrupting harvests. Even silicon chips have been affected, with droughts in Taiwan putting the hugely water-intensive production of semiconductors at risk. The environmental crisis isn't going away. The best available projections from climate forecasters point to greater instability – more heatwaves, more floods, worse shortages of food, even an increased risk of future pandemics.

Yet this unavoidable and hugely costly instability, now becoming a part of our daily lives, scarcely seems to register with the institutions charged with managing the economy.

Official forecasts, prepared by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), actually show inflation fading away rapidly over this year and a return to normal inflation and rates of growth over the next two years, as “output grows broadly in line with the economy's productive potential”. Similarly, the latest Bank of England report predicts that the external shocks we see will wane, and inflation will return to its normal 2% target level in two to three years.

The government's own plans for the immediate economic future are built around this belief in a strikingly rapid return to normality, with the Treasury using the OBR's forecasts for its planning. Its only recognition of “higher than usual” uncertainty comes from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, not environmental instability.

This isn't some quirk of the official forecasters. The assumption of a certain kind of stability over time is hardwired into many of the kinds of economic models used today. That even if the economy is temporarily knocked off-balance, it will swing, eventually, back to its steady growth path, plodding on into the future. “Shocks” such as sudden hikes in the price of oil, or wars in eastern Europe, may happen, but, like a roly-poly toy, the economy springs back to where it was before.

Any deviation from this stable, long-run growth path is assumed by the models to be temporary, with the deep structures of the economy – demographics and technological change, primarily – asserting themselves over any short-term fluctuations. The big question is how quickly the economy can respond to a shock, and get back to its long-run path.

From the birth of modern economics two centuries ago until now, this unstated assumption didn't matter. The Earth's climate was broadly stable. But what if the environmental shocks just keep coming?

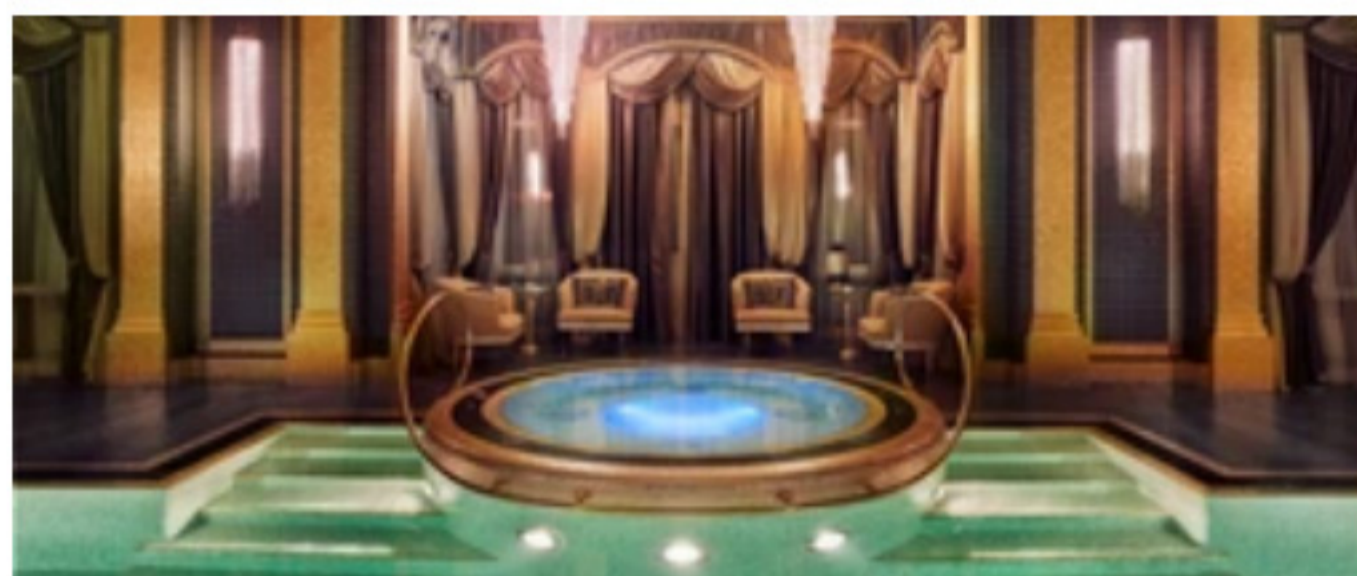
It's past time for a new approach, from the fundamental design of our economic models to the kind of economic management pursued by government. **A starting point would be to focus on the requirements of protection, rather than the assumption of future growth.** Focusing on things such as support for incomes, including real-terms pay, pensions and benefits increases, as a monetary insurance for households against future environmental shocks. And to invest hugely, not only in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but in building in the kind of protections against extreme weather, from flood defences to home insulation, that are now tragically necessary.

'There's a Recession Coming': The Rich Rush to Offload Luxury Properties

The rich are now paying attention to prices and their income, lament high-end agents in hotspots like Miami and San Francisco. "It's pretty sudden," one said.

MS By [Maxwell Strachan](#)

July 22, 2022, 6:00am



After a decade of feeling invincible, the tech industry is suddenly facing something new: financial insecurity. Valuations are down, layoffs are up, startup funding no longer feels limitless, and an air of fear has started to permeate the sector, as bosses and workers alike adjust to a harsher version of reality.

In cities like San Francisco, New York, and Miami, luxury real estate agents are starting to notice the effects of the tech downturn on their business, they tell Motherboard, as wealthy tech clients grapple with the fact that raises, bonuses, and job offers no longer seem as inevitable as they did a few months ago.

"The elephant in the room these days is that there's a recession coming," said Karley Chynces, a blockchain-focused real estate agent at Sotheby's International Realty in Miami. Nationally, rising interest rates for home loans have combined with record home costs to price out potential homebuyers. But within the pockets of the country where tech workers tend to throw money down on housing, interest rates are less of a concern than the decline of tech stocks and the constant barrage of layoff announcements, according to conversations agents have had with their clients. "It's wider than just interest rates because a lot of people in New York City actually purchase in cash," said Manhattan real estate agent McKenzie Ryan.

There are signs that the housing market may have temporarily peaked. Asking prices have slipped ever so slightly, homebuilders are starting work on fewer homes, and mortgage demand is the lowest it's been since 2000. For now, home sales are down most among the cheapest homes, where buyers are more price-conscious and typically affected more by interest rates changes. But a spokesperson for the real estate brokerage Redfin, which analyzes housing data, said markets like San Francisco are "definitely cooling." A recent Redfin analysis found sales of luxury homes were down almost 18 percent in the three months leading up to May, compared to a 5.4 percent drop among non-luxury homes. (Redfin defines "luxury" homes as those in the top 5 percent in price in a given area.)

Ryan and others have noticed a particular nervousness among people in the tech sector, which makes up a significant percentage of top buyers in the New York and San Francisco areas, she said. They suddenly feel less secure and more skittish about shelling out for a luxury apartment. "Job security is definitely looming over people," said Ryan. "We're moving from a more optimistic market to a more conservative market."

The declining values of cryptocurrencies have only added to the pain. "A lot of New York buyers who work in tech are also invested in Web3," said Ryan. "The correction in those markets has resulted in a pretty substantial loss of wealth."

Brent Rogol, an agent in New York, was recently selling an apartment to a buyer who was heavily invested in tech stocks, which dropped dramatically in value over the course of negotiations. "It really reduced her buying power, and we were only able to get so much," Rogol said. "We ended up settling with this person because she was the only buyer, and she just couldn't go any higher because of her portfolio." Rogol and his client were nervous until the day the transaction closed that a further market drop would kill the purchase, he said.

Joanna Rose, a San Francisco agent who primarily works with sellers, said that while interest rates were a large issue for homebuyers nationally, "the biggest thing" affecting the San Francisco market is the decline in share prices for tech companies, since most of her \$4 million-plus homes are purchased in cash and tech employees often liquidate company shares in order to put money down on a home. Interest rates are a little part of it, but from my experience and what I've seen in San Francisco, we're struggling more with things like coming up with the cash they're used to putting down on these properties," Rose said.

Talk of a potential recession has only added to the sense of fear, and Rose is starting to notice it start her business recently. "It's pretty sudden," she said. She has only received one phone call about a new \$3.5 million condo in a luxury penthouse she listed two weeks ago. "I thought the market might have come to an open house before the end of the year, but people had to have their

Russia's withdrawal from the International Space Station could mean the early demise of the orbital lab – and sever another Russian link with the West

Wendy Whitman Cobb, Air University

Over its 23-year lifetime, the station has been an important example of how Russia and the U.S. can work together despite being former adversaries. This cooperation has been especially significant as the countries' relationship has deteriorated in recent years. While it remains unclear whether the Russians will follow through with this announcement, it does add significant stress to the operation of the most successful international cooperation in space ever. As a scholar who studies space policy, I think the question now is whether the political relationship has gotten so bad that working together in space becomes impossible.

Top democracy activists were executed in Myanmar – 4 key things to know

Tharaphi Than, Northern Illinois University

The military wants to send a message to other citizens – and to the world – it is in charge. But behind a thin veneer of control, the military fears of public opposition and uprisings. The United States and other major powers have largely been absent as Myanmar has experienced a coup and subsequent political and economic crisis. While the Myanmar army continues to get support and military supplies from Russia, other countries have taken a wait-and-see approach. One reason is that Myanmar's situation is internal, and its military is not fighting other countries. Now, hundreds of internal groups in Myanmar are fighting over their vested interests, including territory.

Why the big fuss over Nancy Pelosi's possible visit to Taiwan?

Meredith Oyen, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

A high-profile visit – even one without the public backing of the White House – would signal support to the island at a time when the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has raised questions over the international community's commitment to protect smaller states from more powerful neighbors.

Monarch butterflies join the Red List of endangered species, thanks to habitat loss, climate change and pesticides

Kristen A. Baum, Oklahoma State University

There are many factors contributing to monarchs' decline. One of the most serious threats is habitat fragmentation and loss. Habitat fragmentation occurs when urban development or agricultural expansion break up large areas of habitat into smaller, often isolated patches. This leaves fewer areas for monarchs to find the nectar-rich plants that adult butterflies feed on, or milkweed, the sole food source for monarch caterpillars. Other threats include pesticides, disease, climate change and invasive species. Providing more suitable habitat for monarchs in more places could help them tolerate these stresses.

A brief history of Esperanto, the 135-year-old language of peace hated by Hitler and Stalin alike

Joshua Holzer, Westminster College

The promise of peace through a shared language has not yet caught on widely, but there are perhaps as many as 2 million Esperanto speakers worldwide. -- <https://youtu.be/vlQyGettpTc>

The opioid crisis isn't just the Sacklers' fault – and making Purdue Pharma pay isn't enough on its own to fix the pharmaceutical industry's deeper problems

David Herzberg, University at Buffalo

My research has shown that the crisis isn't an aberration caused by the individual misdeeds of bad actors. Punishing people who broke the law, and making business leaders pay to repair the harms they caused, surely helps. Yet broad reforms are also needed to prevent similar disasters from happening again.



3 reasons US coal power is disappearing – and a Supreme Court ruling won't save it

Rebecca J. Davis, Stephen F. Austin State University

The main reasons why the power sector is moving away from coal: Natural gas prices have decreased significantly, Solar and wind energy are now cost competitive with fossil-fueled generators, the government instituted environmental regulations aiming to reduce hazardous air pollutants.

Feeling connected enhances mental and physical health – here are 4 research-backed ways to find moments of connection with loved ones and strangers

Dave Smallen, Metropolitan State University

Four ways to connect: 1. Heart-to-hearts conversations 2. Giving and receiving help 3. Experiencing positive emotions together 4. Expressing and receiving affection and gratitude are especially well-researched means of bonding.

There is a lot of antisemitic hate speech on social media – and algorithms are partly to blame

Sabine von Mering, Brandeis University and Monika Hübscher, University of Duisburg-Essen

To meaningfully address antisemitic hate speech, social media companies would need to change the algorithms that collect and curate user data for advertisement companies, which make up a large part of their revenue.

How the omicron subvariant BA.5 became a master of disguise – and what it means for the current COVID-19 surge

Suresh V. Kuchipudi, Penn State

the virus that causes COVID-19, is effectively using classic techniques that viruses use to escape the immune system. These escape strategies range from changing the shape of key proteins recognized by your immune system's protective antibodies to camouflaging its genetic material to fool human cells into considering it a part of themselves instead of an invader to attack.

Proclaim debt amnesty throughout all the land? A biblical solution to a present-day problem

Eva von Dassow, University of Minnesota

People lacking sufficient property to secure their debts would have to pledge their dependents or even their own selves to their creditors. Their creditors thus became their masters, and those pledged for debt were effectively enslaved, unless and until they were redeemed. A decree of debt amnesty would wipe the slate clean, springing people from bondage and restoring their freedom as well as their fortunes.

A new dictionary will document the lexicon of African American English

July 27, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

JEEVIKA VERMA



The dictionary aims to be the first to complete the task at this magnitude.

Black Americans have long contributed to the ways in which the English language is used, and now a new research project aims to compile the first Oxford Dictionary of African American English. "Finally we will have a space that recognizes our language in a way that encompasses all the people within African American language communities," said Sonja Lanehart, a linguistics professor at the University of Arizona who grew up in the South.

"If we look at some present words, we can think of something like woke and hip, cool, bad meaning good."

The research project is a collaboration between Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research and Oxford University Press, with Lanehart among the advising editors.

Although there have been projects like this in the past, Lanehart said none had attempted to focus on African American language varieties at this magnitude.

"It will be much more expansive and inclusive of the language as opposed to [just] some words here and there," she said. And instead of just defining or spelling the words, the project will also provide some historical context.

"The etymology of a word and the history of the word is extremely important ... in understanding how a language has developed, evolved, and who's been a part of it," Lanehart said.

Supported in part by grants from the Mellon and Wagner foundations, the project is one of the most well-funded efforts of its kind. Researchers will pull from documents including flyers, books, and newspapers. They will also draw from music, oral histories, and most notably for Lanehart – social media.

"Social media has allowed an outlet in a way that Black people hadn't really had before," she says. Looking to Twitter, she added, could highlight the regional, economic, and social roots of some of this language.

"Dictionaries attempt to codify language," Lanehart said. "And what's going to be important about this in getting it right is listening to the people... in terms of what they say and what it means to them."

What's more, understanding this context behind the origins of African American English can broaden the understanding of English as a whole.

"Every speaker of American English borrows heavily from words invented by African Americans, whether they know it or not," Hutchins Center director and the editor in chief on the project, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. said in a statement.

And Lanehart thinks that crediting African Americans for these words in an official, well-researched lexicon will help in other ways.

"It's taken a lot to get to this point to show that Black people and Black language aren't grotesque, exotic, or deficient," Lanehart said. "They have a language variety that is different and should be recognized just like any other language variety."

The Oxford Dictionary of African American English, with a first version due in three years, aims to do just that.

A growing number of Americans are questioning the value of going to college

July 26, 2022 · 5:27 PM ET

POOJA SALHOTRA 



The share of Americans who believe colleges and universities have a positive impact on the country has declined since 2020, according to recent survey.



Sophie Nguyen

@SophieSG17

Washington, DC  Joined September 2017

304 Following 136 Followers

higher education

The share of Americans who believe colleges and universities have a positive impact on the country has dropped by 14 percentage points since 2020.

Many of the report's findings have remained stable over time – for example, the general consensus that post-secondary education offers a good return on investment for students remains. But there's been a steep decline in the overall perception of higher education's impact on the country.

That decline is driven by economic challenges, according to Sophie Nguyen, who co-authored the report.

The nationally representative survey included about 1,500 adults and was conducted in the spring of 2022, "when people started to feel the effects of gas price increases," Nguyen says. "People started to feel that an economic recession is actually coming."

In line with previous years, the survey finds that Democrats and Republicans disagree about multiple aspects of higher education. While 73% of Democrats believe colleges and universities have a positive impact on the country, only 37% of Republicans feel that way.

Americans also remain divided on who should pay for higher education. Most Democrats (77%) say the government should fund higher education because it's good for society, while the majority of Republicans (63%) say students should pay for post high school education because they benefit from it.

A new question on this year's survey asked respondents about the minimum level of education they believe their immediate or close family members should receive in order to be financially secure. While nearly three-quarters of respondents agree some sort of postsecondary education is required for their child or close family member to achieve financial security, there are partisan divides. Only a quarter of Democrats say that a high school diploma or GED is sufficient to achieve economic security, compared to 39% of Republicans who say so.

Despite the overall agreement on the value of higher education, many Americans are concerned about affordability. Only about half of respondents think Americans can get an affordable, high-quality education after high school.

Across the political spectrum, says Nguyen, people "are pretty aligned on the affordability questions." But, she says, they don't agree on how to solve these affordability issues. "I think that's translated to the current policy environment we're living in right now."

Proclaim debt amnesty throughout all the land? A biblical solution to a present-day problem

Published: July 26, 2022 7:57am EDT

▼ Eva von Dassow, University of Minnesota



Part of a restoration edict of Ammisaduqa, one of the rulers of ancient Babylon.

Student loan debt is one of the most burdensome forms of debt in America today. According to oft-cited statistics, approximately 43 million Americans have student loan debt, cumulatively amounting to around US\$1.7 trillion. The exorbitant costs of higher education in the United States, combined with the fact that educational credentials serve as a ticket to decent employment, require many students to take out loans that follow them long past graduation – and that are almost impossible to discharge in bankruptcy.

Hence, calls for cancellation of student loan debt by legislative or executive action keep intensifying, and President Joe Biden is expected to respond by ordering cancellation of some amount, notwithstanding arguments against any blanket debt amnesty.

Yet this very policy is inscribed on the U.S. Liberty Bell. “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof!” it declares, quoting the biblical Book of Leviticus, 25:10. The Hebrew word translated “liberty,” “derōr,” actually refers to debt amnesty.



The Liberty Bell, with its famous crack, in Philadelphia.

In the world of the Bible, it was customary to cancel all noncommercial debts from time to time. As a scholar of the ancient Near East, I’ve read many cuneiform tablets that record how people then – like Americans today – often went into debt to meet living expenses. They might mortgage their property to keep a roof over their heads, only to find that ever-accruing interest made it impossible to pay off the principal.

As long as higher education is treated simultaneously as a private good and a job requirement, people will still need to go into debt to get degrees. Then the same remedy will have to be applied again.

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and FOSTER KLUG today

The AP Interview: Japan minister says women 'underestimated'



1 of 6

Japanese Gender Equality Minister Seiko Noda talks during an interview with The Associated Press Tuesday, July 26, 2022, in Tokyo. Noda called the country's record low births and plunging population a national crisis and blamed "indifference and ignorance" in the male-dominated Japanese parliament for the neglect. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Amnesty: Taliban crackdown on rights is 'suffocating' women

5 hours ago



1 of 2

FILE - Afghan women wait to receive cash at a money distribution point organized by the World Food Program, in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Nov. 20, 2021. The lives of Afghan women and girls are being destroyed by the Taliban's crackdown on their human rights, said Amnesty International in a new report Wednesday, July 27, 2022. The London-based watchdog criticized Taliban authorities saying that since Taliban took control of the country in August 2021, they have violated women's and girls' rights to education, work and free movement. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris, File)

AP Exclusive: Philippines scraps Russian chopper deal

By JIM GOMEZ today



FILE - Philippine Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana speaks during the fifth plenary session of the 18th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-la Dialogue, an annual defense and security forum in Asia, in Singapore on June 2, 2019. Former Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he cancelled the 12.7 billion-peso (\$227 million) deal to acquire the Mi-17 helicopters last month in a decision that was approved by then-President Rodrigo Duterte before his six-year term ended on June 30. (AP Photo/Yong Teck Lim, File)

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine government has scrapped a deal to purchase 16 Russian military transport helicopters due to fears of possible U.S. sanctions, Philippine officials said.

Former Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Tuesday night he canceled the 12.7-billion-peso (\$227 million) deal to acquire the Mi-17 helicopters in a decision last month that was approved by then-President Rodrigo Duterte before their terms in office ended on June 30.

“We could face sanctions,” Lorenzana told The Associated Press, describing ways Washington could express its displeasure if the Philippines proceeded with the deal due to America’s worsening conflict with Russia.

The Philippines is a treaty ally of Washington, which has imposed heavy sanctions aimed at pressuring Moscow to pull back from Ukraine. The deal to acquire the Russian helicopters was among several weapons purchase agreements signed during Duterte’s final months in office. Last February, Lorenzana signed a 32-billion-peso (\$571 million) deal to acquire 32 S-70i Black Hawk helicopters from Poland-based aerospace manufacturer PZL Mielec. It was the largest military aircraft acquisition contract signed under Duterte, Philippine defense officials said. Due to financial constraints, the Philippines has struggled for years to modernize its military, one of the most underfunded in Asia, to deal with decades-long Muslim and communist insurgencies and to defend its territories in the disputed South China Sea.

US military making plans in case Pelosi travels to Taiwan

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ELLEN KNICKMEYER 24 minutes ago



1 of 4

FILE - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., speaks at the Capitol in Washington, July 21, 2022. U.S. officials say they have little fear that China would attack Pelosi's plane if she flies to Taiwan. But the House Speaker would be entering one of the world's hottest spots where a mishap, misstep or misunderstanding could endanger her safety. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)



In this photo released by the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense, Taiwan military forces conduct anti-landing drills during the annual Han Kuang military exercises near New Taipei City in Taiwan on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. (Taiwan Ministry of National Defense via AP)

SYDNEY (AP) — U.S. officials say they have little fear that China would attack Nancy Pelosi's plane if she flies to Taiwan. But the U.S. House speaker would be entering one of the world's hottest spots, where a mishap, misstep or misunderstanding could endanger her safety. So the Pentagon is developing plans for any contingency.

Officials told The Associated Press that if Pelosi goes to Taiwan — still an uncertainty — the military would increase its movement of forces and assets in the Indo-Pacific region. They declined to provide details, but said that fighter jets, ships, surveillance assets and other military systems would likely be used to provide overlapping rings of protection for her flight to Taiwan and any time on the ground there.

Any foreign travel by a senior U.S. leader requires additional security. But officials said this week that a visit to Taiwan by Pelosi — she would be the highest-ranking U.S. elected official to visit Taiwan since 1997 — would go beyond the usual safety precautions for trips to less risky destinations.

Asked about planned military steps to protect Pelosi in the event of a visit, U.S. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday that discussion of any specific travel is premature. But, he added, "if there's a decision made that Speaker Pelosi or anyone else is going to travel and they asked for military support, we will do what is necessary to ensure a safe conduct of their visit. And I'll just leave it at that."

On Monday, Russia's state-owned gas company Gazprom said it would cut flows through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany in half, to just 20% of its capacity. A US official said the move was retaliation for western sanctions, and that it put the West in "unchartered territory" when it comes to whether Europe will have enough gas to get through the winter.

US officials say 'biggest fear' has come true as Russia cuts gas supplies to Europe

CNN · 3 hours ago

- **Your Wednesday Briefing: The E.U. Agrees to Curb Its Gas Consumption**

The New York Times · 15 hours ago

 [View Full Coverage](#)



PJSC Gazprom (Russian: Газпром, IPA: [ɡɐsˈprom]) is a Russian majority state-owned multinational energy corporation headquartered in the Lakhta Center in Saint Petersburg. As of 2019, with sales over \$120,000,000,000, it was ranked as the largest publicly listed natural gas company in the world and the largest company in Russia by revenue. In the 2020 Forbes Global 2000, Gazprom was ranked as the 32nd -largest public company in the world. The Gazprom name is a contraction of the Russian words *gazovaya promyshlennost* (газовая промышленность, gas industry). In January 2022, Gazprom displaced Sberbank from the first place in the list of the largest companies in Russia by market capitalization.

Gazprom is vertically integrated and is active in every area of the gas industry, including exploration and production, refining, transport, distribution and marketing, and power generation. In 2018, Gazprom produced twelve percent of the global output of natural gas, producing 497.6 billion cubic meters of natural and associated gas and 15.9 million tonnes of gas condensate. Gazprom then exports the gas through pipelines that the company builds and owns across Russia and abroad such as Nord Stream and TurkStream. In the same year, Gazprom has proven reserves of 35.1 trillion cubic meters of gas and 1.6 billion tons of gas condensate. Gazprom is also a large oil producer through its subsidiary Gazprom Neft, producing about 41 million tons of oil with reserves amounting to 2 billion tons. The company also has subsidiaries in industrial sectors including finance, media and aviation, and majority stakes in other companies.

Gazprom was created in 1989, when the Soviet Ministry of Gas Industry was converted to a corporation, becoming the first state-run corporate enterprise in the Soviet Union. After the Soviet Union's dissolution, Gazprom was privatized, retaining its Russia-based assets. At that time, Gazprom evaded taxes and state regulation and engaged in asset stripping. The company later returned to government control in the early 2000s, and since then, the company is involved in the Russian government's diplomatic efforts, setting of gas prices, and access to pipelines.

ENRIC SALA

In this spirited memoir, world-renowned conservationist **Enric Sala** weaves fascinating tales of the natural world, revealing how connections in nature promise a thriving economy as well as a healthy planet.



The Nature of Nature: *Why We Need the Wild*

By Enric Sala
Foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales
Introduction by Edward O. Wilson

In this inspiring manifesto, an internationally renowned ecologist makes a clear case for why protecting nature is our best health insurance, and why it makes economic sense. Enric Sala wants to change the world—and in this compelling book, he shows us how. Once we appreciate how nature works, he asserts, we will understand why conservation is economically wise and essential to our survival. Here Sala, director of National Geographic's Pristine Seas project (which has succeeded in protecting more than 5 million square kilometers of ocean), tells the story of his scientific awakening and his transition from academia to activism—as he puts it, he was tired of writing the obituary of the ocean.

His revelations are surprising, sometimes counterintuitive: More sharks signal a healthier ocean; crop diversity, not intensive monoculture farming, is the key to feeding the planet. Using fascinating examples from his expeditions and those of other scientists, Sala shows the economic wisdom of making room for nature, even as the population becomes more urbanized. In a sober epilogue, he shows how saving nature can save us all, by reversing conditions that led to the coronavirus pandemic and preventing other global catastrophes.

With a foreword from Prince Charles and an introduction from E. O. Wilson, this powerful book will change the way you think about our world—and our future.

Enric Sala (born November 26, 1968, Girona) is a former university professor who saw himself writing the obituary of ocean life, and quit academia to become a full-time conservationist as a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence. Sala's present goals are to help protect critical marine ecosystems worldwide, and to develop new business models for marine conservation. He also produces documentary films and other media to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy environment, and to inspire country leaders to protect more of the natural world. Sala grew up near the Costa Brava in Catalonia, Spain, where he developed a lifelong passion for the ocean. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Barcelona in 1991 and a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Aix-Marseille, France in 1996. Sala then moved to the United States to become a professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Sala was a professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California (2000–2007) and a researcher at Spain's National Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) (2007–2008). At Scripps, Sala helped create the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, an innovative multidisciplinary program to train future leaders in marine conservation. In 2006, Enric moved back to Spain to hold the first position on marine conservation ecology at the Spanish National Council for Scientific Research (CSIC). **One day, Sala was hit with a stark realization: "What I was doing was simply writing the obituary of the ocean," he says. "I was describing how ocean life was dying with more and more precision, but not offering a cure. I felt like the doctor who was telling the patient how she was going to die, but not offering a solution."** Following this realization, Sala read a National Geographic Magazine article about Mike Fay, a National Geographic Explorer who trekked across central Africa and convinced the president of Gabon to create 13 national parks. Sala was inspired—this sort of project was exactly what he wanted to do in the ocean. Shortly thereafter, Sala decided to approach National Geographic with a plan. "I went to National Geographic and proposed a project combining exploration, research, and media to inspire governments to make marine reserves—national parks in the sea." In 2008 Sala was named a National Geographic fellow and began to develop the Pristine Seas initiative. In 2011, he and James Cameron were both named National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence. Since 2008, Sala has led National Geographic Pristine Seas. Pristine Seas is a project to explore, document and protect the last wild places in the ocean. Using a combination of expeditions, science, media and policy analysis, the Pristine Seas team has helped to inspire the protection of 22 marine protected areas covering more than 5.7 million square kilometers of ocean. Pristine Seas is a small team of less than thirty people based in Washington, DC and other sites around the world. The team has conducted 31 expeditions, published more than 90 scientific papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and produced 28 documentary films. Sala's research not only shows the human impacts in the ocean, but it also shows how marine ecosystems can recover, and develops practical solutions to improve the health of our oceans. His scientific publications are widely recognized and used for conservation efforts.[3] Pristine Seas' research results include the discovery of an inverted biomass pyramid[4] in pristine coral reefs, new species of fish and invertebrates, previously unknown populations of deep-sea animals, the deepest plant ever found in the ocean, descriptions of some of the healthiest ocean ecosystems, and a description of the ecological and economic benefits of no-take marine reserves. **In 2018, Sala published a study revealing that without government subsidies, more than half of fishing activity on the high seas would be unprofitable**



Viral COVID load in San Diego wastewater sharply increasing

By **Matt Hoffman** / Health Reporter
Contributors: **Roland Lizarondo**

Published July 26, 2022 at 8:14 AM PDT



Kaiser Permanente San Diego @KPSanDiego · 1m

.@KPSanDiego's Dr. William Tseng speaks to the recent increase of COVID-19 found in San Diegans' sewage on @KPBSnews bit.ly/3zAQ08A



Data from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant shows a sharp increase in the amount of COVID-19 found in San Diegans' sewage. **A spike in cases is expected to follow**, said Dr. William Tseng, assistant chief of staff at Kaiser Permanente San Diego. "What that tells us is that in the next two to four weeks, we're going to be dealing with more cases of COVID — no doubt about that," he said.

Wastewater has proven to be an early indicator of when COVID-19 cases will rise. This summer surge has a larger viral load than last summer, and this summer, infections are being driven by the highly contagious BA.5 sub-variant. "It is a very concerning sign that cases are out there and they're going to grow," Tseng said. "We really never know that we're over the peak until we're on the other side, so it's hard to predict, but we're not on the other side yet."

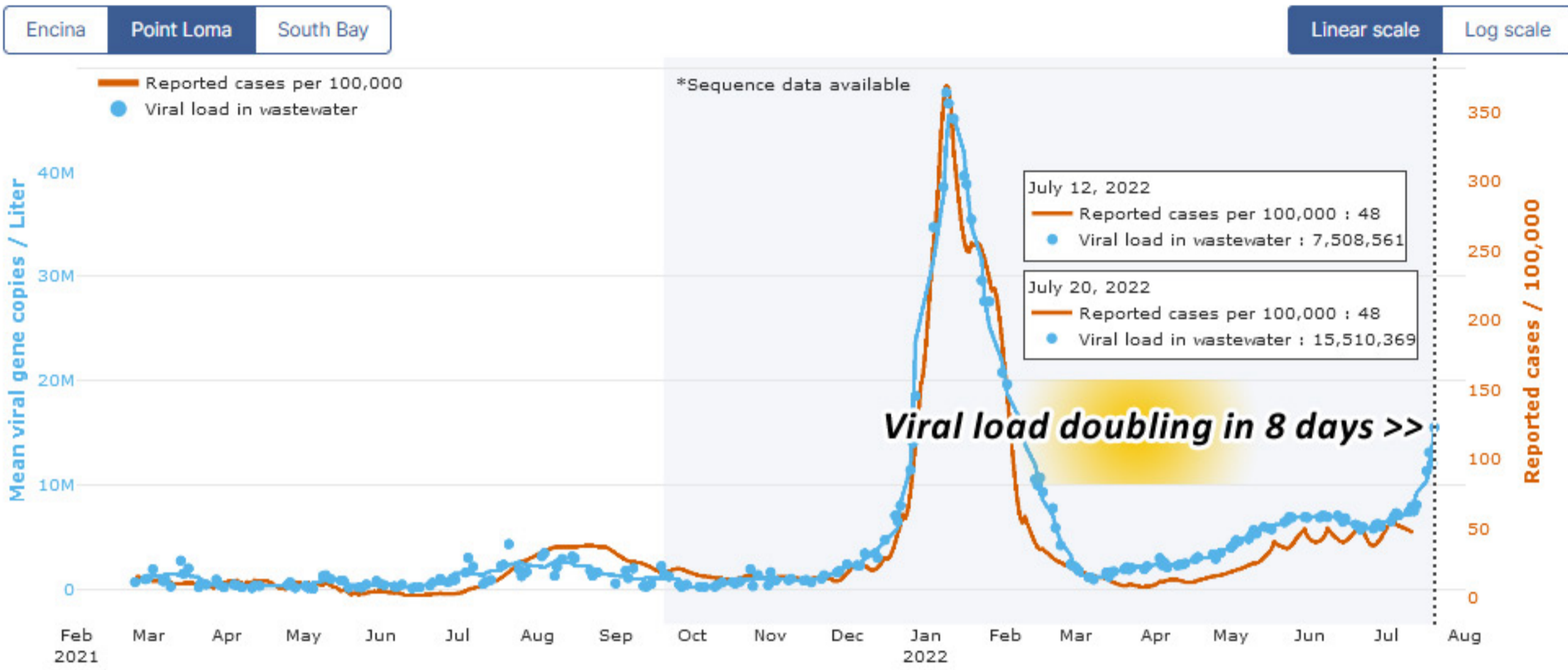
Some local hospitals have recently reported seeing milder illnesses. Tseng said during this wave, fewer patients are being admitted to the intensive care unit. "It's hard to say that a specific variant is much less severe because it can still kill and we still see it," Tseng said. "And if you look at the data, **who is it killing? The people who are unvaccinated, the people immunosuppressed and really those over 75.**"

COVID-19 related hospitalizations have been also been increasing. That combined with higher case counts put San Diego County in the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) high risk tier. Tseng expects the upticks to continue. He recommends people mask up and get boosters. "If you have not gotten your third dose of vaccine, you have got to get it because that makes a huge difference from ending up in the hospital and dying or getting a sore throat," he said.

Tseng said special care should be given if visiting older family or friends. "Don't give them COVID," he said. "You may survive it, but they may not."

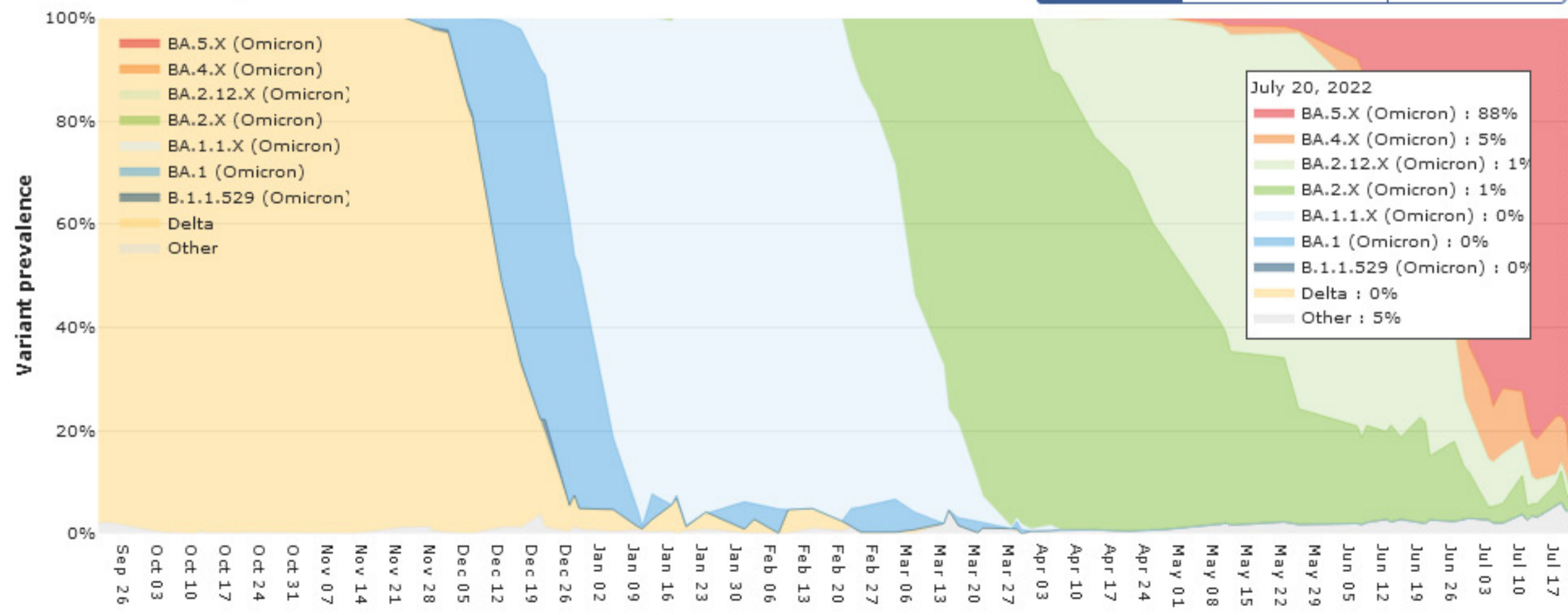
San Diego Unified School District and local military bases recently announced a return to indoor masking. Tseng said everyone should be taking precautions during these increases. "Take care of each other," Tseng said. "When you go to an indoor event, wear a mask. You don't know if you may have COVID or other people there may be susceptible. If you wear your mask indoors, you really prevent spreading this, so be part of the solution not the problem."

In the CDC's high risk tier, officials recommend everyone wear masks indoors.



Wastewater lineages

Prevalence Scale by viral load Scale by cases





J.D. Vance, who won Ohio's GOP Senate primary, calls neoreactionist Curtis Yarvin a friend. Drew

An antidemocratic philosophy called 'neoreaction' is creeping into GOP politics

Published: July 27, 2022 8:00am EDT

George Michael, Westfield State University

President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election were brazenly antidemocratic. Yet Trump and his supporters nonetheless justified their actions under the dubious pretense of preserving American democracy – as a matter of getting the vote right, of reversing voter fraud. There's a good reason they took this approach. Authoritarianism has long been rejected across the political spectrum. Democrats and Republicans routinely lob insults like "dictator" or "fascist" to describe politicians of the other party who are in power. But in recent months, **a strand of conservative thought whose adherents are forthright in their disdain for democracy has started to creep into GOP politics. It's called "neoreaction," and its leading figure, a software engineer and blogger named Curtis Yarvin, has ties to at least two GOP U.S. Senate candidates, along with Peter Thiel, a major GOP donor.**

In my years researching the far right, I see this as one of the more significant developments in right-wing politics. Someone who calls himself a monarchist isn't being relegated to the fringes of the internet. He's being interviewed by Fox News' Tucker Carlson and has U.S. Senate candidates repeating his talking points.

A political philosophy is born: In 2007, Yarvin launched his blog, "Unqualified Reservations." Writing under the pseudonym Mencius Moldbug, he produced a prodigious corpus of political philosophy. In his writings, Yarvin cites his political influences. They include the 19th-century political philosopher Thomas Carlyle, who disdained democracy and thought it could too easily veer into mob rule; American 20th-century political theorist James Burnham, who became convinced that elites would come to control the country's politics while couching their interests in democratic rhetoric; and economist Hans-Hermann Hoppe, who, in his 2001 book "Democracy: The God That Failed," wrote of how all organizations – irrespective of size – are best managed by a single executive.

Yarvin is perhaps best known for his concept of "the cathedral" – his term for the U.S. ruling regime. Yarvin argues that virtually all opinion-makers, most notably those in academia and journalism, are essentially "reading the same book." In an essay for Tablet Magazine, Yarvin wrote that what's often characterized as the "marketplace of ideas" is actually a "monoculture" that props up an oligarchy. The cathedral is self-reinforcing: Individual journalists and professors are rewarded when they follow the ruling ethos. Those who do otherwise risk being punished or at the very least face diminished career prospects.

Yarvin advocates for an entirely new system of government – what he calls "neocameralism." He advocates for a centrally managed economy led by a monarch – perhaps modeled after a corporate CEO – who wouldn't need to adhere to plodding liberal-democratic procedures. Yarvin has written approvingly of the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping for his pragmatic and market-oriented authoritarianism. While not explicitly fascist, Yarvin's worldview does, at times, appear to have a fascistic bent. As the historian Roger Griffin once argued, the essence of fascism was a nationwide process of death and rebirth. Yarvin's rhetoric of "reboots" and "hard resets" evokes the imagery of national renewal. Moreover, though he maintains that he is not a white nationalist, he has echoed racist views like the belief that white people, on average, have higher IQs than Black people.

Follow the money: Though neoreaction has long eschewed involvement in electoral politics, it seems to be gradually penetrating mainstream right-wing spaces. Yarvin is said to have helped popularize the "red pill" meme in alt-right subcultures. Pulled from the 1999 film "The Matrix," to take the red pill is to no longer live under the spell of delusion. In the context of politics, it means breaking free from the spell of liberal orthodoxy. In September 2021, Yarvin made an appearance on "Tucker Carlson Today," during which he explained the concept of the cathedral. When Yarvin called himself a monarchist, Carlson didn't bat an eye. Then, in May 2022, Vanity Fair reported on the relationship among Yarvin, GOP mega-donor and **venture capitalist Peter Thiel** and U.S. Senate candidates J.D. Vance and Blake Masters.

Thiel, who is often described as a libertarian, holds views that can appear to be contradictory or mysterious. Reporter Max Chafkin, who wrote a biography of Thiel, told Politico in September 2021 that the investor has an authoritarian streak – "a longing" for a "more powerful chief executive." Thiel, like Yarvin, has expressed frustration with American democracy. **As far back as 2004, Thiel lamented that "America's constitutional machinery" prevents "any single ambitious person from reconstructing the old Republic." In 2013, the Silicon Valley entrepreneur invested in Yarvin's firm, the Tlon Corp., best known for developing a decentralized personal server platform.** And according to Yarvin, he and Thiel watched the returns of the 2016 U.S. presidential election together.

During the 2022 election cycle, Thiel has donated more than \$10 million to super PACs supporting Vance and Masters, who also serves as the president of the Thiel Foundation. Vance, who won his primary in June, is perhaps best known for his memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy." Though Vance once denounced Trump, he has since embraced the former president and now calls for a "De-Ba'athification program" for the civil service – a reference to the purging of Saddam Hussein's loyalists after the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. He cites Yarvin as a friend and mentor.

Democracy in crisis: Why might neoreactionary ideas be gaining currency among right-wing candidates and donors? Trump's electoral success illustrated the acute dissatisfaction the American far right has had with the establishment wing of the Republican Party. **But more broadly, public trust in government has eroded to the point where only 2 in 10 Americans say they trust the federal government to do the right thing. A Gallup Poll published on July 5, 2022, found that only 7% of Americans had "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in Congress – the legislative body's lowest recorded rating in 43 years of polling. A Monmouth University poll released that same day reported that 88% of Americans believe the U.S. is on the wrong track. And in a July 2022 New York Times/Siena College poll, 58% of those polled said the government needs major reforms or a "complete overhaul."**

With confidence in government at historic lows, a window opens for other ideologies to seed the politi-



Curtis Yarvin

American blogger



Curtis Guy Yarvin was born in 1973 to an educated, liberal, secular family. His father is Herbert Yarvin. His grandparents on his father's side were Jewish American and communists. His father worked for the US government as a foreign service officer, and his mother was a Protestant from Westchester County. Yarvin spent part of his childhood abroad, mainly in Cyprus. In 1985, he returned to the US and entered Johns Hopkins' longitudinal Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth. He graduated from Brown University in 1992, then was a graduate student of a computer science PhD program at UC Berkeley, before dropping out after a year and a half to join a tech company. In the 1980–1990s, Yarvin was influenced by the libertarian tech culture of the Silicon Valley. Yarvin read right-wing and American conservative works. The libertarian University of Tennessee law professor Glenn Reynolds introduced him to writers like Ludwig von Mises and Murray Rothbard. The rejection of empiricism by Mises and the Austrian School, who favored instead deduction from first principles, influenced Yarvin's mind-set.

Neo-reactionary blogging: Yarvin's reading of Thomas Carlyle convinced him that libertarianism was a doomed project without the inclusion of authoritarianism, and Hans-Hermann Hoppe's 2001 book *Democracy: The God That Failed* marked Yarvin's first break with democracy. Another influence was James Burnham, who asserted that real politics occurred through the actions of elites, beneath what he called apparent democratic or socialist rhetoric.[18] In the 2000s, the failures of US-led nation building in Iraq and Afghanistan strengthened Yarvin's anti-democratic views, the federal response to the 2008 financial crisis strengthened his libertarian convictions, and Barack Obama's election as US president reinforced his belief that history inevitably progresses toward left-leaning societies. In 2007, Yarvin began the blog *Unqualified Reservations* to promote his political vision.[20] He largely stopped updating his blog in 2013, **when he began to focus on Urbit; in April 2016 he announced that *Unqualified Reservations* had "completed its mission"**. Yarvin currently blogs about his political views on Substack under the page name Gray Mirror.

Dark Enlightenment: Yarvin believes that real political power in the United States is held by something he calls "the Cathedral", an amalgam of universities and the mainstream press.[23] According to him, a so-called "Brahmin" social class dominates American society, preaching progressive values to the masses. Yarvin and the Dark Enlightenment movement assert that the cathedral's commitment to equality and justice erodes social order.[24] Drawing on computer metaphors, Yarvin contends that society needs a "hard reset" or a "rebooting", not a series of gradual political reforms.[25] Instead of activism, he advocates passivism, claiming that progressivism would fail without right-wing opposition.[26] According to him, NRx adherents should rather design "new architectures of exit" than engage in ineffective political activism.



Urbit tilde logo

Urbit is a decentralized personal server platform. The platform seeks to deconstruct the client-server model in favour of a federated network of personal servers in a peer-to-peer network with a consistent digital identity. The Urbit software stack consists of a set of programming languages ("Hoon," a high-level functional programming language, and "Nock," its low-level compiled language); a single-function operating system built on those languages ("Arvo"); a personal address space, built on the Ethereum blockchain, for each instance of the operating system to participate in a decentralized network ("Azimuth"); and the decentralized network itself, an encrypted, peer-to-peer protocol running on top of the User Datagram Protocol. The Urbit routing system consists approximately of 255 "galaxies", 65,000 "stars", 4 billion "planets" and 4.3 trillion "moons", which respectively function similarly to DNSs, ISPs, personal computers and devices that connect to them.

The Urbit platform was conceived of in 2002 by neo-reactionary thinker Curtis Yarvin. The company has received seed funding from various investors since its inception, most notably Peter Thiel, whose Founders Fund, with venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz invested \$1.1 million in 2013. The platform has been described as "complicated for even the most seasoned of functional programmers". Urbit OS1 launched in April 2020. This consisted of a group messaging app, a message board, a note-taking system, and several simple apps such as a clock and a weather meter.

Politics and controversy: In 2015, Yarvin's invitation to the Strange Loop conference was rescinded; the conference organizer said Yarvin's "mere inclusion and/or presence would overshadow the content of his talk." In 2016 after Urbit founder Curtis Yarvin was invited to the functional programming conference LambdaConf, five speakers and three sponsors withdrew their participation due to their stated opposition to Yarvin's political views.

The source code and design sketches for the project alluded to some of Yarvin's views, including initially classifying users as "lords," "dukes," and "earls." Yarvin and Tlon rejected any ideological associations with the project. Tlon CEO Galen Wolfe-Pauly said that "the principles of Urbit are very palatable ... we're interested in giving people their freedom." Andrea O'Sullivan of libertarian magazine Reason commented that "when you parse through the underlying values that guide the system, a rather libertarian ethos begins to emerge".

After seven years of working on the Urbit project, Yarvin departed Tlon in 2019



Fed Chair Jerome Powell indicated further hikes to come. Drew Angerer/Getty Images

A hawkish Fed signals further rate hikes and sees a slowing economy – but not recession

Published: July 27, 2022 9.08pm EDT

Arabinda Basistha, West Virginia University



Arabinda Basistha

Associate Professor of Economics, [West Virginia University](#)

Arabinda focuses on empirical issues in macroeconomics using time-series methods. He is interested in studying dynamics of unobserved state variables using multivariate state space models. Arabinda's topics of interest are inflation, labor market, and monetary policy. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Macroeconomics and International Macroeconomics.

The U.S. Federal Reserve hiked its benchmark interest rate by a further three-quarters of a percentage point on July 27, 2022. The jump was expected by most economists, although some had thought the central bank would go further in its attempts to put the brakes on soaring inflation and impose a full point increase. The Conversation asked Arabinda Basistha, an economist at West Virginia University, to cast an eye over the Fed's announcement and provide three key take-aways about what it tells us about the economy and future monetary policy.

1. More hawkish on monetary policy: On the surface, the headline decision to raise the interest rate by three-quarters of a percentage point is very much in line with what was expected. But a careful reading of the accompanying statement by the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) reveals a slightly more hawkish Fed – one that's more willing to act more aggressively in attempting to calm inflation – than in the last such meeting in June, when it likewise raised rates by three-quarters of a percentage point.

2. Expect a further rate hike in September: There is now a clear indication that that the FOMC will impose another rate hike when it meets in September. Powell noted in the news conference that another 0.75 percentage point rise in September "could be appropriate."

3. Economic output is slowing, but no recession (yet): In the statement accompanying the FOMC rate decision, the Fed noted that recent data showed "spending and production have softened." Powell expanded on that a little, noting that business fixed investment – that is, how much companies spend on things like machines or factories – had gone down.

This acknowledgment that expenditure is softening wasn't in June's statement and is a clear sign that Fed officials believe the economy is slowing down, something Powell acknowledged. Yet at the same time, the Fed chair said the strength of the labor market indicated robust overall demand. As such, it would seem Powell does not see the U.S. heading into recession, but rather, there will be some slowing down of the economy throughout the second half of this year.

- Economy
- US Federal Reserve
- Interest rates
- Economic growth
- Recession
- FOMC
- Business
- Jerome Powell
- Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC)
- US economic outlook
- Interest rate rise
- US economy



Marc Short, former Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, testified in late July before a federal grand jury investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

How do grand juries work? Their major role in criminal justice, and why prosecutors are using them to investigate efforts to overturn the 2020 election

Published: July 27, 2022 2:31pm EDT

▼ **Peter A. Joy**, *Washington University in St Louis*

Grand juries play a major role in the U.S. criminal justice system. And they're very much in the news these days.

A grand jury in Fulton County, Georgia, is looking into former President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election results in that state. Among the latest witnesses to give testimony to the grand jury was Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp.

In Washington, D.C., the U.S. Justice Department is in the middle of an investigation into efforts to overturn the 2020 election, and it is questioning witnesses before a grand jury as well. Most recently, two top aides to former Vice President Mike Pence were questioned in that probe.

A grand jury does not mean that the investigation will lead to any formal criminal charges, which are known as indictments. There was a grand jury that issued subpoenas during the investigation into Hillary Clinton's email server, for example, but no one was charged with any crimes.

In order to understand grand juries and their work, I offer the following explanation of how federal and state grand juries are used in the U.S.

Potential dangers

The secrecy of a grand jury presents some dangers. The defendant does not know the evidence being considered, does not have a right to be present, and cannot question the evidence early in the criminal justice process.

As a result of the secrecy, the grand jury can also end up being a tool of the prosecution, and the prosecutor can choose to withhold evidence that is favorable to the accused. That is why a former chief judge of the New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York, famously said that a prosecutor could get a grand jury "to indict a ham sandwich."

These types of dangers are always present during any grand jury, and getting a grand jury to issue an indictment may be easy. But in high-profile cases, like the Russia connection to the Trump presidency and possibly the current investigation into Trump's efforts to overturn the election results in Georgia, proving wrongdoing beyond a reasonable doubt through a trial or a negotiated guilty plea usually proves much more difficult.



Around 75% of antibiotics, including penicillin and amphotericin B, are derived from natural products. Aphiwat Chuangchoem/EyeEm via Getty Images

Nature is the world's original pharmacy – returning to medicine's roots could help fill drug discovery gaps

Published: July 27, 2022 8.00am EDT

▼ [Ashu Tripathi](#), *University of Michigan*

While humans evolved over a period of approximately 6 million years, breakthroughs in modern medicine as we know it today got going only in the 19th and 20th centuries. So how did humans successfully survive through millions of years of diseases and illnesses without modern drugs and treatments? This was a question I came to wonder about when the COVID-19 pandemic reached my family in India in April 2020, when there was very limited access to vaccines and treatments. All of my years working as a biomedical scientist, requiring empirical evidence and formal safety testing before using a treatment, took a back seat as I scrambled for potential therapies from any sources I could find, be it scientific papers or folklore. I was ready to try any experimental or traditional medicine that might have a chance at helping my dad. Luckily, my dad recovered. I can't say for sure if any of the traditional medicines we used actually helped him recover. But as someone whose entire scientific career has focused on discovering new drugs from chemical compounds found in nature, I wondered if there was a molecule in the traditional medicines we used that could be isolated and optimized to treat COVID-19. Scientists like me have been looking for new drugs for various diseases by purifying existing compounds in nature instead of synthesizing completely new ones in the lab. From COVID-19 to antibiotic resistance, I believe that past successes and new technologies point to the tremendous potential of developing new drugs from natural products.

Challenges in natural product discovery: Researchers are increasingly able to use new screening technologies and methods to isolate previously unidentified natural products. Screening for natural products typically involves looking through a large library of extracts from natural sources. The Natural Product Drug Discovery Core, which I co-founded with my colleague David Sherman at the University of Michigan, for example, searches for potential drug targets in a library containing around 50,000 natural product extracts that each contain 30 to 50 molecules to test. However, discovering natural product-based drugs is not without challenges. Since the 1980s, natural products have fallen out of favor because of a number of challenges. These include difficulty accessing expensive screening methods, and limitations in technology that isn't able to fully analyze the complexity of natural products. There are also ecological and legal considerations, such as accessing samples sustainably and maintaining biodiversity. Pharmaceutical companies have reduced their natural product-based drug discovery programs, and federal funding is also in short supply due to limited profitability. As antibiotic resistance grows, developing new drugs and using current ones more responsibly becomes even more imperative.

Finding new drugs in nature: New drugs are often necessary for unprecedented health emergencies like COVID-19. They are also needed for a health emergency that began long before the pandemic – antibiotic resistance. A September 2017 report from the World Health Organization reaffirmed that antibiotic resistance is a global health emergency that will seriously jeopardize progress in modern medicine. If current antibiotics lose their effectiveness, common medical interventions such as cesarean sections and cancer treatments may become incredibly risky. Transplantation could become virtually impossible. Antibiotic-resistant microbes were the direct cause of roughly 1.27 million deaths in 2019. Treating just six of the 18 microbes that pose an antibiotic resistance threat is estimated to cost over \$4.6 billion annually in the U.S. alone. The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed prior progress addressing this issue, with a 15% increase in antimicrobial-resistant infections from 2019 to 2020. In contrast, antimicrobial-resistant infections had fallen by 27% from 2012 to 2017. Among the likely causes of this backslide were increases in antibiotic use, difficulty following infection control guidelines and longer hospital stays. As of recent estimates, roughly 75% of approved antibiotics are derived from natural products. There are thousands of microorganisms in the ocean left to explore as potential sources of drug candidates, not to mention all the ones on land. In the search for new drugs to combat antibiotic resistance, natural products may still be the way to go.

FILE - This combination image shows U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington, Nov. 6, 2021, and China's President Xi Jinping in Brasilia, Brazil, Nov. 13, 2019. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, Eraldo Peres, File)

Biden, Xi to hold fifth talk of their presidencies Thursday

10 minutes ago

FILE - Secretary of State Antony Blinken sits with Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States ambassador to the United Nations, as they meet with African ministers at United Nations headquarters, May 18, 2022. Russian, French and American leaders are crisscrossing Africa Wednesday, July 27, 2022, to win support for their positions on the war in Ukraine, an intense competition for influence the continent has not seen since the Cold War. (Eduardo Munoz/Pool Photo via AP, File)

'New Cold War': Russia and West vie for influence in Africa

21 minutes ago



FILE - A Spirit Airlines jet approaches Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia, Pa., on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021. Spirit announced on Thursday, July 7, 2022, that it would again postpone a vote on the proposed merger with Frontier, a sign that it lacks shareholder support for the merger in the face of a rival bid by JetBlue Airways. Spirit delayed the vote by a week, until July 15. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke,)

JetBlue agrees to buy Spirit for \$3.8 billion

30 minutes ago

A man shops at a supermarket on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, in New York. The Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised its benchmark interest rate by a hefty three-quarters of a point for a second straight time in its most aggressive drive in three decades to tame high inflation. The Fed is tightening credit even while the economy has begun to slow, thereby heightening the risk that its rate hikes will cause a recession later this year or next. (AP Photo/Andres Kudacki)

US economy likely grew modestly, if at all, last quarter

35 minutes ago

Ukrainian servicemen rest in a basement between fightings with Russian forces at the frontline in Kharkiv region, Ukraine, Wednesday, July 27, 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Russia steps up strikes on Ukraine amid counterattacks

1 hour ago

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve Board building in Washington, Wednesday, July 27, 2022. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

US not yet in recession and 4 other takeaways from the Fed

1 hour ago

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Sen. Joe Manchin announced Wednesday, July 27, that he had reached an expansive agreement with Schumer which had eluded them for months on health care costs, energy and climate issues, taxing higher earners and large corporations and reducing federal debt. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

What's in, and out, of Democrats' inflation-fighting package

2 hours ago

Dave Muffley poses outside one of the Delphi Corporation plants in Kokomo, Ind., Monday, July 11, 2022. As General Motors Corp. underwent the biggest industrial bankruptcy proceedings in history, and the federal government negotiated a company restructuring, Muffley's healthy retirement savings would be slashed by 70 percent, and his life's trajectory would take a dramatic spiral downward. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

Rejected by courts, retirees take last shot to save pensions

3 hours ago

South Korean army soldiers prepare for an exercise at a training field in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Wednesday, July 27, 2022. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned he's ready to use his nuclear weapons in potential military conflicts with the United States and South Korea, state media said, as he unleashed fiery rhetoric against rivals he says are pushing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Kim threatens to use nukes amid tensions with US, S. Korea

4 hours ago

In this image from video provided by Jodi Brown, posted to Instagram on Saturday, July 16, 2022, a performer dressed as the character Rosita waves off Brown's daughter and another 6-year-old Black girl at the Sesame Place amusement park in Langhorne, Pa. (Jodi Brown via AP)

Black family sues Sesame Place, alleging discrimination

4 hours ago

FILE - This Dec. 11, 2016, photo shows the Virunga National Park, taken from the rim of the crater of the Niyirago ngo volcano and looking over the crater of another, extinct volcano, in North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Several oil and gas fields in the DRC, including some in the park, are being put up for auction starting Thursday, July 28, 2022, prompting outrage from environmental groups. (Juergen Baetz/dpa via AP, File)

Oil block auction in DRC punctures Africa's climate goals

6 hours ago

Women shop for clothes on the main road of an outdoor clothes market in Gaza City, Monday, July 25, 2022. Gaza's Hamas rulers have imposed a slew of new taxes on imported clothes and school supplies just ahead of the new school year, sparking limited but rare protests in the impoverished coastal area. (AP Photo/Hana)

Seeking new funds, Hamas raises taxes in impoverished Gaza

6 hours ago

Leola One Feather, of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, stands outside the Woods Memorial Library on July 19, 2022 in Barre, Massachusetts. The library houses the Founders Museum, a private museum that is working to repatriate as many as 200 items believed to have been taken from Native Americans massacred by U.S. soldiers at Wounded Knee Creek in 1890. One Feather was among the tribe members overseeing the documentation of the items ahead of their expected return. (AP Photo/Philip Marcelo)

Wounded Knee artifacts highlight slow pace of repatriations

6 hours ago

Judy, left, and Merlyn Webber sit out in front of their home at Mobile Estates on Southeast Division Street in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Merlyn Webber, who was struggling with his psoriasis, said he misplaced the tools to fix his fan (shown in the foreground). (Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian via AP)

Temperatures could hit triple digits again in Northwest

8 hours ago

A group gathers to protest a sweeping abortion ban bill making its way through the West Virginia Legislature at the state Capitol on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 in Charleston, W.Va. (AP Photo/Leah Willingham)

Judges block abortion bans in Wyoming, North Dakota

8 hours ago

Judy, left, and Merlyn Webber sit out in front of their home at Mobile Estates on Southeast Division Street in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Merlyn Webber, who was struggling with his psoriasis, said he misplaced the tools to fix his fan (shown in the foreground). (Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian via AP)

Scorching heat wave in US Northwest forecast to last longer

9 hours ago

The home where U.S. defense contractor Walter Glenn Primrose and his wife, Gwynn Darlle Morrison, lived for years allegedly under aliases is pictured, Wednesday, July 27, 2022, in Kapolei, Hawaii. They have been charged with identity theft and conspiring against the government after prosecutors allege they stole the identities of dead Texas children decades ago. (AP Photo/Caleb Jones)

Hawaii couple charged with stealing IDs of dead Texas kids

11 hours ago

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Sen. Joe Manchin announced Wednesday, July 27, that he had reached an expansive agreement with Schumer which had eluded them for months on health care costs, energy and climate issues, taxing higher earners and large corporations and reducing federal debt. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

Manchin, Schumer report abrupt deal on health, energy, taxes

11 hours ago

Pope Francis departs from Citadelle de Quebec, Wednesday, July 27, 2022, in Quebec City, Quebec City, Quebec. Pope Francis is on a "penitential" six-day visit to Canada to beg forgiveness from survivors of the country's residential schools, where Catholic missionaries contributed to the "cultural genocide" of generations of Indigenous children by trying to stamp out their languages, cultures and traditions. (AP Photo/J)

Canada says pope's apology to Indigenous not enough

9 hours ago

As traders work and watch, a news conference held by Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell is displayed at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, July 27, 2022. Stocks on Wall Street are solidly higher in afternoon trading Wednesday after the Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate by a widely expected three-quarters of a point as the central bank ratchets up its campaign to quell surging inflation. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Fed unleashes another big rate hike in bid to curb inflation

13 hours ago

Former Republicans and Democrats form new third U.S. political party

By Tim Reid

4 minute read



Andrew Yang, Democratic candidate for New York City Mayor, speaks during a campaign appearance in Brooklyn, New York, U.S., June 21, 2021. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

The Forward Party (FWD) is a political action committee (PAC) that seeks to form a new populist and radical centrist political party in the United States. The Forward Party has one political party affiliate at the state-level seeking to achieve ballot access, including in 29 other states by 2023, and ballot access in all 50 states by 2024.

The PAC, which was founded by former Democratic 2020 presidential and 2021 New York City mayoral candidate Andrew Yang, describes its goals as the reduction of partisan polarization and implementing electoral reforms. The Forward Party was officially formed as a political action committee on October 5, 2021.[8] The PAC intends to seek recognition from the Federal Election Commission as a political party to achieve its stated goal of providing an alternative to the two major American parties. However, it also states that for the time being, candidates affiliated with the organization will remain members of the two major American political parties, as well as independent candidates.

On July 27, 2022, the Forward Party announced that they have merged with the Serve America Movement and the Renew America Movement to form a new third party, which is also called Forward.



[Continue to site](#)

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

After years of working in parallel to unite Americans and strengthen our democracy, the **Forward Party**, the **Renew America Movement**, and the **Serve America Movement** are pleased to announce the formal merger of our three organizations.

We are coming together from across the political spectrum to build a new and transformational American political party operating under one name: **FORWARD.**

Join us on the most critical mission of our era - building the foundation for a representative and stable democracy.

Not left. Not right. **FORWARD.**



Books

Interview

Malcolm Nance: 'The Republican party is an insurgent party'

David Smith in Washington

The author, pundit and soldier, recently fighting a war in Ukraine, talks about his incendiary new book and his alarming predictions

Thu 28 Jul 2022 02.05 EDT

The book tour is now an obligatory ritual for authors looking to shift copies. Domestic life must be upended and families appeased as they set off on a grand tour of bookshops, literary festivals and TV studios hoping to prove they can talk as well as they write. Malcolm Nance is different. He was in Ukraine, fighting a war against Russia, when his publisher told him to head home to America to help sell his latest book, *They Want to Kill Americans: The Militias, Terrorists, and Deranged Ideology of the Trump Insurgency*. "I didn't want to but I found out that live appearances were contractual," he says ruefully via Skype from San Francisco, his voice sounding a little croaky.

Nance, a career counter-terrorism intelligence officer and pugnacious media pundit, joined the International Legion of Territorial Defense of Ukraine in March. He explains that, having spent the previous month there as a military analyst, he felt compelled to defend democracy and could not stand by as innocent civilians faced slaughter. Nance confidently reels off the names of Ukrainian generals, key battlegrounds and pieces of military hardware. He is a former navy senior chief petty officer who knew what it was like to be under fire in Afghanistan and Iraq. But he is also a 60-year-old grandfather. Has life on the eastern front been scary?

He says: "The thing that is hairiest of all is artillery. One incident we had at three in the morning – I was tweeting and I guess the Russians didn't like what I was tweeting – when they hit us with extremely large calibre weapons, long range too, fired from southern Russia into the north-east. They didn't kill any of us but they missed us by a hundred metres. "That's a dangerously close hit. The building shook, the ceiling started to collapse. There was a skyscraper nearby and glass was falling everywhere from 10 storeys down. We were trying to get everybody to the bunker. Our little war puppies, our little battle dogs, were panicking – it's the biggest fireworks you have – but your job is to remain calm."

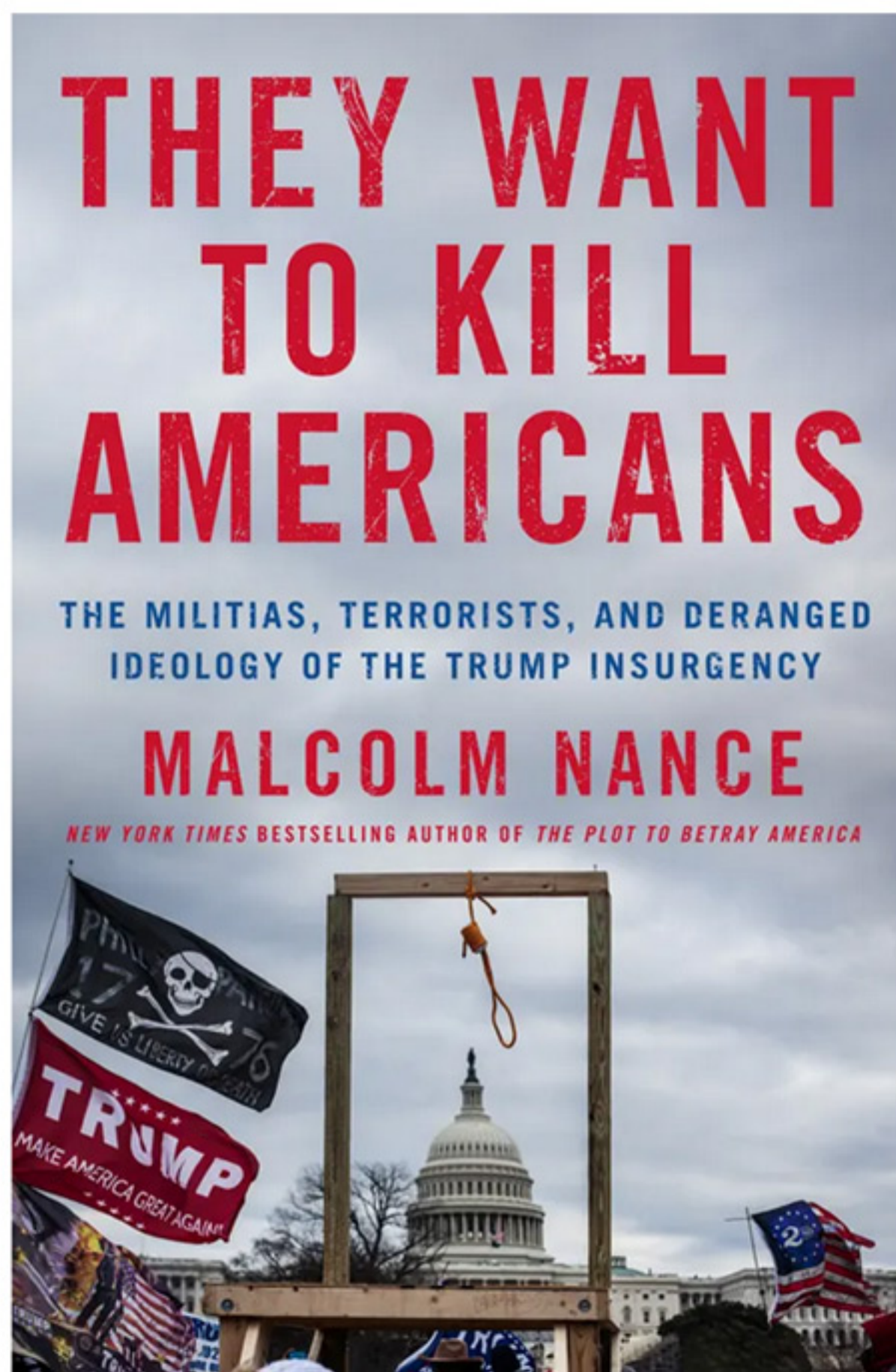
The international legion is a combat force of three battalions and several hundred personnel. It is defending a significant portion of the frontline and has suffered casualties. When Nance's presence was made public in April, he was told that the Kremlin had denounced him as a mercenary, soldier of fortune and legionnaire enemy number one. When a head of Ukrainian intelligence informed him, "Vladimir Putin knows your name now," Nance responded: "Cool!"

Having given up a five-figure-a-month salary as a pundit on the liberal MSNBC cable news network, he is earning the same wage as other Ukrainian soldiers: \$630 a month. "So I am definitely not a mercenary. If anything, I'm paying them. I've bought so much gear, trucks.

"I have wonderful donors who have helped us out greatly and we get what we need because it's faster than the logistics pipeline. In a year, we'll get what we need if we're waiting on the Ukrainian army and the US government, but now we need things now, so we just buy them."

Nance is also donating \$100,000 from the advance for his book to ensure the legionnaires have the equipment they need. The volume's cover – an ersatz gallows erected outside the US Capitol on 6 January 2021, with a skull and crossbones flag and Trump flag nearby – makes clear that the existential threat to democracy is not confined to eastern Europe.

At the start of this year the Washington commentariat overflowed with speculation that America, bitterly polarised, awash with guns and steeped in a history of violence, could even plunge into a second civil war. Since the supreme court decision overturning a woman's constitutional rights to abortion has made the division between blue and red states even more concrete. **What does Nance think?** "If it happens, it won't be a second civil war. It'll be an insurgency, which is a series of incidents, and those incidents will look like attacks: people seizing governor's mansions but this time the governors are on their side, or taking statehouses and the state uses the national guard to support them. "There'll be a challenge between federalism and states' rights and they'll point to the supreme court that says we have states' rights. The supreme court practically ruled that the supremacy clause [giving federal laws priority over state laws] doesn't exist and, even if it does, they're going to argue it doesn't and back it up with guns. That's where you're going to see what appears to be a simmering civil war but it will really be an insurgency." With that, Nance has to go and catch a Wednesday flight. He leaves on Saturday night for Warsaw, Poland, and expects to be in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, by Monday before heading back to the eastern front. His 30-year-old daughter, with whom he lives, did not like the idea; his wife of 15 years, Maryse Beliveau-Nance, died from complications of ovarian cancer in 2019. **"Someone asked, what would your wife say? And I say, my wife talks to me all the time and this is the one subject that I've received no negative feedback about. But I also know if I'm in the middle of an attack and I see my wife say, 'Hey, it's time to go, buddy,' I'll just turn around, turn in my kit and go home."**



Photograph: St. Martin's Press



Photograph: Courtesy of Malcolm Nance

• *They Want to Kill Americans* is out now



Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta shakes hands with U.K. Home Secretary Priti Patel. Cyril Ndegeya/Xinhua via Getty Images

Western countries are shipping refugees to poorer nations in exchange for cash

Published: July 28, 2022 8.25am EDT

▼ **Tazreena Sajjad**, *American University School of International Service*

The U.K. government was due to begin its first deportation flight to remove asylum-seekers to the East African country of Rwanda on June 14, 2022, exactly two months after signing the U.K.-Rwanda agreement. The asylum-seekers were from several war-torn and politically unstable countries, including Syria, Sudan and Iran. Each year, thousands of people – many fleeing repressive governments or poverty – attempt to cross the English Channel in fragile boats in the hope of starting a new life in the U.K. Boris Johnson, the U.K. prime minister, defended the U.K.-Rwanda deal in June 2022, saying it would “remove the illegal cross-Channel trafficking of people whose lives are being put at risk.” In exchange for Rwanda receiving the deportees, the U.K. has paid the country about US\$142 million to cover the initial costs of operating the program as well as economic development projects in Rwanda. The U.K. deportees were expected to integrate their lives into Rwandan social communities. But the first Rwanda deportation flight did not take off as planned.

Deterring refugees and asylum-seekers: The European Court of Human Rights, the regional judicial human rights body in Europe, issued what are called interim urgent measures to stop the scheduled flights. Such measures are most often issued in cases where there is imminent risk of death or torture. Member states are bound by the decisions of the Court, and its rulings are enforced by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe – Europe’s leading human rights organization. But instead of abiding by the decision, the U.K. government not only stressed its commitment to deportation flights, it also signaled its intention to pull out of the European Court of Human Rights. As a scholar of refugees and postwar reconstruction, I see the deportation flights to Rwanda as part of a growing list of what are euphemistically known as migrant deterrence practices. **These practices are used by Western countries to deter future migration of mainly people of color from countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Oceania, collectively known as the Global South. In exchange for money paid to the receiving country, asylum-seekers are sent to those poorer countries to enable wealthier nations to circumvent international legal obligations to those seeking asylum.**

Beyond Rwanda: The use of countries like Rwanda by Western states is on the rise. The recent U.S.-Mexico Migrant Protection Protocol and the U.S.-Guatemala “third country safe” agreement follow a similar principle.

Back into chaos: Deportations under such conditions are controversial because they are violations of the principle of non-refoulement in international refugee law. The goal of the principle is to prevent individuals from being returned to countries where they have fled and may still be in danger of torture, persecution or death.



A British police officer stands guard as migrants disembark from a lifeboat after they were picked up at sea while attempting to cross the English Channel. Ben Stansall / AFP/via Getty



Tazreena Sajjad

Senior Professorial Lecturer of Global Governance, Politics and Security,
American University School of International Service

Tazreena Sajjad currently serves as Senior Professorial Lecturer in the Global Governance, Politics and Security (GGPS) Program in the School of International Service (SIS) at American University in Washington D.C. Her areas of specialization include transitional justice, refugees and forced displacement, post-conflict governance, and gender and conflict.

Sajjad's recent publications include 'Once We Were Refugees: Security, Solidarity and a View from the Global South,' in the Journal of Refugee Studies (2022), 'Strategic Cruelty: Legitimizing Violence in the European Union's Border Regime,' in Global Studies Quarterly (2022), 'Refugees Welcome? The Politics of Repatriation and Return in a Global Era of Security: The Rohingyas in Bangladesh' in Displacement: Global Conversations on Refugee (Manchester University Press, 2020), 'In Search of Imperfect Justice: Genocidal Rape and the Legacy of Nuremberg and Tokyo' in The Nuremberg War Crime Trial and its Policy Consequences Today (2020), 'What's in a name? "Refugees," "Migrants" and the Politics of Labelling,' in Race and Class (2018). Her current research projects examine the role of 'safe' country agreements as a form of migrant deterrence focusing on the EU-Afghanistan deal, and refugee reception in the Global South.



SCHOOL of
INTERNATIONAL
SERVICE

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

American University's School of International Service (SIS) is a top-10 school of international affairs located in Washington, D.C. Since our founding in 1957, we have answered President Dwight D. Eisenhower's call to prepare students of international affairs to "wage peace." We do so because we believe the world needs leaders ready to serve.

SIS produces transformational research and prepares more than 3,000 graduate and undergraduate students for global service in government, nonprofits, and business. Our students learn from more than 120 full-time faculty – leading political scientists, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, demographers, geographers, historians, and experts in international development, global health, communications, energy, and the environment – and benefit from an active international network of more than 20,000 alumni. They graduate prepared to combine knowledge and practice and to serve the global community as emerging leaders.



Tazreena Sajjad wrote an article

about 23 hours ago – Western countries are shipping refugees t...

View

A UK plan to move asylum seekers on its shores to Rwanda has been met with stiff opposition from human rights organizations. But the UK persists, and Rwanda is all too willing.



Tazreena Sajjad wrote an article

4 months ago – Afghan evacuees lack a clear path for resettlem...

View

The U.S. has promised to take in 100,000 Ukrainian refugees. But there is concern that this could further complicate efforts to welcome and resettle Afghan evacuees.



Tazreena Sajjad wrote an article

5 months ago – Ukrainian refugees are welcomed with open ar...

View

The welcome mat for refugees fleeing war-torn Ukraine stands in stark contrast to recent anti-immigrant policies targeting those from the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Asia.



Tazreena Sajjad wrote an article

11 months ago – Where do Afghanistan's refugees go?

View

Don't be misled by the scenes from Kabul airport. Most Afghan refugees don't leave in an airplane and few will settle in the United States.



Tazreena Sajjad wrote an article

over 1 year ago – Bangladesh at 50: A nation created in violence ...

View

Pakistan, created during the 1947 partition, comprised two geographical areas, separated by over a thousand miles. The fault lines between the two regions resulted in the birth of Bangladesh.



Tazreena Sajjad wrote an article

over 1 year ago – The military coup in Myanmar presents opport...

View

The roots of Buddhist nationalism in Myanmar go back to colonial days. Those behind the military coup are seeking to harness it to legitimize the seizure of power.



Tazreena Sajjad wrote an article

almost 2 years ago – As Bangladesh hosts over a million Rohin...

View

A scholar who spent time in refugee camps argues that Bangladesh's culture as well as a painful history of a war in which 10 million sought refuge played a role in the country's opening up of its borders...



← **Tazreena Sajjad**

161 Tweets



Follow

Tazreena Sajjad

@TazreenaSajjad

Professor, AU. Post-Conflict Transitions & Governance, Refugees, Transitional Justice, Gender. RT not endorsements. "The East is a career." She/hers. Photo:AFP

american.edu/sis/faculty/sa... Joined December 2015

1,264 Following 835 Followers



Tazreena Sajjad @TazreenaSajjad · Jul 25

The forgotten mutiny for India's independence



thedailystar.net

The forgotten mutiny for India's independence

🗨️ ↻️ ❤️ ↗️



Tazreena Sajjad @TazreenaSajjad · Jul 24

No. 4: But what I don't understand is the hate and fear you direct specifically at one religion. If you are critical of religion, be critical of all of them. Why only single out one for your hate?

🗨️ ↻️ ❤️ ↗️

Show this thread

No. 4: But what I don't understand is the hate and fear you direct specifically at one religion. If you are critical of religion, be critical of all of them. Why only single out one for your hate?

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Summer boosters for people under 50 are shelved in favor of updated boosters in the fall

The Biden administration is scrapping plans to offer COVID boosters for people under 50 this summer. Instead officials will push for an earlier release of the next generation boosters in the fall.

- **Officials boost access to a drug that can protect the immunocompromised from COVID-19**



Mario Tama/Getty Images

The Food and Drug Administration is shelving plans to let more younger adults get second COVID-19 boosters this summer. Instead, officials are planning to speed up availability of the next generation of boosters in the fall, three administration officials confirmed to NPR. The new strategy came after a debate within the administration about trying to balance protecting people this summer with keeping people safe next winter, when the country will probably get hit by yet another surge, according to the officials familiar with the discussion. Some officials wanted to launch a new booster campaign this summer to encourage more people to get boosted and more boosted people to get double-boosted to protect them against the highly contagious BA.5 subvariant driving a surge this summer. But others worried that would interfere with a booster campaign in the fall with what will hopefully be a superior booster specifically targeting BA.5. One concern was that giving two boosters so close together could increase the risk for a rare heart inflammation called myocarditis. Another concern was that giving them so close together could blunt the protection from the second booster. **There was also fear two booster campaigns too close together would increase the vaccine fatigue already making it hard to convince people to get boosters. The dilemma facing the administration is that the immunity many people have gotten from getting vaccinated or infected has been wearing off. At the same time, the most contagious version of the virus to emerge yet — the omicron subvariant BA.5 — is making people even more vulnerable.**



ELECTIONS

Election deniers are running to control voting. Here's how they've fared so far



ENVIRONMENT

Climate experts experience an odd sensation after the Manchin budget deal: optimism



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS


More people are opting to get sterilized — and some are being turned away

KAISER HEALTH NEWS

How many people sought permanent sterilization after the fall of Roe won't become clear until next year, says Megan Kavanaugh, a researcher for the Guttmacher Institute, which gathers data related to reproductive health care across the U.S. and supports abortion rights. But anecdotal reports indicate that more people have been undergoing permanent birth control procedures since the Supreme Court's June 24 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which struck down *Roe*. **Some fear future "attacks on contraception":** Although some people are seeking permanent procedures in reaction to the *Dobbs* decision, others are doing so because they believe the U.S. Supreme Court will continue upending reproductive health norms. Kavanaugh, the researcher at Guttmacher, says Justice Clarence Thomas opened that door by suggesting in his concurring opinion in *Dobbs* that other precedents should be revisited, including the 1965 *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision that says banning contraceptives violates a married couple's right to privacy. "I think we are anticipating that there's going to be some attacks on contraception," Kavanaugh says. That's what worries Shandel Buckalew, of Billings, Montana, who wants a full hysterectomy. The 31-year-old says her doctor thinks she has endometriosis, a painful condition in which tissue that normally grows inside the uterus grows on other parts of the reproductive organs. Buckalew hasn't undergone the full range of testing that can be required for a diagnosis because she doesn't have health insurance and can't afford it. "Even though I have an IUD [intrauterine device], the amount of cramps and the pain I go through — oh, I get so sick," she says. Buckalew hopes a hysterectomy will alleviate that pain, in addition to providing permanent birth control because she doesn't want kids. But her lack of health insurance makes the procedure unaffordable. She's trying to get health insurance before her IUD expires in two years, because she fears the reproductive health care landscape could shift dramatically. **"It feels like my life doesn't matter," she says.**

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ...protecting women's reproductive health care, potential visit to Taiwan



 1 of 3

FILE - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, of Calif., speaks during a news conference on protecting women's reproductive health care, Thursday, July 28, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington. The crisis sparked by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan misses a key point, experts say: that the real focus should be on how the United States and China manage their differences so the risks of confrontation don't spiral out of control. (AP Photo/Mariam Zuhaib, File)

Drawing nears for \$1.1 billion Mega Millions jackpot

today



FILE - In this Wednesday, July 27, 2022 file photo, Mega Millions lottery tickets are shown at a lottery retailer in Surfside, Fla. A giant Mega Millions lottery jackpot ballooned to over \$1 billion after no one matched all six numbers and won the top prize. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee, File)

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A \$1.1 billion lottery prize will be on the line Friday night as numbers are drawn for the Mega Millions game.

The giant jackpot is the nation's third-largest prize and is the result of 29 consecutive drawings without anyone matching all of the game's six numbers. That last time someone hit the Mega Millions jackpot was April 15.

Before rushing out to spend \$2 on a ticket, keep in mind that the odds of winning the Mega Millions jackpot are a staggering 1 in 302.5 million.

The \$1.1 billion prize is for players who get their winnings through an annuity, paid annually over 29 years. Nearly all winners take the cash option, which for Friday's drawing is an estimated \$648.2 million.

If no one wins the jackpot Friday night, the prize will grow even larger ahead of the next drawing Tuesday night.

Now that the Mega Millions lottery jackpot has topped \$1 billion – only the fourth time a lottery game has reached such heights – plenty of people who rarely play the game are considering risking \$2 or joining an office pool in hopes of an immense payoff.

ABORTION RIGHTS

Justice Alito mocks Prince Harry, Boris Johnson for opposing Roe reversal

Alito, who authored the landmark opinion overturning the constitutional right to an abortion in the U.S., derided critics during a speech on religious liberty in Rome last week.



Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito mocked prominent figures around the world, including Prince Harry and outgoing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, for speaking out against the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

In what appeared to be his first public comments since the decision was handed down last month, Alito dismissed criticism from the British pair, as well as from French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

He was delivering the keynote speech at a conference on religious liberty in Rome last week that was hosted by the Notre Dame Law School. The speech was only posted online by the school Thursday.

Alito, who authored the argument overturning the landmark ruling that enshrined the right to an abortion in the United States, condemned the global figures for weighing in on "American law."

"I had the honor this term of writing, I think, the only Supreme Court decision in the history of that institution that has been lambasted by a whole string of foreign leaders — who felt perfectly fine commenting on American law," Alito said, prompting laughter from the crowd.

"One of these was former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, but he paid the price," he joked, appearing to reference Johnson's decision to step down as prime minister amid domestic scandals and widespread criticism of his leadership from within his own Conservative Party.

"But what really wounded me — what really wounded me — was when the Duke of Sussex addressed the United Nations and seemed to compare the decision, whose name may not be spoken, with the Russian attack on Ukraine," Alito said, referring to Harry.

Harry described 2022 as a "painful year in a painful decade," during the speech July 18. He said the world was "witnessing a global assault on democracy and freedom," pointing to the "horrific war in Ukraine to the rolling back of constitutional rights here in the United States," among other global events as examples.

'A big step backwards': Boris Johnson condemns Supreme Court's abortion ruling



U.K. PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON CRITICIZES SUPREME COURT DECISION ON ROE V. WADE





#PrinceHarry #Royals #Mandela

Prince Harry: 'This has been a painful year and a painful decade' | USA TODAY

3.9K views... 96 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



USA TODAY ✓
2.11M subscribers

Prince Harry speaks on climate change, Roe v. Wade and the global pandemic during his keynote speech for Nelson Mandela International Day.

Justice Alito mocks Prince Harry



“This has been a painful year in a painful decade. We're living through a pandemic that continues to ravage communities in every corner of the globe. Climate change, wreaking havoc on our planet with the most vulnerable suffering, most of all. The few weaponizing lies and disinformation at the expense of the many and from the horrific war in Ukraine to the rolling back of constitutional rights here in the United States, we are witnessing a global assault on democracy and freedom, the cause of Mandela's life. As we sit here today, our world is on fire again. And these historic weather events are no longer historic, more and more, they are part of our daily lives and this crisis will only grow worse unless our leaders lead.”



BBC News ✓
July 18 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

"This has been a painful year in a painful decade."



BBC.COM

Prince Harry warns UN of global assault on freedom

Christianity was a major part of Indigenous boarding schools – a historian whose family survived them explains

Published: July 29, 2022 8.23am EDT

▼ [Brenda J. Child, University of Minnesota](#)

A woman looks downward in a doorway, to the right of a religious statue of a woman in a cloak and headcovering. Gilda Soosay, president of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish Council in Maskwacis, Canada, where Pope Francis visited the site of a state school for Indigenous children



Christianity was a major part of Indigenous boarding schools – a historian whose family survived them explains

Published: July 29, 2022 8.23am EDT

▼ [Brenda J. Child, University of Minnesota](#)

Perhaps it is not surprising that Francis' visit to Alberta was met with mixed emotions on the part of Indigenous Canadians. He also blessed a Native church known for blending Christian and Native traditions that is being rebuilt in Edmonton after a fire. In Maskwacis, site of the Ermineskin school, one Cree man gave him a headdress. The act of generosity was widely criticized and mocked on Native social media. Many Indigenous people felt Pope Francis did not deserve the honor, and that his apology did not acknowledge the Catholic Church's role in family separation and the abuse of children in residential schools. As many Indigenous people work to rebuild their language and spiritual traditions, Christian traditions no longer have the same influence over their lives and destinies.



Pope Francis pauses in front of the site of the former Ermineskin Residential School, alongside the Maskwacis Chiefs, during his visit on July 25, 2022, in Maskwacis, Alberta.



Andrew Yang, losing candidate for president and New York City mayor, is one of the founders of the Forward Party. Rob Kim/Getty Images

A new third party for US politics – 3 essential reads on what that means

Published: July 29, 2022 8.22am EDT

▼ Naomi Schalit, *The Conversation*, Alexander Cohen, Bernard Tamas, Marjorie Hershey

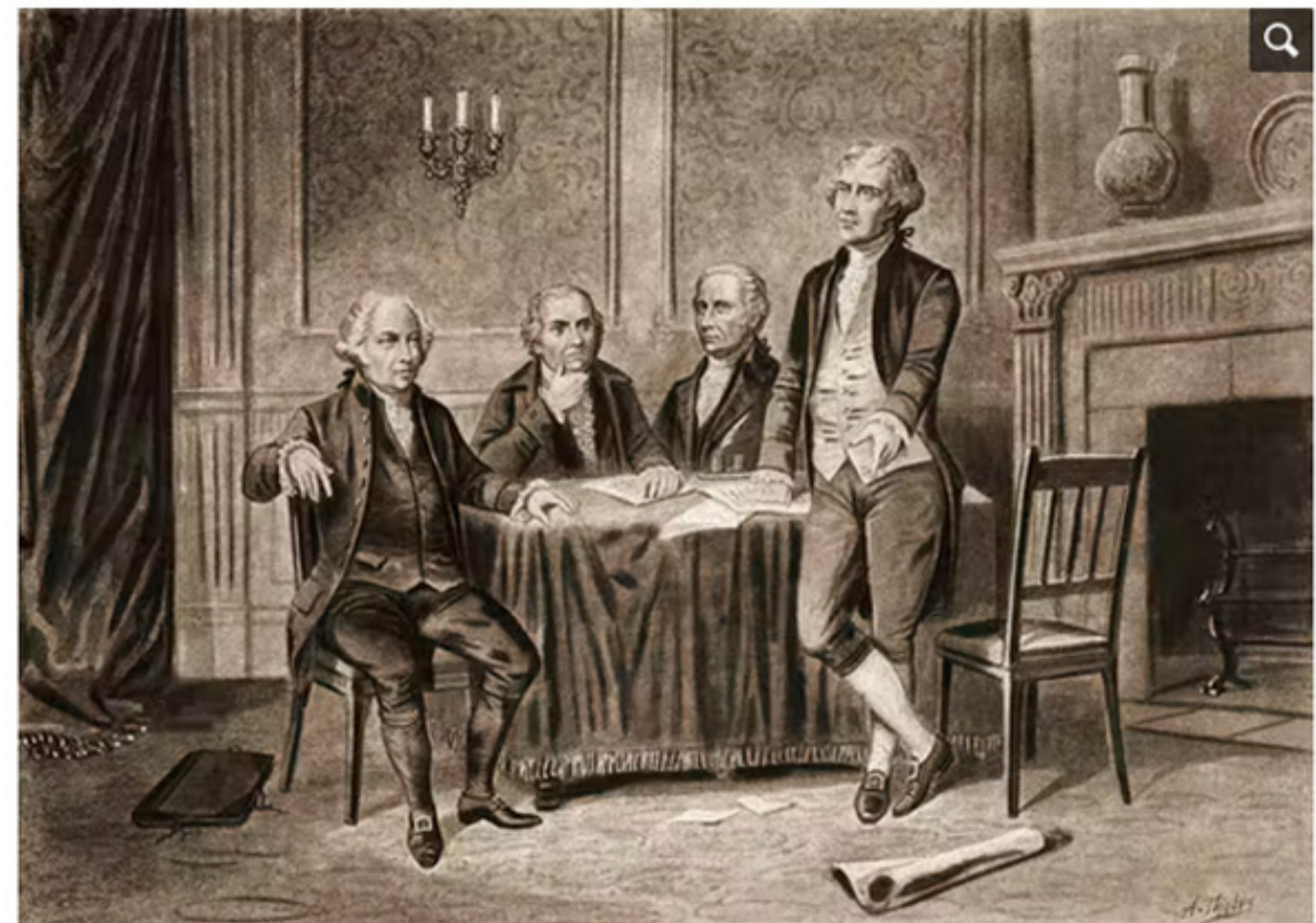
In June 2022, Gallup asked participants in a U.S. survey about their party membership. “In politics,” pollsters asked, “as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat or an independent?” The largest segment of participants – 43% – said they were independent. Republicans and Democrats represented 27% each. Note the lower case “i” in independent. That means it’s not a party, as the Democrats and Republicans are. Actual political parties have policies, they have big bank accounts, they have organizations in every state, and they have a place on the ballot in elections. But if the leaders of a new, centrist political party whose formation was announced on July 28, 2022, accomplish their goal, the “Forward Party” will attract many voters who no longer identify as Democrats or Republicans and it will become a force for moderation - and an institution - in U.S. electoral politics. “How will we solve the big issues facing America?” the founders said at a news conference. “Not Left. Not Right. Forward.” Here are three stories from *The Conversation*’s archives that analyze the chances of third-party success at changing the U.S. political system.

1. Don’t count on it: An upstart third party is unlikely to dislodge the status quo, Cohen says. “The modern Republicans and Democrats are unlikely to go the way of the Whigs, Federalists and Anti-Federalists, regardless of recent political earthquakes.”

2. It’s hard to end the party: A third party simply doesn’t have an advantage in the U.S. political system. “Votes are counted in most American elections using plurality rules, or ‘winner take all.’ Whoever gets the most votes wins the single seat up for election.” But in many other democracies, multiple political parties can thrive because of a different system of electing representatives. For example, there are widely used systems that award seats proportionally to the percentage of votes a party wins.

3. Winning isn’t everything: “The most successful third parties in U.S. politics don’t typically rise to dominance but instead challenge the major parties enough to force them to change course.”

Even if the Forward Party raises money and fields successful candidates, it may not be long in the U.S. political landscape. “But by strategically winning the votes of moderate conservatives and thereby undermining Republicans’ electoral goals, even if briefly, a new third party could stop the GOP from hurtling farther down an extreme and undemocratic path.”



The Founding Fathers didn't think highly of political parties, with Alexander Hamilton, second from right, saying they were a 'most fatal disease.' Stock Montage/Getty Images



All adult citizens who have not been convicted of a crime have the right to vote in federal and state elections. Irfan Khan/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

The independent state legislature doctrine could reverse 200 years of progress and take power away from the people

Published: July 29, 2022 8.23am EDT

Henry L. Chambers Jr., *University of Richmond*

At America's founding, the Constitution made the power of the people a matter of grace provided by state legislatures. As America's democracy matured, the power of the people became a matter of right under the Constitution.

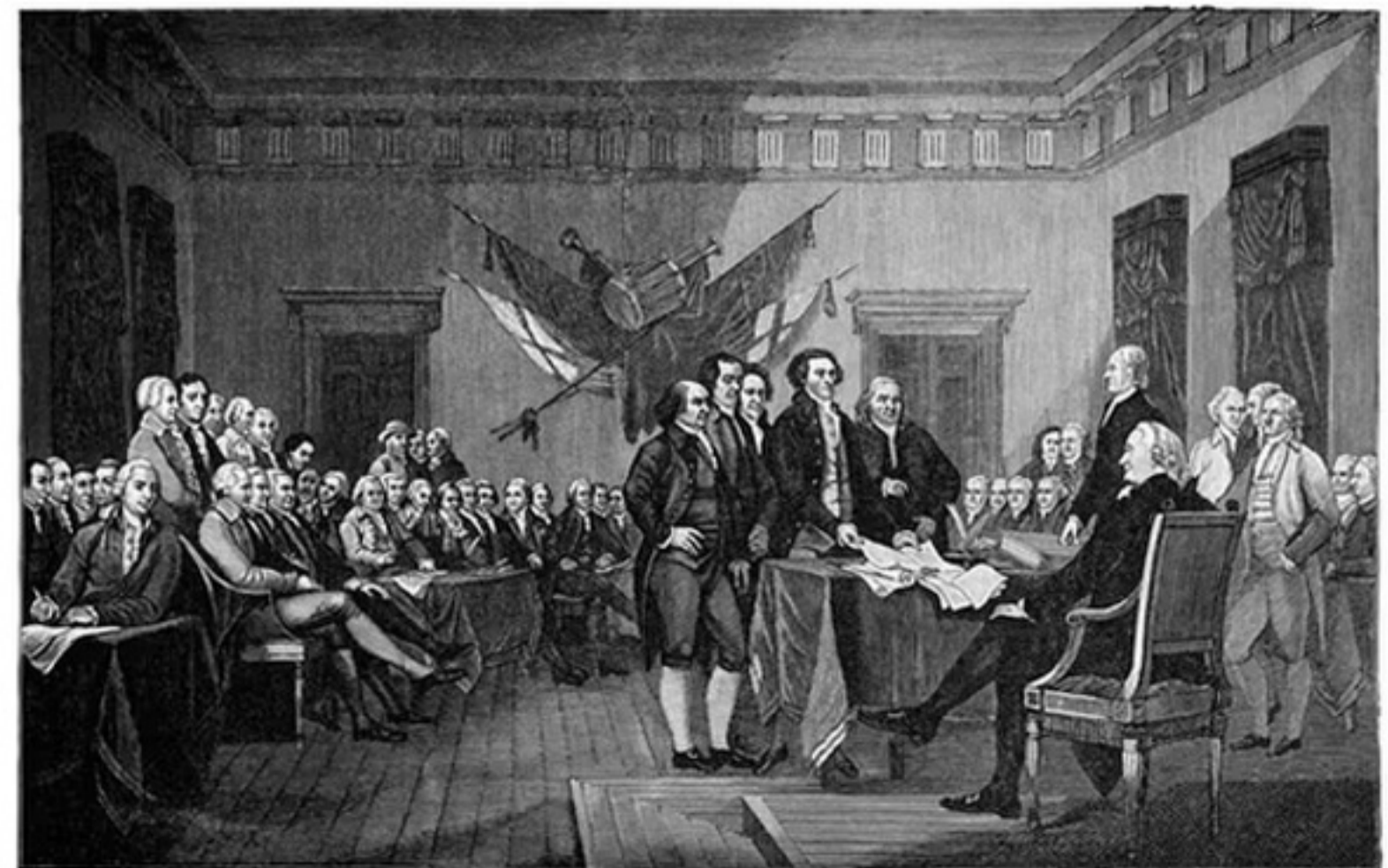
The independent state legislature doctrine threatens to make the power of the people a matter of grace again, reinstating an anachronistic vision of democracy long thought to have passed.

In a case to be heard in the coming months, the U.S. Supreme Court could decide that state legislatures have control over congressional elections, including the ability to draw voting districts for partisan political advantage, unconstrained by state law or state constitutions.

At issue is a legal theory called the "independent state legislature doctrine," which is posed through the court's consideration of a dispute over gerrymandered North Carolina congressional districts. In early 2022, North Carolina state courts found the legislature violated the state constitution when it drew gerrymandered congressional districts favoring Republicans. The legislature has claimed that the U.S. Constitution gives it authority, unfettered by state courts' interpretation of the state constitution or laws, to regulate congressional elections, and is asking the Supreme Court to agree.

If the court agrees, it could free state legislatures to take power away from voters – "We the People" in constitutional parlance – and reverse a two-century trend toward expanding the power of the people in congressional elections.

Some election and constitutional law analysts have already suggested that state legislatures may have similar power over presidential elections. **The U.S. Constitution allows state legislatures to determine how a state chooses its presidential electors, arguably leaving the legislature free to choose presidential electors on their own without a popular election.**



SIGNING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

The Founders restricted voting to white men who owned property. Universal History Archive/Universal

In five states, Republicans who deny the 2020 election results have now moved closer to overseeing the voting process. Arizona, which has a primary on Tuesday, could be next.

Election deniers are running to control voting. Here's how they've fared so far

July 29, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



Georgia Rep. Jody Hice speaks during a rally last September as former President Donald Trump looks on. Trump endorsed Hice, who falsely believes fraud tainted the 2020 election, in the Georgia secretary of state race, but Hice was defeated.

Sean Rayford/Getty Images



Joanna Lydgate
@JLydgate

Now: CEO @StatesUnited. Then: Chief Deputy AG @MassAGO. Always: @BravoTV. (she/hers)

724 Following 744 Followers

Joanna Lydgate, the CEO of States United Action, a nonpartisan organization that has been tracking election-denying candidates running for governor, attorney general and secretary of state nationwide, cautioned against focusing too much on where election deniers have lost. She pointed back to Georgia in 2020, when Trump called Raffensperger after the election and pushed him to "find" votes, and said even one election denier in a position of power is too many.

Election deniers running for secretary of state nominations in 2022

MICHIGAN (Biden +2.7 pts. in 2020 election)
GOP endorsement convention on April 23

WON Kristina Karamo
TRUMP ENDORSED

Pushed 2020 election conspiracy theories, and a conspiracy theory that it was [actually antifa](#) who attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6.

OHIO (Trump +8 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on May 3

LOST John Adams

Said there were "[shenanigans](#)" in the 2020 election that have not yet been resolved.

INDIANA (Trump +16.1 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on May 3

WON Diego Morales

Called the 2020 election "a scam."

NEBRASKA (Trump +19.1 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on May 10

LOST Rex Schroder

Shared numerous [election conspiracies](#) about voting machines and the 2020 election.

IDAHO (Trump +30.8 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on May 17

LOST Dorothy Moon

Signed a [letter](#) falsely claiming there was "rampant corruption" and fraud in the 2020 election.

GEORGIA (Biden +0.2 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on May 24

LOST Jody Hice
TRUMP ENDORSED

Objected to [certification](#) in Congress on Jan. 6, 2021.

LOST David Belle Isle

Said Georgia results [should not have](#) been certified.

ALABAMA (Trump +25.5 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on May 24

WON Wes Allen

Voiced [support](#) for legal efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

ARKANSAS (Trump +27.6 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on May 24

LOST Eddie Joe Williams

Said he [wasn't sure](#) if Trump lost the 2020 election.

NEW MEXICO (Biden +10.8 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on June 7

WON Audrey Trujillo

Shared a number of [conspiracy theories](#) about voter fraud on Twitter.

CALIFORNIA (Biden +29.2 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on June 7

LOST Rachel Hamm

Attended a QAnon conference last fall, and was [endorsed](#) by election denial leader Mike Lindell.

LOST James 'JW' Paine

[Says](#) the 2020 election was "stolen."

NEVADA (Biden +2.4 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on June 14

WON Jim Marchant

Said the 2020 election was [stolen](#) from him and Trump.

SOUTH CAROLINA (Trump +11.7 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on June 14

LOST Keith Blandford

Falsely [claims](#) the U.S. election system is "riddled with fraud."

COLORADO (Biden +13.5 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on June 28

LOST Tina Peters

[Spoke](#) at an election conspiracy symposium hosted by election denial leader Mike Lindell.

ARIZONA (Biden +0.3 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 2

PENDING Mark Finchem
TRUMP ENDORSED

Attended Stop the Steal rallies in January 2021, and introduced [a resolution](#) to decertify 2020 election results in Arizona.

PENDING Shawna Bolick

Introduced [a bill](#) that would give legislators the power to overturn an election, in response to fraud claims, and voted [not to certify](#) the 2020 election in Arizona.

KANSAS (Trump +14.6 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 2

PENDING Mike Brown

Defended former President Trump "[asking questions](#)" about election results.

WASHINGTON (Biden +19.4 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 2

PENDING Tamborine Borrelli

[Led an effort](#) to file numerous lawsuits claiming fraud in the 2020 election.

WISCONSIN (Biden +0.6 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 9

PENDING Justin Schmidtka

Has [called for](#) the 2020 election to be decertified in Wisconsin.

PENDING Jay Schroeder

Called for Wisconsin's 2020 electors to be [rescinded](#).

MINNESOTA (Biden +7.2 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 9

PENDING Kim Crockett

Cast [doubt](#) on 2020 election results and broader election infrastructure.

PENDING Erik van Mechelen

[Argues](#) that "machines controlled" the 2020 election. "Those who control the machines, control who wins," he says.

PENDING Steve Carlson

Tweets [many conspiracies](#) about U.S. elections.

VERMONT (Biden +35.6 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 9

PENDING H. Brooke Paige

Posted [on Facebook](#) that "the 2020 election was stolen."

CONNECTICUT (Biden +20.1 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 9

PENDING Dominic Rapini

Shared [false allegations](#) about voter fraud in 2020.

WYOMING (Trump +43.7 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Aug. 16

PENDING Chuck Gray

Called Biden's win in 2020 "illegitimate" [on Facebook](#).

MASSACHUSETTS (Biden +33.6 pts. in 2020 election)
Primary on Sept. 6

PENDING Rayla Campbell

Posted [photos](#) during a previous campaign wearing a QAnon shirt.

As interest rates rise, the 'American dream' of homeownership fades for some

July 30, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

KAREN ZAMORA



CHRISTOPHER INTAGLIATA



...they've been watching interest rates spiral higher and higher — each increase adding to the pressure of finding their home.

Rising interest rates and fierce competition are pushing many potential homeowners out of the market, leading one person to conclude: "I feel like the American dream isn't attainable anymore."





To see whether different types of SSRIs might affect a patient's risk of overdosing on oxycodone, my colleagues and I examined data from three large U.S. health insurance claims databases. We included over 2 million adults who began taking oxycodone while using SSRIs between 2000 and 2020. The average age of the group was around 50, and a little over 72% were women. A little over 30% were taking the SSRIs paroxetine and fluoxetine. We found that patients taking paroxetine or fluoxetine had a 23% higher risk of overdosing on oxycodone than those using other SSRIs.

The findings from our study offer insight on which of the most commonly used antidepressants could most likely lead to opioid overdose. Further investigation of how other drugs interact with opioids could help doctors and patients better understand which drugs are safe to take at the same time.

Certain SSRIs can inhibit the breakdown of opioids in the body.

Taking certain opioids while on commonly prescribed antidepressants may increase the risk of overdose

Published: July 29, 2022 8.20am EDT

▼ [Ismaeel Yunusa](#), *University of South Carolina*

Taking oxycodone at the same time as certain selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), a commonly prescribed class of antidepressant, can increase the risk of opioid overdose, according to a study my colleagues and I published.



Why men overwhelmingly wear the UN's blue helmets – a former US ambassador explains why decades of recruiting women peacekeepers has had little effect

Published: July 29, 2022 8.22am EDT

▼ [Dennis Jett, Penn State](#)

The United Nations has about 74,000 peacekeepers in uniform stationed in a dozen conflict zones around the world. There are military experts, police and infantry units who come from 121 countries to help maintain peace. Just 8% of peacekeepers are women. This is a significant increase from 15 years ago – when the number of peacekeepers was about the same as today but women made up only about 2% of the ranks. For 20 years, the U.N. has been trying to improve this statistic.

First, women make up a small percentage of the armed forces in almost every country, ranging from less than 1% in India and Turkey to 20% in Hungary. Second, very few countries train women for ground combat, which may be part of a U.N. peacekeeping mission. Third, the countries that do train women for combat are almost always democratic and wealthier. They are also least likely to contribute troops to the more dangerous U.N. peacekeeping missions.

Female police officers working with the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Liberia participate in a parade in 2008.





Colorado angler reels in massive fish, smashing longest-standing fish record in the state

Tamera Twitty 21 hrs ago 1



Photo Courtesy: Colorado Parks and Wildlife

A record-breaking trout was caught in Colorado this season, weighing in at a whopping 7.84 pounds, according to a news release from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The Brook Trout was reeled in at Monarch Lake in Granby, Colorado, by Tim Daniel. According to officials, the fish was measured at a massive 23 1/4 inches in length, and had a girth of 15 3/8 inches.

“When I headed out to fish that day with my friend Karen and four-legged friend Moose, I had no intention of breaking a record,” said Daniel in a news release.

“I wasn’t sure what I had hooked, but I knew it was big. I’ve fished waters in Northwest Colorado for many years, and I have landed some big fish. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of CPW aquatic biologists, Northwest Colorado has some of the best fisheries in the state.”

The previous record was set in 1947, when a 7.63 pounder was pulled from Upper Cataract Lake in Summit County. Before falling to Daniel’s catch, it was the longest-standing fish record in Colorado.

“We always suspected that Monarch Lake had the potential to produce a state record Brook Trout,” said CPW Aquatic Biologist Jon Ewert. “This is a real testament to the quality of our angling opportunities in Grand County. It couldn’t have happened to a more deserving angler than Tim. He’s just one of those guys that is always out there on the water and as a result, has an intimate knowledge of the subtle details necessary to be so successful.”



A young girl falls into her father's arms off a Russian tank that was destroyed and exhibited at Mykhailivs'ka Square with other damaged Russian military equipment as a symbol of Ukraine's resistance against the invasion in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, July 30, 2022. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

Wildfires in West explode in size amid hot, windy conditions

By JULIE WATSON and REBECCA BOONE today

Three smoke plumes from the McKinney Fire are seen early Saturday, July 30, 2022, from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Cal Fire, outdoor camera called Antelope Mt./Yreka. (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Cal Fire via AP)



SAN DIEGO (AP) — Wildfires in California and Montana exploded in size overnight amid windy, hot conditions and were quickly encroaching on neighborhoods, forcing evacuation orders for over 100 homes Saturday, while an Idaho blaze was spreading. In California's Klamath National Forest, the fast-moving McKinney fire, which started Friday, went from charring just over 1 square mile (1 square kilometer) to scorching as much as 62 square miles (160 square kilometers) by Saturday in a largely rural area near the Oregon state line, according to fire officials. The fire burned down at least a dozen residences and wildlife was seen fleeing the area to avoid the flames. "It's continuing to grow with erratic winds and thunderstorms in the area and we're in triple digit temperatures," said Caroline Quintanilla, a spokeswoman at Klamath National Forest. California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency Saturday as the fire intensified. The proclamation allows Newsom more flexibility to make emergency response and recovery effort decisions and access federal aid. It also allows "firefighting resources from other states to assist California crews in battling the fires," according to a statement from the governor's office.



House of Representatives US faces new era of political violence as threats against lawmakers rise

Members of the House will now get up to \$10,000 to upgrade their home security as experts warn such threats endanger the health of US democracy

Joan E Greve and Lauren Gambino in Washington

Sun 31 Jul 2022 04.00 EDT

One study of online messages sent to 2020 congressional candidates found that women, particularly women of color, were more likely to be the target of abusive content. Of all the candidates reviewed, the progressive congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who is Somali American, received the highest proportion of abusive messages on Twitter. Fellow progressive congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is Puerto Rican American, saw the most abusive comments on Facebook.

Last year, House Democrats, over near-unanimous Republican opposition, voted to strip the far-right congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene of her committee assignments, after it was discovered that she had previously expressed support for assassinating Barack Obama and the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi.

In November, Congressman Paul Gosar received the same punishment, as well as a House censure, after he shared an animated video depicting violence against Joe Biden and Ocasio-Cortez. Only two Republicans supported the censure.

Powering solutions to extremism

ISD

Public Rage

Research indicates that the messages supporters receive from their political leaders have a large impact on whether they actually carry out violent acts, several experts said. In experiments conducted by Mason and her colleagues, some participants were asked to read a quote from Biden or Trump condemning violence while others read nothing. Those who had read the quote were significantly less approving of violence.

“Leaders are actually uniquely powerful in being able to tamp down violence,” Mason said. “Republicans in particular are not using that power. And they could, but they’re not.”

Although political leaders are particularly powerful when it comes to reducing violent rhetoric, Mason’s research indicates that average people may have some leverage of their own. Mason’s team saw some positive results when they asked participants to read messages from random Twitter users condemning political violence. For the overwhelming majority of Americans who oppose such violence, the findings could offer some hope.

Cécile Guerin,
Eisha Maharasingam-Shah

“For Americans in general, I think it’s sort of empowering to know that every single one of us has the potential to reduce violence by simply rejecting it,” Mason said. “We can all do that. All the 80% of us who don’t think violence is acceptable have a real voice, and it’s important to use it.”



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who saw the most abusive comments on Facebook. Photograph: Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

China's Gen Z Is Dejected, Underemployed and Slowing the Economy

Younger workers' ambitions and salary expectations are diminishing in the wake of Covid and the tech crackdown.

Bloomberg News

July 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM PDT

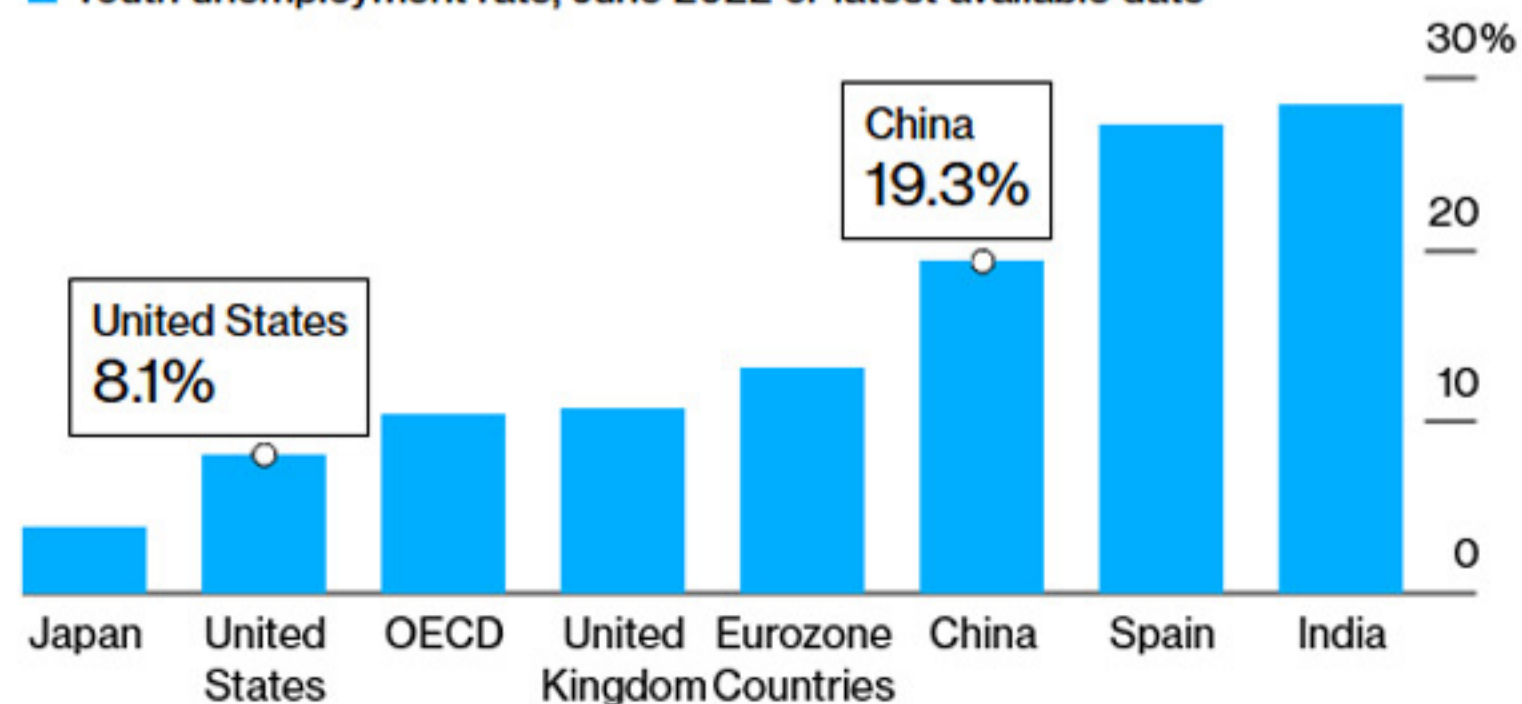


University graduates at a job fair in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, on June 17.

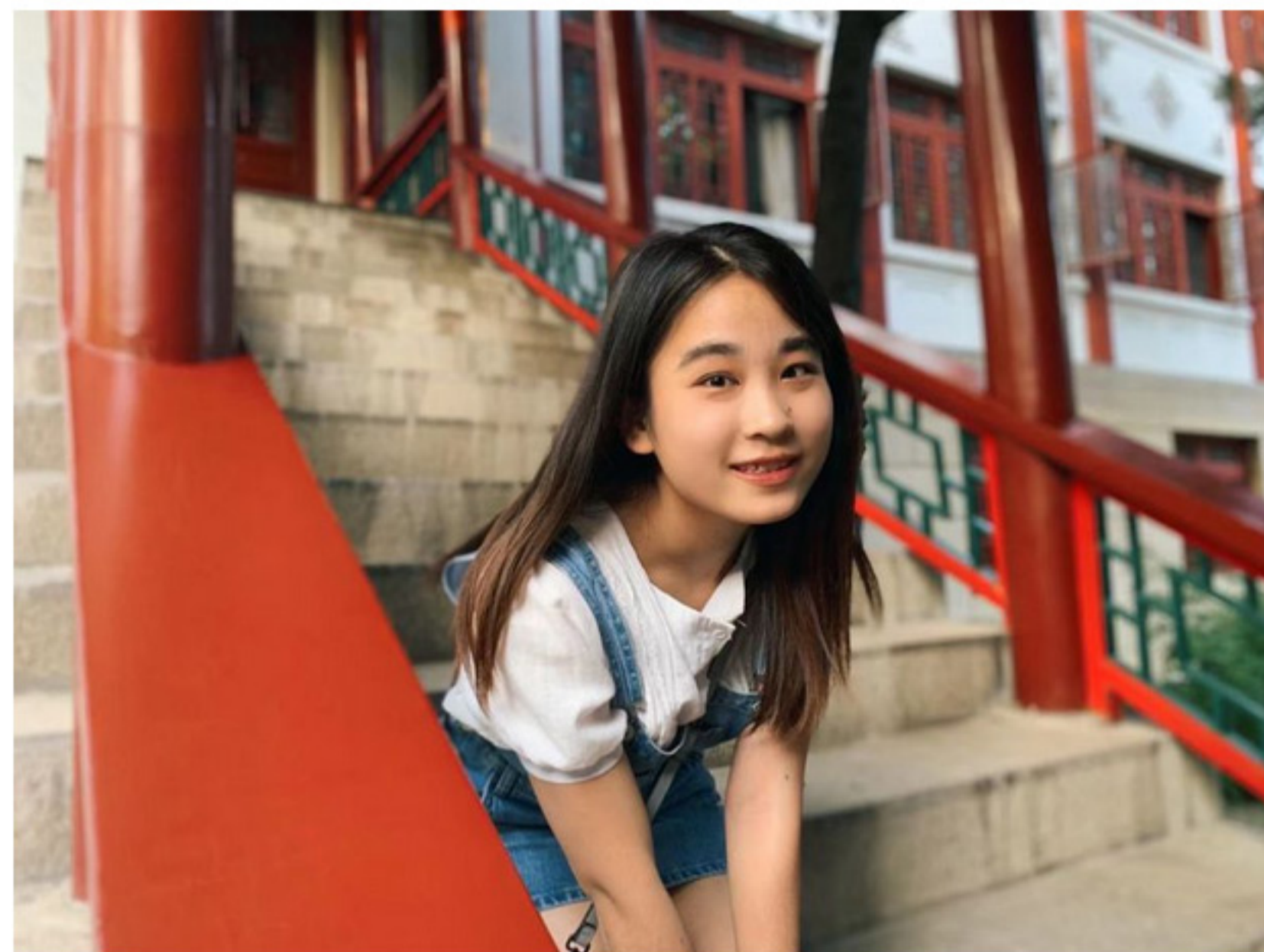
Jobless Youth

China's youth unemployment is high compared with major economies

■ Youth unemployment rate, June 2022 or latest available date



Source: OECD, China National Bureau of Statistics, World Bank



Kay Lou Courtesy: Kay Lou

Even in the current environment, Kay Lou, 25, would be a leading candidate for any number of private-sector jobs. She has a masters in law from top-ranked Tsinghua University and has interned for a legal firm, an Internet giant, a securities brokerage and a court.

In the end, she won a government position in Zhejiang province –where some roles attract as many as 200 applicants.

“I felt my work wasn’t meaningful,” she said. “I became increasingly opposed to the capitalists’ pursuit of wealth after I read Marx, so in the end I chose to become a civil servant.”

(china job)

Up Next

China Factory Activity Sees Shock Contraction on Outbreaks

CONGRESS

'Alarm bell': Oz's struggles have GOP pitching alternate path to Senate takeover

Republican officials outlined the Oz campaign's polling and financial troubles in recent meetings, emphasizing they can still win the Senate without Pennsylvania.



The National Republican Senatorial Committee raised concerns about Oz's lackluster polling and fundraising on at least three separate occasions in recent weeks. | Matt Rourke/AP Photo

By **HOLLY OTTERBEIN** and **NATALIE ALLISON**

07/29/2022 01:42 PM EDT

Updated: 07/29/2022 04:01 PM EDT

PHILADELPHIA — The GOP establishment is feeling down on Dr. Oz. The Senate Republicans' campaign arm is privately sounding the alarm about physician Mehmet Oz's bid for the Senate in the critical battleground of Pennsylvania, while telling donors that the party still has a path to winning the majority without the state.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee raised concerns about Oz's lackluster polling and fundraising on at least three separate occasions in recent weeks, multiple sources told POLITICO.

On a donor call last week that focused on Senate races throughout the country, NRSC officials discussed Oz's poor performance in polls, including his high unfavorability ratings, said a person on the call. "It was an alarm bell," the person said, adding that Oz's poor image among voters is "really freaking everybody out."

On the call, NRSC officials sought to calm nerves and assure financial backers that Republicans could still take back the Senate majority even without an Oz victory. The GOP only needs to unseat one Democrat this fall in order to win the Senate, which is currently split 50-50.

But Republicans also must defend other crucial swing states such as Wisconsin and North Carolina, while trying to flip the likes of Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and New Hampshire. Failing to hold onto retiring Republican Sen. Pat Toomey's seat in Pennsylvania would be a major blow to the party.

The path to capturing the Senate, as it was laid out privately by NRSC officials in one of the calls, includes holding Ohio, North Carolina and Wisconsin's seats, flipping Nevada, and then ousting Democrats in either Georgia, Arizona or both states, according to a source who heard the pitch.

Amid uncertainty surrounding one of its top battleground states, the NRSC is now signaling plans to invest money in at least two new blue-state pickup opportunities this year. On Thursday, the committee made its first television ad buys in Washington and Colorado — states President Joe Biden won by double digits in 2020 where Republicans believe they could make a compelling case to disaffected Democratic and independent voters.

The committee spent \$669,000 on airtime in Washington and \$241,000 in Colorado on a week's worth of television ads set to begin airing Wednesday, according to the ad tracking service AdImpact.

But Toomey remains optimistic about the party's chances of holding his seat, warning of a coming barrage of attack ads against Fetterman, though he did not offer specifics on what those would include.

"There are a lot of significant political vulnerabilities that Fetterman has," Toomey said in an interview. "They're going to be exposed, they haven't been yet. Voters don't know about those things. And when all of that gets litigated — it gets litigated in an environment that's very favorable to Republicans — Oz is gonna win."



The Breakdown

Who Is Collecting Data from Your Car?

A firehose of sensitive data from your vehicle is flowing to a group of companies you've probably never heard of

By [Jon Keegan](#) and [Alfred Ng](#)

July 27, 2022 08:00 ET

[Ryan Raphael](#)

Today's cars are akin to smartphones, with apps connected to the internet that collect huge amounts of data, some of which is highly personal. Most drivers have no idea what data is being transmitted from their vehicles, let alone who exactly is collecting, analyzing, and sharing that data, and with whom. A recent survey of drivers by the Automotive Industries Association of Canada found that only 28 percent of respondents had a clear understanding of the types of data their vehicle produced, and the same percentage said they had a clear understanding of who had access to that data. Welcome to the world of connected vehicle data, an ecosystem of dozens of businesses you never knew existed.

The Markup has identified 37 companies that are part of the rapidly growing connected vehicle data industry that seeks to monetize such data in an environment with few regulations governing its sale or use. While many of these companies stress they are using aggregated or anonymized data, the unique nature of location and movement data increases the potential for violations of user privacy.

A closer look at Otonomo and Wejo illustrates the huge amount of data under their control and the potential value of the information.

Wejo, founded in 2014, is a publicly traded vehicle data hub based in Manchester, England. Wejo claims that its data represents "one in every 28 vehicles in the USA" and contains 16.2 trillion data points and 76.7 billion journeys with accuracy down to 3 meters, with a "1-3 second capture rate." Wejo says it has partnerships with 24 OEMs and fleet providers and reported revenue of \$568,000 with a loss of \$40 million in Q1 2022. Wejo's investors include GM, Microsoft, and defense and intelligence contractor Palantir.

Otonomo is a publicly traded company based in Tel Aviv. Founded in 2015, it was valued at \$1.4 billion at the time of its initial public offering (via a SPAC) in August 2021. It boasts on its website that it draws data from 50 million vehicles, "tracking" 330 billion miles and ingests 4.1 billion data points per day. In its Q1 2022 financial results, Otonomo said it has contracts with 23 OEMs, and in April it acquired The Floop, a "connected insurance technology" provider. Otonomo reported revenue of just over \$1 million for the quarter, with a \$15 million loss.

Anonymization and Aggregation: Otonomo is one example of the dozens of companies that market their attempts at keeping information anonymous. Otonomo describes its platform as having "privacy and security by design" and notes the use of patented "data blurring" technology to protect user privacy. It says it is in compliance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). It also has an "Otonomo Driver Pledge" page promising drivers the ability to easily grant or revoke access to personal data, customer transparency about sharing data, and adherence to security best practices.

Despite those assurances, in 2021 Motherboard discovered precise, individual vehicle data in free samples on Otonomo's site. Recently, Otonomo found itself the target of a class action lawsuit filed in California Superior Court for the County of San Francisco by a California BMW owner who alleged in the lawsuit that he never granted permission to the company to collect and sell his personal data. Otonomo had the suit removed to federal district court in California and sought to have the case dismissed, arguing that the plaintiff did grant permission for the car manufacturer to collect vehicle data and that Otonomo did not attach any device to his vehicle as alleged in his lawsuit. Otonomo also argued that tracking people and vehicles were not the same thing. The lawsuit is pending.

Because it turns out moving fast and breaking things broke some super important things.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

The Manchin pressure campaign: CEOs, labor bosses and Bill Gates

The people involved who spoke with POLITICO described an effort with multiple entry points.



Clean energy manufacturing companies with plans to set up shop in Sen. Joe Manchin's (D-W.Va.) state helped orchestrate the 13-day effort to change his mind. | Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

By ZACK COLMAN, JOSH SIEGEL and KELSEY TAMBORRINO
07/29/2022 05:01 PM EDT

When Joe Manchin balked at the clean energy incentives in Democrats' expansive spending bill two weeks ago, the corporate C-suites and union boardrooms jumped into action. With hundreds of billions of dollars of incentives for manufacturing, electric vehicles, nuclear power and carbon capturing technology hanging in the balance, executives from some of the nation's biggest companies and labor unions made their case to the Democratic West Virginia senator: The next generation of clean tech needed Washington's backing to take off. Clean energy manufacturing companies with plans to set up shop in Manchin's state helped orchestrate the 13-day effort to change his mind, more than 20 people involved in the effort told POLITICO — eventually helping to get his backing for the \$369 billion in incentives in the newly dubbed Inflation Reduction Act, H.R. 5376 (117). That push — which two of the people said included a call from Bill Gates, whose venture capital firm has backed a West Virginia-based battery start-up — was taking place alongside a campaign by other senators along with economist and inflation hawk Larry Summers to convince Manchin of the merits of the bill. “It was across the board,” said National Wildlife Federation CEO Collin O’Mara, who according to other participants was central in organizing the campaign to persuade Manchin to restart talks. “He heard from a wide range.”

The people involved who spoke with POLITICO described an effort with multiple entry points. They said Manchin's staff was eager to set up meetings and kept conversations going to assuage their boss' concerns about inflation, supply chains and energy.

“I am absolutely aware that many, many folks called Manchin, and many corporate leaders wanted to get this done,” said one environmental group leader involved in the outreach, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive dynamics given that the legislation has not yet passed. Manchin told reporters on a Thursday call that he “never walked away” from talks on July 14, the day when news emerged that he would not support the climate measures. He said he and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer quickly thereafter were “trying to see if there was a different approach we could take. And we did that.” [...]

nd labor unions also pressed Manchin. The United Mine Workers of America engaged throughout the 13-day period with Manchin's staff, though largely over another issue both Manchin and the union had fought for years to secure: a tax on coal companies to pay into a trust fund for miners suffering from black lung disease.

UMWA spokesperson Phil Smith said Manchin's staff “were all for it.” Yet, it was still a surprise to see that tax fully and permanently restored in the bill because “nobody told me or anybody else that, yes, this is going to be in there,” he said.

Local advocates for pushing West Virginia into new forms of energy also made a late push.

Brandon Dennison, the CEO of the economic development organization Coalfield Development, pointed to companies like Solar Holler, a West Virginia-based solar installer whose employees are members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers labor union.

Solar Holler CEO Dan Conant told POLITICO he'd spoken often with Manchin, explaining his firm would benefit from the direct pay clean energy incentives because, as a nonprofit, it lacks the tax liability to obtain financing through tax equity markets. Conant spoke with Manchin's staff after the bill text dropped late Wednesday and was pleased some of those provisions were included.

Dennison said that when he talked to Manchin's staff in the past two weeks, he made it clear that passing clean energy incentives was about giving West Virginia “a chance to stay an energy state.”

“If we want to benefit from the investments and the jobs that are going to come with that transition, we need to be part of the proactive solutions and policies rather than constantly playing on defense,” Dennison said. “That's the case I tried to make.”

The science is in: Everyone recognizes and uses baby talk with infants

Updated July 31, 2022 · 10:59 AM ET



MICHEL MARTIN

GABRIEL J. SANCHEZ



You've heard it. You've probably done it. We're talking baby talk. And it turns out, the features of baby talk — softer tone, higher pitch, almost unintelligible vocabulary — are global. Researchers at Harvard's Music Lab documented over 1,500 recordings in 21 urban, rural and Indigenous communities — making their work possibly a first of its kind experiment.

Courtney Hilton, one of two lead authors on the research, told NPR's Michel Martin that the team wanted to get beyond Western cultures. "For the case of these infant-directed vocalizations, people have studied this in Western and urban societies for many decades at this point," said Hilton, who's now at Yale University. "But we don't really know that much about how that varies across societies." For the recordings, the team asked people to speak to their babies as if they were fussy. Researchers also recorded adults singing to the babies in a variety of languages and then repeating that process with another adult.

More than 50,000 participants who judged if what they heard was adult speaking to adults — or adults talking to babies. And as to whether all of this baby talk hurts language development, Hilton advises there are some theories that it actually helps infants.

"There really isn't much evidence that speaking in baby talk to babies [is] really harmful," he said, "at least up until a few years of age."

On why humans do baby talk in the first place: There are many reasons why this kind of baby talk might have evolved in humans and why it might serve beneficial purposes. Some theories suggest that the way we speak accentuates the vowels of the speech and helps babies learn speech. Other theories suggest that this kind of baby talk helps regulate the baby's emotions and helps structure the social interactions we have with babies, so it helps socialize them and control their behavior and mood. And of course, these things are all great for us now in modern societies, but say a million years ago in Pleistocene Africa, people living back then would have been in far harsher conditions, and the struggle for survival was a bit more acute. In those situations, having ways to interact with babies and to care for them while still being able to keep your eyes up to look out for predators and use your voice to interact with babies, that might have been an important reason why we may have evolved these kinds of behaviors.

On which recordings most fascinated him: The Hadza people live a very different life than Western people, only interacting with a group of about 30 to 40 other people. And they have next to no exposure to global media via the Internet, radio and TV. And the Hadza language is also called a language isolate, meaning that it is not related to any other known living language. Despite all these differences, we still hear in some of these recordings that people engage in the same sorts of vocalizations — raising the pitch of their voice and speaking in a more rhythmic way when they address infants.

On how researchers thought of the idea for this study: The genesis of this project came from the leader of our lab, Samuel Mehr, chatting with other people at a conference and just having the idea that we could work with some of these anthropologists that we have some relationships with — give them to microphones that they that they can take them to the field and make some recordings of infant directed speech and song. Then that ballooned out into this larger project that we have today, where we ended up with about 40 different collaborators on this research project, many of which are anthropologists with expertise in many of these societies. We did end up with 21 societies' worth of recordings — many of which include small-scale societies that are very different from Western societies in terms of how they live their lives.

On the importance of doing this research beyond Western societies: The easy part about studying infant-directed speech is making recordings and analyzing them. The hard part is really doing this cross-culturally. This is partly because cultures are spread geographically around the world, and then there are also all sorts of cultural and linguistic barriers. This is why we collaborated with many anthropologists with on-the-ground expertise with many of these societies. We need to go beyond just studying Western cultures. And for the case of these infant-directed vocalizations, people have studied this in Western and urban societies for many decades at this point. But we don't really know that much about how that varies across societies. And being able to understand whether this is common across societies might give us clues as to whether this is something that has links to our basic biology as humans or whether this is something we are enculturated into through interacting with other people in our culture.

Recent evidence showing that Virginia Thomas, wife of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, sent at least 29 text messages to former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows urging him to help overturn the 2020 election has reignited a long-simmering debate about judicial ethics and the nation's highest court. Fair and impartial judges are essential to the health and legitimacy of the judicial system and are a critical component of the system of government established in the U.S. Constitution.



Helping cells become better protein factories could improve gene therapies and other treatments – a new technique shows how

Daniel N. Hebert, *UMass Amherst* and Lila Gierasch, *UMass Amherst*



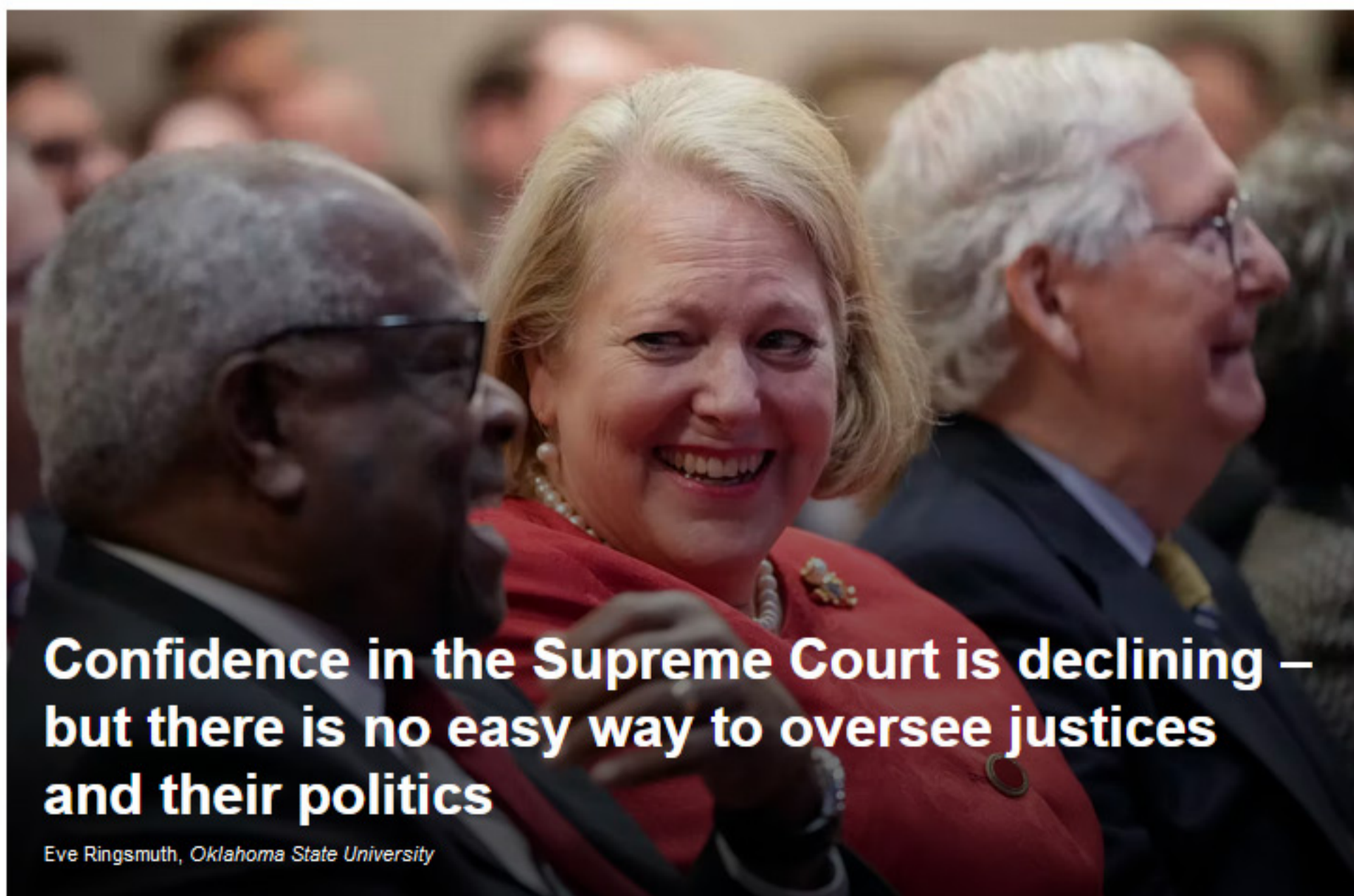
Flood maps show US vastly underestimates contamination risk at old industrial sites

Thomas Marlow, *New York University*; James R. Elliott, *Rice University*, and Scott Frickel, *Brown University*



How to keep teen athletes safe from heat illness as sports practice begins amid a brutally hot summer

Susan Yeargin, *University of South Carolina*



Confidence in the Supreme Court is declining – but there is no easy way to oversee justices and their politics

Eve Ringsmuth, *Oklahoma State University*



City residents who support neighborhood schools are often divided by race and purpose

Hava Rachel Gordon, *University of Denver*

As Western flames spread, California sees its largest fire in 2022

Crews battling the McKinney Fire, the largest wildfire so far this year in California, braced for thunderstorms and hot, windy conditions that created the potential for additional fire growth Sunday.



A chimney stands at a destroyed building as the McKinney Fire burns in Klamath National Forest, Calif., on Sunday.

Noah Berger/AP

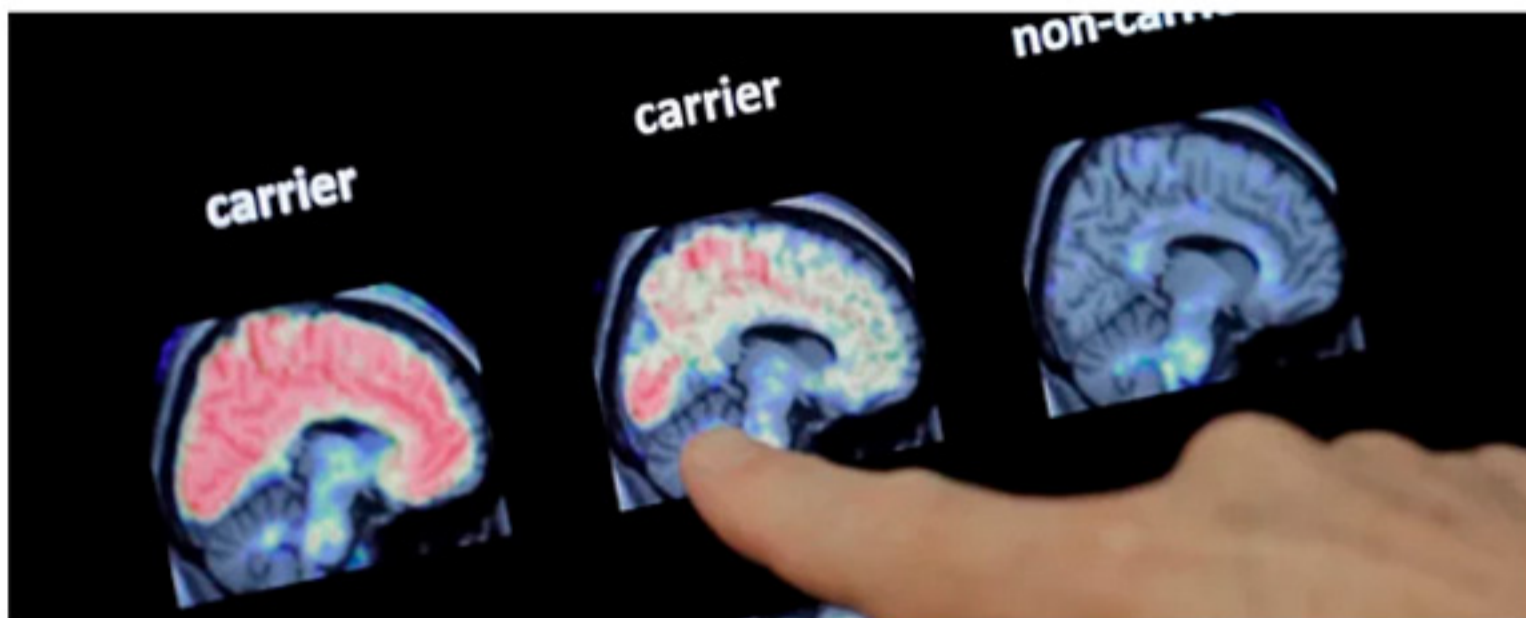
Alzheimer's researchers are looking beyond plaques and tangles for new treatments

August 1, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



JON HAMILTON



Scientists say research into Alzheimer's needs to take a broader view of how the disease affects the brain — whether that's changes in the cortex or the role of inflammation.

The field of Alzheimer's research is branching out. After decades of focusing on the sticky amyloid plaques and tangled tau fibers associated with the disease, brain researchers are searching for other potential causes of impaired memory and thinking. That search is on full display this week at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in San Diego, where sessions are exploring factors including genes, brain injury, clogged arteries and inflammation. A group of researchers from Seattle even unveiled a highly detailed atlas showing how different types of brain cells change in Alzheimer's. The goal is to help scientists identify new approaches to treatment. "Certainly, plaques and tangles are a hallmark," says Maria Carrillo, chief science officer of the Alzheimer's Association. "It doesn't mean plaques are the cause of cell death." Plaques are clumps of a protein called beta-amyloid that appear in the spaces between neurons. Tangles are made up of a protein called tau that appears inside a neuron. Both proteins tend to accumulate in the brains of people with Alzheimer's. But their role in killing brain cells is still unclear. Carrillo says the Alzheimer's field needs to look to cancer research where a deeper understanding of the disease has led to better treatments. The shift comes after a series of experimental drugs have succeeded in removing amyloid plaques and tau tangles from the brain, but failed to halt the disease. The Food and Drug Administration has approved one amyloid drug, Aduhelm, but is still evaluating whether it actually helps patients.

An Alzheimer's Atlas The study that produced the atlas is emblematic of how researchers are recalibrating. "What we're trying to do with this study is to look at cell vulnerability early on in disease, before [people] have plaques and tangles, before they have cognitive impairment," says Dr. C. Dirk Keene, a neuropathologist at the University of Washington. To create the atlas, Keene and a team of researchers analyzed more than a million cells from 84 brains donated by people who'd signed up for Alzheimer's research projects run by the University of Washington and Kaiser Permanente Washington Research Institute. The brains came from donors "at all different stages of disease" Keene says, "so we can pinpoint what's happening from the earliest levels all the way through to people with advanced disease." The effort is funded by the National Institute on Aging and grew out of the federal BRAIN initiative launched by President Obama in 2013. The atlas came from the realization that "If we want to treat diseases of an extremely complex cellular organ, you need to understand that organ much better than we do," says Ed Lein, a senior investigator at the Allen Institute for Brain Science, which played a key role in analyzing the brain tissue. So the team spent years studying cells in healthy brains before looking at brains affected by Alzheimer's. "We've defined what a normal adult brain looks like," Lein says, "and now we can use that knowledge and look for changes that are happening in specific kinds of cells." At the Alzheimer's meeting, the team described changes they saw in more than 100 types of cells taken from the cortex — an area of the brain which is important to memory and thinking. One finding was that neurons that make connections within the cortex itself were much more likely to die than those that connect to distant areas of the brain. "What we're seeing is a profound effect on cortical circuitry that very plausibly is the reason we have cognitive decline," Lein says. If so, a treatment designed to protect those vulnerable neurons might prevent declines in memory and thinking linked to Alzheimer's. The team also found a proliferation of brain cells that contribute to inflammation. These included certain immune cells and a type of cell that responds to injury. "So while the neurons are lost, the non-neuronal cells are actually increasing and changing" Lein says. The finding supports the idea that inflammation plays an important role in Alzheimer's, and that anti-inflammatory drugs might help protect the brain. The Seattle team hopes other scientists will use the brain cell atlas to come up with new treatments for Alzheimer's. "We've created an open-access resource where the whole community can come and look at this data," Lein says. "They can mine it to speed up progress in the field as a whole." Speeding up progress is one reason Kyle Travaglini, a researcher at the Allen Institute, jumped at the chance to work on the Alzheimer's project. "My grandmother started developing Alzheimer's disease when I was just going off to college," says Travaglini, who received his PhD in 2021. Travaglini says the atlas project is appealing because it isn't based on a preconceived idea about what causes Alzheimer's. "It's like looking at the same disease that everyone has been looking at but in an entirely different way," he says.



About 30% of Gen Z adults needed help from a food bank or other charity to get enough food in 2022. AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Why food insecurity among Gen Z is so much higher than for other age groups

Published: August 2, 2022 8:57am EDT

Sam Polzin, Ahmad Zia Wahdat, Jayson Lusk, Purdue University

Adult members of Generation Z are experiencing food insecurity at over twice the rate of the average American, according to our latest consumer food survey. In fact, about 1 in 3 Americans born from 1996-2004 have had trouble affording enough food in 2022. That compares with fewer than 1 in 5 millennials and members of Generation X, and fewer than 1 in 10 baby boomers.

We run the Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability at Purdue University, and every month, through our Consumer Food Insights survey, we query over 1,200 Americans with the goal of tracking national food security as well as many other behaviors, attitudes and preferences related to food. Food insecurity means having a lack of money or other resources for food. And when food insecurity surges, it can take a long time for affected populations to recover. After the Great Recession that ran from 2007 to 2009, food insecurity increased by 34%. It took a decade for food insecurity to drop to its pre-recession levels.

With COVID-19, food insecurity increased again, particularly among the most vulnerable groups in society, such as seniors and households with children.

But it also increased for members of Gen Z, who were the most likely to face unemployment due to the pandemic. And for those attending college, the pandemic reduced essential food services on campus and increased the number of students dropping out of school.

Now, with inflation soaring at the fastest pace in 40 years, those who lost jobs during the pandemic and college students with fixed incomes must stretch their limited resources even further at the grocery store.

We have found that education, income and race are three of the biggest factors driving food insecurity among America's youngest generation. Members of Gen Z without a college degree or who make less than the federal poverty line have a much higher risk of being food insecure – over three times the risk of other Gen Z households. The rate of food insecurity among Gen Z Black and Hispanic households is almost double that of white and Asian households.

Other research shows that factors like marriage and owning your own home typically improve food security. Since young people typically aren't married or own a home, Gen Z by and large isn't benefiting from these factors.

Additionally, full-time college students are generally not eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps. Although student eligibility has been expanded during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the paperwork required to apply can potentially discourage young people who have much less experience navigating the government bureaucracy.

Our survey also shows a significant portion of Gen Z – 30% – has relied on free groceries from a pantry, church or other charity.

Prices for food consumed at home are currently jumping at over 12% a year. That's the fastest pace since 1979. Our survey data only reflects some of these recent price gains, so it's unclear yet how much this will affect food insecurity. But what is clear is that Gen Z Americans, like other vulnerable groups, need more support to ensure they can access an affordable diet.

Voters in Kansas decide to keep abortion legal in the state, rejecting an amendment

Updated August 3, 2022 · 2:18 AM ET

DYLAN LYSEN

LAURA ZIEGLER

BLAISE MESA



Kansas state Rep. Stephanie Clayton, an abortion rights supporter who was a Republican and is now a Democrat, reacts as a referendum to strip abortion rights out of the state constitution fails. Danielle Kurtzleben/NPR

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Voters in Kansas rejected a proposed state constitutional amendment Tuesday that would have said there was no right to an abortion in the state, according to The Associated Press. Kansas was the first state to vote on abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health Organization*. President Joe Biden hailed Tuesday's vote and called on Congress to pass a law to restore nationwide abortion rights that were provided by *Roe*. "This vote makes clear what we know: the majority of Americans agree that women should have access to abortion and should have the right to make their own health care decisions," Biden said in a statement. Kansas For Constitutional Freedom, the main abortion rights group opposing the amendment, called the victory "huge and decisive." "The people of Kansas have spoken," said Rachel Sweet, campaign manager for the group. "They think that abortion should be safe, legal and accessible in the state of Kansas." This year, a record number of abortion questions will be on state ballots, and many are asking Kansas' decision Tuesday will be an indicator of what is to come.

In the lead-up to the vote, supporters of the amendment argued that it was necessary to correct what they say was the Kansas Supreme Court's overreach in striking down some of the state's previous abortion restrictions in 2019. Opponents argued that the amendment would set state lawmakers up to pursue a total abortion ban.

An overwhelming victory Struggling to speak after the race was called, 23-year-old Jae Moyer said the decisive victory in the red state was surprising. "It's never looked like this in Kansas," Moyer said. "It's so amazing. I'm so proud of my state right now." Planned Parenthood donated millions of dollars to the opposition effort. "Anti-abortion politicians put this amendment on the primary ballot with the goal of low voter turnout," said Emily Wales of Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes, "but they discounted Kansans, who said loud and clear they believe and trust patients to make their own medical decisions." **Access to abortion in Kansas remains limited. The state has only four clinics where abortions remain available, all in the Wichita and Kansas City areas.** That leaves many Kansans in the western part of the state hundreds of miles away from abortion care. Many are closer to abortion providers in other states, like Colorado. Trust Women, which operates two of the clinics in Kansas, said it will continue providing abortion care while also working to expand access throughout the state. "We cannot be content with the status quo," the organization said. "The loss of *Roe* has brought with it an unprecedented and manufactured health care crisis that is not solved by this election."

Abortion opponents say they are not done Kansans For Life, a major political group that opposes abortion rights, said in a news release that the vote is a temporary setback and the organization remains dedicated to continuing its work opposing abortion. "While the outcome is not what we hoped, our movement and campaign have proven our resolve and commitment," the organization said. "We will not abandon women and babies." But it's unclear what else can be done to further restrict abortion in Kansas. **Republican state Sen. Molly Baumgardner, who supported sending the amendment to voters, said abortion opponents will need to look at new restrictions to try to decrease the number of abortions in the state.** "The defeat this evening is disappointing," she said. "That struggle for truth, and the struggle for life, is going to continue in the state of Kansas." Republicans, for the most part, remained quiet before Tuesday and wouldn't say how far they wanted to restrict abortion access if the amendment passed. Kansas' abortion restrictions already include limiting abortions after 22 weeks of pregnancy to cases where the pregnant person's life is in danger. The state also requires an ultrasound before a procedure. Those restrictions would have remained in place whether the amendment passed or failed. The vote in this red state may be a sign of what's to come in other abortion votes around the country later this year.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says the U.S. will not abandon Taiwan as China protests

August 3, 2022 · 1:36 AM ET



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, center left, and Taiwanese President President Tsai Ing-wen arrive for a meeting in Taipei, Taiwan, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022.

A group of Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn is reviving the golden age of cantorial music

August 3, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



Sheyibone - Yoely Kohn, Yossi Pomerantz

2,390 views · Jun 28, 2018

Jeremiah Lockwood comes from a family of cantors, the spiritual leaders that guide Jewish congregations in prayer and song. His grandfather, the late Jacob Konigsberg, served as a cantor in several cities and performed in concerts outside of religious services, always hoping to inspire people with liturgical music.

It's no surprise that Lockwood would incorporate cantorial music in his own band, The Sway Machinery, and wrote his dissertation about Chasidic cantors in Brooklyn who sing in a way that is reminiscent of the golden age of cantorial music, which began in the 1920s. The virtuosos of that era sounded like they were singing opera at times but also improvised during solos.

The same could be said for those in current-day Brooklyn.

"It's astounding," Lockwood said of the Brooklyn cantors' ability to master the vocal techniques of the early 20th Century. "Forget questions about creativity versus imitation, the fact that they're physically able to do it is just mind-blowing."



Shimmy Miller during a recording session for *Golden Ages: Brooklyn Chassidic Cantorial Revival Today*.

Tatiana McCabe

Cantor Yossi Pomerantz - Ana Avda (Rosenblat)



<https://youtu.be/PkFkldWR0ko>

451 views • Oct 18, 2018



At a wedding in New York. October, 2018

Play (k)



0:07 / 7:52

THE STRESS-BUSTER

... COLLECTION ...
Laugh Through Life

with
**Loretta
LaRoche**



How Serious Is This?

DVD, 2008

This humorous special puts life in perspective and provides simple rules to live by. Loretta acts out the irrational and exaggerated thinking patterns that drive us all nuts. Laugh along as Loretta shows you the path to joyful living.

<https://www.lorettalaroche.com>

Loretta LaRoche | Stress Expert, Humorist

Loretta is an Internationally recognized stress-management consultant who advocates fun, optimism, and resiliency. She uses her wit to help people learn how to ...

[lorettalaroche.com](https://www.lorettalaroche.com)

Loretta LaRoche is an internationally known stress coach and consultant whose heart-warming and hilarious insights into ways to use humor to defeat stress have made her a favorite with viewers of her five PBS specials, and on the lecture circuit, where she performs an average of 100 talks per year.

[Google Books](#)

Born: September 19, 1939 (age 82 years), [Brooklyn, New York, NY](#)

Movies: [Loretta LaRoche: The Joy of Stress](#), [Loretta LaRoche: Humor Your Stress](#), [Loretta LaRoche: How Serious Is This?](#)





ONLINE ETYMOLOGY DICTIONARY

etymology of "it" [Search button]

it (pron.)

Old English *hit*, neuter nominative and accusative of third person singular pronoun, from Proto-Germanic demonstrative base **khi-* (source also of Old Frisian *hit*, Dutch *het*, Gothic *hita* "it"), from PIE **ko-* "this" (see **he**). Used in place of any neuter noun, hence, **as gender faded in Middle English, it took on the meaning "thing or animal spoken about before."**

The *h-* was lost due to being in an unemphasized position, as in modern speech the *h-* in "give it to *him*," "ask *her*," is heard only "in the careful speech of the partially educated" [Weekley]. **It** "the sex act" is from 1610s; meaning "sex appeal (especially in a woman)" first attested 1904 in works of Rudyard Kipling, popularized 1927 as title of a book by Elinor Glyn, and by application of **It Girl** to silent-film star Clara Bow (1905-1965). In children's games, the meaning "the one who must tag or catch the others" is attested from 1842.

From Old English as nominative of an impersonal verb or statement when the thing for which it stands is implied (*it rains, it pleases me*). After an intransitive verb, used transitively for the action denoted, from 1540s (originally in *fight it out*). **That's it** "there is no more" is from 1966; **this is it** "the anticipated or dreaded moment has arrived" is from 1942.

Entries linking to it

he (pron.)

Old English *he*, pronoun of the third person (see paradigm of Old English third person pronoun below), from Proto-Germanic **hi-* (source also of Old Saxon, Old Frisian, Middle Dutch *he, hi*, Dutch *hy*, Old High German *he*), from PIE **ki-*, variant of root ***ko-**, the "this, here" (as opposed to "that, there") root, and thus the source of the third person pronouns in Old English. The feminine, *hio*, was replaced in early Middle English by forms from other stems (see **she**), while the *h-* wore off Old English neuter *hit* to make modern **it**. The Proto-Germanic root also is the source of the first element in German *heute* "today," literally "the day" (compare Old English *heodæg*).

The paradigm in Old English was: **MASCULINE SINGULAR:** *he* (nominative), *hine* (accusative), *his* (genitive), *him* (dative); **FEMININE SINGULAR:** *heo, hio* (nom.), *hie, hi* (acc.), *hire* (gen. and dat.); **NEUTER SINGULAR:** *hit* (nom. and acc.), *his* (gen.), *him* (dat.); **PLURAL:** (all genders) *hie, hi* (nom. and acc.), *hira, heora* (gen.), *him, heom* (dat.).

Pleonastic use with the noun ("*Mistah Kurtz, he dead*") is attested from late Old English. With animal words, meaning "male" (*he-goat* etc.) from c. 1300.

albeit (conj.)

late 14c., a contraction of *al be it* "al(though) it be (that);" see **all be it**. Chaucer also uses a past-tense form, *al were it*.



A coyote on a golf course in Scottsdale, Ariz., June 19, 2011. Dru Bloomfield/Flickr, CC BY

Coyotes are here to stay in North American cities – here’s how to appreciate them from a distance

Published: August 3, 2022 8.10am EDT

David Drake, Bret Shaw, Mary Magnuson, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Coyotes have become practically ubiquitous across the lower 48 United States, and they’re increasingly turning up in cities. The draws are abundant food and green space in urban areas. At first these appearances were novelties, like the hot summer day in 2007 when a coyote wandered into a Chicago Quiznos sub shop and jumped into the beverage cooler. Within a few years, however, coyote sightings became common in the Bronx and Manhattan. In 2021 a coyote strolled into a Los Angeles Catholic school classroom. They’re also appearing in Canadian cities. People often fear for their own safety, or for their children or pets, when they learn about coyotes in their neighborhoods. But as an interdisciplinary team studying how people and coyotes interact in urban areas, we know that peaceful coexistence is possible – and that these creatures actually bring some benefits to cities.

Adaptable animals: Coyotes can thrive in urban environments because they are incredibly adaptable. As omnivores, coyotes can change their diets depending on the type of food that’s available. In rural areas coyotes may feed on bird eggs, rabbits, deer and a wide range of nonanimal matter, like plants and fruits. In urban environments they’ll supplement their natural diet with human-provided food sources, such as outdoor pet feeders and garbage cans. Coyotes prefer to live in packs, and usually do so in rural areas. In urban areas, coyotes live in packs as well, although it may not seem that way because they are often seen individually rather than as a group. Solitary coyotes not associated with a pack are somewhat common but tend to be transitory animals looking to join a pack or establish a new one in an unoccupied territory. These solitary coyotes can roam many miles per day, which enables them to disperse to new cities in search of food.

Urban coyotes can roam multiple miles a day. This map of the west side of Madison, Wisconsin, tracks a male coyote collared by the UW Urban Canid Project. Each red star shows somewhere he stopped over the span of a few days. University of Wisconsin Urban Canid Project, CC BY-ND Some wild species need very specific types of habitat to survive. For example, the Kirtland’s warbler is a rare North American songbird that breeds only in young jack pine forests in Michigan, Wisconsin and Ontario. In contrast, coyotes are habitat generalists that can live on and around a wide variety of land types and covers.

Many kinds of habitat that coyotes use in rural areas, such as parks, prairies, forest patches and wetlands, are also found in cities. Typically coyotes avoid the urban cores, but in Chicago they inhabit the downtown area and have been able to survive quite well. Finally, urban coyotes have flexible activity patterns. Most urban coyotes are active mainly between dusk and dawn, when they are less visible than in daylight. However, as coyotes grow used to humans and begin to lose their fear of people, they may be seen more frequently during daylight hours.

Hunting rodents and spreading seeds

Studies show that urban coyotes generally avoid direct interactions with people. A long-term study in Chicago found that these animals are good at adapting to human-built environments and navigating urban areas without being seen by humans. Often people may not realize they’re sharing the urban landscape with coyotes until they see one in their neighborhood. Despite their trickster portrayal in folklore and popular media, coyotes tend to avoid conflict. They enter urban landscapes because they’re opportunistic. And because cities don’t have apex predators like wolves or bears, there are lots of smaller wild prey species, such as squirrels and rabbits, running around for coyotes to feed on.

A 2021 study conducted in Madison, Wisconsin, found that the vast majority of human interactions with coyotes there were benign. When asked to rank how aggressive coyotes had been during interactions on a scale of 0 (calm) to 5 (aggressive), most of the 398 people in the study chose zero. More than half of the coyotes in the study moved away from the human, indicating that the animals maintained a healthy fear of people. And having coyotes around can be useful. In urban areas they are at the top of the food chain and can help regulate populations of prey species such as rabbits, rats and mice. Since coyotes are omnivores, they also eat plant material and spread seeds when they defecate. Our team is working to learn how people feel about coyotes in their urban communities so that we can identify the best ways to foster positive human-coyote relationships. In Madison, we’ve found that many people appreciate coyotes and are likely to respond positively to messages that highlight coyotes as a valued part of the urban landscape.

Don’t be afraid to haze: If you encounter an urban coyote, it’s OK to enjoy watching it from a safe distance. But then haze it by making noise – for example, yelling and waving your arms to look big. University of Wisconsin wildlife extension specialist David Drake shows how to haze a coyote. For animal lovers, this might seem harsh, but it’s extremely important to make sure the coyote doesn’t get too close. This teaches the animal to keep away from people. In the rare cases in which urban coyotes have attacked humans, the animals typically had become habituated to human presence over time.

If you have pets, keep them leashed in public parks and watch them when they’re loose in unfenced yards. Keep their food inside as well. To a coyote, a dishful of dog food is an easy free meal, and it may cause coyotes to revisit the area more frequently than they would if human-provided food weren’t accessible.

Based on existing research, we believe urban landscapes have plenty of room for coyotes and humans to coexist peacefully. It starts with each species giving the other enough room to go about its business. To learn more about these amazingly adaptable animals, check out the national nonprofit Project Coyote: <https://projectcoyote.org/> and the Wisconsin-based Urban Canid Project: <https://naturalresources.extension.wisc.edu/uw-urban-canid-project/>.



'Dawn of a new creature': after a vicious attack, a city ponders living with coyotes

Dallas is home to several packs of coyotes, which can become unusually comfortable with neighbors - and on 3 May, one dragged a toddler off a porch

Charlie Scudder

Mon 23 May 2022 04.00 EDT

Dallas, like many American cities, is home to several packs of urban coyotes. They normally stay in the shadows, unseen by people. Also like many American cities, Dallas did not have a plan for how to respond to reports of aggressive coyotes. Dallas animal services had received the calls from residents in the White Rock Valley neighborhood of north-east Dallas, but later said many of the reports were of perfectly normal coyote behavior. They said that in areas with lots of unintentional feeding – trash bags on the curb, pet food left on a porch – coyotes can become unusually comfortable with their neighbors. On the afternoon of 3 May, one of those too-comfortable coyotes dragged a toddler off a porch, sending the two-year-old into critical care at a nearby hospital. The city of Dallas quickly blamed neighbors for making food accessible to the coyotes. In a Facebook post soon after the attack, the city's animal services department said "residents were routinely handfeeding and petting" the coyote, but has walked back those claims in the weeks since. The neighborhood fought back, saying they had tried raising the alarm to no avail. "It was insulting," Bickett said. "I don't want to use the term 'gaslight' because I feel like it's been worn out, but that's exactly what it was."

White Rock Valley is an upper-middle-class neighborhood tucked between green spaces in north-east Dallas. Mid-century craftsman homes line the blocks, although in the past few years property flippers and new-build mini-mansions have brought construction to the neighborhood. White Rock elementary school, in the center of the neighborhood, butts up to a runoff creek with plenty of shade trees. It is perfect urban coyote habitat.

Karin Saucedo is a Texas master naturalist and wildlife photographer who has researched coyote behavior for years. She also grew up in White Rock Valley, and had been spending more time there with her father recently. She had seen coyotes brazenly walking through her dad's yard. She saw social media posts of residents concerned about the behavior of the local pack, and tried to respond with the tools she knows to use to keep both people and coyotes safe. She talked about removing food sources and "hazing", or making loud noises and acting aggressively toward the animals to scare them away from humans. "But I don't have a badge," Saucedo said. "It's a disaster waiting to happen."

It's only when coyotes become comfortable around humans – often because they have found an easy food source – that they become aggressive. Sightings during the day or coyotes that approach people rather than running away are all signs of aggressive coyotes, says Sam Kieschnick, a Dallas-based urban wildlife biologist with Texas parks and wildlife department. "When a resource is available, they utilize it," Kieschnick said. Especially in that neighborhood, he said, food was available for the local coyotes, so of course they stuck around.

After the attack on the toddler, a Dallas city councilman organized a community meeting at the elementary school in White Rock Valley. Outside, blue ribbons wrapped around all the trees on the block in support of the child, who was still in the hospital. Inside, city officials tried to explain how the coyotes had become so bold and what the government was doing next. Residents like Bickett and Saucedo were there, too. Many wanted to hear an apology for pointing the blame at residents. "We knew we needed to protect our pets. What we didn't know was that we needed to protect our children," said Kathy Stewart, a 28-year resident of the neighborhood. "I want to know what changed."

For the biologists, the answer comes back to food. The city still says that "well-meaning animal lovers" may have been putting out food for the coyotes intentionally. Adam Henry, a USDA biologist who helped hunt the coyotes in Dallas, said some may have become used to finding food at the new construction sites throughout the neighborhood, and pointed to the doorbell footage showing a coyote grabbing a food delivery bag. "We're seeing a dawn of a new creature," Henry said. "They've gotten habituated to finding it on those front porches." Bickett brushes aside the claims over the pandemic-era food delivery as part of the reason for more aggressive wildlife. She says if it had become a common practice for the coyotes, she would have seen it on other cameras, not just the one clip that was distributed to local TV stations. But Saucedo said that the coyotes she studies can become used to a new behavior after just one positive interaction with a human. "Once he realized he could get a reward on a porch, he's going to be curious about any porch," Saucedo said. "It just takes one person, one neighbor to unintentionally feed a wild animal."

At the meeting, many of the residents wanted to know why the city didn't already have a plan for managing coyote behavior. They have been a part of the ecosystem for decades, and are often spotted in residential areas throughout the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area. "Where the city is on its response is in the exact same place where every other community that has a wildlife problem starts out," Henry said. "That's how government works, any government. We're always behind the curve."

"So White Rock Valley is the first community in Dallas to ever have this problem?" asked Kristy Feil, who has lived in the neighborhood for 19 years. "I mean, we're the first?" The truth is, yes. The city officials couldn't say definitively that in all of Dallas's history there hasn't been an attack, but violent coyote interactions are so incredibly rare that it's not surprising it took so long for them to form a plan. Urban coyotes are, the vast majority of the time, out of sight and out of mind.

"I'm starting to understand why we're having more of an issue recently," Feil said after the meeting. "There's no one to blame. We've just got to figure out how to handle it."

How to Haze a Coyote

<https://youtu.be/JIC8KTDiIRs>



Public Health Madison & Dane County



In your loudest, firmest voice, yell at the coyote to "go away!"



And a very important note: Do NOT haze a coyote if it is injured or sick.



Also, do not haze a coyote if it is with pups, or near a den with pups.



But it only works if everyone in your community gets involved!

this fear of us will result in a peaceful co-existence between coyotes, humans, and domestic animals.

Closing arguments are set to begin Thursday in Brittney Griner's drug case in Russia

August 4, 2022 - 4:23 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner is escorted in a court room prior to a hearing, in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022.

Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP



Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)

foible



foi·ble

/ˈfoɪbəl/

noun

1. a minor weakness or eccentricity in someone's character.
"they have to tolerate each other's little foibles"

Why do so many bikes end up underwater? The reasons can be weird and varied

August 4, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

ELENA BURNETT



AILSAL CHANG



Will her bike wind up in that canal?

AUORE BELOT/AFP via Getty Images

When you glance into a waterway, you probably expect aquatic life and the occasional piece of trash. But the reality in many urban metropolises is that lurking beneath the surface of any waterway could be an astounding number of... bicycles. It's a strange social phenomenon that has forced bike sharing companies to fish out thousands of their rental bikes from rivers in Southern China; and a rental company simply stopped business in Rome because too many of its bicycles were thrown into the Tiber. In Amsterdam, 15,000 bikes are pulled from canals each year — a number that has actually improved over past years. Why have so many of these wheeled vessels met a watery grave? And what happens to a bike once it has changed terrains? ...there's lots of videos that you can see where people are tossing bikes into water and taking videos of it for fun and sport. And it has been historically such a big problem that there is this municipal core of what they call "bicycle fishermen" there that the city employs to dredge the bicycles out of the canal.

On the role of bike share services in the increase of this: That's what I think is behind the current widespread phenomenon. The fact that these bike programs are proliferating across the world, which I think we can say is a good thing — we need more bicycles in the city — but there are simply more of them around.

And in fact, you can imagine that people feel a little bit more impunity, that a potential bicycle drowner would feel less guilt attached to tossing a bike in the water if it's a share bike that has a bank or some sort of corporate sponsor's logo on the mudguard as opposed to, you know, some individual joe-schmoe's bike. There may be what you might call a political dimension to this. We're seeing a kind of increasingly heated debate over what kinds of vehicles belong on the streets of cities. Motorists are reacting to the increased numbers of bicycles on the streets, sometimes with great annoyance and and sometimes with actual violence. So it may be that at least these drowned bikes, these trashed and vandalized bikes reflect a kind of ongoing battle for the right to the roadways.

On what happens to the bikes when they are recovered: This is another mystery. And we know that in certain places, for instance, in Amsterdam, they are recycled. There's a program there recycling them. And one of the things that I think is funny about the Amsterdam example is the officials there attribute this phenomenon in part to drunkenness. You know, people who have maybe had a little bit too much to drink, maybe they're walking on their way home after a long night in the bar, they might see a bike and say, "What the heck?" they're feeling a little jolly and they toss it in. Well, many of those bikes, as it turns out, are recycled into various types of food packaging, including the metal that's used in beer cans. So it could be that there's a kind of ecosystem at work where someone, a drunken person, tosses a bicycle into the water, that bicycle is eventually extracted by the bicycle fishing boat, it's recycled into a beer can, and another drunken person comes along, drinks that too much of that beer, tosses another bike into the water, and around we go.



People in Shanghai riding Ofo (L) and Mobike bikeshares.

Alex Jones concedes Sandy Hook attack was '100% real'

By JIM VERTUNO today



1 of 17

Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones attempts to answer questions about his emails asked by Mark Bankston, lawyer for Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, during trial at the Travis County Courthouse in Austin, Wednesday Aug. 3, 2022. Jones testified Wednesday that he now understands it was irresponsible of him to declare the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre a hoax and that he now believes it was "100% real." (Briana Sanchez/Austin American-Statesman via AP, Pool)

At one point, Jones was told that his attorneys had mistakenly sent Bankston the last two years' worth of texts from Jones' cellphone.

And shortly after Jones declared "I don't use email," Jones was shown one that came from his address, and another one from an Infowars business officer telling Jones that the company had earned \$800,000 gross in selling its products in a single day, which would amount to nearly \$300 million in a year.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — For years, bombastic far-right [conspiracy theorist Alex Jones](#) ranted to his millions of followers that the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was a hoax, that children weren't killed and that parents were crisis actors in an elaborate ruse to force gun control.

Under oath and facing a jury that could hit him with \$150 million or more in [damages for his false claims](#), Jones said Wednesday he now realizes that was irresponsible and believes that what happened in the deadliest school shooting in American history was "100% real."

After Supreme Court ruling, it's open season on US gun laws

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER 2 hours ago



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruling expanding gun rights threatens to upend firearms restrictions across the country as activists wage court battles over everything from bans on AR-15-style guns to age limits.

The first major gun decision in more than a decade, the ruling could dramatically reshape gun laws in the U.S. even as a series of horrific mass shootings pushes the issue back into the headlines.

“The gun rights movement has been given a weapon of mass destruction, and it will annihilate approximately 75% of the gun laws eventually,” said Evan Nappen, a New Jersey gun rights attorney.

GUN VIOLENCE

City near the scene of school shooting revokes gun show deal

House panel subpoenas gunmaker for data on rifle sales

Family of California shooting victims sue gun distributor

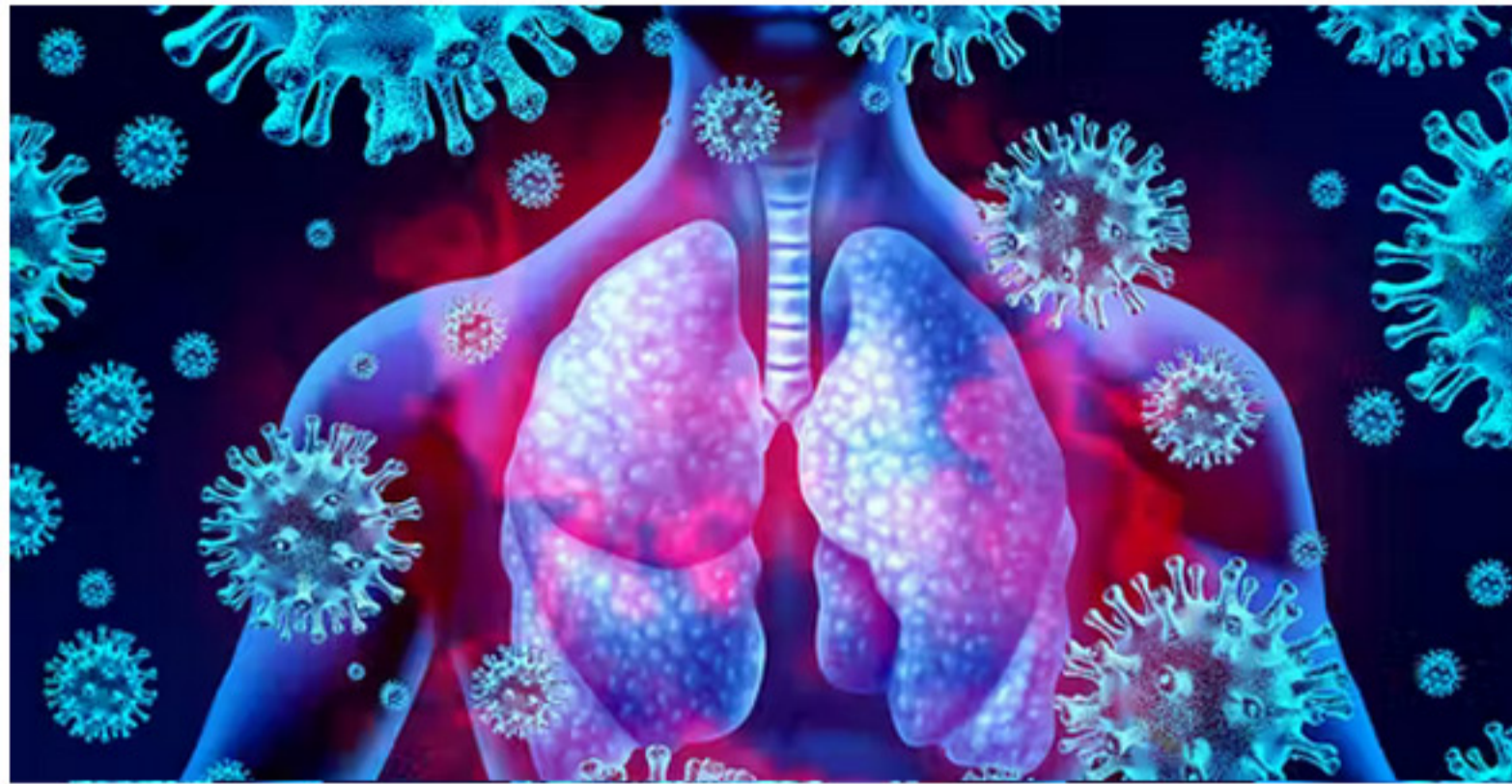
House passes bill banning certain semi-automatic guns

Parkland jurors hear 3rd day of heartbreaking testimony

By TERRY SPENCER and FREIDA FRISARO yesterday



Jennifer Montalto pauses before giving her victim impact statement during the penalty phase of the trial of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooter Nikolas Cruz at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022. Montalto's daughter, Gina, was killed in the 2018 shootings. Cruz previously plead guilty to all 17 counts of premeditated murder and 17 counts of attempted murder in the 2018 shootings. (Amy Beth Bennett/South Florida Sun Sentinel via AP, Pool)



The immune system usually stays dormant in the lungs in times of health. wildpixel/Stock via Getty Images

Long COVID-19 and other chronic respiratory conditions after viral infections may stem from an overactive immune response in the lungs

Published: August 4, 2022 8.23am EDT

Harish Narasimhan, *University of Virginia*

Viruses that cause respiratory diseases like the flu and COVID-19 can lead to mild to severe symptoms within the first few weeks of infection. These symptoms typically resolve within a few more weeks, sometimes with the help of treatment if severe. However, some people go on to experience persistent symptoms that last several months to years. Why and how respiratory diseases can develop into chronic conditions like long COVID-19 are still unclear.

I am a doctoral student working in the Sun Lab at the University of Virginia. We study how the immune system sometimes goes awry after fighting off viral infections. We also develop ways to target the immune system to prevent further complications without weakening its ability to protect against future infections. Our recently published review of the research in this area found that it is becoming clearer that it might not be an active viral infection causing long COVID-19 and similar conditions, but an overactive immune system.

The lungs in health and disease: Keeping your immune system dormant when there isn't an active infection is essential for your lungs to be able to function optimally. Your respiratory tract is in constant contact with your external environment, sampling around 5 to 8 liters (1.3 to 2 gallons) of air – and the toxins and microorganisms in it – every minute. Despite continuous exposure to potential pathogens and harmful substances, your body has evolved to keep the immune system dormant in the lungs. In fact, allergies and conditions such as asthma are byproducts of an overactive immune system. These excessive immune responses can cause your airways to constrict and make it difficult to breathe. Some severe cases may require treatment to suppress the immune system.

Understand new developments in science, health and technology, each week

During an active infection, however, the immune system is absolutely essential. When viruses infect your respiratory tract, immune cells are recruited to your lungs to fight off the infection. Although these cells are crucial to eliminate the virus from your body, their activity often results in collateral damage to your lung tissue. After the virus is removed, your body dampens your immune system to give your lungs a chance to recover.

Over the past decade, researchers have identified a variety of specialized stem cells in the lungs that can help regenerate damaged tissue. These stem cells can turn into almost all the different types of cells in the lungs depending on the signals they receive from their surrounding environment. Recent studies have highlighted the prominent role the immune system plays in providing signals that facilitate lung recovery. But these signals can produce more than one effect. They can not only activate stem cells, but also perpetuate damaging inflammatory processes in the lung. Therefore, your body tightly regulates when, where and how strongly these signals are made in order to prevent further damage.

While the reasons are still unclear, some people are unable to turn off their immune system after infection and continue to produce tissue-damaging molecules long after the virus has been flushed out. This not only further damages the lungs, but also interferes with regeneration via the lung's resident stem cells. This phenomenon can result in chronic disease, as seen in several respiratory viral infections including COVID-19, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and the common cold.

The immune system's role in chronic disease

In our review, my colleagues and I found that many different types of immune cells are involved in the development of chronic disease after respiratory viral infections, including long COVID-19.

Scientists so far have identified one particular type of immune cells, killer T cells, as potential contributors to chronic disease. Also known as cytotoxic or CD8+ T cells, they specialize in killing infected cells either by interacting directly with them or by producing damaging molecules called cytokines.

Killer T cells are essential to curbing the virus from spreading in the body during an active infection. But their persistence in the lungs after the infection has resolved is linked to extended reduced respiratory function. Moreover, animal studies have shown that removing killer T cells from the lungs after infection may improve lung function and tissue repair.

A legion of immune cells work together to remove invading pathogens.

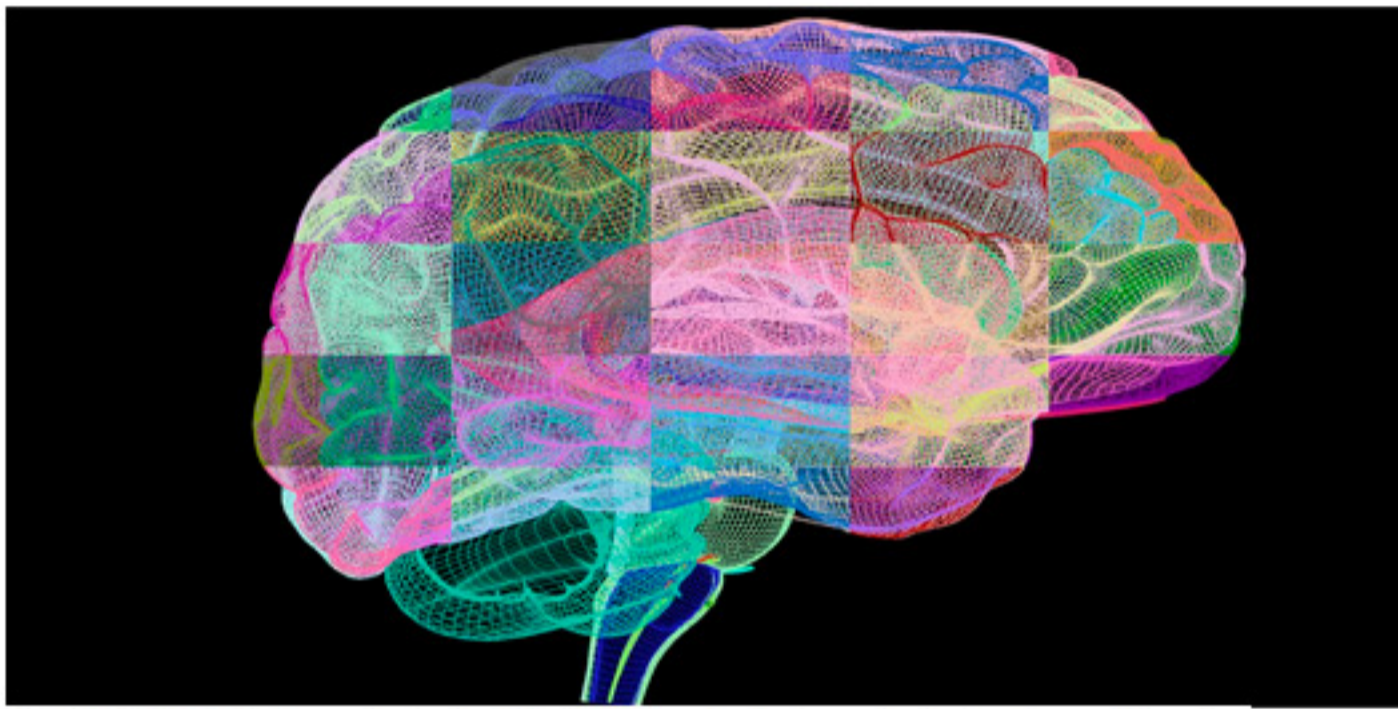
Another type of immune cells called monocytes are also involved in fighting respiratory infections, serving among the first responders by producing virus- and tissue-damaging cytokines. Research has found that these cells also continue to accumulate in the lungs of long COVID-19 patients and promote a pro-inflammatory environment that can cause further damage.

Understanding the immunological mechanisms underlying long COVID-19 is the first step to addressing a quickly worsening public health problem. Identifying the subtle differences in how the same immune cells that protect you during an active infection can later become harmful could lead to earlier diagnosis of long COVID-19. Moreover, based on our findings, my team and I believe treatments that target the immune system could be an effective approach to manage long COVID-19 symptoms. We believe that this strategy may turn out to be useful not only for COVID-19, but also for other respiratory viral infections that lead to chronic disease as well.

illuminating the brain one neuron and synapse at a time – 5 essential reads about how researchers are using new tools to map its structure and function

Published: August 4, 2022 8:22am EDT

by Vivian Lam, *The Conversation*, Anastasia Brodovskaya, Brian H. Smith, Don Arnold, Elizabeth Hong, Jaideep Kapur, John Crimaldi, Mir Jalil Razavi, Nathan Urban, Weiying Dai, Yongsoo Kim



The U.S. BRAIN Initiative seeks to elucidate the connection between brain structure and function.

These five stories from our archives cover research that has been funded by or advances the goals of the BRAIN Initiative, detailing a slice of what's next in neuroscience.

1. Mapping the brain: Attempts to map the structure of the brain date back to antiquity, when philosophers and scholars had only the unaided eye to map anatomy to function. New visualization techniques in the 20th century led to the discovery that, just like all the other organs of the body, the brain is composed of individual cells – neurons. Now, further advances in microscopy that make use of artificial intelligence and genomics have allowed scientists not just to see each individual neuron in the entire brain, but also to identify the connections among them and begin to ascertain their function. “It’s like building a Google map of the brain,” wrote Kim. “By combining millions of individual street photos, you can zoom in to see each street corner and zoom out to see an entire city.” Creating these high-resolution maps, he wrote, could help scientists develop new theories on how the brain works and lead to better treatments for brain disorders like dementia.

2. Brain folds and wrinkles: Another fundamental question researchers have been puzzling over is how the brain develops the bumps and grooves that riddle its surface. Until roughly the second trimester of fetal development, the human brain is completely smooth. Scientists have proposed a number of theories on the mechanics of brain folding. One of them, differential tangential growth, posits that folds form because of a mismatch in growth rates between the outer and inner layers of the brain. To ease the forces compressing the outer layer and restore structural stability, the layers buckle and fold.

3. Where memories are stored: Just like the RAM in a computer, memories take up physical space in the brain. Researchers have hypothesized that memories may be stored by rearranging the connections, or synapses, among neurons. While this theory has largely been confirmed by observing changes in the electrical signals neurons produce after memory formation, what triggers these changes has been unclear. These findings imply that it might one day be possible to treat conditions like PTSD by physically erasing the associative memory linking a harmless trigger with a traumatic experience. More research is needed, and there are obvious ethical considerations to address. “Nevertheless,” Arnold wrote, “it’s tempting to imagine a distant future in which synaptic surgery could remove bad memories.”

4. Seizures hijack memory pathways:: Seizures are sudden surges of electrical activity in the brain. People who experience temporal lobe seizures are sometimes unable to remember what happened immediately prior. This may be due to disruptions to the circuitry in the hippocampus, the part of the temporal lobe key to memory consolidation. “Because they use the same brain pathways, seizures can disrupt the memory consolidation process by taking over the circuit,” they wrote. “This meant that seizures can hijack the memory pathways and cause amnesia.”

5. What the nose knows: A better understanding of the olfactory system, they wrote, can lead to the development of electronic noses that make searching for chemical weapons and disaster victims safer for people and animals. They also believe that examining the olfactory system can help advance study of the brain. “Its relative simplicity is what allows scientists like us to study it from end to end and learn how the brain works as a whole,” they wrote.

While a grand unified theory of the brain still remains elusive, new tools and techniques are helping researchers excavate its hidden depths. As Crimaldi and his team put it, “An exciting future in scientific and medical development, we believe, is right under our noses.”

Scientists know both a lot and very little about the brain. With billions of neurons and trillions of connections among them, and the experimental limitations of examining the seat of consciousness and bodily function, studying the human brain is a technical, theoretical and ethical challenge. And one of the biggest challenges is perhaps one of the most fundamental – seeing what it looks like in action.

The U.S. Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative is a collaboration among the National Institutes of Health, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, National Science Foundation, Food and Drug Administration and Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity and others. Since its inception in 2013, its goal has been to develop and use new technologies to examine how each neuron and neural circuit comes together to “record, process, utilize, store, and retrieve vast quantities of information, all at the speed of thought.” Just as genomic sequencing enabled the creation of a comprehensive map of the human genome, tools that elucidate the connection between brain structure and function could help researchers answer long-standing questions about how the brain works, both in sickness and in health.



Tag You're It - No Touch Backs

DECEMBER 12, 2017 | IN DISCIPLESHIP, FAMILY, KINGDOM KIDS, MISSIONS, PARENTING, PERSPECTIVE, PI BLOG | BY CALLIE BOYD



Kids playing tag in the yard just makes me smile. Often you hear a voice rise above the laughter, "Tag your it! No touch backs." That phrase "No touch back" ensures the person who was formerly 'it', a secure time to run away before he is tagged again. As Randy and I ventured into parenting our ever changing, ever growing children, we found ourselves in a continual game of "Tag! No touch backs!" Every year we would encourage the kids to take on more responsibilities, more self discipline, more self-control. Maturity is the act of being responsible. We knew we couldn't just dump responsibility on our kids. We had to train them to carry responsibility little by little, getting stronger in character, critical thinking, strategy, and maturing as people with each added responsibility. "Here is the dust rag. You are responsible for dusting all the furniture." Tag! No touch backs! "Here is the keys to the car. You can drive alone and carry passengers now. You are responsible to stay aware and drive safely." Tag! No touch backs! "Here is the keys to our rental house. You are responsible for gathering the rent from your roommates and paying us. You are responsible to care for the house and notify us of any maintenance needs." Tag! No touch backs! "Here, you are responsible to train a mission team, lead a mission trip." Tag! No touch backs! Responsibilities are only one side of a coin. On the other side of the same coin of maturity is privileges. I think that sometimes we as parents get hung up on one side or the other. We cannot separate them. If we separate them our children tend to feel weighed down and confined or never learn to work and succeed. Either way the kids remain kids. They never become successful people. They don't live life well. They don't mature. We will have a generation of little boys and girls in men and women bodies. Not a good legacy. Not them standing on our shoulders and going further in the Kingdom. In Genesis 39:2, scripture says that the Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man (NASB). No matter what life threw at him, Joseph rose to the top. God was with Joseph. His presence was on Joseph. God grew Joseph up bit by bit, lesson by lesson, step by step. Joseph kept taking responsibility and with that came privileges, even when he was in prison he became the chief of the prison. Through all the turmoil and hardships the Bible says that Joseph obtained favor from the Lord and the Lord was with him. Joseph eventually became the second most powerful man in all of the world, a mature man. Randy and I read that verse and began to pray that over our children. We prayed that God would be with them and they would be successful in life, that they would live life well! Now they are all young adults, I was thinking about writing this part of my blog and in my heart, I saw myself in a fetal position before the Lord weeping. I've always known that our kids are beautiful pictures of His 'keeping grace', and my heart was overwhelmed. It is true that the previous blogs that I have written on parenting are proven, but NOTHING works without the Grace of God. There is Grace to endure and Grace to enjoy. Either way it is Him! Our kids' choices, circumstances, personalities all enter into the mix of things. We, like Abraham, to our only sons and daughters we have given all that we have. We have commanded our children through identity and boundaries to be lovers of God. We have disciplined them above all others trying to live honestly before them as we love Jesus together. We saw them as God's and we were stewards. All in all though, their lives are testimonies of Him, not Randy and me. Because Randy and I are parents, we are stewards. God has given us Josiah, now Brandi, Bethany, now Boone and Hannah to steward for Him. We love each of them completely and uniquely. We hold them securely but loosely. They are no longer babies or children. They are mature young men and women. We ask a lot of questions, giving opinions with the release and understanding that we will support their decision whatever that is. We pray more for them than ever. We play tag once again with them - Tag! Your It! No touch backs! Live your life with and for God. Go further, dream bigger, become better people than us. Experience the Kingdom of God and make a bigger impact for God than us! We are forever parents, we are forever stewards to offer encouragement, wisdom, love and pray like crazy! The game of tag does not just involve tagging our kids, but we as parents are also tagged and that realization can be heart wrenching. Just before Bethany married Boone, I realized I had never taught her to cook. She had never made a cake. She was always outside, sweating, going on an adventure. The kitchen was too confining. But here she was about to be a wife and there were so many things I had not communicated or shown her. I wanted to open her head and pour into her brain. Much to my heart's sadness, she was already tagged and there were no touch backs. She was being married. The moments had gone, and I could not have them back. No touch backs was not a game anymore. Was Boone sentenced to starve because of my lack in mothering. In Isaiah



Aren't you comforted that these are some of the mature young men and women! Love them much!

Tag You're It - No Touch Backs

 [Give to Callie](#)

Randy & Callie Boyd

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PRAYER COORDINATOR

Randy and Callie Boyd have served Prepare International since 2003. Before joining the PI team, they served in the arenas of pastoral ministry, church planting, Christian education, and public education. Callie has a burning desire for people to realize their ordinary life, if fully given, is a powerful tool in the hand of God. Randy seeks to help men see the Kingdom and enter into the realities available to them in Christ. The Boyds passion for discipleship brings a relational edge to the ministry of PI. Randy serves as Executive Director and directs all of the ministries both at home and in the nations. Callie serves as Prayer Coordinator seeking to bring the grace of God more fully into this work.

Randy has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Tech University, an Educational Certification from Texas Tech University, a History Certification from the University of North Texas, and a Masters of Practical Ministry from Wagner Leadership Institute. Callie has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Development from Texas Tech University.

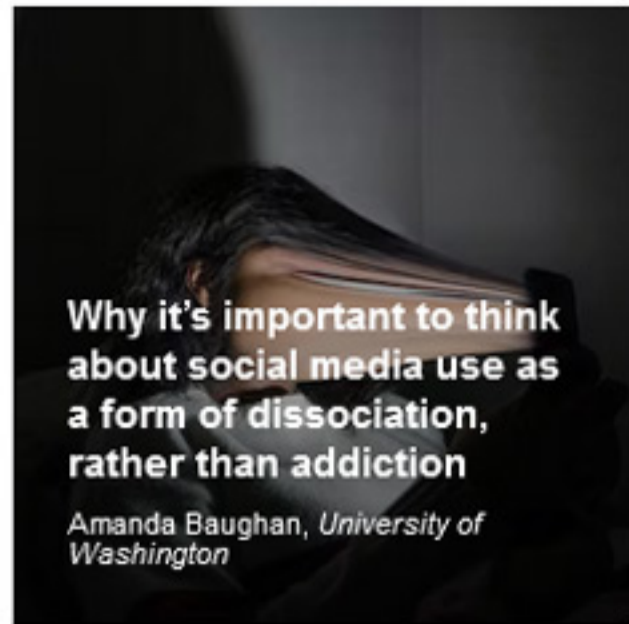
They have three children: Josiah Boyd (married to Brandi Boyd), Bethany Tyson (married to Boone Tyson), and Hannah Dockery (married to Nathan Dockery).





Proving war crimes isn't simple – a forensics expert explains what's involved with documenting human rights violations during conflicts, from Afghanistan to Ukraine

Stefan Schmitt, *Florida International University*



Why it's important to think about social media use as a form of dissociation, rather than addiction

Amanda Baughan, *University of Washington*



Why are nuclear weapons so hard to get rid of? Because they're tied up in nuclear countries' sense of right and wrong

Thomas E. Doyle, II, *Texas State University*



Social media provides flood of images of death and carnage from Ukraine war – and contributes to weaker journalism standards

Beena Sarwar, *Emerson College*



The US is revisiting its trade relations with African countries: key issues on the table

Kefa M. Otiso, *Bowling Green State University* and Francis Owusu, *Iowa State University*



US secretary of state Antony Blinken's visit aims to reset relations with South Africa

John J. Strelau, *University of the Witwatersrand*




After Trump, Christian nationalist ideas are going mainstream – despite a history of violence

Samuel Perry, *Baylor University*



Parenting styles vary across the US

Cliff McKinney, *Mississippi State University*



China has a new global development initiative, but who will actually benefit from it?

Amitrajeet A. Batabyal, *Rochester Institute of Technology*

The threat of war

The world is “just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from **nuclear annihilation**,” United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Aug. 1, 2022, citing growing conflicts and weakening “guardrails” against escalation. But it is unsurprising that the leaders of the nuclear-weapon states are ultimately committed to the survival of their countries and peoples, even if others must pay an ultimate price. To fully appreciate nuclear motivations, we must understand the role of this kind of moral concern in their decision-making.

Violence perpetrated by Christian nationalists has manifested in two primary ways in recent decades. The first is through their involvement in militia groups; the second is seen in attacks on abortion providers. The vast majority of Christian nationalists never engage in violence. Nonetheless, Christian nationalist thinking suggests that unless Christians control the state, the state will suppress Christianity.

A style of parenting called “authoritative,” in which parents are both responsive and demanding, providing support alongside rules and limits while encouraging communication, was most common across the U.S. Also relatively common was a different **parenting style called “authoritarian,”** in which parents are less responsive but still demanding, providing rules and limits without as much support and requiring more obedience to authority.

...the Belt and Road Initiative was a push for China to gain more economic and political power. Many developing nations that took loans from China are finding it difficult to repay them while fighting COVID-19 and dealing with faltering economies. **The Global Security Initiative** represents, in part, Beijing’s response to Russia’s war with Ukraine. Xi stated that security was a precondition for development and that nations ought to respect the legitimate security concerns of all nations. In a counterpoint to NATO and the actions of the U.S.-led alliance among Western nations, Xi also pointed out that nations ought to reject the Cold War mentality and oppose the wanton use of unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction. Taken together, it is not clear whether China is truly interested in promoting global development, in increasing security and human rights for all people, or in replacing the U.S.-led world order by proposing development initiatives without specifics or accountability. It will be important to look not only at what China says it wants to do on the world stage but at what it actually does.

August 5, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET

SCOTT NEUMAN 



AFP via Getty Images



WORLD
 Pelosi's Taiwan trip leaves Asian countries nervously awaiting China's response

ASIA

China's military drills around Taiwan show how it is closing the gap with the U.S.

A series of military drills launched in the wake of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan this week show how China's military has made dramatic gains since the last crisis over the island democracy.

- What 3 past Taiwan Strait crises can teach us about U.S.-China tensions today
- China halts climate and military dialogue with the U.S. over Pelosi's Taiwan visit

China is near even with the U.S. when it comes to cyber and space

China's space and cyber capabilities could also prove formidable in the event of war, Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution says. "Their ability to interfere with our space operations, their ability to target using their own space capabilities and certainly their cyber war capabilities are all, I would say, only a half level below ours and capable of causing some pretty serious problem." Still, China hasn't been involved in a shooting war since 1979, when it clashed with Vietnam. Its troops aren't battle tested. "One never knows until action actually occurs whether the training program was so adequate or not," Robert Haddick, a visiting senior fellow at the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies and author of Fire on the Water: China, America, and the Future of the Pacific says. "And so it remains a mystery even to the Chinese themselves, I'm sure."

Packers' QB Aaron Rodgers May Face NFL Reprimand For Admitted Drug Use

By [Max Dible](#)

Updated Aug 6, 2022 at 2:01am



Getty

Aaron Rodgers before Capital One's The Match in 2022.

The Green Bay Packers have the reigning NFL MVP lining up for them at quarterback this season, but the complexities of Aaron Rodgers' personality extend well beyond the lines of the football field. The NFL has not issued any statement on the quarterback since he revealed during a podcast Wednesday that he used a plant-based hallucinogenic called ayahuasca while visiting South America in 2020.

It is not clear what punishing powers, if any, the league has at its disposal via its code of conduct policy, especially considering that Rodgers' was only a verbal admission about drug activity that took place years ago on a different continent. However, the United States government classifies ayahuasca as a Schedule I drug, which places it in the same category with heroin, LSD (commonly known as acid), ecstasy and marijuana. Ayahuasca also contains a substance banned by the NFL known as DMT (N,N-Dimethyltryptamine). That fact could potentially open up a different can of worms for Rodgers, though any attempt by the NFL to punish him for such violation would not be supported by a positive drug test — unless the QB has continued using the hallucinogen since returning from South America and tests positive subsequently.

Were Rodgers to miss any games in 2022 for whatever reason, former first-round draft pick and third-year backup quarterback Jordan Love would fill in under center. Shannon Sharpe, a former NFL tight end and prominent sports analyst on Fox, spoke to TMZ Sports on Friday and said he believes Rodgers may have made himself some trouble with commissioner Roger Goodell by admitting drug use.

I don't know the NFL is too happy about him taking hallucinogenics. I'm sure the commissioner is going to reach out and have a conversation with him. I'm sure the NFL is probably going to give him a call and say, "That's not a good look." [Rodgers' use of ayahuasca] seems weird to me. But whatever helps a person become a better person and find his inner-self, I'm cool with it.

Packers' QB Rodgers Said Drug Use Led to Best Seasons of Career: Rodgers opened up about his use of the hallucinogenic and how it helped him become a more successful football player as part of the August 3 edition of the Aubrey Marcus Podcast. The reason the experience was useful, Rodgers continued, is because it allowed him to "love [himself] unconditionally." He said the results were improved mental health and improved relationships with his colleagues, which Rodgers credited directly with helping him win consecutive MVP Awards over the last two seasons.

I don't think it's a coincidence. I really don't. I don't really believe in coincidences at this point. It's the universe bringing things to happen when they're supposed to happen.

There [are] signs and synchronicities all around us at all times — if we're awake enough to see them and to take them in and to listen to our intuition when it's speaking to us or pounding us in the head saying, "Hey dummy, this is what you're supposed to be doing."

Whatever the reason, it is hard to argue that his last two seasons haven't been the best of Rodgers' career. He was selected to the Pro Bowl and named a First-Team All Pro both years while leading the entire league in QB rating.

Over those two campaigns, Rodgers also racked up 8,414 passing yards and 85 touchdowns compared to only nine interceptions. He also rushed for 250 yards and six touchdowns.

Aaron Rodgers credits tripping balls for the best seasons of his career

Aaron Rodgers says he owes his back-to-back MVP seasons to psychedelics.

By [Ricky O'Donnell](#) | Aug 5, 2022, 12:50pm EDT | 2 Comments / 2 New

Aaron Rodgers might be the greatest quarterback of all-time, but he's made himself look like an absolute fool every time he's opened his mouth over the last two-plus years. Rodgers is the guy who intentionally misled the media over his vaccination status, spread disinformation about Covid, constantly talked on national media about being the victim of cancel culture, and for some reason told the whole world he likes to put oil in his butt. It goes without saying that it's important to have a healthy amount of skepticism every time he speaks into a microphone.

Rodgers did another interview this week, and talked about how he had arguably the two best seasons of his career in his late '30s. Rodgers said the secret to his success was a psychedelic experience with the ayahuasca plant that led to him having back-to-back MVP seasons in 2020 and 2021.

Rodgers appeared on the Aubrey Marcus podcast and talked about his experience with psychedelics, from taking magic mushrooms on the beach with his friends (which Rodgers called one of the best days of his life) to his experience ingesting ayahuasca. Here's a clip from the interview:



Aaron Rodgers' Challenging Journey To Self Love & Mental Health



Rodgers talks about going to Machu Picchu with ex-girlfriend Danica Patrick just before the start of the pandemic. After climbing the mountain, Rodgers took ayahuasca and had a powerful psychedelic experience.

Rodgers talked about how psychedelics helped his mental health:

We talk so much about mental health. Marshawn Lynch had a classic retirement press conference talking about taking care of your mental. We talk so much about mental health, and to me one of the core tenants of your mental health is self love. That's what ayahuasca did for me. It helped me see how to unconditionally love myself. It's only in that unconditional self love that I'm truly able to unconditionally love others. What better way to work on my mental health than to have an experience like that. The greatest gift I can give my teammates is to show up and be someone who can model unconditional love to them. Obviously it's important I play well and show up and lead all that stuff. But they won't care about what you say until they know how much you care.

Rodgers said taking ayahuasca felt like having "100 different hands on my body." The side effects of taking it include losing control of your bowels and throwing up everywhere, which Marcus said is not inaccurate. If you are an Aaron Rodgers hater, at least that's a happy visual.

While Rodgers spews a lot of garbage, having a psychedelic experience in an attempt to improve one's mental health is one of the more reasonable things he's said in recent years. He might need to have another mind-altering trip this year without Davante Adams around. For as helpful as psychedelics can be some people, throwing passes to arguably the best wide receiver in the league is a little more practical if you're an NFL quarterback.

The U.S. made a breakthrough battery discovery — then gave the technology to China

August 3, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

COURTNEY FLATT



LAURA SULLIVAN



The former UniEnergy Technologies office in Mukilteo, Wash. Taxpayers spent \$15 million on research to build a breakthrough battery. Then the U.S. government gave it to China.

When a group of engineers and researchers gathered in a warehouse in Mukilteo, Wash., 10 years ago, they knew they were onto something big. They scrounged up tables and chairs, cleared out space in the parking lot for experiments and got to work. **They were building a battery — a vanadium redox flow battery — based on a design created by two dozen U.S. scientists at a government lab. The batteries were about the size of a refrigerator, held enough energy to power a house, and could be used for decades. The engineers pictured people plunking them down next to their air conditioners, attaching solar panels to them, and everyone living happily ever after off the grid.** "It was beyond promise," said Chris Howard, one of the engineers who worked there for a U.S. company called UniEnergy. "We were seeing it functioning as designed, as expected." But that's not what happened. Instead of the batteries becoming the next great American success story, the warehouse is now shuttered and empty. All the employees who worked there were laid off. And more than 5,200 miles away, a Chinese company is hard at work making the batteries in Dalian, China. The Chinese company didn't steal this technology. It was given to them — by the U.S. Department of Energy. First in 2017, as part of a sublicense, and later, in 2021, as part of a license transfer. An investigation by NPR and the Northwest News Network found the federal agency allowed the technology and jobs to move overseas, violating its own licensing rules while failing to intervene on behalf of U.S. workers in multiple instances. Now, China has forged ahead, investing millions into the cutting-edge green technology that was supposed to help keep the U.S. and its economy out front. Department of Energy officials declined NPR's request for an interview to explain how the technology that cost U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars ended up in China. After NPR sent department officials written questions outlining the timeline of events, the federal agency terminated the license with the Chinese company, Dalian Rongke Power Co. Ltd. "DOE takes America's manufacturing obligations within its contracts extremely seriously," the department said in a written statement. "If DOE determines that a contractor who owns a DOE-funded patent or downstream licensee is in violation of its U.S. manufacturing obligations, DOE will explore all legal remedies."

Several U.S. companies have tried to get a license to make the batteries: The department is now conducting an internal review of the licensing of vanadium battery technology and whether this license — and others — have violated U.S. manufacturing requirements, the statement said. Forever Energy, a Bellevue, Wash., based company, is one of several U.S. companies that have been trying to get a license from the Department of Energy to make the batteries. Joanne Skievaski, Forever Energy's chief financial officer, has been trying to get hold of a license for more than a year and called the department's decision to allow foreign manufacturing "mind boggling." "This is technology made from taxpayer dollars," Skievaski said. "It was invented in a national lab. (Now) it's deployed in China, and it's held in China. To say it's frustrating is an understatement."

The idea for this vanadium redox battery began in the basement of a government lab, three hours southeast of Seattle, called Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. It was 2006, and more than two dozen scientists began to suspect that a special mix of acid and electrolyte could hold unusual amounts of energy without degrading. They turned out to be right. It took six years and more than 15 million taxpayer dollars for the scientists to uncover what they believed was the perfect vanadium battery recipe. Others had made similar batteries with vanadium, but this mix was twice as powerful and did not appear to degrade the way cellphone batteries or even car batteries do. The researchers found the batteries capable of charging and recharging for as long as 30 years. Gary Yang, the lead scientist on the project, said he was excited to see if he could make the batteries outside the lab. The lab encourages scientists to do just that, in an effort to bring critical new technology into the marketplace. The lab and the U.S. government still hold the patents, because U.S. taxpayers paid for the research. In 2012, Yang applied to the Department of Energy for a license to manufacture and sell the batteries. The agency issued the license, and Yang launched UniEnergy Technologies. He hired engineers and researchers. But he soon ran into trouble. He said he couldn't persuade any U.S. investors to come aboard. "I talked to almost all major investment banks; none of them (wanted to) invest in batteries," Yang said in an interview, adding that the banks wanted a return on their investments faster than the batteries would turn a profit. He said a fellow scientist connected him with a Chinese businessman named Yanhui Liu and a company called Dalian Rongke Power Co. Ltd., along with its parent company, and he jumped at the chance to have them invest and even help manufacture the batteries.

At first, UniEnergy Technologies did the bulk of the battery assembly in the warehouse. But over the course of the next few years, more and more of the manufacturing and assembling began to shift to Rongke Power, Chris Howard said. In 2017, Yang formalized the relationship and granted Dalian Rongke Power Co. Ltd. an official sublicense, allowing the company to make the batteries in China. Any company can choose to manufacture in China. But in this case, the rules are pretty clear. Yang's original license requires him to sell a certain number of batteries in the U.S., and it says those batteries must be "substantially manufactured" here. In an interview, Yang acknowledged that he did not do that. UniEnergy Technologies sold a few batteries in the U.S., but not enough to meet its requirements. The ones it did sell, including in one instance to the U.S. Navy, were made in China. But Yang said in all those years, neither the lab nor the department questioned him or raised any issues.

Then in 2019, Howard said, UniEnergy Technologies officials gathered all the engineers in a meeting room. He said supervisors told them they would have to work in China at Rongke Power Co. for four months at a time. "It was unclear, certainly to myself and other engineers, what the plan was," said Howard, who now works for Forever Energy. Yang acknowledges that he wanted his U.S. engineers to work in China. But he says it was because he thought Rongke Power could help teach them critical skills. Yang was born in China but is a U.S. citizen and got his Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut. He said he wanted to manufacture the entire battery in the U.S., but that the U.S. does not have the supply chain he required. He said China is more advanced when it comes to manufacturing and engineering utility-scale batteries. "In this field — manufacturing, engineering — China is ahead of the U.S.," Yang said. "Many wouldn't believe [it]." He said he didn't send the battery and his engineers abroad to help China. He said the engineers in that country were helping his UniEnergy Technologies employees and helping him get his batteries built. But news reports at the time show the moves were helping China. The Chinese government launched several large demonstration projects and announced millions of dollars in funding for large-scale vanadium batteries. As battery work took off in China, Yang was facing more financial trouble in the U.S. So he made a decision that would again keep the technology from staying in the U.S.

The EU has strict rules about where companies manufacture products: In 2021, Yang transferred the battery license to a European company based in the Netherlands. The company, Vanadis Power, told NPR it initially planned to continue making the batteries in China and then would set up a factory in Germany, eventually hoping to manufacture in the U.S., said Roelof Platenkamp, the company's founding partner. Vanadis Power needed to manufacture batteries in Europe because the European Union has strict rules about where companies manufacture products, Platenkamp said. "I have to be a European company, certainly a non-Chinese company, in Europe," Platenkamp said in an interview with NPR. But the U.S. has these types of rules, too. Any transfer of a U.S. government license requires U.S. government approval so that manufacturing doesn't move overseas. The U.S. has lost significant jobs in recent years in areas where it first forged ahead, such as solar panels, drones and telecom equipment. Still, when UniEnergy requested approval, it apparently had no trouble getting it. On July 7, 2021, a top official at UniEnergy Technologies emailed a government manager at the lab where the battery was created. The UniEnergy official said they were making a deal with Vanadis, according to emails reviewed by NPR, and were going to transfer the license to Vanadis. "We're working to finalize a deal with Vanadis Power and believe they have the right blend of technical expertise," the email from UniEnergy Technologies said. "Our transaction with Vanadis is ready to go pending your approval ..." The government manager responded that he needed confirmation before transferring the license and emailed a second employee at UniEnergy. The second employee responded an hour and a half later, and the license was transferred to Vanadis Power. Whether the manager or anyone else at the lab or Department of Energy thought to check during that hour and a half or thereafter whether Vanadis Power was an American company, or whether it intended to manufacture in the U.S., is unclear. Vanadis' own website said it planned to make the batteries in China. In response, department officials said they review each transfer for compliance and said that new rules put in place last summer by the Biden administration will close loopholes and keep more manufacturing here. But agency officials acknowledged that its reviews often rely on "good faith disclosures" by the companies, which means if companies such as UniEnergy Technologies don't say anything, the U.S. government may never know. That's a problem that has plagued the department for years, according to government investigators. In 2018, the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Energy lacked resources to properly monitor its licenses, relied on antiquated computer systems, and didn't have consistent policies across its labs. In this case, it was an American company, Forever Energy, that raised concerns about the license with UniEnergy more than a year ago. Joanne Skievaski said she and others from the company repeatedly warned department officials that the UniEnergy license was not in compliance. In emails NPR has reviewed, department officials told them it was. "How is it that the national lab did not require U.S. manufacturing?" Skievaski asked. "Not only is it a violation of the license, it's a violation to our country."

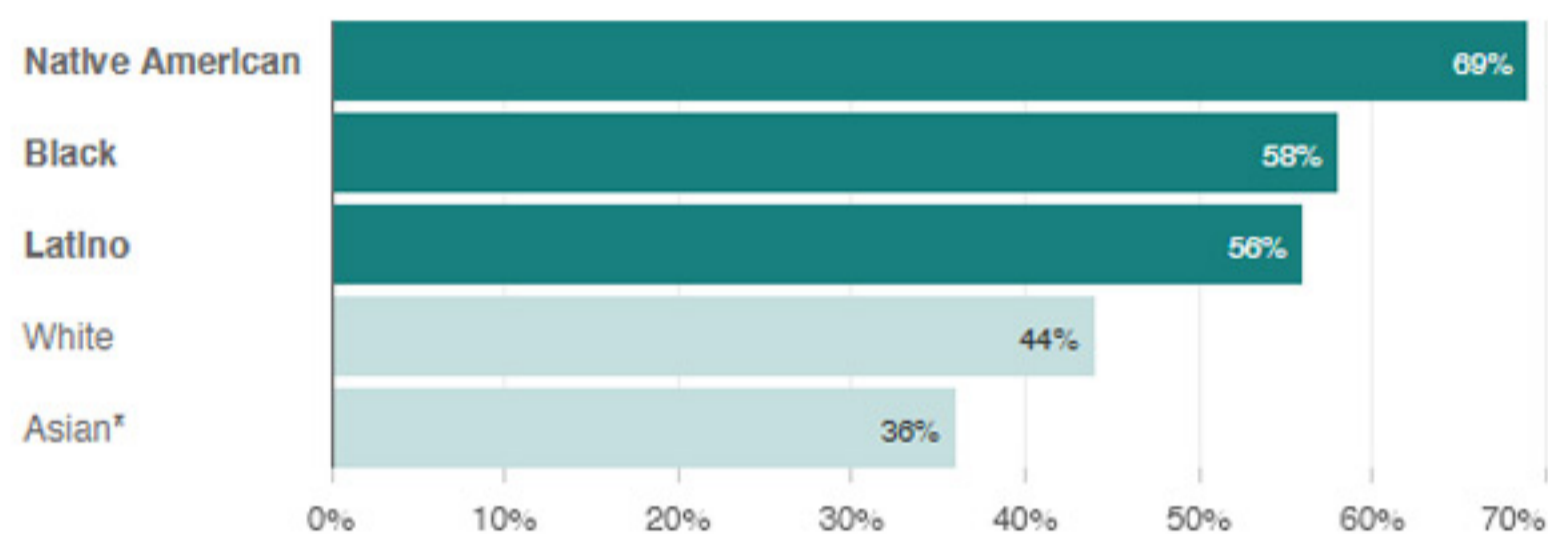
Now that the Department of Energy has revoked the license, Skievaski said she hopes Forever Energy will be able to acquire it or obtain a similar license. The company plans to open a factory in Louisiana next year and begin manufacturing. She bristles at the idea that U.S. engineers aren't up to the challenge. "That's hogwash," she said. "We are ready to go with this technology." Still, she says it will be difficult for any American company at this point to catch up. Industry trade reports currently list Dalian Rongke Power Co. Ltd. as the top manufacturer of vanadium redox flow batteries worldwide. Skievaski also worries about whether China will stop making the batteries once an American company is granted the right to start making them. That may be unlikely. Chinese news reports say the country is about to bring online one of the largest battery farms the world has ever seen. The reports say the entire farm is made up of vanadium redox flow batteries.

Poll: Black, Native American and Latino families face serious problems from inflation

August 8, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET

WILL STONE

Inflation has caused serious financial problems for the majority of Native American, Black and Latino households



Fears of eviction. Trouble affording groceries. Unmet medical needs. A national poll — from NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health — finds those are all too common experiences for high proportions of Black, Latino and Native American adults as the U.S. weathers a grueling stretch of high prices and economic uncertainty. In fact, more than half of Black and Latino households report the recent price increases driven by inflation have caused them "serious financial problems." It's even higher among Native Americans, with that number rising to more than two-thirds of those surveyed. The poll's findings, released in a report on Monday, include data from the five largest racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. Altogether, more than 4,100 adults were interviewed between mid May and mid June of this year. The data underscores that racial and ethnic minorities are having a tough time compared to their white counterparts in some key spheres of American life, particularly with finances, affordable housing, neighborhood safety, education and health care.

Survey shows "acute" financial troubles: While some of the results clearly relate to long-term barriers and inequities, the disparities uncovered in the survey also point to a handful of short-term, pressing problems that are deeply concerning, says Robert J. Blendon, co-director of the survey and emeritus professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School.

"We've been looking at disparities for many years, but the acute needs caught us a bit off guard," he says. "In this period when we're all suffering from inflation, people are at high risk for either being homeless or actually not being able to feed their families." In a sense, the impact of economic insecurity is the connective tissue for many of the survey's findings: 55% of Black and 48% of Latino adults say they are currently facing serious financial problems. For white adults, it's 38%.

From housing to food, high prices take a toll: *The concerns about housing are especially striking.* Across all groups, more than 60% of adults say the lack of affordable housing that's available for them to buy is a serious problem in their neighborhoods. The numbers are not all that different for affordable rental housing. But when it comes specifically to evictions, the burden is falling heavily on Black renters: 16% say they have either been evicted or threatened with eviction, whereas 9% of white renters who were surveyed reported similar experiences.

Some still struggle to get medical care: Perhaps unsurprisingly, the high cost of health care in the U.S. is straining family budgets. More than 20% of Black and Native American adults say affording medical care or prescription drugs is a serious problem for them. The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly disrupted health care and left many Americans sicker. Routine health care was interrupted, and chronic illnesses often went unmanaged.

Education and neighborhood safety: Despite the financial troubles, the poll suggests many families still have aspirations for their kids' futures. The overwhelming majority of households with children who are under 18 believe their children will graduate from college. It's over 80% for every group surveyed. "There are lots of surveys and studies that show, because of COVID, the schools closed and kids of all races are really lagging behind educationally," says Blendon. "What our finding shows is that, as kids went back, a substantially higher number of Black parents are saying that their kids' schools are not doing a good job."

Respondents say they are falling behind: There's a broad sense across all groups — but especially Black and Latino adults — that they are not on track in their life. For both groups, half of those polled say they are falling behind in terms of achieving life goals over the past year, compared to 40% of white Americans. "There is a crisis of inflation and also in the public schools," says Blendon. "It's more than just 'We're narrowing gaps' or 'We're not narrowing gaps.' It's that people could really get hurt unless they can get some help here in the next short-term period."

* The poll also examined results among lower-income U.S. Asian adults given the economic diversity of the group. Among households that earn less than \$50,000 a year, 56% say inflation has caused them serious financial problems.

Scared after the fall of Roe, these 2 Texas women rushed to tie the knot

August 8, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



VANESSA ROMO



Carlie Brown (left) and Molly Pela exchange wedding vows as their friend, Julie Takahashi, officiates the ceremony. Both women said they rushed to get married after reading Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion in striking down *Roe v. Wade*, in which he suggested also overturning the landmark case that legalized same-sex marriage.

Waiting to feel safe

Carlie Brown and Molly Pela say they won't feel completely secure until federal legislative protections for marriages like theirs are in place. "We live in Ted Cruz Texas, and I wouldn't be surprised at all if he tried to make a name for [himself] on a national platform and tried to push something ridiculous through that would prevent us from being married and completing our family in the way that we want to," Pela said.

Brown is also scared. "In a lot of ways, it's really kind of emotionally devastating because I'm reminded of how vulnerable we are just because of who I'm married to," she said.

She added, "It's tough, emotionally, to kind of feel like you're second rate to straight couples or opposite-sex couples."



Now that the wedding is behind them, Molly Pela (right) can begin the adoption process of the couple's new son. Carlie Brown (left) gave birth to the boy six days before the Supreme Court's ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Men face sentencing for hate crimes in Ahmaud Arbery's death

August 8, 2022 · 2:24 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This photo shows, from left to right, Travis McMichael and William "Roddie" Bryan, two of three white men who will face sentencing Monday for their roles in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery.

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Months after they were sentenced to life in prison for murder, the three white men who chased and killed Ahmaud Arbery in a Georgia neighborhood faced a second round of criminal penalties Monday for federal hate crimes committed in the deadly pursuit of the 25-year-old Black man.

U.S. District Court Judge Lisa Godbey Wood scheduled back-to-back hearings to individually sentence each of the defendants, starting with Travis McMichael, who blasted Arbery with a shotgun after the street chase initiated by his father and joined by a neighbor.

Arbery's killing on Feb. 23, 2020, became part of a larger national reckoning over racial injustice and killings of unarmed Black people including George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Kentucky. Those two cases also resulted in the Justice Department bringing federal charges.

The McMichaels told police they suspected Arbery had been stealing from a nearby house under construction. But authorities later concluded he was unarmed and had committed no crimes. Arbery's family has long insisted he was merely out jogging.

Still, more than two months passed before any charges were filed in Arbery's death. The McMichaels and Bryan were arrested only after the graphic video of the shooting leaked online and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over the case from local police. During the February hate crimes trial, prosecutors fortified their case that Arbery's killing was motivated by racism by showing the jury roughly two dozen text messages and social media posts in which Travis McMichael and Bryan used racist slurs and made disparaging comments about Black people. A woman testified to hearing an angry rant from Greg McMichael in 2015 in which he said: "All those Blacks are nothing but trouble."

Defense attorneys for the three men argued the McMichaels and Bryan didn't pursue Arbery because of his race but acted on an earnest — though erroneous — suspicion that Arbery had committed crimes in their neighborhood.



A painted mural of Ahmaud Arbery is displayed in Brunswick, Ga., on May 17, 2020, where the 25-year-old man was shot and killed in February.

'Reservation Dogs,' now in Season 2, remains one of the most original shows on TV

August 8, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



JOHN POWERS



Lane Factor, Paulina Alexis, D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai and Devery Jacobs play four friends living on an Indian reservation in the series *Reservation Dogs*.

We all want to tell our own stories — not have them told by people who don't understand us or take our lives seriously. But that is often the fate that Native Americans have had to endure for countless decades. So when *Reservation Dogs* came out last year, the series was rightly hailed as groundbreaking. With a cast, production crew and primary creator, Sterlin Harjo, who were all Indigenous, it offered a view from the inside of lives that are usually ignored.

As *Reservation Dogs* begins its strong second season, it's worth emphasizing that the series, co-created by Taika Waititi, is also one of the best and most original shows on TV. Set in Oklahoma's Native American territory, it blends dumb jokes, smart jokes, satire, pathos, social realism, magical realism and tribal lore — not to mention American Indian history — into a series that is fresh, funny and heartfelt.

As you may know, the series centers on a gang of four teenagers, known as Rez Dogs. There's Bear (played by emo-faced D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai), who longs for the father who abandoned his family. There's soulful Elora (Devery Jacobs), who's the group's true center of gravity. There's the foul-mouthed Willie Jack (Paulina Alexis), and the affable one known as Cheese (Lane Factor), who gets along with everyone. They are surrounded by grown-ups who range from Uncle Brownie, a one-time bar fighter who's now a hermit, to a kookily benign cop named Officer Big, played by Zahn McClarnon, the star of AMC+'s terrific Navajo mystery series, *Dark Winds*.

In Season 1, this gang of four was busy accumulating money — sometimes illegally — in order to leave the reservation and get to California. But their plans got flattened when a tornado hit town, and only Elora headed out, along with one of the gang's enemies, the tough, deadpan Jackie. As Season 2 begins, these young women are trying to get out of Oklahoma in their ramshackle car, while back home, Bear looks for work as Willie Jack and Cheese seek a way to rescind a black-magic curse that backfired. Now, I always get nervous when a series I love enters Season 2, and I feared the worst when episode one tilted a bit too sharply toward the comic whimsy that is sometimes its failing. But the show quickly regained its balance and began doing what makes it special.

Working in a loose, indie film style, Harjo and company build around moments, not plot points, and avoid the temptation to make a grand statement about the situation of American Indians. They use their young heroes' daily life to offer glimpses — some silly, some profoundly moving — of a modern Native American reality that goes beyond the familiar narrative of victimization and misery. Although they live with poverty and fractured families, the show's characters are vibrantly alive. And there are episodes — like Cheese doing a ride-around with Officer Big; Willie Jack hunting with her dad; or Bear learning to become a roofer — that glow with a warmth and wisdom rare on television. I can think of no other show that gives a clearer sense of what it means to live in a community that feels like a community.

Reservation Dogs evokes a culture in which age-old tribal curses exist alongside discussions of gender pronouns, and the legacy of Crazy Horse sits side-by-side with hip-hop and references to *Star Wars*. The show is wise up enough to laugh at classic tropes, like the stoic and taciturn Indian, and to make light of the notion of spirit guides. Yet these are jokes from the inside. Even as the show has fun with Native American tradition, it finds a way of doing it honor, as in this season's beautiful episode when everyone comes together in a death watch for Elora's grandmother. Back in Season 1, Willie Jack gets to talking about all the seemingly uncontrolled dogs running the streets. "Nobody cares about Rez dogs," she says, referring as much to herself and her friends as to their four-footed namesakes. But she's wrong. This show cares, and I suspect it will make you care too.

COVID sewage surveillance labs join the hunt for monkeypox

August 8, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

MARK KREIDLER



An image from an electron microscope of the monkeypox virus (orange) on infected cells (green).

The same wastewater surveillance techniques that have emerged as a critical tool in early detection of COVID-19 outbreaks are being adapted for use in monitoring the startling spread of monkeypox across the San Francisco Bay Area and some other U.S. communities.

Before the COVID pandemic, wastewater sludge was thought to hold promise as an early indicator of community health threats, in part because people can excrete genetic evidence of infectious diseases in their feces, often before they develop symptoms of illness. Israel has for decades monitored wastewater for polio. But before COVID, such risk monitoring in the U.S. was limited largely to academic pursuits.

With the onset of the pandemic, a research collaboration that involves scientists at Stanford University, the University of Michigan, and Emory University pioneered efforts to recalibrate the surveillance techniques for detection of the coronavirus, marking the first time that wastewater has been used to track a respiratory disease.

That same research team, the Sewer Coronavirus Alert Network, or SCAN, is now a leader in expanding wastewater monitoring to detect monkeypox, a once-obscure virus endemic to remote regions of Africa that in a matter of months has infected more than 26,000 people globally and more than 7,000 across the U.S. The Biden administration last week declared the monkeypox outbreak a public health emergency, following similar decisions by health officials in California, Illinois and New York.



SCIENCE

Epidemiologists warn the U.S. reaches a critical moment to contain monkeypox

Not all public health agencies are moving as fast. A wastewater monitoring plan for the virus is only now being put together in Los Angeles County, which had confirmed more than 300 cases of monkeypox by the end of July.

And though California is collecting monkeypox data from its surveillance partners, it's not available for all regions, underscoring that wastewater monitoring for viruses is still an emerging methodology.

"With every new thing that we add to the testing platform, we are learning things," said SCAN's Wolfe. "The pandemic really cracked open our imagination for a tool that already existed but that hadn't been developed to its full capacity. That's changing now."

Opinion

The dangers of monkeypox hysteria

The West's Covid failures are being repeated

BY THOMAS FAZI


August 8, 2022

They've been repeating it ever since the start of the Covid pandemic: "We are entering an 'age of pandemics' — this is just the beginning". And they've been true to their word: no sooner had the threat of Covid started to wane, and most people had started to put the nightmare of the past two years behind them, than we were told that another dangerous virus had begun to rapidly spread across continents: monkeypox, a rare disease normally limited to West and Central Africa, where it is endemic.

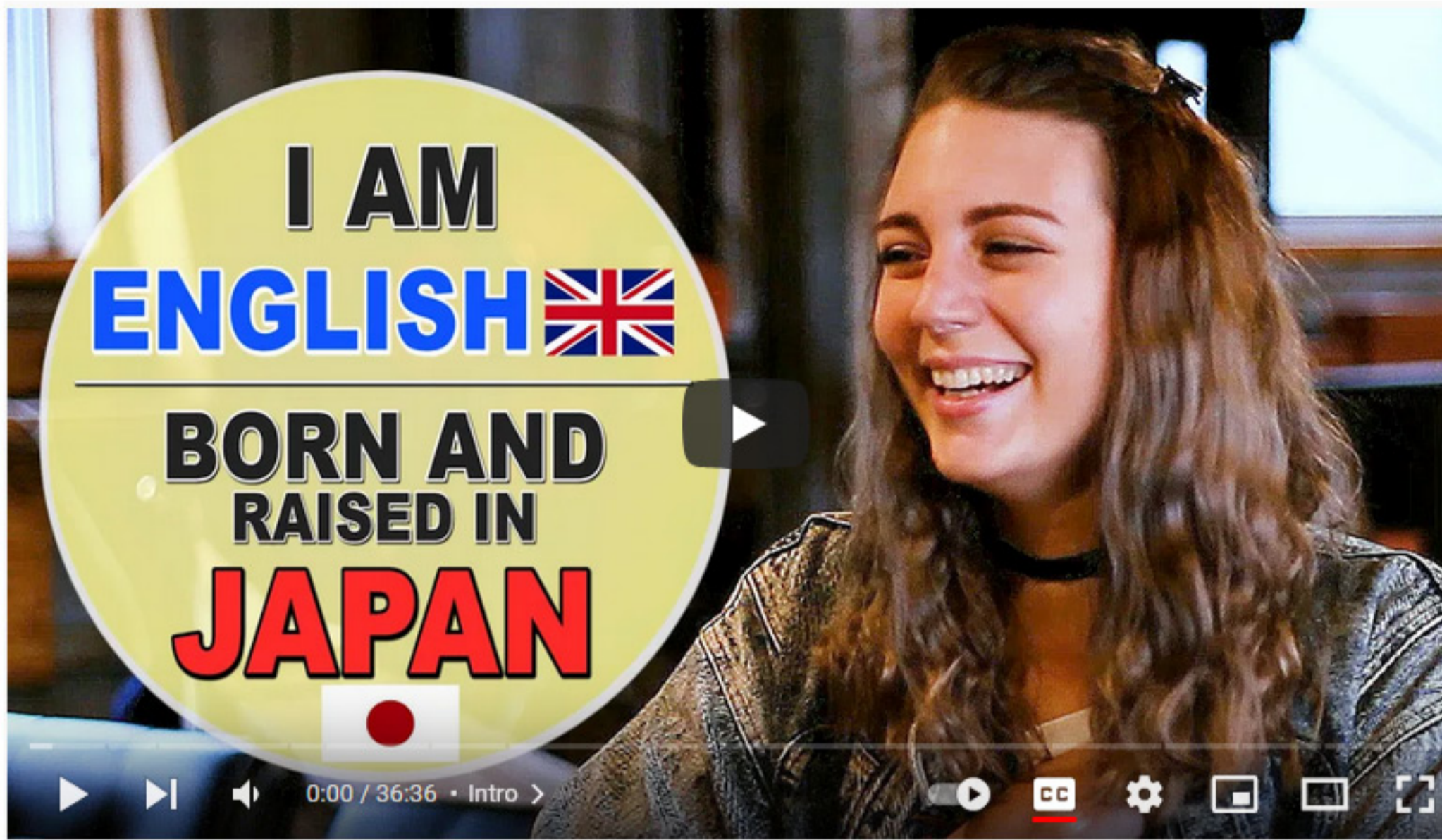
As for the homophobic discourse on social media related to monkeypox, this is arguably also a consequence of the authorities' attempts to downplay who is most at risk. The Covid pandemic has sown massive distrust in public health authorities, and millions of people who refused to take the vaccine are still angry at misleadingly being accused of being reckless spreaders. Seeing those same authorities today go out of their way to avoid highlighting that a specific minority group is — for real in this case — much more likely to catch and transmit the virus is unlikely to make them positively disposed towards the latter, especially if this denialism contributes to the virus's spread. If we want to get out of this mess, and avoid a repeat of the past two years, there's only one way forward: putting the truth back at the centre of public health. Monkeypox hysteria, just like the Covid hysteria that came before it, won't save lives. It will only put them in danger.



Thomas Fazi is a writer, journalist and translator. His latest book 'Reclaiming the State' is published by Pluto Press.

 battleforeurope





#japaneseculture #japanese #japanlife

【字幕付き】 Being a "Foreigner" English Girl Born in Japan | Japanese is My Native Language!

Jazmine

802,696 views • Jul 28, 2022

15K DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE

Follow Jazmine:

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/47MKUtmgQh0>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sachicoastal/>

Jazmine Sachiko Ross is born and raised in Ishikawa prefecture Japan, and despite having both English parents, she only went to Japanese public schooling her entire life. This video goes through her story of being a native Japanese speaker and the experiences she has had living in Japan as someone who is Nihonjin (Japanese) in every way except by her appearance.

sachicoastal

Follow

...

17 posts

2,071 followers

103 following

Jazmine ❤️ Sachi-Coastal

Sharing the "Sachi" found on the coasts

English Girl Born/Raised in Japan

On a Journey to Sustainable Living

linktr.ee/sachicoastal



LOOKING FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS IN JAPAN? ME TOO!

All Images from: econawa.com





Sachi-Coastal



Based in Japan, Sachi-Coastal journeys along the coasts, spotlighting the many joys and blessings bestowed upon us by the ocean. All the while we're searching for ways to help our beautiful planet from the many environmental issues that threaten it. We take steps towards a sustainable way of living, eco-tourism, and we promote the idea that we are fellow humans sharing this planet. While celebrating our different backgrounds and cultures, Sachi-Coastal highlights those special things we all have in common.

Origin & Mission

I was born in a small fishing town on a peninsula in western Japan. Growing up as a foreigner, an outsider in my own hometown, I had a unique opportunity to bounce between two completely different cultures.

It was far from easy. There were times when I questioned my identity. I wondered if there was any place where I could truly belong. At the end of the day though, I realized one simple, golden fact: we are all people.

No matter our skin colour, no matter our cultural background. No person is the same as any other; then again, nor are we so different. We are all people, living on the same planet. I extend my hand to all those out there breaking the mould, and redefining the boundaries defined by cultural differences. Let us embrace and celebrate all the spices of humanity. Let us move towards a unified goal of protecting our beautiful blue home.

Jazmine Ross

Jazmine Sachiko Ross



Wajima lacquerware, from the city of the same name in Ishikawa Prefecture, has a history of more than 600 years and is considered the archetypal Japanese lacquerware. The lacquerware's distinctive feature is its durability, which is produced by applying layers of urushi (the sap of the lacquer tree) mixed with jinoko (made from a kind of diatomaceous earth) onto a wooden substrate. One of the stars among Wajima lacquerware artists is Englishwoman Suzanne Ross. Masaki Yamada visited Ross at her studio in a converted barn in the Wajima mountains.

Suzanne Ross, encountered lacquer at the age of nineteen while studying design in London. At the time, her interest was in Art Nouveau and Art Deco and she dreamed of a future as an interior designer living in Paris. One day, Ross went to see an exhibition of art from Japan's Edo period (1603–1867) at London's Royal Academy of Arts.

"I just popped in to have a look. It was there that I encountered a makie (literally, sprinkled picture) inkstone box. I was smitten by the resonance of the black luster and the beautiful contrast between the background black and the design drawn in gold powder and shell. I became completely enamoured with the beauty of lacquer," Ross says.



Ross at work polishing a piece of lacquerware, the last of many stages in her craft

Ross decided to study lacquer craft and, following graduation from university, she arrived in Japan. "I had thought that lacquering was the same as painting and that if I studied for three months or so that would be enough. Was I ever mistaken! As it turns out, I ended up continuing to live in Japan and giving birth to my children here," Ross says.

Ross visited Nagano Prefecture, the home of Kiso lacquer, Kamakura in Kanagawa Prefecture, where Kamakura carved lacquer is made, and various other lacquer producing regions and came to understand that the lacquer craft is very difficult and profound. Then, on a recommendation, she arrived in Wajima, and sought to become an apprentice to a makie craftsman. After visiting a number of craftsmen, finally one of them said, "There are more than one hundred processes in making Wajima lacquerware. Which one do you want to learn?" Hearing this, Ross replied, "All of them!" but the craftsman admonished her saying, "It takes three years to learn one process, you know."

Jazmine Sachiko Ross' mother Suzanne Ross

Ross eventually entered the Ishikawa Prefectural Institute of Wajima Lacquer Arts to study the basic techniques. After five years of study, concentrating on makie techniques, Ross began creating independently for the first time. She then worked as a lacquer artisan for ten years, before returning to the Institute for four years to study the lacquer craft even more deeply.

Ross's dream is not just to preserve the Wajima lacquer tradition and techniques, but also to continue to develop new styles. In addition to making traditional Wajima lacquer soup bowls and other gold and silver sprinkled makie lacquerware, Ross is inventing a range of completely new Wajima lacquerware products. "I am always looking to push the limits of the lacquer craft. For example, I have lacquered a portable music player case and made a Buddhist memorial tablet in the shape of an angel's wings. I have also used carbon fiber, which is easy to mold into any shape you want. These go beyond what has been thought of as Wajima lacquer up until now. Moreover, the division of labor has been a given in the lacquer craft but I do everything myself, from sourcing the raw materials to selling the finished product," Ross says.



From the back, clockwise, a stacking box for food, a kanshitsu (dry lacquer) dish, an MP3 player case and two trinket boxes.

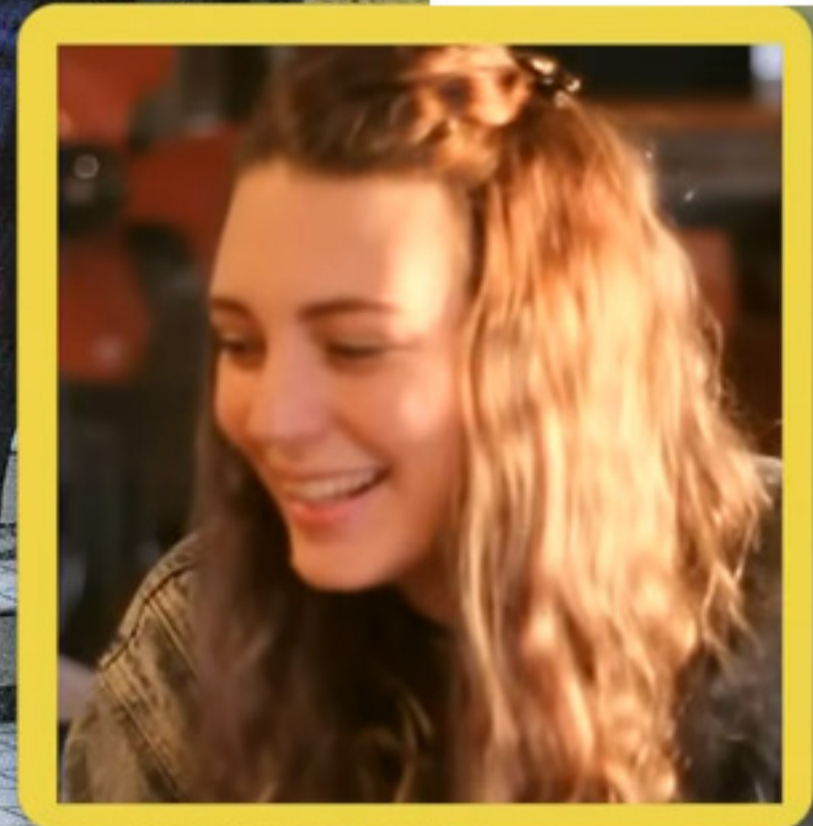
Many people appreciate Ross's work and she now receives a flood of orders from all over the country. "Whether it is music or painting, if you are truly passionate about what you do, at that instant you are in flow and completely forget yourself. Just once in my life, I'd like to create a work that makes people feel that passion and moves them into that space of forgetfulness, a place where our true humanity lies."





Suzanne Ross, just arrived in Japan aged 22

Jazmine Sachiko Ross is born and raised in Ishikawa prefecture Japan, and despite having both English parents, she only went to Japanese public schooling her entire life.



When was talking invented? A language scientist explains how this unique feature of human beings may have evolved

Published: August 8, 2022 8:20am EDT

Richard Futrell, University of California, Irvine



Humans are the only animals that express their thoughts in full sentences. Oliver Rossi/DigitalVision via Getty

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to curiouskidsus@theconversation.com.

When was talking invented? – Albert R., age 12, Florida

The truth is, no one knows for sure when talking was “invented.” It’s a big mystery. But as a language scientist for 15 years, I can tell you our best guess about when people started talking to each other using language, and how we think it got started.

Human language and how long it’s been around: Talking is an activity unique to *Homo sapiens*, our species. In every culture where most people can hear, people talk with spoken language. And in groups where lots of people are deaf – as in certain villages where a lot of people are born deaf for genetic reasons – or in Deaf communities throughout the world, people talk with their hands, using sign languages. There are lots of different sign languages, just as there are lots of different spoken languages.

Birds sing songs. Dogs bark, and cats meow. But these forms of communication are simple compared with human language. An animal might make 10 different sounds, for example, but an adult human knows more than 20,000 words. Additionally, we’re the only animal that expresses thoughts in full sentences. Because language is unique to humans and so different from anything else in the animal kingdom, researchers don’t really think language was invented; instead we think it evolved during human beings’ evolution from other apes. So to find out when talking started, you have to look back to when humans first evolved. Scientists believe humans as we know them today likely evolved around 300,000 years ago. Some of our evolutionary ancestors like *Homo erectus* and cousins like the Neanderthals may have had language too, but researchers don’t know for sure. What’s amazing is that for almost all of that time, all people did with language was talk; there wasn’t any reading or writing until roughly 5,000 years ago, which is recent compared with how long modern humans have been around. For almost all of the time that humans existed on planet Earth, no one read a book or a sign, or wrote down their name. People started writing things down so they could keep track of accounts. For example, if Farmer Joe owed Farmer Jill three sheep, then they would draw a picture of a sheep and write down three marks. Eventually these little pictures turned into hieroglyphics and then into the letters that we use today to write down all kinds of things like grocery lists and poems and stories.

Where talking comes from: Another question you might wonder about is where talking comes from. Before people used language, how did they communicate with each other? Did they just make sounds at each other as animals do? The truth is, we don’t know the answer here either. But there are two main theories. The first theory is that language started with people making different sounds, mostly imitating the things around them, like animal calls, nature sounds and the sounds of tools. Eventually they started using these sounds to talk to each other. They might make the sound of whooshing wind to talk about the weather or imitate the sound of a bird to tell a friend that there was a bird nearby. Then over hundreds of thousands of years, those sounds turned into words that people began to learn as part of their language. At some point, people started stringing the words together to form sentences. The other main theory, which is a more recent idea, is that people started off by gesturing – pointing at things with their hands, imitating actions using their bodies and making faces. Eventually these gestures turned into a full sign language. This process continues today in villages where lots of people are deaf. If a lot of deaf people who don’t know a sign language come together, they will spontaneously invent one within a few years. This theory guesses that after developing sign languages, people eventually started making sounds along with their gestures. At some point, they switched to mostly making sounds that became words instead of just using their bodies. The reason they switched to making sounds, the theory goes, is that talking out loud lets you communicate with someone even when you can’t see them.

Big questions like this let all of us explore what it means to be human beings. Only humans have language, and so figuring out where language comes from is a way to figure out where we come from too.



Agriculture is becoming increasingly dependent on technology. U.S. Department of Agriculture Photo by Lance

Rise of precision agriculture exposes food system to new threats

Published: August 8, 2022 8:21am EDT

George Grispos, Austin C. Doctor, *University of Nebraska Omaha*

Farmers are adopting precision agriculture, using data collected by GPS, satellite imagery, internet-connected sensors and other technologies to farm more efficiently. While these practices could help increase crop yields and reduce costs, the technology behind the practices is creating opportunities for extremists, terrorists and adversarial governments to attack farming machinery, with the aim of disrupting food production.

Food producers around the world have been under increasing pressure, a problem exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and rising fuel and fertilizer costs. Farmers are trying to produce more food but with fewer resources, pushing the food production system toward its breaking point.

In this environment, it's understandable that many U.S. farmers are turning to modern information technologies to support decision-making and operations in managing crop production. These precision agriculture practices lead to more efficient use of land, water, fuel, fertilizer and pesticides so that farmers can grow more, reduce costs and minimize their impact on the environment.

As researchers in cybersecurity and national security at the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center, we see cause for concern. **The advent of precision farming comes at a time of significant upheaval in the global supply chain and as the number of foreign and domestic hackers with the ability to exploit this technology continues to grow.**

New opportunities for exploitation: Cyberattacks against agricultural targets are not some far-off threat; they are already happening. For example, in 2021 a ransomware attack forced a fifth of the beef processing plants in the U.S. to shut down, with one company paying nearly \$11 million to cybercriminals. REvil, a Russia-based group, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Similarly, a grain storage cooperative in Iowa was targeted by a Russian-speaking group called BlackMatter, who claimed that they had stolen data from the cooperative. While previous attacks have targeted larger companies and cooperatives and aimed to extort the victims for money, individual farms could be at risk, too.

The integration of technologies into farm equipment, from GPS-guided tractors to artificial intelligence, potentially increases the ability of hackers to attack this equipment. And though farmers might not be ideal targets for ransomware attacks, farms could be tempting targets for hackers with other motives, including terrorists.

For example, an attacker could look to exploit vulnerabilities within fertilizer application technologies, which could result in a farmer unwittingly applying too much or too little nitrogen fertilizer to a particular crop. A farmer could then end up with either a below-expected harvest, or a field that has been over fertilized, resulting in waste and long-term environmental ramifications.

Slow to appreciate the threat: Disruption to sensitive industries and infrastructure gives attackers higher returns for their efforts. This means that the increasing stress on the global food supply raises the stakes and creates a stronger motivation to disrupt the U.S. agriculture sector.

Unlike other critical industries such as finance and health care, the farming industry has been slow to recognize cybersecurity risks and take steps to mitigate them. There are several possible reasons for this sluggishness.

One is that many farmers and agricultural providers haven't viewed cybersecurity as a significant enough problem compared with other risks they face such as floods, fires and hail. A 2018 Department of Homeland Security report that surveyed precision agriculture farmers throughout the U.S. found that many did not fully understand the cyberthreats introduced by precision agriculture, nor did they take these cyber-risks seriously enough.

This lack of preparedness leads to another reason: limited oversight and regulation from government. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture classified cybersecurity as a low priority. While this classification was upgraded in 2015, the farming sector is likely to be playing catch-up for years. While other critical infrastructure industries have developed and published numerous countermeasures and best practices for cybersecurity, the same cannot be said for the farming sector.

The Biden administration has indicated that it is willing to help farmers take steps to protect their cyber infrastructure, but as of this writing it has not released public guidelines to assist with this effort.

All-hands approach: In addition to the pressing need for policy guidance and resources from federal, state and local governments to prevent this type of cyberattack, there is room for academia and industry to step up.

From an academic research perspective, multidisciplinary efforts that bring together researchers from precision agriculture, robotics, cybersecurity and political science can help identify potential solutions. To this end, we and researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have launched the Security Testbed for Agricultural Vehicles and Environments.

Farming equipment manufacturers and other industry organizations can help by designing and engineering equipment to account for cybersecurity considerations. This would lead to the manufacture of farming equipment that not only maximizes food production yields but also minimizes exposure to cyberattacks.

Inside a TV news station determined to report facts in the Taliban's Afghanistan

August 8, 2022 · 5:00 PM ET



STEVE INSKEEP



AREZOU REZVANI



A man works on the evening broadcast from TOLONews, Afghanistan's first 24/7 new channel.

KABUL, Afghanistan — Inside a cramped and windowless room at the headquarters of Afghanistan's leading news channel, a group of young editors race against a six o'clock deadline. One fiddles with the audio for a story on the year-long closure of girls' secondary schools. Another tinkers with the images of Taliban officials at an international conference. They are stories that will be featured in that evening's broadcast from TOLONews. When the Taliban returned to power last year, few expected Afghanistan's first 24/7 news channel to survive. The first time the group was in power, in the 1990s, radios mostly carried Islamic programming and propaganda, and TVs were banned. After they were toppled in 2001, the Taliban spent the next couple of decades staging deadly attacks, often against journalists. In 2016, seven TOLO TV employees were killed by a Taliban suicide bomber. Despite that history, the Taliban have let this democratic institution stand. But every day is a struggle for the journalists who still work there. TOLONews was barely in a position to cover the Taliban's sudden takeover of the government last year. "We lost more than 90% of our colleagues after the collapse of the government," said Khpowlwak Sapai, the head of the network. Many TOLONews reporters, producers, and editors were among the tens of thousands of Afghans who frantically fled the country within days of the fall of Kabul. Sapai was only lucky in that he was able to hire new staff from the more than 200 media outlets that shut down soon after the return of the Taliban. Some closed under the pressure of draconian reporting restrictions, others ran out of funding amid the country's economic collapse. **One of the young unemployed journalists Sapai hired was 23-year-old Toba Walizada, the network's education reporter, who has spent the last year relentlessly covering the Taliban's ban on middle and high schools for girls. Over the last year, Walizada has produced hundreds of stories about the school closures, and the authorities don't understand why she keeps covering the same story. "The ministry of education always closes the door in my face," Walizada said. "I'm always calling the deputy spokesman for the Islamic Emirate and he always tells me, 'I have told you already, there is nothing new to say.'"**

"I would like to continue my struggle here ... if I leave, who will be the voice of Afghanistan?"



Toba Walizada, the network's education reporter, says she is committed to staying on and telling stories.

Her story that's airing this evening is a fresh angle for her beat. An Afghan ulema — a group of Muslim scholars — has called for girls to be admitted to school. This may not be the development the Taliban want to hear, yet the self-proclaimed Islamic Emirate could hardly complain about news coverage of Islamic scholars.

For the journalists who still work in Afghanistan, it's not always clear where the red lines are. The Taliban's media law simply warns against broadcasting anything that is "contrary to Islam" or involves national security. Over the last year, there have been numerous accounts of raids, beatings, and detentions of Afghan journalists across the country who were pursuing stories the authorities did not like, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. None of this has stopped TOLONews from broadcasting critical voices.

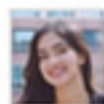
When the United Nations published a report blaming the Taliban for extrajudicial killings, TOLO programs analyzed and debated the findings. When the Taliban ordered the network to stop playing popular foreign TV shows featuring women, and ordered TOLO not to explain why the shows disappeared, Sapai decided his news program owed it to viewers to tell them why some of the shows were disappearing. Both Sapai and the anchor who delivered that news were briefly arrested for defying Taliban orders. In spring, the Taliban issued a decree instructing women, including on-camera journalists, to cover their faces in public. The network's female journalists decided they would abide by the order by wearing COVID face masks so they could keep working — and in an act of solidarity, their male colleagues also wore masks on air. And tonight, they are ready to go on air again. With minutes to spare before the six o'clock broadcast, a TOLONews anchor in a sharp navy suit and perfectly coiffed hair settles in behind a desk in the brightly lit studio. A producer counts down and the broadcast begins. It is a woman who delivers the leading story about the Taliban's participation in an international conference. TOLO's audience may not see her face behind the mask, but they'll hear her voice as she explains where the Taliban's Afghanistan may be headed next.

Bear Grylls on how to S-T-O-P fighting fear in everyday life

August 9, 2022 · 12:10 AM ET



ANDEE TAGLE



MICHELLE ASLAM



Adventurer Bear Grylls is the host of National Geographic's *Running Wild with Bear Grylls*.

It's easy to think that a man who's scaled Mount Everest, weathered giant rapids in Zambia and survived on hunting stingrays in Indonesia is fearless. But adventurer and survivalist Bear Grylls, says nothing could be further from the truth.

"Fear is a huge part of my life, it's part of my job," he says. "Fear isn't an enemy. It's something that nature gives you to allow you to stay sharp and perform well and to have all your senses firing."

His current namesake TV show *Running Wild with Bear Grylls* is one of many in his decades-long career that follows him across the world on dangerous expeditions, in which he drops into remote locations with little to no supplies and finds ways to survive.



Andee Tagle

@andee_tagle

Now-and-then host + production

@NPRLifeKit, Arts & Culture journalist.

@newmarkjschool '18, Napoleon complex—active.

827 Following 419 Followers



Michelle Aslam

@aslamishu

@NPR Kroc Fellow | Formerly

@TexasObserver @dallasnews

@thedailycampus

929 Following 475 Followers

A lot of people live avoiding fear, says Grylls, and that's completely understandable. But the issue is, "When you're thrown into a scary situation, that fear muscle isn't strong, so you get kind of an overload of adrenaline," he says. "And an overload of adrenaline is always going to create a kind of a fog of war."

Instead, **try to befriend your fear and use it to fuel you**. Grylls created the acronym S-T-O-P to help you remember how to get there.

S - Stop and step back

We all have those everyday moments of panic – deadlines, difficult conversations, getting out of our social comfort zones, job interviews. Don't give in to the anxiety of the moment and just act reflexively.

T - Take a break

It's hard to think clearly when you're in fight-or-flight mode. Take a moment to gain some distance from the situation and get your thinking brain back online. Deep breaths and a quick mindfulness practice are a good place to start.

O - Observe

In high-stress situations, Grylls says it's natural to fixate. "You tend to just get super dialed into that one thing," he says, "but actually, just look at your surroundings. You're going to see escape routes. You're going to see alternatives and options." Who's in your corner? What resources do you have? Make sure you're on alert and taking stock of the full picture.

P - Plan

You're cool, calm and you've collected your resources – it's time to move ahead. Create a strategic plan of action – or two! – and keep moving forward.

The essential elements to surviving in any scenario are not knives or gadgets or dehydrated food packets, says Grylls, but the right perspectives.

Tools break, technology fails, plans fall through and it always seems to rain when you least want it to. Grylls says **a key quality to survival – and to life – is getting comfortable with uncertainty and learning to adapt.**

"If I had to choose three things [to bring on any expedition], I would make them a resourceful spirit, a determined heart, and a courageous attitude – that you're going to walk towards the difficult stuff and do whatever it takes to get out of that," says Grylls.

Motown stars celebrate a museum expansion that honors Hitsville

August 9, 2022 · 2:22 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Original Temptation Otis Williams, left, and Smokey Robinson speak in front of the Motown Museum in Detroit, Monday, Aug. 8, 2022.





In dry California, salty water creeps into key waterways

By **KATHLEEN RONAYNE**

yesterday

RIO VISTA, Calif. (AP) — Charlie Hamilton hasn't irrigated his vineyards with water from the Sacramento River since early May, even though it flows just yards from his crop. Nearby to the south, the industrial Bay Area city of Antioch has supplied its people with water from the San Joaquin River for just 32 days this year, compared to roughly 128 days by this time in a wet year. They may be close by, but these two rivers, central arms of California's water system, have become too salty to use in some places as the state's punishing drought drags on. In dry winters like the one California just had, less fresh water flows down from the mountains into the Sacramento River, the state's largest. That allows saltier water from Pacific Ocean tides to push farther into the state's main water hub, known as the Delta. It helps supply water to two-thirds of the state's 39 million people and to farms that grow fruits and vegetables for the whole nation, playing a key but sometimes underappreciated role in the state's economy. A drought that scientists say is part of the U.S. West's driest period in 1,200 years plus sea level rise are exposing the fragility of that system, forcing state water managers, cities, and farmers to look for new ways to stabilize their supply of fresh water. The Delta's challenges offer a harbinger of the risks to come for critical water supplies elsewhere in the nation amid a changing climate. Planners and farmers are coming at the problem of saltwater intrusion with a desalination plant, an artificial rock barrier and groundwater pumps. Those who can't engineer their way out of the problem are left with a fervent hope that things will change. "We just try to hang on and hope the water quality gets better," said Bobby Costa, a farmer who has seen his cucumber yields go down by 25% this year compared to wetter years.

The Delta is the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas. It's home to endangered species such as chinook salmon and Delta smelt that require certain water flows, temperatures and salt mixes, as well as hundreds of square miles of farmland and millions of people who live, work and recreate in the region. Other estuaries such as the Chesapeake Bay and within the Everglades don't play as critical a role in directly supplying water for drinking and farming. But those estuaries are also at risk of creeping salt, causing problems for ecosystems, groundwater supplies and other needs.

The state has asked the federal government for permission to build two more barriers further north if the drought worsens, arguing it will be necessary to protect water supplies. In the longer term, the state wants to construct a massive tunnel that would move water around the Delta entirely, which officials say would make it easier to capture more during times of heavy rain and guard against the risks of this salt water intrusion. But advocates for the region worry it's just another solution that will leave the farmers, fish and people who rely on Delta water high and dry. While the barrier protects the pumps, it does little to help some interests within the Delta who rely on fresh water before it heads south.

Meanwhile in Antioch, a city of 115,000 people, officials are investing in desalination. Last year, things were so bad the city couldn't pull water from the river at all. The plant will be the state's first inland desalination plant for brackish surface water, said John Samuelson, the city engineer and director of public works.

Desalination plants are often controversial; earlier this year the state rejected a proposal in Orange County that would draw water from the ocean. But water in the Delta isn't as salty, so it takes less energy to make it fresh. Samuelson said other Bay Area cities are reaching out to Antioch to learn more about its effort as they consider their own options for stabilizing the water supply as climate risks grow.

"We just know that this problem is going to continue to get worse in the future," Samuelson said. "We want to make sure that we are being forward thinking and solving the problem today."

Major test of first possible Lyme vaccine in 20 years begins

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and SHELBY LUM yesterday



Robert Terwilliger, right, of Williamsburg, Pa., who is participating in a Lyme disease vaccine trial at the Altoona Center for Clinical Research, is injected with either the new vaccine or a placebo, by registered nurse Janae Roland, Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, in Duncansville, Pa. Lyme is a growing problem, with cases steadily rising and warming weather helping ticks expand their habitat. (AP Photo/Gary M. Baranec)

DUNCANSVILLE, Pa. (AP) — Researchers are seeking thousands of volunteers in the U.S. and Europe to test the first potential vaccine against Lyme disease in 20 years -- in hopes of better fighting the tick-borne threat. Lyme is a growing problem, with cases rising and warming weather helping ticks expand their habitat. While a vaccine for dogs has long been available, the only Lyme vaccine for humans was pulled off the U.S. market in 2002 from lack of demand, leaving people to rely on bug spray and tick checks.

Now Pfizer and French biotech Valneva are aiming to avoid previous pitfalls in developing a new vaccine to protect both adults and kids as young as 5 from the most common Lyme strains on two continents. “There wasn’t such a recognition, I think, of the severity of Lyme disease” and how many people it affects the last time around, Pfizer vaccine chief Annaliesa Anderson told The Associated Press.

Robert Terwilliger, an avid hunter and hiker, was first in line Friday when the study opened in central Pennsylvania. He’s seen lots of friends get Lyme and is tired of wondering if his next tick bite will make him sick. “It’s always a worry, you know? Especially when you’re sitting in a tree stand hunting and you feel something crawling on you,” said Terwilliger, 60, of Williamsburg, Pennsylvania. “You’ve got to be very, very cautious.”

Exactly how often Lyme disease strikes isn’t clear. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites insurance records suggesting 476,000 people are treated for Lyme in the U.S. each year. Pfizer’s Anderson put Europe’s yearly infections at about 130,000.

Black-legged ticks, also called deer ticks, carry Lyme-causing bacteria. The infection initially causes fatigue, fever and joint pain. Often -- but not always -- the first sign is a red, round bull’s-eye rash. Early antibiotic treatment is crucial, but it can be hard for people to tell if they were bitten by ticks, some as small as a pin. Untreated Lyme can cause severe arthritis and damage the heart and nervous system. Some people have lingering symptoms even after treatment. Most vaccines against other diseases work after people are exposed to a germ. The Lyme vaccine offers a different strategy — working a step earlier to block a tick bite from transmitting the infection, said Dr. Gary Wormser, a Lyme expert at New York Medical College who isn’t involved with the new research. How? It targets an “outer surface protein” of the Lyme bacterium called OspA that’s present in the tick’s gut. It’s estimated a tick must feed on someone for about 36 hours before the bacteria spreads to its victim. That delay gives time for antibodies the tick ingests from a vaccinated person’s blood to attack the germs right at the source. In small, early-stage studies, Pfizer and Valneva reported no safety problems and a good immune response. The newest study will test if the vaccine, called VLA15, really protects and is safe. The companies aim to recruit at least 6,000 people in Lyme-prone areas including the Northeast U.S. plus Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. They’ll receive three shots, either the vaccine or a placebo, between now and next spring’s tick season. A year later, they’ll get a single booster dose. “We’re really looking at something that’s a seasonal vaccine,” Anderson said, so people have high antibody levels during the months when ticks are most active. Volunteers can be as young as 5 and should be at high risk because they spend a lot of time in tick-infested areas, such as hikers, campers and hunters, said Dr. Alan Kivitz who heads one of the study sites at Altoona Center for Clinical Research in Duncansville, Pennsylvania. In his own practice, “not a single day goes by that someone either has a concern about Lyme disease, could possibly have Lyme disease,” Kivitz said. This new candidate is different from a previous Lyme vaccine that GlaxoSmithKline pulled off the market in 2002 amid controversy and low sales. With about 75% effectiveness, that old Lyme shot got a lukewarm endorsement from vaccine experts, wasn’t tested in children and drew unsubstantiated reports of joint-related side effects. While the new Pfizer-Valneva vaccine also targets the OspA protein, it’s engineered somewhat differently than its predecessor and also targets six Lyme strains in the U.S. and Europe instead of just one. The Pfizer study will span two tick seasons to get answers — but it’s not the only research into new ways to prevent Lyme. University of Massachusetts scientists are working on a vaccine alternative, shots of pre-made Lyme-fighting antibodies. And Yale University researchers are in early stages of designing a vaccine that recognizes a tick’s saliva — which in animal testing sparked a skin reaction that made it harder for ticks to hang on and feed. Since different tick species carry many diseases other than Lyme, ultimately “we’re all hoping for a tick-bite prevention vaccine,” Wormser said.



What we do

Our CEO Stuart Sopp founded Current with the belief that banking should be accessible and affordable for everyone. We are bringing premium financial services to everyone with a variety of modern lifestyles to help improve their financial outcomes.

The Current Core, our custom-built banking technology, makes this possible by providing greater stability, faster money and cost efficiencies that we pass on to our community of members.

<https://www.nerdwallet.com/reviews/banking/current>

Overall bank rating



Current

[LEARN MORE](#)

at Current, Deposits are FDIC Insured

- Checking ★★★★★
- Savings ★★★★★
- Banking experience ★★★☆☆
- Overdraft fees ★★★★★

4.0 NerdWallet rating

The bottom line:

Current is a neobank, a nonbank financial technology company that relies on a partner bank to provide FDIC insurance for customers' deposits. Accounts are accessed primarily through the Current mobile app. Current offers a rewards debit card, plus an interest rate of 4.00% on its Savings Pods. But there are limitations to that very high rate, and the bank has limited options for customer support.

Best for: Customers who are looking for a rewards debit card, plan to do most of their banking via mobile app and want a high savings rate despite the low limit of the Savings Pods.

Pros

- Stellar 4.00% APY on up to \$6,000.
- Cash-back rewards program.
- Well-rated mobile apps.
- No-fee withdrawals at more than 40,000 in-network Allpoint ATMs in the U.S.

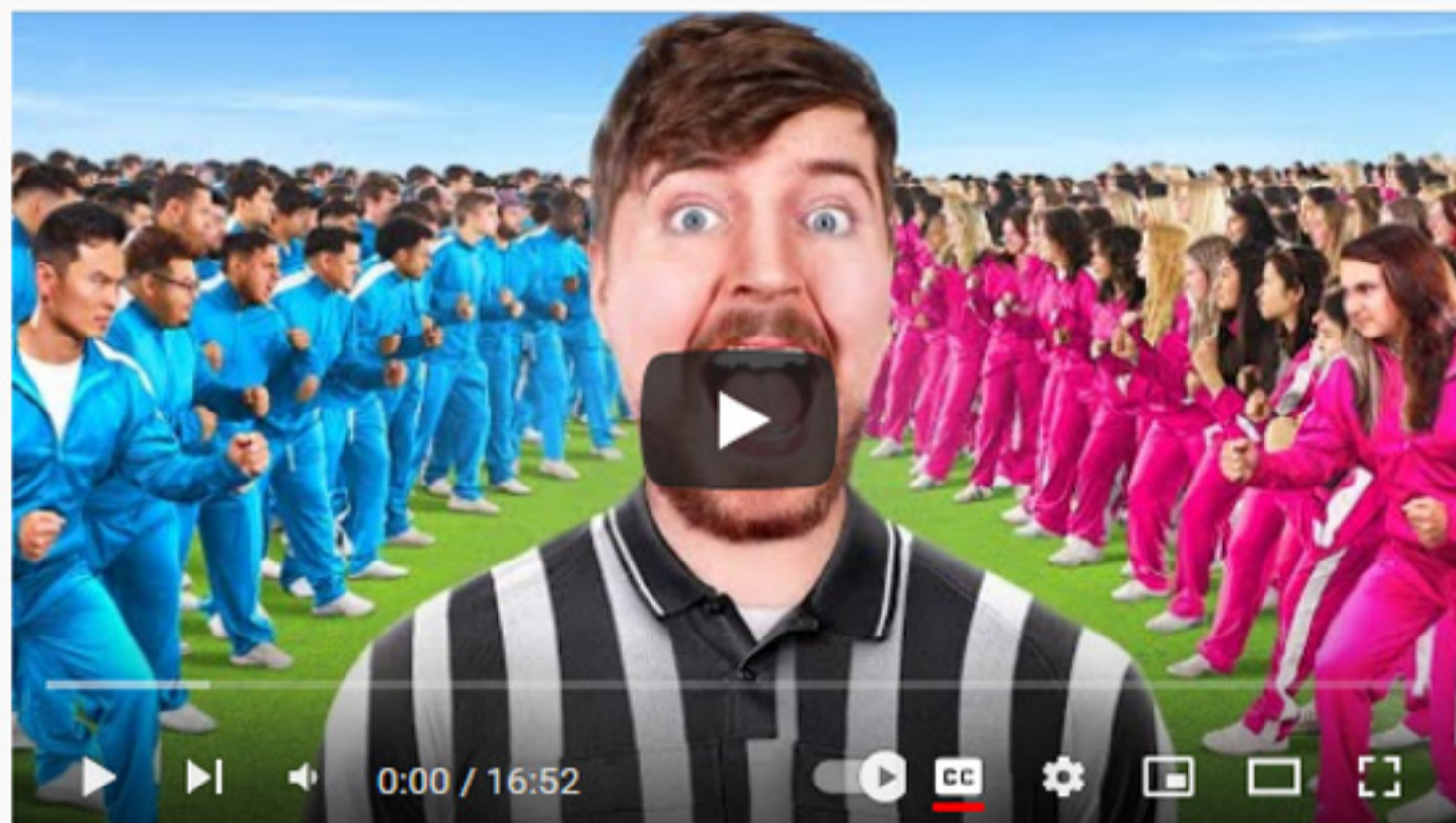
Cons

- No phone-based customer service.
- Depositing cash incurs a fee.



MrBeast 102M subscribers

Giving away \$25k on Current! Sign up and use my code "BEAST250" for a chance to win*: <https://www.current.com/beast250>



100 Girls Vs 100 Boys For \$500,000

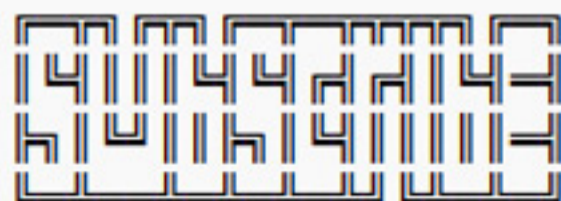
5 2.5M DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...

MrBeast ✓
102M subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Giving away \$25k on Current! Sign up and use my code "BEAST250" for a chance to win*: <https://www.current.com/beast250>

SUBSCRIBE OR I TAKE YOUR DOG



Text me @ +1 (917) 259-6364

I'm Hiring! - <https://www.mrbeastjobs.com/>

Order a beast burger 🍔 - <https://mrbeastburger.com>

Chocolate 🍫 Win a Tesla or be in a MrBeast video - Buy now ▶ feastables.com

MR BEAST x Current

\$25,000. 100 WINNERS. ONE COULD BE YOU.

MrBeast challenged his contestants to play to win, now it's your turn. Download the app and enter code **BEAST250** for a chance to win \$250 in our \$25k giveaway. See terms below.

Sign up in less than 2 minutes

Sign Up

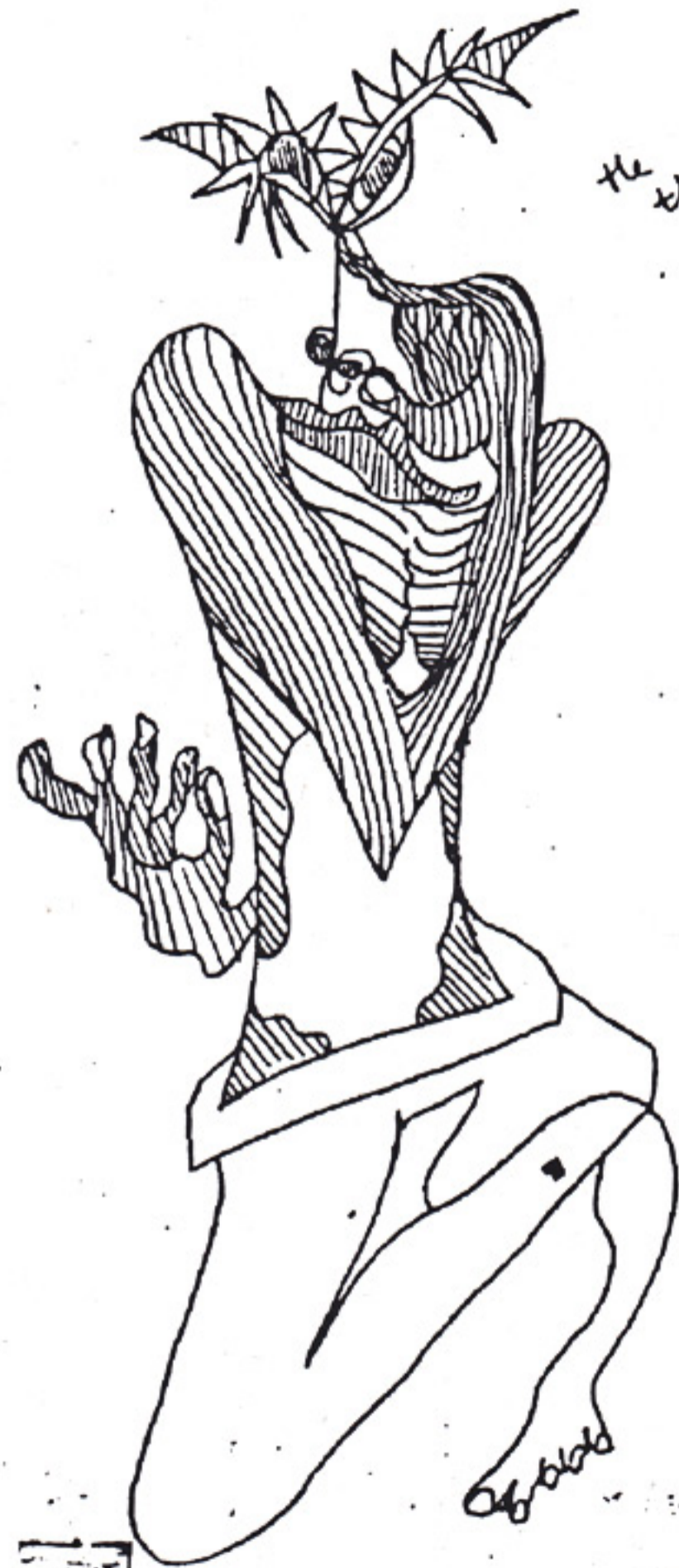
Current is a financial technology company, not a bank. Banking services provided by Choice Financial Group, Member FDIC.



AS SEEN IN



Letter 25



The Thinker

de daniello

An Open Letter to Tenant Union 13, Berkeley
an open letter to tenant union 13 Berkeley

i am a hippie, hobo, hermit
living on a below poverty income
by humility, good grace, mobility,
i didnt come to municipal Courtroom 3
in Berkeley to identify with the graffiti:
'The rich get richer & the poor get angry
aint we got fun'

there be a sense
of anger that need be explosive/
direct/decisive or not at all; the moral
need be impregnated to this cause/
to an irreversible end ("the spirit of '76")
i came to the trail of Tenant Union 13
without expectations:

('Try not doing what you did & see
if that keeps you from having to see
a judge.') Then why pay your landlord's
mortgage.

no one did say:
do as you will, be
HERE
quiet, TRANQUIL, serene

[OVER]

ORIGINAL: Tagerzine Cover

Taggerzine: Isle of Views: A Participatory Fanzine. Dan Landrum, Editor. Dan Diego, Calif

No. 6 ([1993]). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (34 pages). "Isle of Views: Interviews, Inte
fanzine. Make of it what you will." Contributions from various zine publishers, includin

No. 7 (n.d.). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (32 pages). "Isle of Views: A Participatory Fa
periodical. "I know enough to know that I don't know enough", hence TZ has NO EDITORIAL
pages, pure schlock or worse: pointless corporate fashion/image titillations and maniac
Contributions by Paul Weinman (USA), Janet Kuypers (USA), the editor, et al.

No. 8 (n.d.). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (40 pages). "As for 'Taggerzine,' I print 202
dated), just whenever I get around to it." Letter by Joolie Peeslee (aka Julie Peasley,

No. 9 (n.d.). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (38 pages). "A Participatory Fandom" with lett
Barbara Cooper (USA), Julie Peasley (aka Dyslexic, USA). R. Seth Friedman (USA), et al.

No. 10 (n.d.). Color and Black & White Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (38 pages). "The back
playing with me in the ZineZone™, you know, you like being acknowledged & appreciated o
er...almost anywhere. We, I've become a victim-of-my-own-success, Taggerzine has grown t
publication, but still it's bigger than my RealTime life can deal with...So it's all or
are) with whom I'm having so much fun being pen-pals, or making FunBooks™, or mail-art,
Taggerzine Specials with your friends...At the height of my anonymous nobodys all of a s
just plain bulk mail than I can handle."

No. 11 (nod.). Color and Black & White Computer Print and rubber Stamps.. 11"x4 1/4". (2

No. 12 (n.d.). Color and Black & White Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (16 pages). "...this
and be disassembled, policy is policy...so this is the last TZ issue you'll be seeing in
c(a)me out in color John Held jr. said: 'I've seen the future, and it is Taggerzine.'" We
surveys in "Taggerzine Survey Questions."

No. 13 (n.d.). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (12 pages). "The very last issue ever...promi
friend." Survey results.

No. 16 ([1994]). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (32 pages). "Handy Decoder Key to the Three
profiles Julie Shapiro (aka Julie Atomic, USA), Julee-Peeslee (USA) and Lorraine Pie (U
address list.

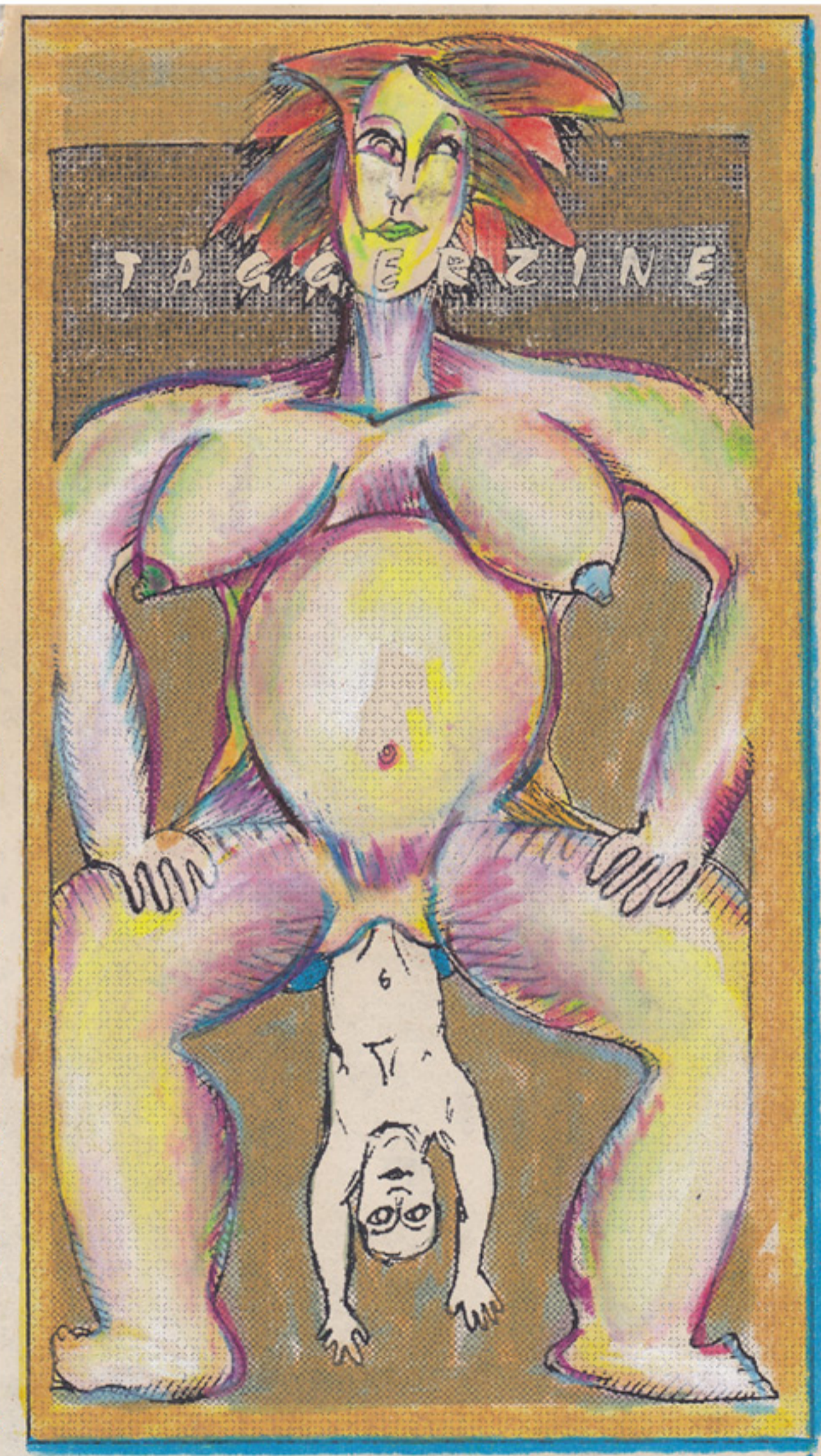
No. 22 (n.d.). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (40 pages). Mail Artists in address list inc
(aka Pag-hat the Rat-girl, USA), Karen Switzer (USA), et al.

Special Edition (n.d.). Computer Print. 11"x4 1/4". (24 pages). "Paul Weinman: A Tagger
dedicated to 'Paul Weinman-his life, his works.' Few people have the courage to stand up
still are willing to continually put themselves on the line, at risk to express what the
him, but you owe it to yourself to hear his voice. Someday you too may need to be heard.

(n.d.). Computer Print, Rubber Stamps and Mixed Media. 11"x4 1/4". (36 pages). Cut and k
participatory fanzine. Only a small number (202)...are printed and a smaller number (22)

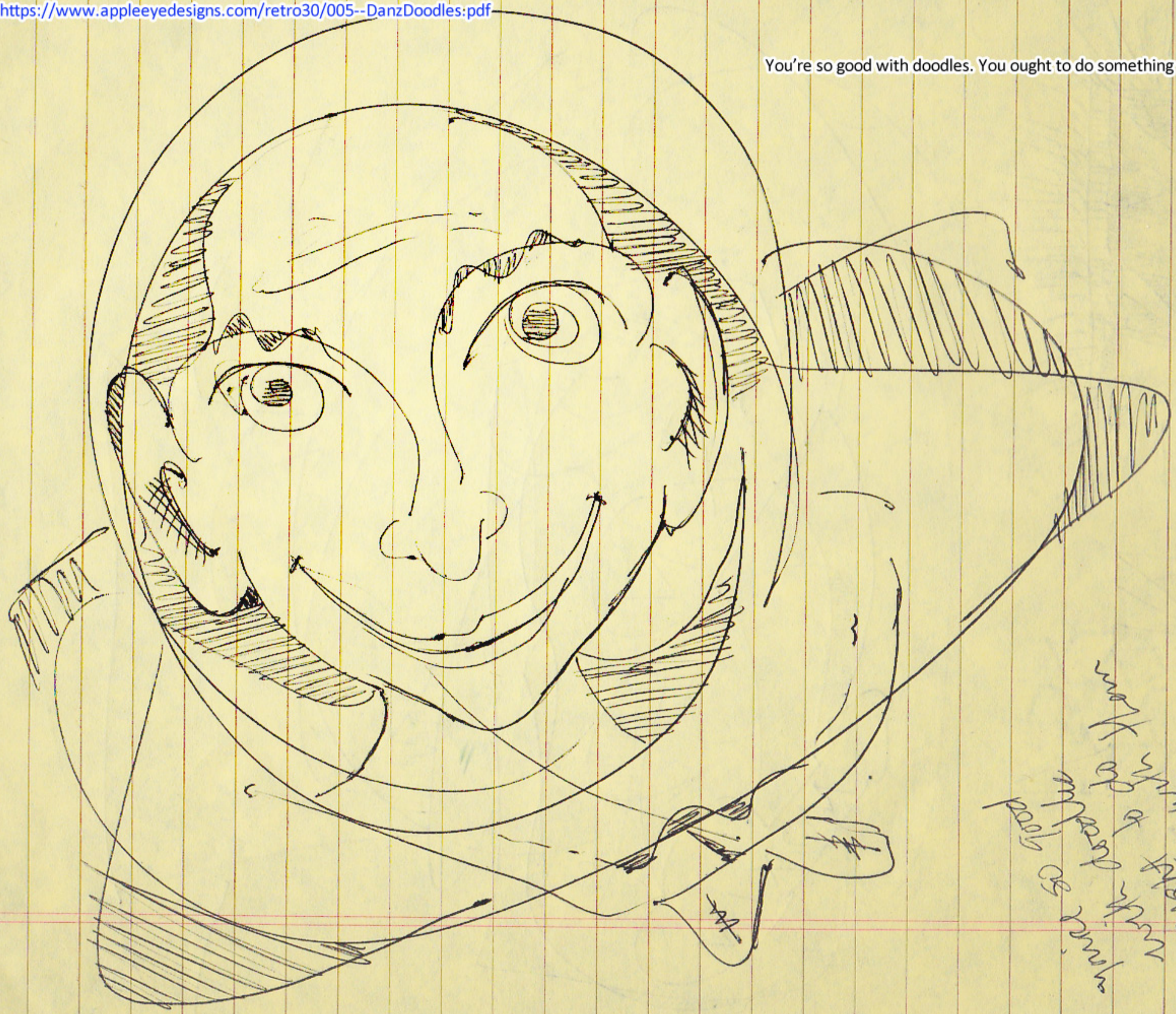
Taggerzine Specials. Dan Landrum, Editor. San Diego, California. (1994).

(n.d.). Computer Print. 8 1/2"x5 1/2". (20 pages). "Pesto Armageddon (end of the world e



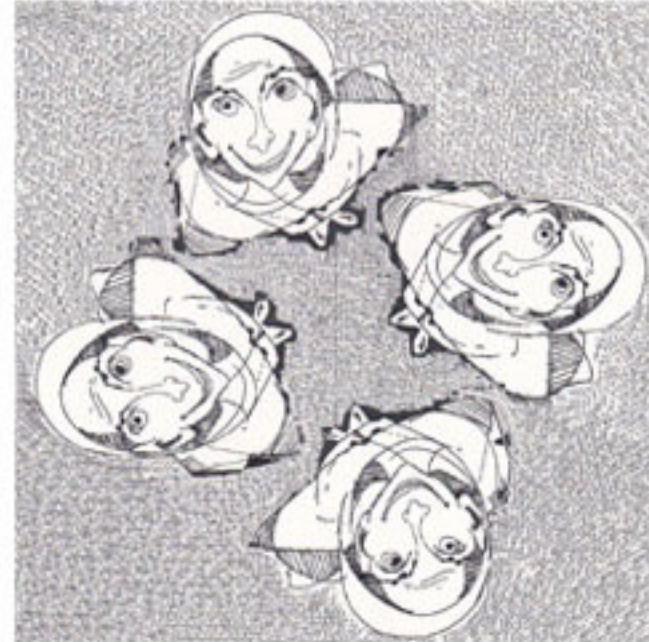
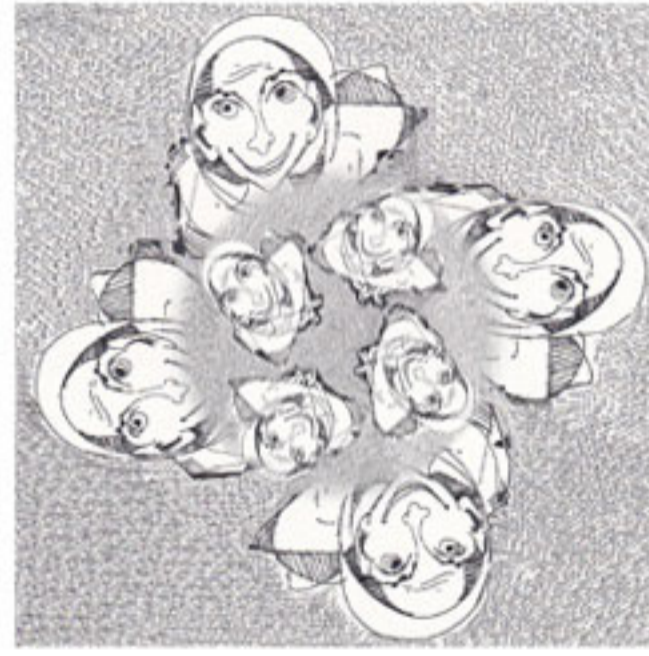
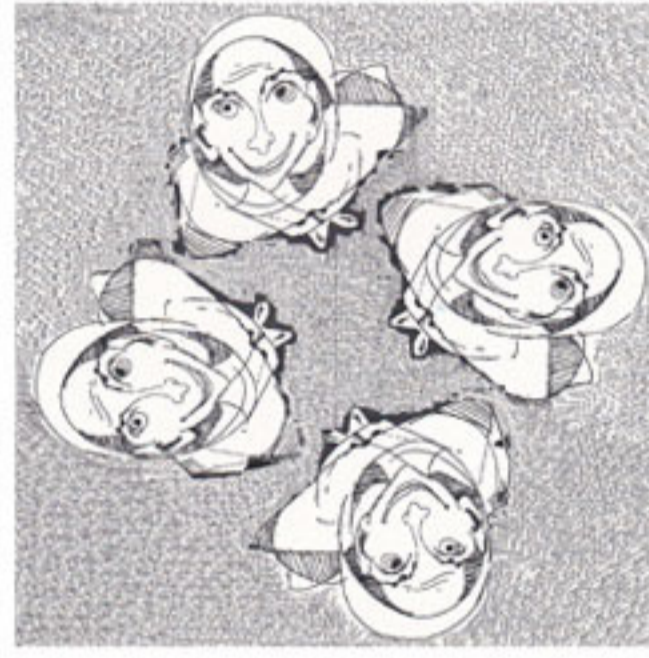
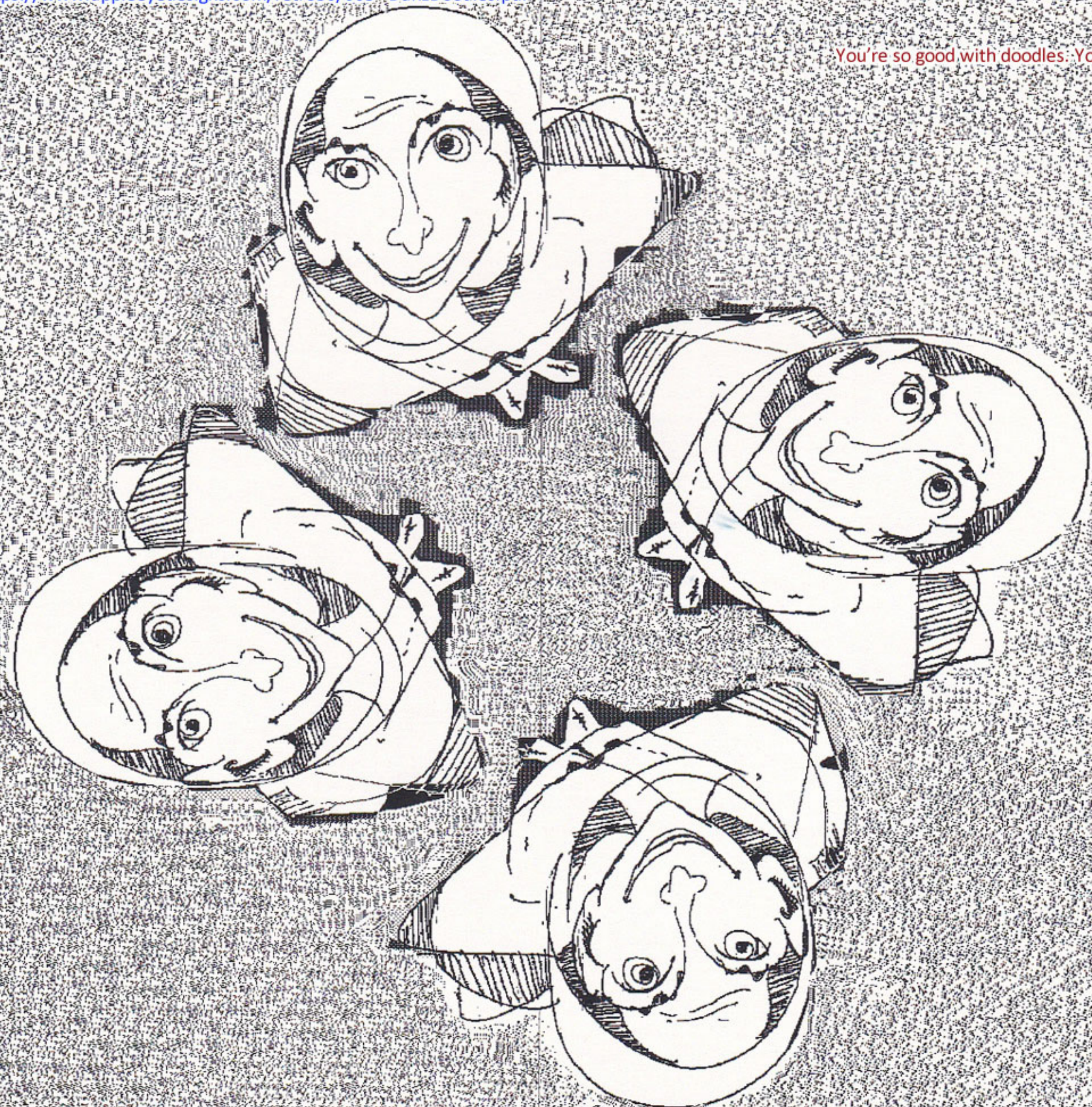
f the
not
luding
t
ho you
on
ld.
maker
first
past
ado,"
"
Girl
r
th
a
SA).

You're so good with doodles. You ought to do something with them.

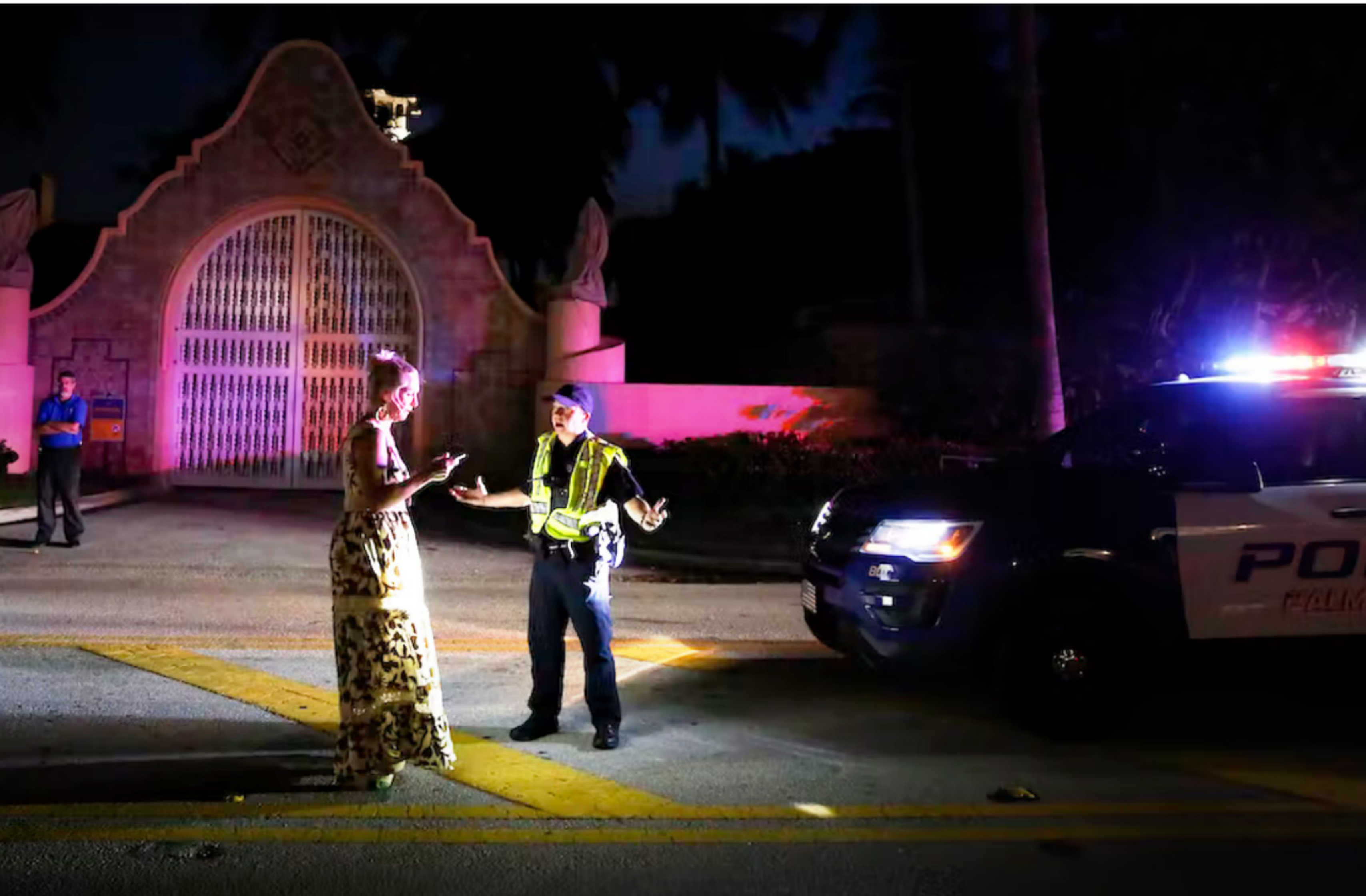


you ought to
 do something
 with them
 you're so good
 with doodles

You're so good with doodles. You ought to do something with them.

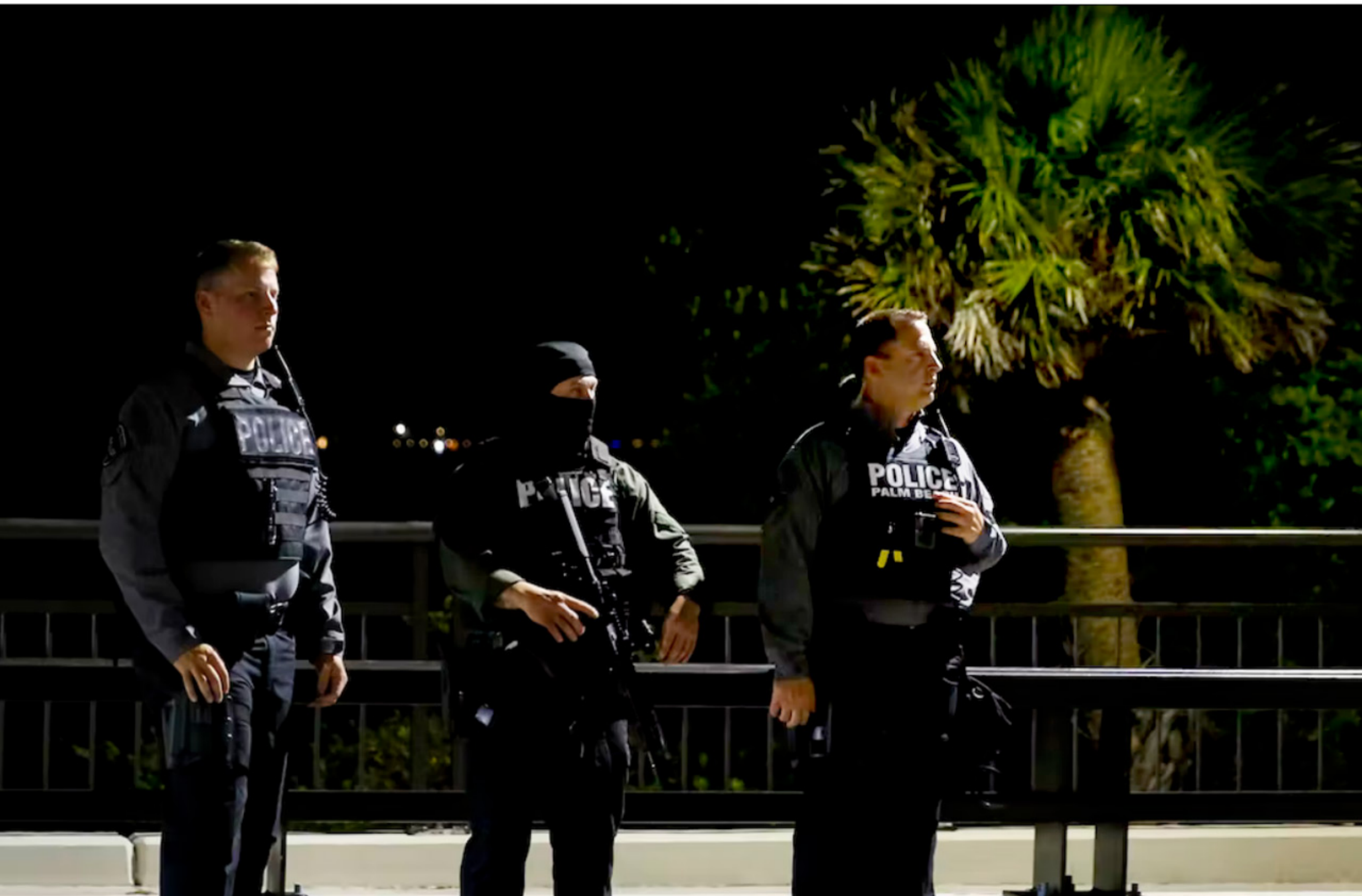


The FBI search of former President Donald Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, on Aug. 8, 2022, has sparked a vigorous outcry from Trump and his allies. The details of the search are not clear, but reporting by The New York Times confirms that the search was "at least in part" for presidential records that Trump had taken from the White House and which were being sought by the National Archives and Records Administration.

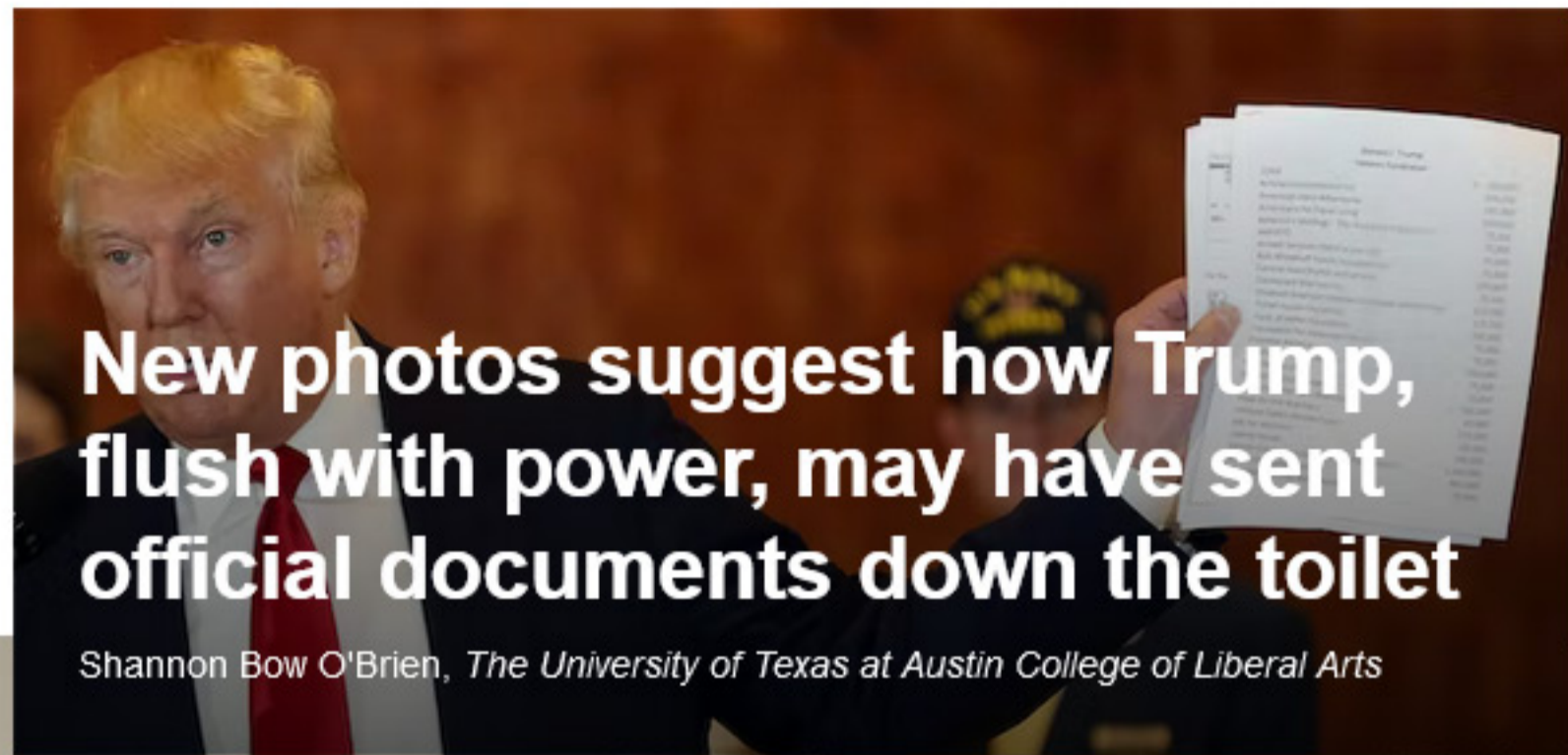


The gate to former President Donald Trump's home at Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., on Aug. 8, 2022.

The FBI's raid of former President Donald Trump's estate on Aug. 8, 2022, caught Trump by surprise – and prompted immediate speculation about exactly why and how the law enforcement agency secured a search warrant.



Palm Beach police officers stand near the Florida home of former President Donald Trump on Aug. 8, 2022.



New photos suggest how Trump, flush with power, may have sent official documents down the toilet

Shannon Bow O'Brien, *The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts*

Aug 8, 2022 - Politics & Policy

Exclusive photos: Trump's telltale toilet

 Mike Allen, author of [Axios AM](#)

Maggie Haberman — who obtained the photos recently — shared them with us ahead of the Oct. 4 publication of her book, *"Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America."* A Trump White House source tells her the photo on the left shows a commode in the White House. The photo on the right is from an overseas trip, according to the source. The photos show scraps of paper with what Haberman says is Trump's handwriting on it, sitting at the bottom of the toilet bowl.



Which lesson should the technology field take from architecture: modernist efficiency or 'living structure'?

How 'living architecture' could help the world avoid a soul-deadening digital future

Published: August 9, 2022 8.17am EDT

Tim Gorichanaz, Drexel University



The Giant Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an, China. Alexander considered this building a paragon of living structure, with its beautiful scale, inner calm and connectedness to its setting. Alex Kwok/Wikimedia



Christopher Alexander in 2012. Michaelmeahffy/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

Tech's wear on humanity

The problems with technology are myriad and diffuse, and widely studied and reported: from short attention spans and tech neck to clickbait and AI bias to trolling and shaming to conspiracy theories and misinformation.

A seed of hope lies in the very place where design patterns originated: the work of Christopher Alexander. Alexander dedicated his life to understanding what makes an environment good for humans – good in a deep, moral sense – and how designers might create structures that are likewise good.

Much modern architecture is inert and makes people feel dead inside. It may be sleek and intellectual – it may even win awards – but it does not help generate a feeling of life within its occupants. What went wrong, and how might architecture correct its course?

In "The Nature of Order," Alexander defined not only his theory of living structure, but also a process for creating such structure. In short, this process involves democratic participation and springs from the bottom up in an evolving progression incorporating the 15 qualities of living structure. The end result isn't known ahead of time – it's adapted along the way. The term "organic" comes to mind, and this is appropriate, because nature almost invariably creates living structure.

Beginning with his design patterns, he discovered that the designs that stirred up the most feeling in people, what he called living structure, shared certain qualities. This wasn't just a hunch, but a testable empirical theory, one that he validated and refined from the late 1970s until the turn of the century. He identified 15 qualities, each with a technical definition and many examples.

The qualities are:

- Levels of scale
- Strong centers
- Boundaries
- Alternating repetition
- Positive space
- Good shape
- Local symmetries
- Deep interlocking and ambiguity
- Contrast gradients
- Roughness
- Echoes
- The void
- Simplicity and inner calm
- Not separateness

As Alexander writes, living structure is not just pleasant and energizing, though it is also those. Living structure reaches into humans at a transcendent level – connecting people with themselves and with one another – with all humans across centuries and cultures and climates.



Christopher Alexander discusses his work on NPR

8,613 views • Feb 9, 2015

👍 152 ...



guyjohn59
9.5K subscribers

Excerpted from Alexander's 2005 interview with NPR's Jennifer Ludden about his four-volume tome, *The Nature of Order: An Essay on the Art of Building and the Nature of the Universe*.

- 2:19 windows repeat but they will be slightly
- 2:22 different according to where they are
- 2:24 according to the view that one sees from
- 2:26 inside each room and the balance between
- 2:28 the repetition and the uniqueness of
- 2:30 every spot then makes a building well

if we look at a whole series of places in a city in a house in a garden on a hillside we all have the experience in one fashion or another that it means something to be in that place I mean it could be just the sun shining on a blackberry bush and there's a little bit of wild grass down below it we're standing there picking blackberries let's say and the place makes us feel alive perhaps what's unusual about what I've done is that I've said look this is of one most important qualities that exists in the world and it is not currently identified as an important quality and in fact the current line of thinking in architecture would reject the idea that there is such a thing because architects too often really want to be free to kind of push their own thing and make a statement of some sort so they're not paying attention to this kind of life suppose you have the repetition of concrete panels in the facade of a big building or the repetition of window units in a housing development and so on now

if you look at let's say the leaves on a tree obviously in one sense they're all the same and in another sense equally important they're all different because each one has essentially got the same generative scheme which will produce another oak leaf and now another oak leaf and another oak leaf on that tree but each one is also endowed with tremendous adaptive capacity so that each leaf fits exactly where it is on that twig where it is in relationship to the sun's direction so all of this is even an ordinary tree with leaves that are not surprising to us nourishes us and fills us with Wonder and with a gratefulness for our own existence in our own self because all of that very subtle adaptation is visible there at the same time that the repetition is going on and if I'm clever enough to make each window pay attention to its location in the building I will then get something where the windows repeat but they will be slightly different according to where they are according to the view that one sees from inside each room and ...

- 2:33 that is a living place if it has the
- 2:37 dead hand of repetition of pure factory
- 2:39 repetition it is not connected to its
- 2:42 surroundings it doesn't respect the
- 2:44 people in the building it's just a bunch
- 2:46 of carbon copies stuck side by side by

the balance between the repetition and the uniqueness of every spot then makes a building well, that is a living place. if it has the dead hand of repetition of pure factory repetition it is not connected to its surroundings it doesn't respect the people in the building it's just a bunch of carbon copies stuck side by side by side by side



Many people attribute their coffee drinking to the need to feel more alert, but research shows that habit is just as big a driver behind caffeine consumption. Westend61/Getty Images

To break unhealthy habits, stop obsessing over willpower – two behavioral scientists explain why routines matter more than conscious choices

Published: August 9, 2022 8.17am EDT

Asaf Mazar, University of Pennsylvania, Wendy Wood, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

As behavioral scientists, we've learned that people often repeat everyday behaviors out of habit. If you regularly drink coffee, you likely do so automatically as part of your habitual routine – not just out of tiredness. But habit just doesn't feel like a good explanation – it's unsatisfying to say that we do something just because it's what we're used to doing. Instead, we concoct more compelling explanations, like saying we drink coffee to ease our morning fog. This reluctance means that we fail to recognize many habits, even as they permeate our daily lives.

Unpacking what lies behind habits To test whether people underestimate the role that habit plays in their life, we asked more than 100 coffee drinkers what they think drives their coffee consumption. They estimated that tiredness was about twice as important as habit in driving them to drink coffee. To benchmark

these assumptions against reality, we then tracked these people's coffee drinking and fatigue over the course of one week. The actual results starkly diverged from our research participants' explanations. Yes, they were somewhat more likely to drink coffee when tired – as would be expected – but we found that habit was an equally strong influence. In other words, people wildly overestimated the role of tiredness and underestimated the role of habit. Habits, it seems, aren't considered much of an explanation. We then replicated this finding in a second study with a behavior that people might consider a "bad" habit – failing to help in response to a stranger's request. People still overlooked habit and assumed that their reluctance to proffer help was due to their mood at the time. The gap between the actual and perceived role of habit in our lives matters. And this gap is key to understanding why people often struggle to change repeated behaviors. If you believe that you drink coffee because you are tired, then you might try to reduce coffee drinking by going to bed early. But ultimately you'd be barking up the wrong tree – your habit would still be there in the morning.

Why habits are surprisingly difficult to change: The reason that habits can be so difficult to overcome is that they are not fully under our control. Of course, most of us can control a single instance of a habit, such as by refusing a cup of coffee this time or taking the time to offer directions to a lost tourist. We exert willpower and just push through. But consistently reining in a habit is fiendishly difficult.

It's not just willpower: American culture is partly responsible for the tendency to overlook habits. Compared with residents of other developed nations, Americans are more likely to say that they control their success in life. Accordingly, when asked what stops them from making healthy lifestyle changes, Americans commonly cite a lack of willpower. Granted, willpower is useful in the short term, as we muster the motivation to, for example, sign up for a gym membership or start a diet. **But research shows that, surprisingly, people who are more successful at achieving long-term goals exert – if anything – less willpower in their day-to-day lives. This makes sense: As explained above, over time, willpower fades and habits prevail.** *If the answer isn't willpower, then what is the key to controlling habits?* Changing habits begins with the environments that support them. Research shows that leveraging the cues that trigger habits in the first place can be incredibly effective. For example, reducing the visibility of cigarette packs in stores has curbed cigarette purchases. Another path to habit change involves friction: in other words, making it difficult to act on undesirable habits and easy to act on desirable ones. For example, one study found that recycling increased after recycle bins were placed right next to trash cans – which people were already using – versus just 12 feet away. Effectively changing behavior starts with recognizing that a great deal of behavior is habitual. Habits keep us repeating unwanted behaviors but also desirable ones, even if just enjoying a good-tasting morning brew.

Steve Holett surveys the aftermath of the Elmo 2 Fire at his property, where he had spent the last 18 months building a home.



Homeowners insurance isn't available until a home is built. They said they were able to secure only builders risk insurance. "It's a weird, small policy — it covers products, with none of my 18 months of labor," Steve said. "It's a third, at most, of our savings that it's going to cover." They had a small land loan remaining, so paired with their construction loan, he said, the insurance money is gone. And they still have to repurchase all the household items they use on a daily basis.

Lisa Holett

NATIONAL

This Montana couple built their dream home, only to have it burn down in minutes

After 18 months of building, the Holetts were nearly set to move into their dream home in Dayton, Mont. It took their life savings to build the cabin. It took one wildfire to burn it down in minutes.

After 18 months of building, Lisa and Steve Holett were nearly ready to move into their dream home in Dayton, Montana. It had taken their life savings to build the four-bedroom cabin, set on a hill above Flathead Lake. It took one wildfire to burn it to the ground in minutes.

The Elmo 2 Fire has overtaken 21,349 acres since July 29, leaving behind a path of devastation. Last week, 150 residences were evacuated, and four primary residences are confirmed to have burned down.

On Aug. 1, multiple people told the Holetts that the way the fire was burning, it wouldn't reach their house. They left to run some errands.

On their way back, the couple saw black smoke rising from the area of their property. The two raced to their house. The sheriff followed them and told them they had five minutes before they needed to leave again. With the help of the sheriff, the Holetts said, they grabbed little more than their dogs, their passports, Lisa's work computer and a handful of clothing from a shed and the camper they were living in while the house was being built. Both the camper and shed were also destroyed.

Ten minutes after they left, Lisa said, they watched as their house went up in flames.



Lisa and Steve Holett of Dayton, Mont.



Steve Holett worked 12 to 15 hours a day to build their home for retirement.

Why falling gas prices are not taking the sting out of inflation

August 10, 2022 · 5:22 AM ET



A driver pumps gas at a Gulf gas station in Lynnfield, Mass., on July 19. Gasoline prices are dropping, which is helping bring down inflation. But the cost of many other things are still climbing.

Joseph Prezioso/AFP via Getty Images

Google

gas prices near me



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| A 76
Gas station
3252 University Ave ·
Open 24 hours
🛢️ \$5.40/Regular | B ARCO
Gas station
3296 El Cajon Blvd ·
Open 24 hours
🛢️ \$5.50/Regular | C Speedway
Gas station
3255 University Ave ·
Open 24 hours
🛢️ \$5.30/Regular |
|---|--|---|

When it comes to inflation, the good news is that gas prices are dropping. The bad news is that other costs continue to climb faster than wages, and that's putting a strain on many family budgets across the country. The Labor Department is set to report Wednesday on consumer prices for July. **Forecasters expect the annual inflation rate will be somewhat lower than the 9.1% figure recorded in June.** A big reason for the expected decline is that gasoline prices have fallen sharply in recent weeks. **AAA said the average price of gasoline nationwide on Wednesday was \$4.01 per gallon,** still higher than last year, but well below the record high of \$5.01 on June 14. While that's some relief, Americans are still feeling squeezed by higher prices.

Housing costs are a growing factor behind inflation. Rising rents and home prices are reflected only gradually in the Labor Department data, and those costs tend to be more persistent than volatile food and energy prices. Forecasters say core inflation, which excludes food and energy costs, likely increased last month. "That's moving in the wrong direction for the Federal Reserve," says Diane Swonk, chief economist for KPMG. "We do see some things coming down in price out there and that's great. But the other shoe to drop is the core inflation number."

Average wages in July were up 5.2% from a year ago — well short of the inflation rate.



LOCAL

These San Diego areas asked to reduce water usage until further notice

by: [Hope Sloop](#)

Posted: Aug 8, 2022 / 01:36 PM PDT

Updated: Aug 9, 2022 / 10:30 AM PDT

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is asking residents in several neighborhoods to reduce their water usage until further notice, officials said Monday morning.

The city made the request due to low water pressure issues following a large water transmission line break that occurred Saturday morning in the 5400 block of Governor Drive, according to a press release from the City of San Diego.

The neighborhoods affected by the low water pressure include:

- Bay Park
- Clairemont
- Kearny Mesa
- Linda Vista
- Tierrasanta

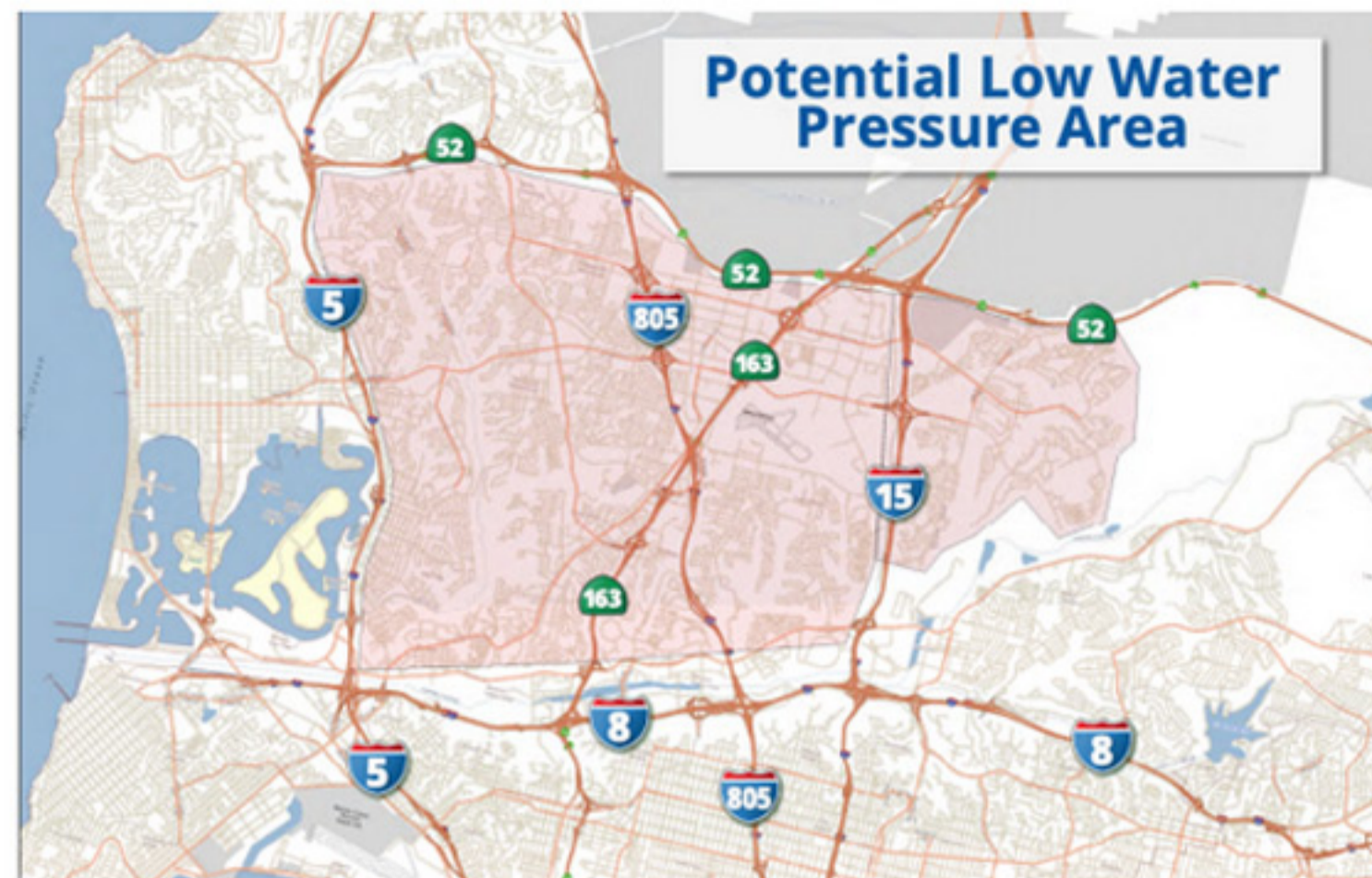


Hope Sloop ✓

@Hopesloop

Digital Producer with @Fox5SanDiego. Television watcher and pop culture enthusiast. CLE born and raised. All views & opinions expressed are my own.

1,730 Following 992 Followers



Reduced water usage advisory issued (City of San Diego)

Neighborhoods that fall inside of the zone highlighted above are asked to use water sparingly, and specifically for only critical needs such as cooking and drinking. Other uses, such as laundry and landscaping, should be postponed until the request has been lifted.

Roughly 600 residents in Tierrasanta are currently under a **boil water notice** due to the leak as crews work to repair the damaged water line. Full service is expected to resume by August 12, City of San Diego officials said in a release Monday.

| **Boil water notice issued for parts of Tierrasanta** ▶

The City of San Diego’s Public Utilities Department will share regular updates on the situation. You can click [HERE](#) for more information. <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-utilities/customer-service>

China withdraws promise not to send troops to Taiwan if it takes control of island

By Yew Lun Tian

3 minute read



Troops in military vehicles take part in the military parade marking the 70th founding anniversary of People's Republic of China, on its National Day in Beijing, China October 1, 2019. REUTERS/Thomas Peter

BEIJING, Aug 10 (Reuters) - China has withdrawn a promise not to send troops or administrators to Taiwan if it takes control of the island, an official document showed on Wednesday, signalling a decision by President Xi Jinping to grant less autonomy than previously offered. China's white paper on its position on self-ruled Taiwan follows days of unprecedented Chinese military exercises near the island, which Beijing claims as its territory, in protest against U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last week. [read more](https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-extends-military-drills-around-taiwan-after-pelosi-visit-2022-08-10/)

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-extends-military-drills-around-taiwan-after-pelosi-visit-2022-08-10/>

China had said in two previous white papers on Taiwan, in 1993 and 2000, that it "will not send troops or administrative personnel to be based in Taiwan" after achieving what Beijing terms "reunification". That line, meant to assure Taiwan it would enjoy autonomy after becoming a special administrative region of China, did not appear in the latest white paper.

China's ruling Communist Party had proposed that Taiwan could return to its rule under a "one country, two systems" model, similar to the formula under which the former British colony of Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997. That would offer some autonomy to democratically ruled Taiwan to partially preserve its social and political systems.

All mainstream Taiwanese political parties have rejected the "one country, two systems" proposal and it enjoys almost no public support according to opinion polls. Taiwan's government says only the island's people can decide their future. A line in the 2000 white paper that said "anything can be negotiated" as long as Taiwan accepts that there is only one China and does not seek independence, is also missing from the latest white paper.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council condemned the white paper, saying it was "full of lies of wishful thinking and disregarded the facts" and that the Republic of China - Taiwan's official name - was a sovereign state. "Only Taiwan's 23 million people have the right to decide on the future of Taiwan, and they will never accept an outcome set by an autocratic regime."

The updated white paper is called "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era". The "new era" is a term commonly associated with Xi's rule. Xi is expected to secure a third term at a Communist Party congress later this year.

Taiwan has lived under the threat of Chinese invasion since 1949, when the defeated Republic of China government fled to the island after Mao Zedong's Communist Party won a civil war.



1:54: one of the the beauties of AI is that you actually have the ability to program computers with judgment and with reasoning and with sort of nuanced understanding of the world and so you can have an ai system look at an image and tell you what's in the image or listen to an audio snippet and understand what's being said and it is sort of this incredible enabler for what computers can do or the power of computing and in general i think we've already seen sort of over the past many decades what the power of computers and computing and mobile phones and all that stuff has been on umanity and i think ai and machine learning has a huge opportunity to do the same.

The New Youngest Self-Made Billionaire In The World Is A 25-Year-Old College Dropout | Forbes

1. : thumbs up 41K DISLIKE SHARE CLIP SAVE ...

F Forbes 1.27M subscribers

When Massachusetts Institute of Technology dropout Alexandr Wang made the Forbes 30 Under 30 Enterprise Technology list in 2018, his startup Scale used artificial intelligence to begin automating tasks like image recognition and audio transcription. Back then, its customers included GM Cruise, Alphabet, Uber, P&G and others

Now Wang, 25, is the youngest self-made billionaire. And while he still partners with buzzy companies, today he's got \$350 million in government defense contracts. This has helped Scale hit a \$7.3 billion valuation, and give Wang a \$1 billion net worth (as he owns 15% of the company).

Scale's technology analyzes satellite images much faster than human analysts to determine how much damage Russian bombs are causing in Ukraine. It's useful not just for the military. More than 300 companies, including General Motors and Flexport, use Scale, which Wang started when he was 19, to help them pan gold from rivers of raw information—millions of shipping documents, say, or raw footage from self-driving cars. "Every industry is sitting on huge amounts of data," Wang says, who appeared on the Forbes Under 30 list in 2018. "Our goal is to help them unlock the potential of the data and supercharge their businesses with AI."

Read the full story on Forbes:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/colehorton/2022/05/25/the-new-youngest-self-made-billionaire-in-the-world-is-a-25-year-old-college-dropout/>



Joe Biden and Donald Trump supporters, like these two, are more likely to be polarized by TV news than online echo chambers

Don't be too quick to blame social media for America's polarization – cable news has a bigger effect, study finds

Published: August 10, 2022 8.18am EDT

▼ [Homa Hosseinmardi](#), *University of Pennsylvania*

The past two election cycles have seen an explosion of attention given to “echo chambers,” or communities where a narrow set of views makes people less likely to challenge their own opinions. Much of this concern has focused on the rise of social media, which has radically transformed the information ecosystem. However, when scientists investigated social media echo chambers, they found surprisingly little evidence of them on a large scale – or at least none on a scale large enough to warrant the growing concerns. And yet, selective exposure to news does increase polarization. This suggested that these studies missed part of the picture of Americans’ news consumption patterns. Crucially, they did not factor in a major component of the average American’s experience of news: television. To fill in this gap, I and a group of researchers from Stanford University, the University of Pennsylvania and Microsoft Research tracked the TV news consumption habits of tens of thousands of American adults each month from 2016 through 2019. We discovered four aspects of news consumption that, when taken together, paint an unsettling picture of the TV news ecosystem.

TV trumps online: We first measured just how politically siloed American news consumers really are across TV and the web. Averaging over the four years of our observations, we found that roughly 17% of Americans are politically polarized – 8.7% to the left and 8.4% to the right – based on their TV news consumption. That’s three to four times higher than the average percentage of Americans polarized by online news.

Moreover, the percentage of Americans polarized via TV ranged as high as 23% at its peak in November 2016, the month in which Donald Trump was elected president. A second spike occurred in the months leading into December 2018, following the “blue wave” midterm elections in which a record number of Democratic campaign ads were aired on TV. The timing of these two spikes suggests a clear connection between content choices and events in the political arena.

Staying in TV echo chambers: Besides being more politically siloed on average, our research found that TV news consumers are much more likely than web consumers to maintain the same partisan news diets over time: after six months, left-leaning TV audiences are 10 times more likely to remain segregated than left-leaning online audiences, and right-leaning audiences are 4.5 times more likely than their online counterparts. While these figures may seem intimidating, it is important to keep in mind that even among TV viewers, about 70% of right-leaning viewers and about 80% of left-leaning viewers do switch their news diets within six months. To the extent that long-lasting echo chambers do exist, then, they include only about 4% of the population.

Narrow TV diets: Partisan segregation among TV audiences goes even further than left- and right-leaning sources, we found. We identified seven broad buckets of TV news sources, then used these archetypes to determine what a typical unvaried TV news diet really looks like. We found that, compared to online audiences, partisan TV news consumers tend not to stray too far from their narrow sets of preferred news sources. For example, most Americans who consume mostly MSNBC rarely consume news from any other source besides CNN. Similarly, most Americans who consume mostly Fox News Channel do not venture beyond that network at all. This finding contrasts with data from online news consumers, who still receive sizable amounts of news from outside their main archetype.

Distilling partisanship: Finally, we found an imbalance between partisan TV news channels and the broader TV news environment. Our observations revealed that Americans are turning away from national TV news generally in substantial numbers – and crucially, this exodus is more from centrist news buckets than from left- or right-leaning ones. Within the remaining TV news audience, we found movement from broadcast news to cable news, trending toward MSNBC and Fox News. Together, these trends reveal a counterintuitive finding: Although the overall TV news audience is shrinking, the partisan TV news audience is growing. This means that the audience as a whole is in the process of being “distilled” – remaining TV viewers are growing increasingly partisan, and the partisan proportion of TV news consumers is on the rise.

Why it matters: Exposure to opposing views is critical for functional democratic processes. It allows for self-reflection and tempers hostility toward political outgroups, whereas only interacting with similar views in political echo chambers makes people more entrenched in their own opinions. If echo chambers truly are as widespread as recent attention has made them out to be, it can have major consequences for the health of democracy.

Our findings suggest that television – not the web – is the top driver of partisan audience segregation among Americans. It is important to note that the vast majority of Americans still consume relatively balanced news diets.

However, given that the partisan TV news audience alone consumes more minutes of news than the entire online news audience, it may be worth devoting more attention to this huge and increasingly politicized part of the information ecosystem.

China-US tensions: how global trade began splitting into two blocs

Published: August 9, 2022 7.23am EDT

ManMohan S Sodhi, City, University of London, Christopher S. Tang, University of California, Los Angeles



China's show of strength over Taiwan being transmitted live in Beijing. EPA

Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has elicited a strong response from China: three days of simulated attack on Taiwan with further drills announced, plus a withdrawal from critical ongoing conversations with the US on climate change and the military. This strong reaction was predictable. President Xi had earlier warned President Biden not "to play with fire". Of course, if Pelosi's visit hadn't gone ahead, the Biden administration would have faced a strong reaction from both parties in Congress for not standing up to China's threat to Taiwan or human rights issues regarding Tibet and Xinjiang, not to mention Hong Kong. *So where does it leave trade between the world's two leading powers?*

How business trumped ideology: Consider the not-too-distant past. The US supported the Republic of China against Japan in the Pacific war of 1941-45. When the Chinese leadership fled to Taiwan in 1949 following the victory of Mao Zedong's communists in the Chinese civil war, Washington continued to recognise the exiled regime as China's legitimate government, blocking the People's Republic of China (PRC) from joining the United Nations. This shifted in 1972 following President Nixon's historic visit to China (in a move to isolate the Soviets). The US now recognised the PRC as China's sole government and accepted its One China policy. It downgraded its Taiwan relations to merely informal, while affirming a peaceful settlement to the mainland communists' claim that this was a breakaway province that had to be assimilated. This opened US-China trade, ending a US trade embargo in place since the 1940s. Economic ties proliferated in the 1980s under Mao's eventual successor, Deng Xiaoping, helping the Chinese economy to multiply while the US enjoyed lower consumer prices and a stronger stock market. Western manufacturing firms either outsourced to Chinese firms or set up operations themselves. They benefited from cheaper production and – for those outsourcing – not having to own factories or deal with labour issues. In turn, the Chinese gained tremendous manufacturing capability. As China's middle class grew wealthier, the country became a major target consumer market for US firms such as Apple and GM. The Chinese authorities insisted this was done through local partner firms, transferring technology in the process and further enhancing the nation's manufacturing know-how.

The growing Chinese threat: China and the US captured more than half the growth in GDP across the world from 1980 to 2020. US GDP grew nearly five times from US\$4.4 trillion (£3.6 trillion) to US\$20.9 trillion (£17.3 trillion) in today's money, while China's grew from US\$310 billion to US\$14.7 trillion. China is now the second largest economy, although the IMF, World Bank and CIA consider it the largest once purchasing power is taken into account (see chart below). The US is still well ahead on per capita income (US\$69,231 vs US\$12,359 in 2021), though China's is now that of a "developed" country, having lifted 800 million people out of poverty in the process. The US has become increasingly concerned about China's faster economic growth and the fact that the US buys much more from its rival than the other way around. This drove the big decline in US domestic manufacturing that famously helped Donald Trump to win the US presidency. Equally, the rivalry has extended to other areas as China has sought a leading role on the world stage. Both nations are nuclear powers, although the Chinese military has only 350 nuclear warheads to America's 5,500. China has a larger navy, with some 360 battle force ships compared to the US 297, although China's are mostly smaller – only three aircraft carriers compared to America's 11, for example. The two countries are also competing in space to bring astronauts to the Moon and establish the first lunar base. All this has threatened American dominance, while President Xi

has also been much more forthright both domestically and internationally than any Chinese leader since Mao. The US has gradually become more hostile, starting with President Obama's pivot towards other Asian nations in 2016 and then President Trump's public complaints and eventual sanctioning of China's "unfair" trade practices. Trump imposed extra tariffs on goods imported from China in 2018 and restricted China's access to various semiconductor manufacturing technologies in 2020, while the Chinese responded with countermeasures along the way. When President Biden took office in 2021, he began highlighting long-simmering complaints about human rights issues in Xinjiang and the threat to Taiwan (while still endorsing the One China Policy). He also imposed sanctions on certain Chinese companies of a kind not seen since the Mao-era trade embargo. Biden also banned goods from China's Xinjiang region on the grounds of forced labour in 2022, affecting the purchasing of goods by many western companies. China reportedly moved workers to other parts of the country to enable western companies to keep purchasing.

Bipolarity is back: COVID-19 further increased the distance between the two countries. After China's zero COVID policy helped to disrupt supply chains and cause product shortages, the Biden administration began calling for reduced dependency on its rival. US firms have duly been restructuring their supply chains. In June, Apple moved some iPad production from China to Vietnam, albeit also because of growing demand in south-east Asia. Near-shoring to Mexico is gaining momentum. Apple manufacturers Foxconn and Pegatron are considering producing iPhones for North America in Mexico rather than China to take advantage of lower labour costs and the free-trade agreement between the US and Mexico. Two global blocs are increasingly emerging, with US treasury secretary Janet Yellen in April calling for "friend-shoring" with trusted partners, dividing countries into friends or foes. The Biden administration announced at the June G7 meeting a new "Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment". Aiming to mobilise US\$600 billion in investments over five years, this is an overture to various developing countries already being courted by China under its similar Belt and Road Initiative. Days earlier, China had hosted the annual BRICS summit, which includes Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa. It welcomed leaders from 13 other countries: Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Malaysia and Thailand. Xi urged the summit to build a "global community of security" based on multilateral cooperation. Iran and Argentina have since applied to join the bloc. We are already seeing what bipolarity will mean for vital components and commodities. In nanochips, the US is leading a "chips 4" pact with Japan, Taiwan and possible South Korea to develop next-generation technologies and manufacturing capacity. China is investing US\$1.4 trillion between 2020 and 2025 in a bid to become self-reliant in this technology. Another big issue is cobalt, which is essential for making lithium batteries for electric vehicles. To secure supply from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which produces 70% of world reserves, China has navigated Congolese politics, lobbying powerful politicians in mining regions. By 2020, Chinese firms owned or had a stake in 15 of the DRC's 19 cobalt-producing mines. As China hoards cobalt supplies, the US seeks alternatives. GM is developing its Ultium battery cell, which needs 70% less cobalt than today's batteries, while Oak Ridge National Laboratory is developing a battery that doesn't need the metal at all.

Silver linings: As US-China relations have moved from building bridges in 1972 to building walls in 2022, countries will increasingly be forced to choose sides and companies will have to plan supply chains accordingly. Those seeking to trade in both blocs will need to "divisionalise", running parallel operations. American companies wanting to serve Chinese consumers will still need to manufacture in China or other nations within that bloc, while Chinese companies will need to do the same in reverse. Interestingly, Chinese companies have been rapidly buying farmland and agriculture-based companies in the US and elsewhere. Yet though the new supply chains will almost certainly increase costs for western consumers and dampen China's growth, there will be benefits. Supply chains should be more resilient to future crises and also more transparent, while reduced transportation (and reliance on Chinese coal) should cut carbon emissions. This should help to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals on environmental and social sustainability. The cobalt and nanochips examples also show how the US-China rivalry is catalysing innovation. And importantly, global trade will continue growing as countries depend on each other, even as trade links change. It will certainly take time to find an equilibrium. It took years for the USSR and US to figure out how to co-exist without getting into direct military conflict. Hillary Clinton wrote in 2011 as Secretary of State that "there is no handbook for the evolving US-China relationship", and that remains the case today. At any rate, the businesses that thrive in this new environment will likely be those that plan for a divided world with divisional supply chains. The recent Taiwan row will probably not lead to direct military conflict; rather it will reinforce a trend that has been gathering momentum for a decade or more.

China hosted the annual BRICS summit, which includes Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa. It welcomed leaders from 13 other countries: Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Malaysia and Thailand. Xi urged the summit to build a “global community of security” based on multilateral cooperation. Iran and Argentina have since applied to join the bloc.



BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on world affairs. Since 2009, the governments of the BRICS states have met annually at formal summits. [Wikipedia](#)

Founded: June 16, 2009

India: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

South Africa: President Cyril Ramaphosa

Russia: President Vladimir Putin

Brazil: President Jair Bolsonaro

China (2022 host): President Xi Jinping

Social media posts warn people not to call 988. Here's what you need to know

August 11, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

ANERI PATTANI



Only when the caller cannot or will not collaborate on a safety plan and the counselor feels the caller will harm themselves imminently should emergency services be called, according to the hotline's policy.

When the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline launched last month, many mental health providers, researchers and advocates celebrated. Although a national suicide hotline had existed for years, finally there was an easy-to-remember three-digit number for people to call, they said. The shorter number would serve as an alternative to 911 for mental health emergencies. But not everyone felt the same way. Some advocates and people who had experiences with the mental health system took to social media to voice concerns about 988 and warn people not to call it. **One Instagram post said, "988 is not friendly. Don't call it, don't post it, don't share it, without knowing the risks."** The post, which had garnered nearly a quarter of a million likes as of early August, went on to list the risks as police involvement, involuntary treatment at emergency rooms or psychiatric hospitals, and the emotional and financial toll of those experiences. Other posts on Instagram and Twitter conveyed similar concerns, saying that the hotline sends law enforcement officers to check on people at risk of suicide without their consent and that people, especially from LGBTQ+ communities and communities of color, may be forced into treatment. *So is 988 a critical mental health resource or a cause for concern? We decided to dig into these questions, figure out how 988 works, and explain what you need to know before dialing.* **Why are some people saying not to call 988?** We reached out to the creators of some of the social media posts to ask them directly.

Liz Winston, who authored the Instagram post calling 988 "not friendly," said she wanted people to understand all the potential outcomes of calling so they wouldn't be blindsided by the "traumatizing system" that she experienced. Last summer, Winston was having suicidal thoughts and visited a hospital in New York. She hoped to speak with a psychiatrist but instead was involuntarily detained in the psychiatric wing of the emergency room. She said that she did not receive any counseling during the 24 hours she spent there and that the experience was "extremely traumatic." Winston hadn't called the hotline, but she said those who do can end up in a similar situation. It's true that when police respond to calls about people in mental health crises, they often take them to an emergency room or psychiatric hospital. **"I realize there is an urge to rescue people in crisis, but the reality is the services that exist make the problem much, much worse,"** said Winston, who works in mental health peer support and has started an online support group for people recovering from involuntary treatment. Research shows suicide rates increase drastically in the months after people are discharged from psychiatric hospitals. Those who were sent involuntarily are more likely to attempt suicide than those who chose to go, and involuntary commitments can make young people less likely to disclose their suicidal feelings in the future. Some people also get stuck with large bills for treatment they didn't want.

Emily Krebs, a suicide researcher and assistant professor joining Fordham University this fall, said that involuntary treatment is viewed as a necessary part of suicide prevention in the U.S., but that other countries don't see it that way. **The United Nations has called forced mental health treatment a human rights abuse and asked countries to ban it.** Like Winston, Krebs wanted people to be fully informed before deciding to call 988. That's why she wrote on Twitter that 988 can and will "send police if they deem it necessary." That can be dangerous, she said, given that 1 in 5 fatal police shootings in 2019 involved a person with mental illness. Some years, the share has been even higher.

What does 988 say about how it handles crisis situations? Officials from 988 say they recognize the risks of having law enforcement officers involved in mental health emergencies. That's why 988 was created as an alternative to 911, said John Draper, executive director of the hotline and a vice president at Vibrant Emotional Health, the company tasked with administering it. "We know the best way for a person to remain safe from harm is for them to be empowered and to choose to be safe from harm," Draper said. Dispatching police is a last resort, he said. Counselors who answer the phones or respond to texts and online chats for 988 are supposed to be trained to actively listen, discuss the callers' concerns and wishes, and collaborate with them to find solutions. Most calls about suicide are de-escalated without law enforcement, Draper said. Instead, counselors talk through people's reasons for dying and reasons for living; have callers connect with supportive family, friends, religious leaders or others in their community; refer callers to outpatient treatment; or set up follow-up calls with 988. Only when the caller cannot or will not collaborate on a safety plan and the counselor feels the caller will harm themselves imminently should emergency services be called, according to the hotline's policy. At that point, Draper said, "we have the choice of just letting [harm] happen or doing whatever we can to keep them safe." In previous years, before the 988 number launched, emergency services were dispatched in 2% of the hotline's interactions, the service reported. With about 2.4 million calls a year, that means emergency services were initiated for roughly 48,000 calls. Those services can be mobile crisis teams, consisting of people trained in mental health and de-escalation, but in many rural and suburban communities, it is often police. Contrary to some information circulating on social media, 988 cannot geolocate callers, Draper said. When emergency services are called, 988 call centers share with 911 operators information they have about the location of the person who contacted the hotline — typically a caller's phone number, with area code, or a chat user's IP address — to help first responders find the individual. Starting this fall, Draper said, 988 will update its policies to require supervisors to review all calls that result in the use of emergency services. Counselors for 988 nationwide will also receive additional training on the alternatives to involving law enforcement and the consequences callers can face when police respond.

So should I use 988 or not? We know it's not satisfying, but the honest answer is: It depends.

The 988 hotline is the nation's most comprehensive mental health crisis service and can provide crucial help to those in emotional distress. If you're thinking about suicide but not taking steps to act on it, 988 is unlikely to call law enforcement without your consent. Instead, 988 counselors can provide resources, referrals and a kind ear. However, if you're at imminent risk and could act on a plan to kill yourself, police may be called, and you could be taken to a hospital involuntarily. Sonyia Richardson, a licensed clinical social worker who owns a counseling agency that serves mostly Black and brown clients in Charlotte, N.C., said she didn't immediately tell her clients about 988 when it launched. Even though she's a member of her state's 988 planning committee, she said she needed time to develop trust in the service herself. When she learned at a recent committee meeting that fewer than 5% of 988 calls in North Carolina led to a law enforcement response, she felt reassured. "There are going to be issues perhaps with 988, but it might be one of the safer options for us," Richardson said. With suicide rates increasing among Black Americans, the community needs more ways to save lives, she added.

If I don't want to call 988, do I have other options? Although the U.S. doesn't have a national, government-run mental health hotline that pledges not to call police without callers' consent, several alternatives that are smaller than 988 aim to decrease law enforcement involvement. "Warm" lines are one option. They're typically staffed by "peers," people who have experienced mental health challenges. They focus less on crisis intervention and more on emotional support to prevent crises. You can find a directory of warm lines by state here:

<https://screening.mhanational.org/content/need-talk-someone-warmlines/>

Walgreens contributed to San Francisco opioid crisis: judge

The ruling happens as San Francisco's new DA attempts to get the city's opioid crisis under control



By Andrea Vacchiano | Fox News



Homeless people consume illegal drugs in an encampment along Willow St. in the Tenderloin district of downtown on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022 in San Francisco, CA. (Gary Coronado / Los Angeles Times via

Fentanyl overdose deaths spike as opioid crisis rages on

Co-founder of Mothers Against Drug Deaths Jacqui Berlinn joined 'America's Newsroom' to discuss the opioid crisis and her effort to help families battling the epidemic as her son battles addiction.

Fentanyl overdose deaths spike as opioid crisis rages on

A federal judge ruled this week that Walgreens can be held responsible for contributing to San Francisco's opioid crisis. U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer on Wednesday upheld a city attorney's claim that the pharmacy chain had not exercised proper oversight with prescriptions, including over-dispensing addictive substances and failing to report suspicious orders. "Walgreens pharmacies in San Francisco dispensed hundreds of thousands of red flag opioid prescriptions without performing adequate due diligence," the judge wrote. "Tens of thousands of these prescriptions were written by doctors with suspect prescribing patterns." "The evidence showed that Walgreens did not provide its pharmacists with sufficient time, staffing, or resources to perform due diligence on these prescriptions," Breyer added. The judge noted that the influx of red-flag opioid prescriptions led to San Francisco hospitals being overwhelmed, children's playgrounds being littered with drugs and even city libraries being forced to close due to syringe-clogged toilets.

Walgreens released a statement denying the city's claim. "We never manufactured or marketed opioids, nor did we distribute them to the 'pill mills' and internet pharmacies that fueled this crisis," Walgreens spokesman Fraser Engerman said. Engerman also claimed that ruling was an "unprecedented expansion of public nuisance law" and called the attempt "misguided and unsustainable." A ruling on monetary damages has yet to be determined.

The Golden Gate city has been hit especially hard by the opioid crisis. According to the city's health department, 474 people died in San Francisco last year from fentanyl-related overdoses. Last week, San Francisco's new district attorney announced that she would revoke former DA Chesa Boudin's policy of offering lenient plea deals for drug offenders. The new policy prevents serious offenders from being referred to San Francisco's community justice court (CJC). The CJC is a "progressive reform" program that addresses "the primary issues facing the individual and not just their crime," according to the Superior Court of San Francisco. Under DA Brooke Jenkins' new policy, dealers arrested with an excess of five grams of drugs can no longer be referred to CJC. "The previous administration's policy had no weight limit threshold, was not adhering to CJC guidelines, and allowed drug dealers, arrested with as much as 500 grams of fentanyl, and who had multiple open fentanyl cases, to be referred to CJC," according to Jenkins' office.

The man who built his own ISP to avoid huge fees is expanding his service

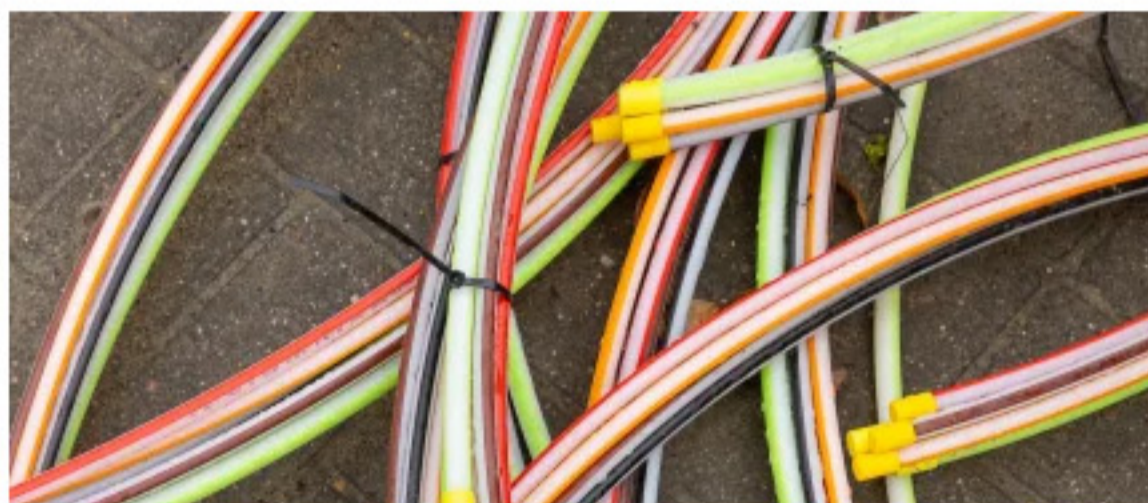
Jared Mauch just received \$2.6 million in funding to widen his service to 600 homes.



S. Dent

@stevetdent

August 11, 2022



Check out the full story at Ars Technica:

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2022/08/man-who-built-isp-instead-of-paying-comcast-50k-expands-to-hundreds-of-homes/>

'fiber cable guy'
Jared Mauch

Given a choice between settling for pathetically slow internet speeds from AT&T or paying Comcast \$50,000 to expand to his rural home, Michigan resident Jared Mauch chose option "C": starting up his own fiber internet service provider. Now, he's expanding his service from about 70 customers to nearly 600 thanks to funding aimed at expanding access to broadband internet, Ars Technica has reported.

Last year, the US government's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allocated \$71 million to Michigan's Washtenaw county for infrastructure projects, with a part of that dedicated to broadband expansion. Mauch subsequently won a bid to wire up households "known to be unserved or underserved based on [an] existing survey," according to the RFP.

"They had this gap-filling RFP, and in my own wild stupidity or brilliance, I'm not sure which yet, I bid on the whole project [in my area] and managed to win through that competitive bidding process," he told Ars.

He'll now need to expand from 14 to about 52 miles of fiber to complete the project, including at least a couple of homes that require a half mile of fiber for a single house. That'll cost \$30,000 for each of those homes, but his installation fees are typically \$199.

Customers can choose from 100Mbps up/down internet speeds for \$55 per month, or 1Gbps with unlimited data for \$79 a month. The contract requires completion by 2026, but he aims to be done by around the end of 2023. He's already hooked up some of the required addresses, issuing a press release after the first was connected in June, with a local commissioner calling it "a transformational moment for our community."

Running an ISP isn't even Mauch's day job, as he normally works as an Akamai network architect. Still, his service has become a must in the region and he even provides fiber backhaul for a major mobile carrier. "I'm definitely a lot more well-known by all my neighbors... I'm saved in people's cell phones as 'fiber cable guy,'" he said.



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks at a news briefing at the Pentagon on July 20, 2022. Anna

Faced with a rise of extremism within its ranks, the US military has clamped down on racist speech, including retweets and likes

Published: August 11, 2022 8.15am EDT

▼ [Dwight Stirling](#), *University of Southern California*

Less than a month after the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin took the extraordinary step of pausing all operations for 24 hours to “address extremism in the ranks.” Pentagon officials had been shaken by service members’ prominent role in the events of Jan. 6. Of the 884 criminal defendants charged to date with taking part in the insurrection, more than 80 were veterans. That’s almost 10% of those charged. **More remarkable, at least five of the rioters were serving in the military at the time of the assault: an active-duty Marine officer and four reservists.** Service members’ involvement in the insurrection has made the spread of extremism – particularly white nationalism – a significant issue for the U.S. military.

Solving the problem: A blue ribbon committee called the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group was quickly commissioned in April 2021 to evaluate the extent of the problem. The group found about 100 substantiated cases of extremism in the U.S. armed forces in 2021. The latest instance occurred in July 2022, when Francis Harker, a National Guard member with white supremacist connections, was sentenced to four years in prison for planning an anti-government attack on police. Harker, who carried a picture saying “there is no God but Hitler,” was planning to attack police officers in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with Molotov cocktails and semi-automatic rifles. Worried, Austin has tightened the rules regarding political speech within the military. While the intent behind the new rules is laudable, political speech – even of an offensive or distasteful nature – goes to the core of U.S. democracy. In light of the stricter policy, it is useful to consider how courts apply the First Amendment in the military context.

Good order and discipline: While soldiers and sailors are certainly not excluded from the protection of the First Amendment, it is fair to say they operate under a diluted version of it. The “right to speak out as a free American” must be balanced against “providing an effective fighting force for the defense of our Country,” a federal judge noted in a separate case. In 1974, for example, the Supreme Court ruled that the Army can punish an officer for encouraging subordinates to refuse to deploy. The officer’s comments included: “The United States is wrong in being involved in the Vietnam War. I would refuse to go back to Vietnam if ordered to do so.” In 1980, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Army could legally fire an ROTC cadet for making racist remarks during a newspaper interview. In 2012, a San Diego district court ruled that the Marine Corps can lawfully discharge a sergeant who mocked president Barack Obama while appearing on the “Chris Matthews Show.” At one point the sergeant told the host: “As an active duty Marine, I say screw Obama and I will not follow his orders.” While each of these statements is protected by the First Amendment in civilian life, they crossed the line in military life because they were deemed harmful to morale and represented what one federal court described as more than “political discussion ... at an enlisted or officers’ club.”

The military’s job is to fight, not debate: In deciding these First Amendment cases, courts often hark back to why the military exists in the first place. “It is the primary business of armies and navies ... to fight the nation’s wars should the occasion arise,” the Supreme Court said in 1955. In a separate case, the Supreme Court declared: “An army is not a deliberate body. It is the executive arm. Its law is that of obedience.” Quickly following orders can mark the difference between life and death in combat.

On a national level, the degree to which an army is disciplined can win or lose wars. A mindset of obedience does not come solely from classroom training but from repeated rehearsals under realistic conditions. As a military judge observed in a 1972 decision, while service members are free to discuss political issues when off duty, the “primary function of a military organization is to execute orders, not to debate the wisdom of decisions that the Constitution entrusts” to Congress, the judiciary and the commander in chief.

New policy bans ‘liking’ extremist messages: The U.S. military’s revised approach to political speech prohibits retweeting or even “liking” messages that promote anti-government or white nationalist and other extremist groups. Does a restriction this broad comply with legal precedent? **As a law professor who has served more than 20 years in the U.S military, I believe the broader rules will probably be upheld if challenged on First Amendment grounds.**

The most comparable case is *Blameuser v. Andrews*, a 1980 case from the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals where an ROTC cadet espoused white supremacist political views in a newspaper interview. Amongst other extremist remarks, the cadet told the reporter: “You see, I believe that in the final analysis, the Nazi Socialist Party will take over America and possibly the whole world.” Finding that the statements harmed good order and discipline, the Seventh Circuit ruled that the Army did not violate the First Amendment when it subsequently removed him from the officer training program. The cadet’s “views on race relations draw into question his ability to obey commands, especially in a situation in which he regards the military superior as socially inferior,” the *Blameuser* decision said.

The military has wide latitude in deciding who is deserving of the “special trust and confidence” that comes with military employment. Military officials are free to consider political and social beliefs that are “inimical to the vital mission of the agency” in making hiring and firing decisions, the *Blameuser* decision said. Social media posts expressing support for violent political activities will likely be treated in the same way. As the Seventh Circuit said in *Blameuser*, by liking or retweeting an extremist message, a service member’s actions are “demonstrably incompatible with the important public office” they hold.

Politicians seek to control classroom discussions about slavery in the US

Published: August 11, 2022 8:14am EDT

Raphael E. Rogers, Clark University



A Texas law says slavery cannot be taught as part of the 'true founding' of the United States. Tamir Kalifa/Getty

Of all the subjects taught in the nation's public schools, few have generated as much controversy of late as the subjects of racism and slavery in the United States. The attention has come largely through a flood of legislative bills put forth primarily by Republicans over the past year and a half. Commonly referred to as anti-critical race theory legislation, these bills are meant to restrict how teachers discuss race and racism in their classrooms. **One of the more peculiar byproducts of this legislation came out of Texas, where, in June 2022, an advisory panel made up of nine educators recommended that slavery be referred to as "involuntary relocation."** The measure ultimately failed.

As an educator who trains teachers on how to educate young students about the history of slavery in the United States, I see the Texas proposal as part of a disturbing trend of politicians seeking to hide the horrific and brutal nature of slavery – and to keep it divorced from the nation's birth and development.

The Texas proposal, for instance, grew out of work done under a Texas law that says slavery and racism can't be taught as part of the "true founding" of the United States. Rather, the law states, they must be taught as a "failure to live up to the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality."

To better understand the nature of slavery and the role it played in America's development, it helps to have some basic facts about how long slavery lasted in the territory now known as the United States and how many enslaved people it involved. I also believe in using authentic records to show students the reality of slavery. **Before the Mayflower:** Slavery in what is now known as the United States is often traced back to the year 1619. That is when – as documented by Colonist John Rolfe – a ship named the White Lion delivered 20 or so enslaved Africans to Virginia. As for the notion that slavery was not part of the founding of the United States, that is easily refuted by the U.S. Constitution itself. Specifically, Article 1, Section 9, Clause 1 prevented Congress from prohibiting the "importation" of slaves until 1808 – nearly 20 years after the Constitution was ratified – although it didn't use the word "slaves." Instead, the Constitution used the phrase "such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit." Most enslaved people in the United States, then, entered slavery not through importation or "involuntary relocation," but by birth. From the arrival of those first 20 so enslaved Africans in 1619 until slavery was abolished in 1865, approximately 10 million slaves lived in the United States and contributed 410 billion hours of labor. This is why slavery is a "crucial building block" to understanding the U.S. economy from the nation's founding up until the Civil War.

3. Personal narratives from the enslaved

Though they are few in number, recordings of interviews with formerly enslaved people exist. For instance, when Fountain Hughes – a descendant of a slave owned by Thomas Jefferson who spent his boyhood in slavery in Charlottesville, Virginia – was asked if he would rather be free or enslaved, he told his interviewer:

"You know what I'd rather do? If I thought, had any idea, that I'd ever be a slave again, I'd take a gun and just end it all right away, because you're nothing but a dog. You're not a thing but a dog. A night never come that you had nothing to do. Time to cut tobacco? If they want you to cut all night long out in the field, you cut. And if they want you to hang all night long, you hang tobacco. It didn't matter about you're tired, being tired. You're afraid to say you're tired."

It's ironic, then, that when it comes to teaching America's schoolchildren about the horrors of American slavery and how entrenched it was in America's political establishment, some politicians would prefer to shackle educators with restrictive laws. What they could do is grant educators the ability to teach freely about the role the slavery played in the forming of a nation that was founded – as the Texas law states – on principles of liberty and equality.

The Charlottesville rally 5 years later: 'It's what you're still trying to forget'

August 12, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



DEBBIE ELLIOTT



"I think Charlottesville really was a catalyst for much of the white supremacist chaos that has ensued since," says April Muniz, who was in the crowd when the Neo-Nazi drove his car into the counter-protesters.



April Muniz sees the events in Charlottesville as a catalyst for far-right political violence.

Charlottesville activist Don Gathers reflects on five years since white supremacists terrorized his hometown — "all the hatefulness and evilness that transpired here."



Ticket prices for a coveted show can spike. gilaxia/E+ via Getty Images

What's dynamic pricing? An operations management scholar explains

Published: August 11, 2022 8.15am EDT

▼ [Ovunc Yilmaz](#), *University of Colorado Boulder*

[Airlines](#) [Bruce Springsteen](#) [Ticket pricing](#) [Ticket prices](#) [Dynamic pricing](#)
[Quick reads](#) [Sporting events](#) [ticket scalping](#) [Speed reads](#) [concerts](#)
[Significant Terms](#)

Whether you're booking a plane ticket at the last minute or looking to go to a lackluster preseason football game, you might encounter what's known as dynamic pricing.

Using this strategy, companies adjust what they are charging in response to demand. They can cut or raise the prices as high as the market will bear in real time to maximize the money they make through sales. In addition to airlines and sports teams, hotel chains, car rental companies, ride-sharing platforms, entertainment companies, cruise lines and any retailers selling seasonal goods or hot items use dynamic pricing. It uses specialized software and sophisticated algorithms to closely monitor the remaining number of products available, along with how much time remains before item must be sold or wasted. Prices get adjusted accordingly.

Analysis of the world, from experts

Why dynamic pricing matters: Sports and entertainment industries have a big incentive to use dynamic pricing. Since tickets to sports and entertainment events can be resold, any gap between their face value and what fans are willing to pay leads to openings in the market for brokers. For popular events such as playoff games or once-a-decade tours, technologically advanced brokers can snap up large numbers of tickets from the original seller and resell them with huge markups that don't benefit the sports teams, artists or venues.

When a team, an entertainment company or a vendor they have hired uses dynamic pricing, at least ideally, more ticket revenue flows into the pockets of the people responsible for the events. That is, if concertgoers will ultimately pay \$249 to see Taylor Swift perform, it makes more sense for them to pay an official vendor that sum, not a scalper who paid \$75 for tickets they never intended to use.

Springsteen ticket outcry: To maximize the money made through sales, dynamic pricing makes sense. However, fair treatment is an important factor in pricing decisions since customers don't want to be exploited. That is probably why sports teams and entertainment companies have been reluctant to set prices at sky-high levels that might harm their reputations.

When dynamic pricing results in people feeling gouged, a public outcry can ensue. A good example occurred in the summer of 2022 when Ticketmaster, the leading U.S. ticket seller and distributor, charged fans \$5,000 apiece or more for some of the best seats for Bruce Springsteen's 2023 tour.

The company's response generated a new round of buzz with its matter-of-fact tone and lack of an apology. "Prices and formats are consistent with industry standards for top performers," Ticketmaster said.



New research estimates that the Arctic may be warming four times faster than the rest of the world. Netta

Arctic is warming nearly four times faster than the rest of the world – new research

Published: August 11, 2022 12.23pm EDT

▼ Jonathan Bamber, University of Bristol

The Earth is approximately 1.1°C warmer than it was at the start of the industrial revolution. That warming has not been uniform, with some regions warming at a far greater pace. One such region is the Arctic. A new study shows that the Arctic has warmed nearly four times faster than the rest of the world over the past 43 years. This means the Arctic is on average around 3°C warmer than it was in 1980. This is alarming, because the Arctic contains sensitive and delicately balanced climate components that, if pushed too hard, will respond with global consequences.

Why is the Arctic warming so much faster? A large part of the explanation relates to sea ice. This is a thin layer (typically one metre to five metres thick) of sea water that freezes in winter and partially melts in the summer. The sea ice is covered in a bright layer of snow which reflects around 85% of incoming solar radiation back out to space. The opposite occurs in the open ocean. As the darkest natural surface on the planet, the ocean absorbs 90% of solar radiation.

When covered with sea ice, the Arctic Ocean acts like a large reflective blanket, reducing the absorption of solar radiation. As the sea ice melts, absorption rates increase, resulting in a positive feedback loop where the rapid pace of ocean warming further amplifies sea ice melt, contributing to even faster ocean warming. This feedback loop is largely responsible for what is known as Arctic amplification, and is the explanation for why the Arctic is warming so much more than the rest of the planet.

Is Arctic amplification underestimated? Numerical climate models have been used to quantify the magnitude of Arctic amplification. They typically estimate the amplification ratio to be about 2.5, meaning the Arctic is warming 2.5 times faster than the global average. Based on the observational record of surface temperatures over the last 43 years, the new study estimates the Arctic amplification rate to be about four. Rarely do the climate models obtain values as high that. This suggests the models may not fully capture the complete feedback loops responsible for Arctic amplification and may, as a consequence, underestimate future Arctic warming and the potential consequences that accompany that.

How concerned should we be? Besides sea ice, the Arctic contains other climate components that are extremely sensitive to warming. If pushed too hard, they will also have global consequences. One of those elements is permafrost, a (now not so) permanently frozen layer of the Earth's surface. As temperatures rise across the Arctic, the active layer, the topmost layer of soil that thaws each summer, deepens. This, in turn, increases biological activity in the active layer resulting in the release of carbon into the atmosphere. When the amount of melting at the surface of an ice cap exceeds the rate of winter snow accumulation, it will lose mass faster than it gains any. When this threshold is exceeded, its surface lowers. This will quicken the pace of melting, because temperatures are higher at lower elevations.

This feedback loop is often called the small ice cap instability. Prior research puts the required temperature rise around Greenland for this threshold to be passed at around 4.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Given the exceptional pace of Arctic warming, passing this critical threshold is rapidly becoming likely.

Although there are some regional differences in the magnitude of Arctic amplification, the observed pace of Arctic warming is far higher than the models implied. **This brings us perilously close to key climate thresholds that if passed will have global consequences.** As anyone who works on these problems knows, what happens in the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic.

<https://theconversation.com/us>

The metaverse isn't here yet,

Unsealed court documents show the FBI was looking for evidence Trump violated the Espionage Act and other laws – here's how the documents seized show possible wrongdoing — *Clark D. Cunningham, Georgia State University*

Congress passes sweeping climate, tax and health care bill: Its projected emissions cuts rely heavily on carbon capture, meaning thousands of miles of pipeline — *Wil Burns, American University School of International Service*

Tom Boellstorff, University of California, Irvine

Here's how government documents are classified to keep sensitive information safe — *Jeffrey Fields, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

What's a banana republic? A political scientist explains — *Matthew Wilson, University of South Carolina*

Climate bill passes: It could short-circuit EV tax credits, making qualifying for them nearly impossible — *James Morton Turner, Wellesley College*

The Soviet Union once hunted endangered whales to the brink of extinction – but its scientists opposed whaling and secretly tracked its toll — *Ryan Jones, University of Oregon*

The metaverse isn't here yet, but it already has a long history — *Tom Boellstorff, University of California, Irvine*

What causes hives and how dangerous can they be? A nurse practitioner explains — *Patricia A. MacCulloch, UMass Lowell*

Reducing gun violence: A complicated problem can't be solved with just one approach, so Indianapolis is trying programs ranging from job skills to therapy to violence interrupters to find out what works — *Thomas D. Stucky, IUPUI*

India turns 75: Fast facts about the unusual constitution guiding the world's most populous democracy — *Deepa Das Acevedo, University of Alabama*

An interfaith discussion on the role of religion in mental health — *Emily Costello, The Conversation and Thalia Plata, The Conversation*

Worried about back-to-school inflation? Latest price data on backpacks, laptops and kids' clothes offers some relief for parents — *Jay L. Zagorsky, Boston University*

5 books and films that tell the story of the trauma of the Partition of India and its aftermath — *Madhur Anand, University of Guelph; Ajay Verghese, Middlebury; Amitabh Mattoo, The University of Melbourne; Geetha Ganapathy-Doré, Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, and Udit Sen, University of Nottingham*

India turns 75: Fast facts about the unusual constitution guiding the world's most populous democracy

Deepa Das Acevedo, University of Alabama

Saturday, August 13, 2022

An interfaith discussion on the role of religion in mental health

Emily Costello, The Conversation and Thalia Plata, The Conversation

What's dynamic pricing? An operations management scholar explains

Ovunc Yilmaz, University of Colorado Boulder

Politicians seek to control classroom discussions about slavery in the US

Arctic is warming nearly four times faster than rest of the world – new research

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 22-MJ-8332-BER

FILED BY *JAN* D.C.
AUG 11 2022
MARLA E. NOBLE
CLERK U.S. DIST. CT.
S.D. OF FLA. - W.P.B.

IN RE SEALED SEARCH WARRANT

FILED UNDER SEAL

NOTICE OF FILING OF REDACTED DOCUMENTS

The United States hereby gives notice that it is filing the following document, which is a redacted version of material previously filed in this case number under seal:

- The search warrant (not including the affidavit) signed and approved by the Court on August 5, 2022, including Attachments A and B;
- The Property Receipt listing items seized pursuant to the search, filed with the Court on August 11, 2022.

Juan
 JUAN ANTONIO GONZALEZ
 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
 Florida Bar No. 897388
 99 NE 4th Street, 8th Floor
 Miami, FL 33132
 Tel: 305-961-9001
 Email: juan.antonio.gonzalez@usdoj.gov

<https://www.npr.org/2022/08/12/1117277865/read-the-full-warrant-documents-from-fbi-search-of-trumps-mar-a-lago-home>

Read the full warrant documents from FBI search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago home

August 12, 2022 - 4:54 PM ET

NPR WASHINGTON DESK

FD-597 (Rev. 4-13-2015)

Page 1 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECEIPT FOR PROPERTY

Case ID: WF-
 On (date) 8/8/2022

item(s) listed below were:
 Collected/Seized
 Received From
 Returned To
 Released To

(Name) Mar-A-Lago
 (Street Address) 1100 S OCEAN BLVD
 (City) PALM BEACH, FL 33480

Description of Item(s):

- 1 - Executive Grant of Clemency re: Roger Jason Stone, Jr.
- 1A - Info re: President of France
- 2 - Leatherbound box of documents
- 2A - Various classified/TS/SCI documents
- 22 - Box labeled A-34 Trial Record
- 23 - Box Labeled A-39
- 23A - Miscellaneous Secret Documents
- 24 - Box labeled A-40
- 25 - Box Labeled A-41
- 25A - Miscellaneous Confidential Documents
- 26 - Box Labeled A-42
- 26A - Miscellaneous Top Secret Documents
- 27 - Box Labeled A-71
- 28 - Box Labeled A-73
- 28A - Miscellaneous Top Secret Documents



Received By: *Christina Bobb* (signature)
 Received From: *[Redacted]* (signature)

Printed Name/Title: *Christina Bobb* attorney
 Printed Name/Title: *[Redacted]* Special Agent

6:19pm on 8/8/22

Executive Grant of Clemency

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

WHEREAS ROGER JASON STONE, JR. was convicted, in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on an indictment (Docket No. 1:19-cr-00018-ABJ-1), of violations of Sections 2, 1001(a)(2), 1505, and 1512(b)(1), Title 18, United States Code, for which a total sentence of 40 months' imprisonment; two years' supervised release; a twenty thousand dollar (\$20,000) fine; and a seven hundred dollar (\$700) special assessment was imposed on February 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS the said ROGER JASON STONE, JR. is presently confined to his home and under the supervision of the Pretrial Services Office; and

WHEREAS it has been made to appear that the ends of justice do not require the said ROGER JASON STONE, JR. to remain confined to his home or serve the said sentence, and the safety of the community will not be compromised if he is released from home confinement and clemency is granted:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, divers other good and sufficient reasons me thereunto moving, do hereby grant clemency to the said ROGER JASON STONE, JR.: I commute the entirety of the prison sentence imposed upon the said ROGER JASON STONE, JR. to expire immediately; I also commute the entirety of the two-year term of supervised release with all its conditions; and finally, I remit any unpaid remainder of the \$20,000 fine imposed.

I HEREBY DESIGNATE, direct, and empower, the Acting Pardon Attorney, as my representative, to deliver to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and to the said ROGER JASON STONE, JR. a certified copy of this document as evidence of my action in order to carry into effect the terms of this grant.

I ALSO DIRECT the Pretrial Services Office, upon receipt of this warrant, to effect immediately the release of the said ROGER JASON STONE, JR., from supervision, and all conditions imposed, including home confinement, with all possible speed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto signed my name and caused the seal of the Department of Justice to be affixed.



Done at the City of Washington in the District of Columbia this 10 day of July in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States the Two Hundred and Forty-fifth.

DONALD J. TRUMP
President

<< "in the Year of Our Lord"??

Trump Pardons Roger Stone, Paul Manafort And Charles Kushner

December 23, 2020 · 7:38 PM ET



President Trump issued dozens more pardons on Wednesday evening to many wealthy and well-connected convicts with ties to his innermost circles, including former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, Republican operative Roger Stone and Charles Kushner, the father-in-law of Ivanka Trump.

In total, Trump pardoned 26 people and commuted the sentences of three more people — the second consecutive night of what is expected to be a flurry of acts of clemency before he leaves office.

The pardons and commutations to such close allies showcase Trump's willingness to flout the norms of presidential conduct.

1 - Executive Grant of Clemency re: Roger Jason Stone, Jr.

Roger Stone:

The case against Stone was brought by then-special counsel Robert Mueller as part of his probe into Russia's interference in the 2016 election and possible ties between Moscow and the Trump campaign.

Stone was indicted on charges of lying to Congress about what he and then-candidate Trump knew about Russian efforts to discredit Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential campaign, witness tampering and obstruction. The charges related to his efforts during the 2016 presidential race to act as an intermediary between the Trump campaign and WikiLeaks.

But days before Stone, who is Trump's longtime friend and political confidant, was to report to prison in July, the president commuted the 40-month prison sentence.

Democrats were so outraged by Trump's July decision, that it prompted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to call for legislation that would limit the presidential pardon powers and prevent future leaders from granting clemency to individuals who acted to shield that president from prosecution. **Pelosi called it "an act of staggering corruption."**

House Intelligence Committee chairman Rep. Adam Schiff of California called it "a real body blow to the rule of law in this country."

UC San Diego study says changing weather patterns are enhancing dangerous San Diego winds

The report also says some atmospheric river storms are becoming more intense.

BY GARY ROBBINS
AUG. 12, 2022 5 AM PT

UC San Diego says in a new study that a specific type of Santa Ana wind is occurring more often in the Southwest — notably California — and that some atmospheric river rainstorms are intensifying, which could worsen flood events in areas scarred by wildfires.

The changes were largely attributed to shifting weather patterns across a huge swath of the northern, Alaskan and Canadian regions of the Pacific ocean and the waters off California. The findings were published in the journal *Climate Dynamics* on July 17 and reflect similar and related discoveries made in recent years by other research teams.

“We’re seeing more frequent hot, dry Santa Ana winds during the winter months,” said Kristen Guirguis, a climate researcher at UCSD’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography and lead author of the study. “We’re distinguishing them from cold Santa Anas.”

Hot Santa Ana winds can be especially dangerous because they can rapidly dry the landscape. That represents a particular threat in places such as San Diego County, which is heavily covered with chaparral, the most flammable mix of brush land vegetation in the country.

The study also notes that changing weather patterns are warming the atmosphere, which makes some atmospheric river systems capable of holding more water, which regularly falls in heavily populated areas, contributing to mudslides, raging rivers and urban flooding.

Climate Dynamics journal:

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/science/story/2022-08-12/uc-san-diego-study-santa-anas>



The Bobcat Fire burns near homes on September 13, 2020, in Arcadia. (Getty Images)

The term atmospheric river refers to huge plumes of airborne moisture that periodically surge out of the subtropics and plow into various places on the West Coast, particularly California. These plumes enhance winter storms.

UCSD published a report in 2019 that says this phenomenon represents a billion-dollar risk in flood damages each year in the western U.S.

The new study contains another worrisome finding: The changing atmospheric patterns appear to be reducing normal rain events in places such as California, a shift that can contribute to drought.

Since the rainy season began on Oct. 1, San Diego International Airport has recorded 6.10 inches of precipitation, a figure that is 3.56 inches below average. The National Drought Monitor issued data on Thursday that indicates that central and western San Diego County are in a moderate drought, and that the local deserts are in a severe drought.