

MAIN STORIES

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DAMAGE
TRUMP?**

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THE WEEK

THE BEST OF THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

A costly conflict

John Kelly, President Trump,
and the political battle with
a Gold Star family

Pages 4, 6



F. HARPER

NOVEMBER 3, 2017 VOLUME 17 ISSUE 846

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Editor's letter

We are living in the Great Disinhibition. When the nation's leader cannot or will not restrain his words and impulses, it becomes contagious. Norms disintegrate. The unsayable is said. Two former presidents—including a fellow Republican—just broke a long-standing taboo by publicly denouncing the sitting president as a threat to American ideals. (See Talking Points.) Republican Sen. Bob Corker this week warned that President Trump would be remembered for the “debasement of our nation”; another Republican, Sen. Jeff Flake, condemned the president’s “reckless, outrageous, and undignified behavior” and his “flagrant disregard for truth and decency.” (See Main Stories.) For the first time ever, a president has exchanged accusations and insults with the family of a U.S. soldier killed in action. Every week seems angrier, uglier, and more astonishing than the one before.

From the start, the Trump presidency was an experiment. Could a real estate developer and TV showman with no knowl-

edge of politics and government grow into the most difficult job in the world? Surely the campaigner who urged supporters to punch protesters, taunted “Little Marco,” and called Ted Cruz’s wife ugly would be sobered when he took on the responsibilities once shouldered by such giants as Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Reagan. Eleven months in, it’s clear there will be no Trump transformation. What we see is what we’ll get: Storms of tweeted insults. More racial division. White supremacists and antifa activists punching it out on the streets. Trump and “Little Rocket Man” exchanging threats of nuclear annihilation. The fractured Republican Party at war with itself. In returning fire on another Republican critic, Sen. John McCain, this week, the disinhibited president warned that when he really unloads on the cancer-stricken senator, “it won’t be pretty.” About that much we can be sure: Whatever happens from here on in, it won’t be pretty. **William Falk**
Editor-in-chief

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Trump's Gold Star family dispute

What happened

Escalating the controversy over his treatment of the families of fallen U.S. service members, President Trump this week hit back at the grieving widow of a soldier killed in Niger after she confirmed reports that his condolence call had left her angry and in tears. Myeshia Johnson's husband, Sgt. La David Johnson, was one of four Special Forces troops who died in an ambush by Islamist militants on Oct. 4. Johnson told ABC that the president struck a callous tone during their conversation—telling her, “He knew what he signed up for”—and that he repeatedly forgot her husband's name. “That's what hurt me the most,” she said. “If my husband is out here fighting for our country...why can't you remember his name?” Trump tweeted that the conversation was “very respectful,” and that he used Johnson's name “from [the] beginning, without hesitation!”

The dispute began last week, when the president responded to a reporter's question about his failure to mention the deaths of the soldiers in Niger by falsely claiming that Barack Obama and other presidents often did not contact Gold Star families. Amid growing criticism, Trump called Johnson, who was in a car at the time with Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-Fla.), a longtime family friend. When Wilson then publicly criticized Trump for upsetting Johnson, he derided her as “wacky” and called her account a “total lie.” White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, a retired general who lost his own son in Afghanistan, criticized Wilson for listening to the call on speakerphone, but didn't dispute her account of what Trump said. (See Controversy.)

What the editorials said

This president is so unsuited to his job that he “can't even get a condolence call right,” said the *Los Angeles Times*. When his call dismayed Johnson's wife, aunt, and other family members, he insisted that he had “proof” that Rep. Wilson “totally fabricated” what he'd said—but several people who heard the call said Trump really did make a heartless comment and forgot the dead hero's name, calling him “your guy” instead. “There is something fundamentally flawed about a person who would engage in a war of words with the families of dead soldiers to score political points.”



Johnson with her husband's coffin before burial

Trump didn't mean to upset Johnson in his call, said the *Washington Examiner*. He was trying to articulate what Kelly had advised him to say—that Johnson was a brave man who was serving his country when he was killed—but “expressing delicate sentiments has never been [Trump's] forte.” Even so, the president shouldn't have reacted as he did. When President George W. Bush met the families of slain soldiers, some screamed at him and blamed him for their deaths. Bush “stood and took it,” often holding them and weeping with them. That's what presidents do—they “take the high road.”

What the columnists said

All Trump had to do was apologize and tell Johnson he hadn't meant any offense, said Eugene Robinson in *The Washington Post*. But “his fragile ego” will not let him admit any error. As a narcissist, he cannot feel, let alone acknowledge, other people's pain; he sees it as “weakness.” It's no coincidence that Wilson and Johnson are both black, said Jamelle Bouie in *Slate.com*. Whenever Trump is criticized by a woman of color, he is always “more aggressive, more interested in making a spectacle.” He knows his supporters feed on “racial resentment.”

Rep. Wilson isn't blameless, said David French in *NationalReview.com*. She should have quietly told the White House that the call had pained Johnson, giving Trump a chance to “right the perceived wrong” instead of embarrassing him publicly. But the president “bears the primary responsibility.” By going into his usual attack mode, he made a Gold Star family “collateral damage” in a political battle. “This entire story should deeply grieve Americans.”

The story should also tell us something important about Trump's view of the military, said Paul Waldman in *TheWeek.com*. His primary concern when U.S. soldiers die is whether it makes him “look bad.” On one hand, his “fear of damage to his own image” might discourage the president from “military adventurism.” On the other, if he sees an opportunity for “some glorious victory for Donald Trump,” he probably won't much care “how many lives are lost.”

It wasn't all bad

■ A Michigan girl's act of kindness has ensured that all of her classmates get milk at snack time. Sunshine Oelfke, 5, donated the \$30 in her piggy bank to her kindergarten teacher after noticing that her best friend didn't have any milk money. Inspired by Sunshine's generosity, her grandmother set out to raise \$800 online to buy milk for the whole class in the second semester. She raised \$12,755, so Sunshine's classmates will have milk for years to come. Sunshine says she's just happy to have helped her friend: “We like chocolate milk—together.”

■ Emma Perrier's dating disaster had a happy ending, thanks to an unusual twist of fate. The 34-year-old French expat in London had been enjoying an online romance with a dark-haired Italian hunk named Ronaldo when she realized something was up. For months, “Ronnie” had refused to meet in person. Increasingly suspicious, Perrier did some internet sleuthing and discovered she'd been “catfished”: a balding 53-year-old from Stratford-upon-Avon had used photos of Turkish model Adem Guzel in order to win Perrier's affections. Heartbroken, Perrier messaged Guzel to warn him about the impostor. They began chatting and fell in love, and have now moved in together. “My catfish became Cupid,” says Perrier.



Guzel and Perrier

■ When Nelson Bryant parachuted into the Netherlands during World War II, he soon found himself in a tight spot. The U.S. paratrooper was trapped in his harness, and German troops were approaching fast. Bryant cut himself free with his trench knife—and left it and a sheath that bore his name on the battlefield as he escaped. Seven decades later, Dutchman André Duijghuisen's was cleaning out his father's attic when he found the blade. An online investigation revealed its original owner and Duijghuisen now plans to personally deliver the knife to Bryant, 94. “He fought in Holland for our freedom,” says Duijghuisen.

Flake stands down—and stands up to Trump

What happened

Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona unexpectedly announced this week that he would not seek re-election in the 2018 midterms, during a blistering floor speech in which he condemned President Trump's "reckless, outrageous, and undignified" behavior. Flake, a longtime Trump critic, accused the president of undermining democratic norms with his "flagrant disregard for truth and decency." The single-term senator blasted his own party's "complicity" and warned that history would judge those who do not speak up. "If I have been critical, it's not because I relish criticizing the behavior of the president of the United States," said Flake. "It is because I believe that it is my obligation to do so, as a matter of duty and conscience."



Flake: A 'matter of duty' to speak out

Flake's poll numbers have plummeted this year as he has stepped up his attacks on Trump; in two recent polls he trailed his likely 2018 primary challenger, conservative former State Sen. Kelli Ward, by 20 points. His retirement announcement comes just weeks after that of another Trump critic, Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, and complicates the GOP's efforts to retain its 52-48 seat Senate majority in the midterms. Corker continued his feud with the president this week, accusing him of "debasement" of the country ahead of a Republican unity lunch. Trump dismissed Flake's and Corker's criticisms, saying they were only retiring because they have "zero chance of being elected." He characterized his relationship with other GOP lawmakers as a "lovefest."

What the columnists said

"Flake chickened out," said E.J. Montini in the Phoenix *Arizona Republic*. Sure, he faced an "undoubtedly nasty primary fight against 'Chemtrail' Kelli Ward," a Steve Bannon-backed conspiracy theorist hoping to ride a wave of anger to the Senate. But if Flake truly believes that Trumpism is a threat to the GOP and our democracy, it's up to principled conservatives like him to "stay and fight." Instead, he "waved the white flag." Trump will be delighted, said Rich Lowry in *NationalReview.com*. Our combative, loyalty-loving president "fixed Flake in his sights and basically chased him from the Senate"—

adding the Arizona senator's scalp to his growing collection.

Trump's Republican critics are slowly multiplying, said Mike Allen in *Axios.com*. Four prominent party members—Flake, Corker, Arizona Sen. John McCain, and former President George W. Bush—sounded the alarm on his unorthodox presidency this week. But one of those men is retired, another terminally ill. The remaining two became "toast" among the base as soon as they criticized the president, who remains popular with Republican voters. In practical terms, Trump's grip on the GOP remains "as strong as ever."

For now, said James Hohmann in *WashingtonPost.com*. But Flake and Corker will remain in office until January 2019. That means they can spend the next 14 months—"an eternity in politics"—speaking out against the president whenever they see fit and using their considerable megaphones to challenge his bigotry, divisiveness, and dismal leadership. "That should terrify Trump."

Republicans gear up to tackle tax reform

What happened

Republican lawmakers this week began a frenzied push for tax reform, hoping to fast-track by year's end what could be the most sweeping tax-code changes since the 1980s. The effort formally began last week, when the Senate narrowly passed a budget resolution for fiscal year 2018. The measure enables Senate Republicans to avoid a filibuster on the coming tax bill, and to pass it with a simple 51-vote majority. Under the budget, the deficit will be permitted to increase by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years to pay for tax cuts, but Republicans argue that the revenue shortfall will be more than covered by higher economic growth and future tax receipts.

Early outlines of the GOP tax plan, which is expected next week, have been vague. One change being floated is to cap annual 401(k) contributions at \$2,400, down from the current \$18,000, though President Trump pushed back on that proposal, tweeting, "There will be NO change to your 401(k)." Other reforms being considered would slash the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent, shrink the number of individual income tax brackets from seven to three, and eliminate the state-and-local-tax deduction available to taxpayers in high-tax states such as California, New York, and New Jersey.

What the columnists said

President Trump is already making a difficult task for Republicans even tougher, said Russell Berman in *TheAtlantic.com*. "Like a game of whack-a-mole, Trump has taken a mallet to one GOP proposal after another," like the 401(k) "trial balloon" this

week and his recent wavering on the state-and-local-tax deduction. The trouble is that "every loophole is someone's prized and essential tax break." The bigger problem for Republicans is that their proposed cuts, including to the estate tax and for people earning more than \$418,000 a year, mostly benefit "the fabulously wealthy," said David Horsey in the *Los Angeles Times*. The result of these generous giveaways to "millionaires and billionaires would be trillions of dollars added to the national debt."

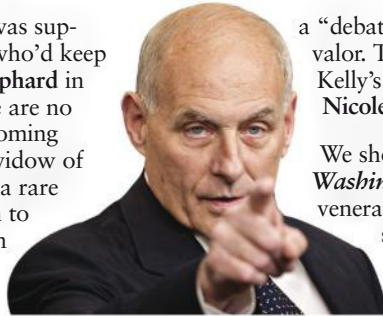
We should all hope that tax reform succeeds, said Bret Stephens in *The New York Times*. Cutting taxes will create more economic growth, taking "much of the air" out of Trumpism, which has been fueled by economic anxiety. "If the rich benefit disproportionately, it's only because they pay a disproportionate share of taxes." It's the markets that really need tax reform to pass, said Charles Gasparino in the *New York Post*. Investors banking on Trump's promised cuts have sent the stock market soaring in spite of his other high-profile legislative failures. "If tax reform belly-flops the way Obamacare repeal did," it won't be pretty.

Republicans are making the same mistake they did with health care—trying to "steamroll" Democrats, said Kevin Williamson in *NationalReview.com*. Party-line votes designed around arcane reconciliation rules are unsustainable, not least because they assume one party will stay in power forever. Surely Republicans can offer *something* to bring Democrats to the table. "We'd be better off with a more moderate fiscal package today than with a more ambitious program that falls apart after the next election."

Kelly: A revealing defense of Trump

White House Chief of Staff Gen. John Kelly was supposed to be one of the “adults in the room” who’d keep President Trump under control, said Alex Shephard in *NewRepublic.com*. But we just learned “there are no adults in the room.” In response to a mushrooming scandal over Trump’s condolence call to the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson, Kelly last week made a rare appearance in the White House briefing room to defend his boss—and only further inflamed an ugly situation. The retired four-star general spoke movingly of his own son, killed in Afghanistan in 2010, and said Johnson’s widow misunderstood Trump’s meaning when the president said, “He knew what he signed up for”—but Kelly didn’t stop there. Instead, said Jennifer Rubin in *Washington Post.com*, he launched into a bizarre, “Trumpian soliloquy about the good old days,” when women, religion, and Gold Star families were all held “sacred.” Kelly then personally attacked Rep. Frederica Wilson, the Democratic family friend who heard Trump’s call to Johnson’s widow on a speakerphone. Dismissing Wilson as “an empty barrel,” Kelly falsely claimed she used a speech commemorating a building named for two fallen FBI agents to brag about her role in getting funds for the project. A video of the event showed this did not happen, but Kelly, like his boss, refused to apologize. Once again, we see that anyone who works for this toxic president winds up “morally corrupted.”

Kelly should certainly “address the error” regarding Wilson, said Noah Rothman in *CommentaryMagazine.com*, but the rest of his powerful speech “changed the game for Trump” after days of bad press. By speaking with such deep emotion about the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform—he called them “the best 1 percent this country produces”—Kelly steered the conversation into



Kelly: *The adult in the room?*

a “debate about American values” such as patriotism and valor. The “haughty mainstream media” may not have liked Kelly’s unapologetic celebration of our armed forces, said Nicole Russell in *TheFederalist.com*. But “Americans did.”

We should respect our military, said Richard Cohen in *WashingtonPost.com*, but we do not owe Kelly “slavish veneration.” His disdain for the civilians who couldn’t possibly understand military sacrifices was palpable in his speech, but the “most chilling” comment came from Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Deflecting a question about Kelly’s smear of Wilson, Sanders said, “If you want to get into a debate with a four-star Marine general, I think that that’s something highly inappropriate.” Whoa. Are we now governed by a military junta? “Soldiers are servants of democracies,” said retired Army Col. Robert Killebrew in *ForeignPolicy.com*, and they fight to protect a free, democratic society in which politicians are held accountable. Kelly and Sanders, much like their authoritarian boss, seem to lack “a gut-level understanding of democracy.”

Kelly’s a complicated man, said Eliot Cohen in *TheAtlantic.com*, and there were aspects of his speech that almost sounded like “an exercise in projection, as the psychologists would say.” He expressed “pity” for those who have never served...while defending a president who dodged the Vietnam draft by claiming to have “heel spurs.” He lamented the modern lack of respect for women and Gold Star families...while defending a self-declared sexual predator who waged a vendetta against the Gold Star Khan family during the presidential campaign. As he angrily chastised mere civilians for politicizing the death of a soldier, Kelly sounded heart-sick—but was he really expressing his misery in serving a man for whom absolutely nothing is sacred?

Only in America

■ A Colorado Cub Scout has been kicked out of his den for asking a state senator why she backed a bill that would let domestic violence offenders buy guns. At the time, GOP State Sen. Vicki Marble praised Ames Mayfield, 11, for his “thorough” questioning. But later, the den leader told Mayfield’s mom the question was too political, and the boy was no longer welcome. “I don’t feel I did anything wrong,” Mayfield says.

■ A University of Pennsylvania teaching assistant has declared she chooses which students to call on by race. Stephanie McKellop, a “queer disabled feminist,” said in a since-deleted tweet, “I will always call on my Black women students first,” followed by other people of color; white women; and “if I have to, white men.” The university said it is investigating.

Good week for:

Connections, after Montana’s Whitefish Energy won a \$300 million, no-bid contract to rebuild Puerto Rico’s electrical grid despite having only two full-time employees. Whitefish was founded by a major donor to President Trump, and the CEO is a friend of U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who grew up in Whitefish.

A free press, after the family of a soldier killed in Afghanistan received a \$25,000 check from President Trump more than three months after he promised it. The check was dated the same day *The Washington Post* asked the White House why it had not been sent.

Living large, with the opening of the world’s first “plus size” beach resort in the Bahamas. The Resort features unlimited buffet meals, extra-wide chairs, steel-reinforced beds, and freedom from “fat shaming” on the beach.

Bad week for:

Prime membership, after a Florida couple found 65 pounds of plastic-wrapped marijuana inside a set of plastic bins they ordered from Amazon.com. The couple turned the weed over to the cops, but fear drug dealers may come after them.

Environmental protection, after the EPA abruptly canceled an appearance by three agency scientists at a climate-change conference in Rhode Island. Conference chair John King called it “a blatant example of the kind of scientific censorship we all suspected.”

The Resistance, with the announcement that on the anniversary of President Trump’s election on Nov. 8, protesters will gather in Boston and other cities “to scream helplessly at the sky.” Organizers said screaming together “reminds us that we’re not alone.”

Boring but important 2017 budget deficit was sixth highest

The federal budget deficit hit \$666 billion for fiscal year 2017—the sixth highest on record. The budget shortfall for the year that ended Sept. 30 was \$80 billion higher than 2016’s, an increase of 14 percent. Federal tax receipts reached a record high \$3.3 trillion, due to improved economic growth. But government outlays also hit a record \$4 trillion, up 3 percent, thanks largely to increased spending on Social Security and health programs Medicare and Medicaid, and higher interest payments on the national debt. “These numbers should serve as a smoke alarm for Washington, a reminder that we need to grow our economy again and get our fiscal house in order,” said White House budget director Mick Mulvaney.

College Station, Texas

Presidential reunion: All five living former presidents appeared together last week



Hail to the former chiefs

for the first time since 2013, gathering onstage at a benefit concert to raise money for hurricane victims. Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Jimmy Carter waved to the crowd and received a standing ovation at the One America Appeal event held at Texas A&M University. President Trump appeared in a prerecorded video to thank the former presidents for their “tremendous assistance,” despite recent speeches by both Obama and George W. Bush implicitly criticizing him. “Americans step up,” Obama said in brief remarks. “As heartbreaking as the tragedies that took place here in Texas, and in Florida, in Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been, what we’ve also seen is the spirit of America at its best.” The One America Appeal has raised more than \$33 million so far.

Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Migrant abortion: An undocumented teenager being held in an immigrant detention facility received an abortion this



Pro-choice activists

week after a federal appeals court ruled the government couldn’t stop her from terminating her pregnancy. The 17-year-old, from an unidentified Central American country, was apprehended trying to illegally cross the U.S. border in September and learned she was pregnant a short time later. But after the girl said she wanted an abortion, the Trump administration denied her request, citing a new policy of refusing to “facilitate” abortions for unaccompanied minors. Lawyers for the girl said officials forced her to undergo counseling at a religiously affiliated “crisis pregnancy center” that urged her not to terminate. As the case wound through the courts, the teen’s pregnancy advanced to 15 weeks; Texas bans most abortions after 20 weeks.

Washington, D.C.

Uranium One investigation: House Republicans opened an investigation this week into the government’s handling of a controversial 2010 deal giving Russia control of 20 percent of the U.S. uranium supply—an agreement that was approved in part by Hillary Clinton’s state department. The move came after *TheHill.com* reported that the Obama administration cleared the partial sale of the company Uranium One to a Russian state-owned nuclear firm, even though the FBI was investigating kickbacks by Russian officials to American uranium-trucking companies. Investigators say they want to know whether \$4 million in donations by Uranium One investors to the Clinton Foundation influenced the deal’s approval. The Clinton state department was one of nine government agencies that signed off on the transaction. In an interview with C-SPAN this week, Clinton called the probe “baloney.”



Gainesville, Fla.

White nationalist violence: Three supporters of white nationalist leader Richard Spencer were charged with attempted murder last week after one of them shot at demonstrators who were protesting Spencer’s speech at the University of Florida. Tyler Tenbrink, 28; William Fears, 30; and Colton Fears, 28, allegedly approached a small group of protesters at a bus stop and began shouting “Hail Hitler” and giving Nazi salutes. In the ensuing argument, Tenbrink pulled out a gun, and the other two men urged him to “kill them.” Tenbrink fired a single shot, which struck a building. The three men, all from Texas, then fled, but were arrested 20 miles away. Prior to the shooting, one of the accused spoke to a local newspaper about his support for the white nationalist movement. “It’s always been socially acceptable to punch a Nazi,” William Fears said. “We’re starting to push back. We want to show our teeth a little bit.”

Washington, D.C.

Dems funded Trump dossier:

Hillary Clinton’s campaign and the Democratic National Committee helped fund research behind the now-infamous “Steele Dossier” containing salacious allegations about President Trump’s connections with Russia, *The Washington Post* reported this week. In April 2016, lawyer Marc Elias, who represented the Clinton campaign and the DNC, hired Fusion GPS to conduct opposition research on Trump. The Washington-based research firm had already been investigating Trump’s background on behalf of an unnamed Republican client, and hired dossier author Christopher Steele, a former British intelligence officer. Steele eventually produced a series of memos, parts of which he shared with the FBI, alleging an extensive Russian conspiracy to help Trump win the presidency. The dossier, including unsubstantiated accounts of Trump’s encounters with Russian prostitutes, became public in January after *BuzzFeed.com* published a leaked copy.



Clinton

Richmond, Va.

Governor’s race tightens:

Democrats are fretting about potentially losing a bellwether election in the run-up to the 2018 midterms, as polls showed the Nov. 7 race for Virginia governor in a virtual dead heat. For months, Democrat Ralph Northam, the state’s lieutenant governor, has held a narrow lead over Republican Ed Gillespie, a former chairman of the Republican National Committee. But three new polls put the race within the margin of error. Virginia hasn’t elected a Republican to statewide office since 2010, but Gillespie appears to have narrowed the gap by relentlessly attacking Northam as soft on illegal immigration. Democrats, meanwhile, have accused Gillespie, formerly an immigration moderate, of cynically adopting President Trump’s hard-line rhetoric. Democratic officials fear losing the race will imperil their momentum as the party gears up for 2018. “All eyes are on us,” said Susan Swecker, chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia.



Northam (left), Gillespie



Croissant crisis

Paris

Where's the *beurre*? France is enduring its worst butter shortage since World War II. Although the price of butter has more than doubled, to about \$3.60 a pound over the past year, supermarket shelves quickly empty of the staple. The price of buttery pastries like croissants has also rocketed, and bakers unable to get their hands on enough *beurre* are cutting work-

ers' hours. The crisis is rooted in the European Union's 2015 decision to abolish its system of milk quotas. The resulting glut of milk caused a price collapse that led dairy farmers to slash output, and now there's not enough milk to meet the butter demand. French bakers are refusing to replace butter with margarine. "That," said Jose Pires, a Paris bakery manager, "would be unprofessional."

Barcelona

Independence showdown: Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy sharply escalated his confrontation with Catalonia's pro-independence leaders this week by declaring that he would remove them from office and place the restive region under Madrid's control.

Rajoy invoked Article 155 of the constitution, which allows the federal government to suspend a region's autonomy if the nation's "general interests" are threatened. Rajoy said Catalanian President Carles Puigdemont is posing such a threat by treating the region's illegal independence referendum on Oct. 1—in which 90 percent voted yes to secession, but only 43 percent of voters turned out—as binding.



Opposing Rajoy

Mexico City

From first lady to president? Margarita Zavala, a lawyer and former Mexican first lady, has announced that she will run for president in Mexico's elections next summer. The wonky and experienced Zavala, who recently split from the conservative National Action party to run as an independent, is the wife of Felipe Calderón, who initiated the war on drugs while he was president from 2006 to 2012. As first lady, she advocated for the rights of migrant children deported from the U.S.; before that, she was a lawmaker who worked to promote women's representation in politics. Although her husband's drug war was bloody and divisive, he left office with an approval rating above 50 percent. Zavala is polling about even with the leftist candidate, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.



Zavala

Managua, Nicaragua

Joining climate deal: Nicaragua, one of only two countries that didn't sign the Paris climate accord, announced this week it will join the pact. When the deal was reached, in December 2015, the Central American country condemned the plan—which calls on all member nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions—as insufficiently ambitious. Nicaragua's chief climate negotiator, Paul

Oquist, said the deal wouldn't prevent a potential temperature increase of 3 degrees Celsius. But Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega now says his country will join the deal to signal support for global efforts to curb climate change. The only holdouts are Syria, which is locked in a devastating civil war, and the U.S., which President Trump said would withdraw from the accord.



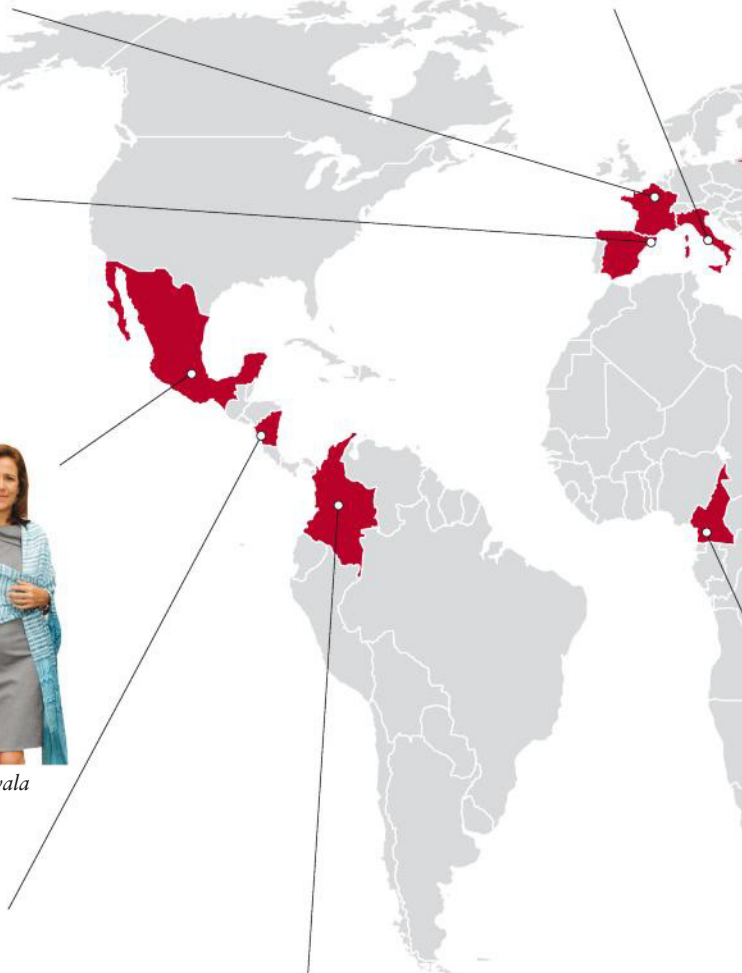
A Nicaraguan wind farm

Rome

Anti-Semitism in soccer: The Italian soccer federation has ordered that a passage from Anne Frank's diary be read aloud before all games this coming week, after fans of a top team used an image of the young Holocaust victim to taunt their rivals. Lazio supporters defaced Rome's Stadio Olimpico with stickers depicting Frank—murdered by the Nazis at age 15—wearing the jersey of rival team Roma. Far-right Lazio fans associate their Roma counterparts, with whom they share the stadium, with being left-wing and Jewish. Lazio Chairman Claudio Lotito said he would intensify efforts to combat bigotry among fans. In 1998, Lazio supporters unfurled a banner toward Roma fans that read "Auschwitz Is Your Country; the Ovens Are Your Homes."



Lotito: Outraged



Bogotá, Colombia

Coffee discovered: It's finally possible to get a decent cup of joe in Colombia—the world's third-largest coffee producer. Until recently, good coffee was rare in Colombia, because the country exported nearly all of its excellent arabica beans, forcing locals to make brews with cheap imports from as far away as Vietnam. The most popular style of coffee is *tinto* ("ink"): a weak, murky brown concoction. But consumers have started to demand better brews in recent years, and the Tostao chain of upscale cafés—which sells only locally roasted Colombian coffee—has opened 200 branches in the past 20 months. "As drinkers, I think Colombians only now are really understanding what good coffee tastes like," aspiring café owner Cesar Parra told *The Washington Post*.

Moscow

Journalist stabbed: A well-known Russian journalist was in critical condition this week after an attacker burst past security at Ekho Moskv, Russia's main liberal radio station, and stabbed her in the throat. Authorities said the assailant, 48-year-old Russian-Israeli blogger Boris Grits, was mentally disturbed. A video of his police interrogation was leaked in which he said he attacked the station's deputy editor, Tatyana Felgenhauer, because she was tormenting him "telepathically." But journalists blamed the Kremlin's relentless propaganda against the station, one of the country's few independent journalism outlets. Just two weeks ago, state TV ran a segment alleging that Ekho Moskv and Felgenhauer were secretly American agents working to undermine Russia.



Felgenhauer

Erbil, Iraq

Independence on hold: Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan Region offered to suspend its push for independence and start talks with Baghdad this week, as firefights continued between Kurdish fighters and Iraqi troops. After Iraqi Kurds overwhelmingly voted in favor of secession last month, Iraq's military seized control of the northern city of Kirkuk, which had been held by the Kurds since central government forces fled an ISIS advance in 2014. In the past week, dozens of people have died in clashes between Kurdish and Iraqi troops. The Kurdistan Regional Government has now offered to "freeze" the result of the referendum and proposed a cease-fire to end the fighting, which it said is driving "the country toward disarray and chaos." The central government in Baghdad had demanded that the referendum results be annulled before any negotiations could begin on the Kurdish region's status.



Kurds mourn Kirkuk's seizure.

Baghdad

Defending Iran ties: Iraq reacted with anger this week after Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Iranian-backed militias who have helped battle ISIS in the country should "go home and allow the Iraqi people to regain control." Tillerson, speaking in Saudi Arabia just before a trip to Baghdad, said there was no need for the Shiite militias now that ISIS is all but routed. But Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi—whose Shiite-dominated government has close ties to Tehran—said the Hashed al-Shaabi coalition of Shiite militias "are Iraqis who have fought terrorism, defended their country, and made sacrifices." Those fighters, he said, "should be encouraged, because they will be the hope of the country and the region."

Naypyidaw, Myanmar

Sanctions threat: The U.S. is threatening to reimpose sanctions against Myanmar unless the country stops its brutal campaign against the Rohingya, a long-oppressed Muslim minority in the majority Buddhist country. Myanmar's economy has boomed since the U.S. lifted sanctions last year, after the country's military rulers began moving toward democracy. But in August,



Rohingya refugees

Myanmarese troops began a scorched-earth onslaught of rape, arson, and murder in Rohingya villages, sending some 600,000 people fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh. "This very closely resembles some of the worst kind of atrocities that I've seen during a long career," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark Storella.

Bangkok

Funeral fit for a king: Thais honored the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej this week with a five-day funeral ceremony that cost up to \$90 million and involved theatrical and musical performances and a three-tier, 165-foot-high pyre. The king died in October 2016 at age 88, and his body lay in state at the Grand Palace during the yearlong mourning period. The cremation structure in Bangkok, decked in gold and decorated with sculptures of mythical creatures and the king's favorite dogs, was replicated in miniature in 85 other cities across the country. All Thais were expected to pay their respects to their late ruler. The military junta that took over Thailand in a 2014 coup harshly punishes any perceived disrespect toward the monarchy.



The royal crematorium

Yaoundé, Cameroon

English speakers seek break: Cameroon is violently cracking down on a secessionist movement in its two English-speaking regions. Activists in the Anglophone Northwest and Southwest regions symbolically declared independence from mostly French-speaking Cameroon on Oct. 1, calling their state Ambazonia. The self-proclaimed president of Ambazonia, Julius Ayuk Tabe Sisiku, is based in the U.S. and uses his Facebook page to send messages to his followers. Dozens of people were killed in clashes with the police following the independence declaration, and the International Crisis Group says the government's response is driving more English speakers to support armed insurrection. Hundreds of Cameroonians have fled to Nigeria, and Nigerian authorities said they are bracing for up to 40,000 refugees.



LeBron's sense of responsibility



LeBron James feels the burden of being black, said Mark Anthony Green in *GQ*. One of basketball's greatest players ever, the Cleveland Cavaliers forward believes that many of the fans who passionately cheer him on court also harbor deep-seated racial resentment. During this year's NBA playoffs, someone scrawled the N-word on the front gate of his house in Brentwood, Calif.

"People may love the way I play the game," says James, 32, "but at the end of the day, [they] are gonna resort back to who they are." The four-time MVP—who recently called President Trump "a bum" for his criticism of other black athletes—often has conversations with his sons, ages 10 and 13, about being black in America. "I let them know this is what it is, this is how it's going to be. Be respectful to cops. When you get pulled over, call your mom or dad, put it on speakerphone, and put your phone underneath the seat." He warns his sons that many people will always define them by their skin color. "No matter how great you become in life, no matter how wealthy you become," he says, "if you are an African-American man or African-American woman, you will always be that." James holds nothing against prominent athletes who decline to speak out on social issues, but says it's a no-brainer for him. "It's my responsibility. I believe that I was put here for a higher cause."

Brown's early failures

Before he became a best-selling author, Dan Brown was a serial failure, said Lina Das in *The Mail on Sunday* (U.K.). His first career choice was writing pop songs—an unlikely path for a clean-cut, brogue-wearing young nerd. He even recorded a soft-rock album, featuring a song, "976-LOVE," about phone sex. (Sample lyrics: "I take you to bed and push the phone to my head/You make me feel like a man.") Brown, 53, looks back on it now with curled toes. "There was a lot of sexual content in songs around then—I was just trying to get published," he says. "I wanted to write songs about princes and queens and reading ancient manuscripts, but no one was interested. The album sold about nine copies. I'm pretty sure my mum bought all of them." Brown initially didn't fare much better as an author. At his first book signing, for his 1998 debut novel, *Digital Fortress*, he had "five pens at the ready, just to be sure." After three hours, not a single person had approached him. "Finally a man walked toward me, looking me right in the eye," he recalls. "So I took the cap off my pen and was quivering with excitement. Then he said, 'Can you tell me where this restaurant is?' That was the only question I got all day."

Gossip



■ **Harvey Weinstein** doesn't seem overly invested in his treatment for sex addiction. The disgraced Hollywood producer intended to check out of an Arizona rehab facility this week after completing a mere seven-day program for "various psychological issues," in the wake of a sexual harassment scandal involving more than 50 women. Weinstein, 65, spent the week at a nearby hotel, attending sessions as an outpatient, and fellow patients say he was an absolute nightmare—falling asleep during sessions or taking calls on his banned cellphone. "When it was his turn to speak, he launched into a speech about how this is all a

conspiracy against him," a source told the *New York Post*. Weinstein has signed up for another month so that he can continue working on his anger and empathy issues, one of his psychologists told *TMZ.com*. So far, at least 58 women have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment, assault, or rape; some of those claims are now under investigation by the New York City, Los Angeles, and London police.

■ **Matt Damon** has known for years that Weinstein sexually harassed **Gwyneth Paltrow**, the actor has admitted. During a joint interview with **George Clooney**, Damon, who starred in the Weinstein-produced *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, said he was told years ago that Weinstein had tried to coerce Paltrow into giving him a massage. Damon said he believed Paltrow had come to an "understanding" with Weinstein, and in-

sisted "the criminal sexual predation is not something that I ever thought was going on." Clooney echoed Damon's claim of innocence, saying that Weinstein would brag about his affairs, but he never knew "this predator...was out there silencing women."

■ Another Hollywood figure, writer-director **James Toback**, has become embroiled in his own sexual harassment scandal, with more than 200 women coming forward to accuse him of offering to make them stars in exchange for sexual favors. NBC anchor **Natalie Morales** and actress **Julianne Moore** were among those who said Toback approached them to audition. His accusers said he set up "meetings" in hotel rooms that ended with him masturbating in front of them. Toback, 72, said the allegations were "biologically impossible" given his diabetes and heart condition.



How Fonda forgave her parents

Jane Fonda has always had a difficult family life, said Brooks Barnes in *Town & Country*. The two-time Oscar-winning actress was 12 when her mother committed suicide, and she had an emotionally distant relationship with her father, Hollywood superstar Henry Fonda. "You have to learn as much as you can about your parents," says Fonda, 79. "After that you will realize that their treatment of you—as a child, as an adult—had nothing to do with you. If they had a problem loving you, it was because they didn't know how." Fonda misses her father, who died in 1982, despite their strained relationship. "I think I'd be able to talk to him now, which was something I had a hard time doing when he was alive. I was too intimidated by him." She openly acknowledges her own shortcomings in regard to family, admitting that she hasn't "always been a great parent" and that she viewed her three husbands as "stepping-stones" in her own evolution as a person. "I always just saw that it could get better." But Fonda wants to be surrounded by family when she dies. "To get there you have to work hard to heal the wounds and mend the fences," she says. "Because in the end it's always what you didn't do, not what you did."

Puerto Rico, lost in limbo

Puerto Ricans are Americans, but have a vague legal status that will impair the island's recovery.

Why is Puerto Rico part of the U.S.?

Puerto Ricans had no choice in the matter. A Spanish colony since Ponce de León established a settlement there in 1508, Puerto Rico had just acquired voting rights and its own constitution in 1898 when the U.S. invaded the island during the Spanish-American War. The generals promised the locals—descendants of Spanish colonists, former slaves, and indigenous Taino—a free future, and many sided with the U.S. against Spanish rule. But once the war was over, and Spain had ceded the island along with the Philippines and Guam, the U.S. did not recognize the local parliament and instead set up a colonial administration. The U.S. president appointed governors, who chose their own cabinets. Puerto Rico was effectively a colony and officially a territory.

Why isn't it a state?

For racial reasons. Most U.S. territories did become states; Oklahoma, for example, became a territory in 1890 and a state in 1907. The difference was that Oklahoma was settled largely by English-speaking whites, who displaced the Native Americans. Starting in 1901, the same Supreme Court that had approved “separate but equal” segregation for black Americans, in the infamous *Plessy v. Ferguson* case, ruled in a series of decisions that Puerto Rico and other territories that were “inhabited by alien races” were not ready to be governed by “Anglo-Saxon principles.” Puerto Rico was declared an “unincorporated territory”—different from the Alaskan and Hawaiian incorporated territories—and the path to statehood was closed off. Unlike *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Insular Cases, as these rulings are known, were never overturned.

Can Puerto Ricans vote?

Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens from birth, thanks to a law passed in 1917 partly aimed at allowing them to serve in the Army during World War I. But they have no voting representation in Congress, and they can't vote for president unless they move to the mainland. While they don't pay federal income taxes, Puerto Ricans do pay some \$3 billion annually to the federal government in Medicare, Social Security, and other taxes. They are eligible for U.S. public assistance programs, and receive about \$20 billion a year in such aid, with 40 percent of the poverty-stricken population getting food stamps. After World War II, when colonies around the world were gaining independence, Congress allowed Puerto Rico to write and adopt its own constitution, with its own bill of rights. That constitution calls Puerto Rico a commonwealth, but the legal status of that term was never quite nailed down, leaving it in limbo.



No consensus: A pro-statehood rally in 2003

Why does that hurt the island?

The biggest problem is that Puerto Rico can't fully control its own economy. During the first few decades under U.S. administration, authorities imposed a colonial structure of sugar plantations, which hurt other local industries. In the 1970s and '80s, the territory benefited from U.S. tax exemptions that encouraged pharmaceutical firms and other corporations to locate there, but when Congress started phasing those out in 1996, manufacturing declined and the economy tanked. The territory's elected leaders began making up the shortfall

by issuing bonds, creating a ballooning debt of more than \$70 billion. Bankruptcy rules that allow cities such as Detroit to restructure debt don't apply to Puerto Rico, and rather than change that, Congress passed the PROMESA law last year, creating an oversight board that took financial control entirely away from local authority and imposed severe austerity.

What status do Puerto Ricans want?

They are divided. Some want statehood, some independence, and others a commonwealth option that would allow them to retain U.S. citizenship but enable them to make their own treaties with foreign countries. There's no majority for any of the options. The latest vote was this past June, but most factions boycotted. The result was a 97 percent vote for statehood—but with turnout of just 23 percent. The devastation from Hurricane Maria, though, may change the island forever. Already, the Puerto Ricans on the mainland—some 5 million—outnumbered the island's population of 3.4 million. With 80 percent of people still lacking power, 30 percent without water, and thousands of businesses destroyed, many Puerto Ricans with the means to leave are fleeing to the mainland.

The Navy's toxic legacy

For decades, the U.S. Navy had a major base on Puerto Rico, and used the territory's nearby Vieques Island as a bombing range. The Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, opened by FDR in 1940, was a launchpad for the U.S. invasions of the Dominican Republic in 1965, Grenada in 1983, and Haiti in 1994, and it boosted Puerto Rico's economy. But Vieques residents said the relentless bombing was destroying the environment, and after a stray bomb killed a civilian and prompted major protests, the Navy closed the base in 2004. Vieques is now a Superfund site contaminated with lead, Agent Orange, and depleted uranium. Its 9,000 residents have rates of cancer that are 27 percent higher than those for the rest of Puerto Rico, and testing reveals that many people's bodies have toxic levels of lead, arsenic, and mercury. But the U.S. government denies any connection between the bombing and the high cancer rates, saying its own studies revealed “no apparent public health hazard.”

What's Puerto Rico's future?

Right now, it looks grim. Puerto Ricans are furious at what they see as a slow FEMA response, as well as at President Trump's insinuation that they, unlike hurricane victims in Texas and Florida, will have to pay back any aid they receive. Activists are putting pressure on Congress to relax the rules that deny Puerto Rico the recourses a state would have. The Jones Act, which bars foreign ships from delivering goods to the island, has been temporarily waived, but could be repealed. Debt restructuring is under discussion. Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló warns that without significant aid to rebuild the island's infrastructure, reduce its debt, and revive its economy, there will be a mass exodus. “You're not going to get hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans moving to the States,” Rosselló said. “You're going to get millions.”

Democrats' immigration blindness

Andrew Sullivan
NYMag.com

Democrats are in danger of handing the next election to Republicans on a plate, said Andrew Sullivan. Why? Because of their increasingly radical stance on immigration. From Brexit to President Trump to Marine Le Pen in France to Germany's swelling far right, Western politics is being completely reshaped by a populist revolt against mass immigration. Yet rather than "listening to the electorate" on this tinderbox issue, Democrats "have moved ever further to the left." Led by far-left activists, the party now rejects the idea that illegal immigration is a problem at all, and contends that "any kind of distinction between citizens and noncitizens is somehow racist." The logical next step of this thinking is that open borders may not be such a bad idea—and some liberals are already voicing that nutty notion. "This is, to be blunt, political suicide." It is not bigoted for citizens to want their country to focus on their own best interests, not those of people from other countries; in fact, it's "the core foundation for any viable democracy." The most effective thing Trump said during the campaign was actually true: "If you don't have borders, you don't have a country." Until Democrats accept that, they're going to keep losing elections.

The twilight of political parties

David Von Drehle
The Washington Post

Both of America's major political parties "are in crisis," said David Von Drehle. Despite controlling Congress, the White House, and most state governments, Republicans have become so fractured, they may not even be able to rally around tax cuts, "the golden calf of the GOP." Their president feels he "owes zilch to the party" after defeating a host of primary candidates representing every Republican faction, and he often attacks other Republicans. "The internal bloodletting is at least as fierce" on the Democratic side. The party nearly lost control of its own presidential nomination last year to Sen. Bernie Sanders, a socialist independent who "continues to galvanize the left wing against leading Democrats." In the modern era, "voters no longer need—nor, in many cases, want—a political party to screen their candidates and vet their ideas." Just as it has disrupted the retail industry, the digital revolution has allowed outsider and extremist candidates to bypass traditional gatekeepers to connect directly with voters and donors. It's true that both parties have been "arrogant, unresponsive, and borderline corrupt." But the parties also vetted and trained candidates, and helped enable the compromises needed to govern. "We may miss them when they are gone."

Yes, women are hunting predators

Lindy West
The New York Times

Woody Allen, of all people, last week worried aloud that the Harvey Weinstein revelations would lead to "a witch hunt" of men, said Lindy West. If male predators want to put it that way, fine. "I'm a witch, and I'm hunting you"—and so are legions of other women. In recent weeks, tens of thousands of women have used the social media hashtag #MeToo to share their own stories and "demonstrate the staggering breadth and ubiquity of sexual predation." In the worlds of Hollywood, business, media, and Silicon Valley, women are coming forward to name the men who harassed or assaulted them—leaving some men "feeling hunted after millennia of treating women like prey." Too bad. In a just world, rich, powerful men with a long history of forcing themselves on women would have faced consequences long ago. Until recently, men like Weinstein, Bill Cosby, Roger Ailes, and Donald Trump, "our predator in chief," got away with it. But we have found our voice and our strength in numbers. "The witches are coming." We may not have institutional power or wealth, "but we have our stories, and we're going to keep telling them."

Viewpoint

"Hollywood may have a moral and public relations horror on its hands akin to the Catholic Church's pedophilia scandal. What's going on now has made the movie industry do something it perhaps has never done before: feel deeply ashamed about itself. The men either participated in the plot to treat women as communal sexual property or, knowing about it, said nothing. The women knew even more about it, and also said nothing. Shrill [award ceremony] speeches about the misdeeds of Donald Trump are going to sound hollow, if not absurd, now that we know what Hollywood has known about itself for all these years."

Kyle Smith in *NationalReview.com*

It must be true... I read it in the tabloids

■ A Montreal man who was driving and singing along loudly to his favorite song was pulled over by police and fined \$120 for "screaming in public." Taoufik Moalla, 38, was singing along to a raucous '90s dance track when police chased him with sirens blaring and pulled him over. "I don't know if my voice was very bad and that's why I got the ticket, but I was very shocked," Moalla said. He plans to appeal the fine, but admits his wife told him, "If it was for singing, I'd have given you a ticket for \$300."

■ Conspiracy theorists are claiming that the White House has hired a body double to "play" Melania Trump at official events. The rumors became an internet sensation last week after video footage showed the first lady at a press event, wearing a high-collared trench coat and outsize sunglasses that covered much of her face. Conspiracymongers detailed tiny differences between the "fake Melania's" face and that of the "real" first lady. This "is mind-blowing," one conspiracist wrote on Twitter. "Makes me wonder what else is a lie." The White House called it "a ridiculous non-story."

■ Brazil's worst soccer team has started winning games—and its fans are furious. Ibis Sport's supporters are proud of its reputation as the "worst team in the world" and were shocked when the club broke its two-year losing streak by winning three consecutive matches. Fans stormed a bar where players were celebrating and demanded they stop scoring goals. "This is destroying our history," said protest leader Nilsinho Filho. Another fan complained Ibis was becoming "just another winning team," adding, "It's the coach's fault."



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UNITED KINGDOM

Charge British ISIS recruits with treason

Editorial
The Times

Now that ISIS is crumbling on the battlefields of Syria and Iraq, hundreds of British jihadists could soon return home. We shouldn't let them just waltz right in, said *The Times*. This is the moment "to set up elaborate filters" and issue temporary exclusion orders while each of the returnees is carefully checked. Returning militants' stories will have to be evaluated against their social media accounts, the testimony of others, and intelligence on jihadist activity gathered by the U.S., the U.K., and other powers. Many of these extremists, particularly the women, will surely claim to "have been duped, brainwashed, or simply ignorant." Given

that ISIS publicized its executions all over the internet, and actually used such violence as a macabre recruiting tool, naïveté should not be allowed as a defense. Instead, to demonstrate that Britain will not tolerate jihadism, we should "revive the crime of treason." The charge was last brought against William Joyce, a British fascist turned Nazi propagandist, who was executed in 1946. Of course, nowadays traitors won't be put to death, but anyone who has volunteered for ISIS "must be prosecuted." In fighting for a bloodthirsty terrorist group, these Britons "have made themselves an enemy of Britain." They should be treated as such.

POLAND

Will one man's suicide wake us up?

Jan Hartman
Polityka

A Polish man's self-immolation has shocked the nation, said Jan Hartman. The 54-year-old, not yet named by authorities, died last week after setting himself on fire outside the Palace of Culture in Warsaw. He left behind a manifesto of protest against the increasing authoritarianism of the ruling Law and Justice party. "I love freedom first and that is why I decided to immolate myself," his letter said. "I hope that my death will shake the consciences of many people." It has already shaken mine. Poland seems to have been transported back to 1968, when 59-year-old Ryszard Siwiec set himself alight to protest Poland's participation in the brutal suppression of the Prague

Spring by Warsaw Pact forces. That martyrdom led to political demonstrations, and Siwiec is honored as a Polish hero to this day—one who helped Poles see that they could resist their Communist leaders. Now this brave man in Warsaw has tried to call our attention to the creeping repression that has set in since nationalist Law and Justice came to power in 2015, with courts politicized and the press placed under state control. Some of us have joined street protests, but most of us "have done nothing or almost nothing to save Polish democracy," which we won back only 27 years ago. Will this man's sacrifice wake up Polish society "from its lethargy and complacency?"

Czech Republic: A Trump-like populist takes over

The Czech Republic is diving down a populist rabbit hole, said Petr Holec in *Blesk* (Czech Republic). In "an electoral massacre that Czech politics won't soon recover from," all the mainstream parties were trounced in last week's elections, leaving oligarch Andrej Babis as the likely next prime minister. Babis' Euroskeptic, anti-immigrant Action of Dissatisfied Citizens party—whose acronym, ANO, means "yes" in Czech—took nearly 30 percent of the vote. That's almost the same vote share as the next three parties got combined: The center-right Civic Democrats, the anti-establishment Pirate Party, and the ultra-right Freedom and Direct Democracy each received nearly 11 percent. ANO, formed in 2011, was the junior partner of the center-left Social Democrats in the outgoing government, but managed to preserve its outsider cachet. The Social Democrats, meanwhile, completely imploded, taking a dismal 7 percent to come in sixth place. Altogether, upstart or new parties took 122 of the 200 seats in Parliament.



Babis: An anti-establishment billionaire

Babis is often called the "Czech Donald Trump," said Hans-Peter Siebenhaar in *Handelsblatt* (Germany), and not just because he is a billionaire with authoritarian tendencies. Like Trump, Babis is "a whiz at self-promotion" but has no clear political ideology. When ANO first contested elections five years ago, it was pro-European Union and pro-immigration, but as Czechs shifted rightward, so did Babis. And like Trump, Babis campaigned on ridding politics of corruption and running government like a business. But he was charged with EU subsidy fraud this month—Babis calls the

indictment politically motivated—and was sacked as finance minister in May over tax irregularities. As owner of the Agrofert conglomerate, which includes two newspapers and a radio station, he has used his media power to relentlessly bash his opponents and promote his party.

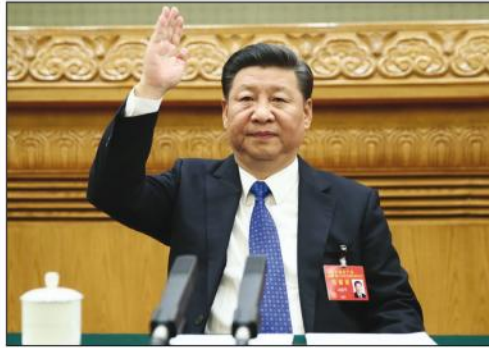
The billionaire may have to name someone else interim prime minister while he battles those fraud charges, said Florian Hassel in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (Germany). But if he does get to form a government, whom will he partner with? The new Czech Parliament is a swirl of "popu-

lists, Euroskeptics, and xenophobes," most of them some flavor of right wing. The worst is Freedom and Direct Democracy, the anti-immigrant party led by Tomio Okamura—the half-Japanese son of an immigrant—who urged his followers to walk pigs past mosques so Muslims get the message they aren't welcome. The "oligarchization" of Czech politics has no good outcome.

Give Babis a chance, said Stepana Chaba in *Krajske Listy* (Czech Republic). Too many Czech pundits are hyperventilating "like stupid Americans," railing that they are losing their country to fascism and Nazism. They blame the election results on uneducated rubes in the villages. But maybe those rubes did right to reject the tired old traditional parties that have ruled since the country traded communism for Western-style democracy. "We've all been mucking around in this useless crap for too long." Babis may well prove just another crook—but at least he's something different.

China: Xi positions himself as the new Mao

Xi Jinping is now officially China's supreme leader, said Nectar Gan in the *South China Morning Post* (China). At the Communist Party Congress in Beijing this week, party officials vied with one another to praise the Chinese president, "glorifying his achievements with gushing superlatives" and even calling him *lingxiu*, a term for absolute leader rarely used since the time of Chairman Mao. That such accolades were bestowed at the congress, which takes place every five years, shows the party's elite have agreed to hand Xi total and possibly indefinite authority over ideology, politics, and the military. The party's constitution was even rewritten to include "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism With Chinese Characteristics for a New Era." By labeling Xi's political philosophy "thought," the congress gave it the same standing as "Mao Zedong Thought," written into the constitution in 1945, and placed it above "Deng Xiaoping Theory," the doctrine added in after Deng's 1997 death.



President Xi: Taking total control

Alas, Xi seems to have more in common with the "economically and socially disastrous Mao" than with the "overachieving pragmatist" Deng, said Sudarshan Ramabadrin in *The Economic Times* (India). His acquisition of absolute power "has come from a series of purges dressed up as anti-corruption drives." Other party bigwigs fear him, because any of them could easily be brought down by a graft allegation—after all, self-dealing was a byproduct of the rapid economic growth set in motion by Deng's reforms in the late 1970s. Xi, though, learned from Deng's mistake: He won't allow the emergence of any non-state-dependent

bourgeoisie that might demand political power or try to protest in Tiananmen Square. Instead, he is putting the party at the center of every aspect of Chinese life. "Government, military, society, and schools," Xi said at the congress, "north, south, east, and west—the party is leader of all."

Xi has announced a "paradigmatic shift" in China's focus, said Yao Yang in *China Daily* (China). During "40 years of spectacular growth," the party lifted millions out of poverty and the skylines of many Chinese coastal cities

have grown to "dwarf those in Europe." China now has one-third of the world's billionaires. But the affluence has not been shared equally, and rapid industrialization has come at a high cost to the environment. A better life for most Chinese people now means not just a higher income, but also "a more equitable distribution of wealth, a just society, and a cleaner environment." Those are the domestic challenges Xi vows to overcome.

But it's Xi's foreign policy that's most troubling, said Merriden Varrall in the *Australian Financial Review* (Australia). His speech to the congress "was liberally peppered with not-so-subtle references to the declining role of the U.S. and its unpredictable president." As America withdraws from the world, China is moving to fill the void. Xi differs from his Chinese predecessors in his willingness to assume leadership on a world stage. And he's made it clear that "China will be increasingly disinclined to accept international norms or rules" it did not create. It's Xi's world now.

CANADA

Don't throw Muslims off the bus

Marni Soupcoff
National Post

Quebec's new ban on face coverings isn't merely bigoted, said Marni Soupcoff, it's also counterproductive. A law passed by the province's legislature last week says that a person's entire face must be shown while giving or receiving a public service, including riding public transportation. Lawmakers said it wasn't aimed at Muslim women, but "one gets the impression it's niqabs and burqas they have in mind." How this ban will be enforced is unclear. Are subway attendants supposed to refuse service to veiled women? Is anyone concerned about how it will look if bus drivers boot off Muslim women, and only Muslim women? This law

will surely only help Islamist extremists in their efforts to recruit followers. Jihadists, after all, are always falsely claiming that the West "is waging a concerted campaign against Islam." Quebec now wants to turn their lie into a truth. Some proponents of the law seem to be operating out of a misguided sympathy for Muslim women, whom they believe to be oppressed and forced to wear the veil. If that's true in some cases, then surely "taking away these women's ability to get around on their own isn't going to help matters." Fortunately, the law is probably unconstitutional—and a challenge can't come soon enough.

PHILIPPINES

Lawyers who act like mafia

Editorial
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Filipinos are shocked to discover "unethical conduct, inhumane attitude, and naked self-interest" among budding lawyers at a top university, said the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. Members of Aegis Juris, a law fraternity at the more-than-400-year-old University of Santo Tomas in Manila, allegedly beat to death a prospective pledge, Horacio Castillo III, and that's just the beginning of the horrors of the case. Castillo, 22, was a freshman law student when he showed up for the fraternity's initiation ceremony last month. The next morning, his body, covered in bruises and traces of candle wax, was found wrapped in a blanket and dumped in the street.

At least 19 lawyers or law students are under investigation in his death, and police say the group conspired to cover up the crime. Investigators released text messages showing that the men agreed to keep silent and refuse to cooperate with the police, following the code of their brotherhood. They even discussed paying off Castillo's family and bribing a guard to destroy surveillance camera footage. To read these callous messages is to become convinced that "there are many lawyers and law students who are not dedicated to the rule of law itself, but only to those benefits that accrue to a calculating practice of the law: power, privilege, personal survival."

Noted

■ North Korea's nuclear tests may have become so big that they've undermined the geological structure of Mount Mantap, the 7,200-foot-high peak under which the rogue state detonates its devices. Analysts say further tests could cause the mountain to implode and release plumes of radiation. *The Washington Post*

■ At least 162 Democratic candidates for U.S. House of Representatives seats in Republican-held districts have raised more than \$100,000 so far this year for the 2018 elections. That's about four times as many candidates as House Democrats had at this point before the 2016 or 2014 midterms; some first-time Democratic candidates are even out-raising GOP incumbents. "That's something that should get every Republican's attention in Washington," said Republican strategist Jason Roe. *Politico.com*



■ The U.S. Air Force is preparing to put nuclear-armed B-52 bombers back on 24-hour ready alert for the first time since the Cold War ended in 1991. The planes are held at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and beds are being installed for more than 100 crew members who can respond at a moment's notice. Gen. David Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, says the change is not a response to a specific threat, but "more for the reality of the global situation we find ourselves in." *DefenseOne.com*

■ Pollution in all its forms killed 9 million people globally in 2015 and led to \$4.6 trillion in damage, according to researchers at the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health. *Bloomberg.com*

Raqqa's fall: The end of ISIS?

"History will record that the Islamic State caliphate survived for three years, three months, and some eighteen days," said Robin Wright in *New Yorker.com*. At its height, the barbaric terrorist group controlled an area in Iraq and Syria the size of Indiana, with 8 million people living under its rule of "perverted viciousness." But four months after retaking Mosul in Iraq, U.S.-backed militias last week captured the Syrian city of Raqqa, ISIS's de facto capital. This isn't the end of the war. ISIS fighters still have outposts in lawless parts of eastern Syria, Libya, Sinai, Afghanistan, and the Philippines. "Their zealotry will endure." But the fall of Raqqa clearly marks "the symbolic demise" of ISIS rule. Fears that thousands of Westerners who joined the group will now flood home to wage jihad may not come to pass, said Graeme Wood in *The Atlantic.com*. Many of them died in the ferocious U.S. bombing; meanwhile, the U.S.-allied coalition isn't taking many prisoners, preferring that "no one makes it back alive."



Militia soldiers celebrate in bombed-out Raqqa.

Rather than declaring ISIS defeated, "counterterrorism officials are bracing for a new, lethal incarnation of the jihadist group," said Margaret Coker in *The New York Times*. Its leaders have

already signaled that they plan to "revert to their roots as a guerrilla force." The group can also continue using its "powerful social media network" to inspire and coordinate terrorist attacks across the globe. That may be true, said Noah Feldman in *Bloomberg.com*, but the "claim to be an authentic Islamic state" was critical to ISIS's "international appeal." Without that "distinctive brand," the group will probably be "reduced to a shadowy terrorist network," as marginal as al Qaida after the death of Osama bin Laden.

Still, it would be foolish to throw any victory parades, said Joshua Keating in *Slate.com*. Remember how "the surge" seemed to defeat al Qaida in Iraq a decade ago, before the group re-emerged as ISIS? Today, Iraq remains on the brink of civil war, with Iraqi government troops last week seizing the city of Kirkuk from Iraqi Kurds, and Shiite militias persecuting Sunnis. Syria is also fractured among myriad militias and rebel groups, some friendly to U.S. interests, some not. The region remains utterly chaotic—and the U.S. will have to keep troops there indefinitely. That's why the fall of Raqqa "feels so anticlimactic."

Niger: The mystery of four American deaths

The 12-man group of Green Berets had just finished a meeting in the Niger village of Tongo Tongo, when "suddenly, on the scrubby desert horizon, men on motorbikes appeared," said Dionne Searcy in *The New York Times*. For two hours, these 50 ISIS-aligned militants engaged U.S. soldiers in a "chaotic firefight," firing on them with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns. Four Americans were killed—including Sgt. La David Johnson, who was separated from his companions; his body wasn't recovered until 48 hours later. Three weeks after, the Niger tragedy hasn't just led to an "unsavory" fight between President Trump and Gold Star families, said Benjamin Hart in *NYPMag.com*. It has also "prompted many to wonder what U.S. troops were doing in the African country in the first place."

This much is clear: "Niger has been a toe in the expanding American footprint in Africa," said Jason Ditz in *The American Conservative.com*. President Obama escalated U.S. presence there from 100 military "advisers" in 2013 to about 575, as part of his stealthy and expansive global war on terror. Today there are about 800. These soldiers are tasked under the 9/11-era Authorization for the Use of Military Force with providing

intelligence support to French troops in their fight against Islamist militants connected to ISIS, al Qaida, and Boko Haram. The Pentagon says that the U.S. soldiers were pursuing an important ISIS recruiter, but so deep is the secrecy around these operations that we don't know if our troops have been engaging in covert combat missions in Niger. Indeed, several U.S. senators said they had no idea that so many U.S. soldiers were there.

When wars are secret, "mission creep" is inevitable, said James Barnett in *WeeklyStandard.com*. There may indeed be a case for the U.S. to support the counterterrorism operations of French and African forces in the region, but our intervention has been based on "the assumption that American soldiers would almost never be in harm's way." That assumption is obviously no longer valid. The confusion surrounding the four American deaths "is eerily similar to the Benghazi attack," said Zack Beauchamp in *Vox.com*, and if Obama or Hillary Clinton were in office, Republicans would be blaming them personally. Instead of "another partisan witch hunt," Congress should investigate what happened—and determine how deeply the Trump administration plans to get involved in Africa. In other words, "provide real oversight."

Bush: Sounding the alarm on Trump

“Neither of them mentioned President Trump by name,” said Peter Baker in *The New York Times*. But last week, two of his predecessors emerged from political seclusion to deliver a bipartisan rebuke “of the current occupant of the Oval Office.” Barack Obama voiced his own alarm at the current “politics of division” and “fear.” But it was George W. Bush’s withering critique of Trumpism that was the “landmark event,” said Brent Budowsky in *The Hill.com*. In a powerful speech at the Spirit of Liberty conference, the former Republican president lamented the bigotry and “casual cruelty” of Trumpian discourse, and the way nationalism has been “distorted into nativism.” The 43rd president left no doubt that he believes the 45th is to blame. “When we lose sight of our ideals, it is not democracy that has failed,” Bush said, “it is the failure of those charged with preserving and protecting democracy.”



A denunciation of ‘cruelty’ and ‘nativism’

“For this, Bush has gotten and will get plenty of praise, and deservedly so,” said Paul Waldman in *TheWeek.com*. But before we start “lionizing” Dubya as a representative of “a nobler age and a nobler GOP,” let’s not forget his own record. Bush dragged the country into a “disastrous war”

in Iraq, made “torture the official policy of the U.S.,” exploded the deficit with a massive tax cut for the wealthy, and left the economy in shambles. Trump won partly because he capitalized on Bush’s mistakes, said Reihan Salam in *Slate.com*. He vowed to avoid costly foreign wars, and his popular economic nationalism was directly fueled by Bush’s decision to pursue open immigration and free trade at the expense of the Rust Belt’s white working class. Put simply, “had there been no Bush, there’d be no Trump.”

Given Trump’s bottomless need for validation, the Bush-Obama joint criticism has to sting, said Stephen Collinson in *CNN.com*. It’s unprecedented for two former presidents to break the traditional “code of silence” and turn on their club’s newest member—an indication they are deeply alarmed by Trump’s divisive rhetoric and erratic leadership. But will their criticism hurt him politically? Probably not. His base, in fact, may see it as validation. After all, what better endorsement could there be of an anti-establishment campaign targeting Washington elites “than running foul of the two previous presidents from each political party?”

O’Reilly: Buying another accuser’s silence

Bill O’Reilly is still causing embarrassment for Fox News, said Emily Steel and Michael Schmidt in *The New York Times*. Although the network fired O’Reilly in April amid mounting sexual harassment allegations, new revelations show just how much the network was willing to tolerate before cutting ties with the top-rated cable star. Back in January, O’Reilly secretly agreed to pay \$32 million out of his own pocket to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by former Fox legal analyst Lis Wiehl, including allegations of explicit emails and a “nonconsensual sexual relationship.” Despite knowing about the settlement, Rupert Murdoch and his sons, Lachlan and James, the top executives at 21st Century Fox, “made a business calculation” to stand by O’Reilly, giving him a four-year contract extension worth \$25 million a year—adding a clause enabling them to fire him if any more sexual scandals became public.

“Talk about corporate irresponsibility,” said Jennifer Rubin in *The Washington Post*. The Wiehl payout was at least the sixth agreement made by either O’Reilly or the company to settle harassment allegations—agreements involving tens of millions of dollars. Yet the Murdochs “did their best” to keep the public—and other women at

Fox—in the dark about O’Reilly’s alleged predatory behavior. “Let the boycotts begin!” Incredibly, O’Reilly sees himself as a victim, said Paul Farhi, also in *The Washington Post*. He denies doing anything wrong to Wiehl and says reporting the settlement is “a malicious smear” that will hurt his children and keep him from returning to TV. In his podcast, he even blamed God for his public disgrace. “Yeah, I’m mad at Him,” O’Reilly said. “I wish I had more protection.”

Despite everything we know, conservatives continue to cozy up to O’Reilly, said David French in the *National Review*. Liberals have no monopoly on virtue—as the sordid Harvey Weinstein affair proves—but at least they’ve denounced the disgraced Hollywood mogul, donated his political contributions to charity, and banished him from progressive circles. Yet O’Reilly continues to make the rounds on talk shows to tout his books and claim innocence, while prominent conservatives still appear on his podcast. C’mon: How much money must O’Reilly pay out “before conservatives apply the same standards to him that they would eagerly apply to a liberal of corresponding fame and importance?” Fellow conservatives, “it’s time for O’Reilly to be Weinstein.”

Wit & Wisdom

“Our government must forever be a kind of war of about one half the people against the other.”
John Adams, quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*

“A great artist leaves us with the feeling that something is right in the world.”
Leonard Bernstein, quoted in *The Browser.com*

“A society is moving toward dangerous ground when loyalty to the truth is seen as disloyalty to some supposedly higher interest.”
Marilynne Robinson, quoted in *New York Review of Books*

“Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand.”
Mark Twain, quoted in *The New York Times*

“Mistakes are little win-dows into what is possible.”
Artist Laura Owens, quoted in *The New Yorker*

“If you are ever attacked in the street, do not shout ‘Help!’—shout ‘Fire!’ People adore fires and always come rushing.”
British politician Baroness Trumpington, quoted in *Telegraph.co.uk*

“Nature’s silence is its one remark.”
Annie Dillard, quoted in *SierraMagazine.org*

Poll watch

■ **52%** of Americans oppose President Trump’s new tax proposals. **81%** of Democrats are opposed, while **70%** of Republicans support the plan. Independents are **50%** opposed and **35%** in favor. Only **24%** believe their families will benefit if the tax plan is passed.
CNN-SSRS

■ **49%** of those polled say they have lied to their significant other more than once. **14%** say they’ve lied to their partner just once. **19%** claim to have always been truthful.
YouGov

Security: Why your Wi-Fi is vulnerable to hackers

A software bug affecting most of the world's Wi-Fi connections "could let hackers spy on you," said **Selena Larson** in *CNN.com*. A Belgian security researcher announced last week that he'd discovered a critical flaw in WPA2, the global protocol that encrypts traffic on Wi-Fi networks. Normally, data that moves between a Wi-Fi router and a connected computer or phone is encrypted or scrambled, so that eavesdroppers and digital thieves can't access it. But this flaw, dubbed KRACK, allows a hacker within range of a targeted device to reset the encryption keys, exposing transmitted information to being read or stolen. In some cases, hackers could even inject malware into a Wi-Fi network, said **Lily Hay Newman** in *Wired.com*. "In practice, that means hackers could steal your passwords, intercept your financial data, or even manipulate commands to, say, send your money to themselves." Some devices, including those running Windows and iOS, are "mercifully already protected," thanks to newly released security patches, but "tens of millions" of Android and Linux devices remain exposed.

The good news is that "you probably don't have to worry about hackers going after your network specifically," said **Russell Brandom** in *TheVerge.com*. An attacker has to be physically within Wi-Fi range to carry out this exploit, "which dramatically reduces the risk that an average person will be targeted." The attack itself "is also difficult to execute," and there haven't been any



A bug that caught the tech world off guard

real-world reports of the bug actually being used for hacks. But it's still disconcerting that this flaw "caught much of the industry off guard." Most major tech firms, including Google, are scrambling to develop and release fixes to secure their products. To protect yourself, "update your devices immediately and then keep updating them over the next few weeks as companies release new patches," said **Keith Collins** in *Qz.com*. This includes computers, tablets, phones, and routers. As a general web-browsing rule, only share sensitive data on HTTPS sites that feature a padlock icon in the browser's address bar. These sites are still vulnerable to KRACK without a fix, but they are better than unsecured sites.

If we're honest, the "KRACK Wi-Fi mess will take decades to clean up," said **Brian Barrett** in *Wired.com*. When companies release security patches for flaws like this, it's often consumers' responsibility to apply them. That's not as hard to do with smartphones, which typically prod users with a software auto-update, but it becomes far trickier with devices like routers. Even if consumers know they need to update that device's software, the process "may rightly baffle" them. Then there are the millions of Wi-Fi-connected smart-home gadgets, including security cameras, smart refrigerators, and connected thermostats, which "rarely receive" the necessary software fixes. As a result, "the true cost of KRACK could play out for years."

Innovation of the week

Scientists say they can predict the next song a bird will sing, said **Antonio Regalado** in *MIT Technology Review*. A team of researchers at the University of California, San Diego, built "a brain-to-tweet interface" that examined the brain activity of zebra finches and accurately determined the birds' next song choice about 30 milliseconds before they opened their beaks. Using electrodes implanted in the small birds' brains, the scientists measured "the electrical chatter of neurons" in the area that commands birdsong and then fed that data into a neural network to map what sounds are associated with specific brain patterns. The team hopes to use its predictive insights in pursuit of one of Silicon Valley's most audacious goals: "allowing people to effortlessly send texts with their thoughts."



Bytes: What's new in tech

Facebook tests its first paywall

The paywall is coming to Facebook, said **Dani Deahl** in *TheVerge.com*. The social media giant is testing a news subscription model for its Instant Articles feature, partnering with a group of global publishers including *Bild*, *The Economist*, *La Repubblica*, and *The Washington Post*. Instant Articles was released in 2015 as a way for news organizations to publish content within Facebook; having readers stay on Facebook, instead of being sent to a publisher's site, was supposed to lower page load times. Two different subscription models will be tested, with the first permitting 10 free articles before a subscription is required, and the second allowing publishers to determine which articles are free and which exist behind the paywall. The trial will take place exclusively on Android devices.

Google gives ride-sharing app a Lyft

Google parent Alphabet is pumping \$1 billion into Lyft, said **Eric Newcomer** in *Bloomberg.com*. The investment, which values the ride-sharing startup at \$11 billion—up from \$7.5 billion in April—will allow Lyft to "double down on the U.S. market," where it has made steady gains against rival Uber. The company recently gave its 500 millionth ride and

says that its drivers are now available to 95 percent of the U.S. population, up from 54 percent at the start of the year. Alphabet was an early investor in Uber, but it has become embroiled in a messy legal fight with that company following the collapse of a self-driving collaboration. Lyft will now replace Uber in working with Alphabet's self-driving arm Waymo.

Rules for online political ads

Congress is trying to force tech companies to disclose more about the political advertising that runs online, said **Byron Tau** in *The Wall Street Journal*. Sens. **Amy Klobuchar** of Minnesota and **Mark Warner** of Virginia last week introduced the Honest Ads Act, a bill that requires large digital platforms to keep "a public repository of paid political advertising that appears on their sites." The legislation, prompted by Russian interference in the 2016 election, would bring disclosure rules for online ads closer to those applied to ads that appear on television and radio. Under the proposal, sites with 50 million or more viewers or users, including Facebook, Google, Twitter, and Linked In, would have to reveal who had purchased an ad, how much was spent, how many views the ad received, and whether the ad was targeted at a certain group of users.

Seeing the source of gravitational waves

In a landmark event that ushers in a new era for space research, astronomers recently observed a cataclysmic collision of two neutron stars in a far-off galaxy. That collision, known as a kilonova, took place 130 million years ago, but the signals didn't reach Earth until this August. Preceded by a death dance in which the collapsed stars spiraled toward each other, the collision created a flash of intense light and a burst of gravitational waves—faint ripples in the fabric of space-time that were theorized by Albert Einstein a century ago. The waves were detected by two facilities of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave

Observatory (LIGO). Astronomers then trained their telescopes and other detection devices on the site, and were treated to a veritable cosmic fireworks display of gamma rays, radio waves, X-rays, and visible light. Until now, scientists had identified gravitational waves only from the collision of black holes, which aren't visible. LIGO spokeswoman Laura Cadonati compared the difference to “the transition from looking at a black-and-white picture of a volcano to sitting in a 3-D IMAX movie that shows the explosion of Mount Vesuvius.” The kilonova created heavy metals such as gold, platinum, and lead, confirming long-held



Detected: An illustration of the kilonova

theories about the origins of these elements, reports *CNN.com*. Scientists say being able to see the source of gravitational waves will help them explain other phenomena, including how fast the universe is expanding.



Skin color is only skin deep.

How genes affect pigmentation

Skin color has long been used to distinguish between races, not least by white supremacists who claim pale-skinned people are genetically distinct from those with dark skin. But a new study has struck a powerful blow to that concept of race. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania examined the DNA of nearly 1,600 people with a wide range of skin tones from 10 different ethnic groups in Africa. They pinpointed six genetic areas that account for 29 percent of the variation in pigmentation; some make the skin darker, others lighter. To their surprise, the researchers found that dark-skin genes weren't specific to the African continent—they were present in populations around the world. Moreover, many of the genes arose 900,000 years ago, some 600,000 years before *Homo sapiens* evolved in Africa. This suggests people with light and dark skin have coexisted in the same areas for hundreds of thousands of years—and confirms that white people did not “evolve” from black people. Study author Sarah Tishkoff tells *TheAtlantic.com* that her research “really discredits the idea of a biological construct of race.”

The power of ‘bromances’

Many Millennial heterosexual men find their close male friendships more intimate and fulfilling than their romantic relationships with women, a new study sug-

gests. Researchers from the University of Winchester in the U.K. interviewed 30 male college students about their romances and their “bromances,” and found several similarities between the two. The men said they discussed personal issues, shared secrets, and allowed themselves to be emotionally vulnerable with their bromance buddies. All but one even reported some cuddling. Besides sex, the thing the men reported lacking in a bromance was criticism: They found their male friends more forgiving and less judgmental than their female partners, enabling them to talk more honestly and openly about their health, fears, and desires. The researchers warn that bromances can undermine the bonds between couples, but suggest that in most cases, the benefits may outweigh the drawbacks. “If men are happy to talk about and discuss their health worries with their closest friends,” co-author Adam White tells *LiveScience.com*, “it may have therapeutic effects for reducing and managing a whole host of health-related concerns.”

Longevity secrets revealed

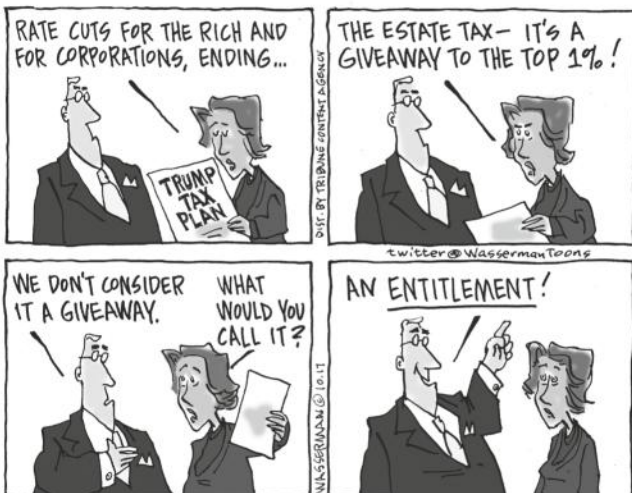
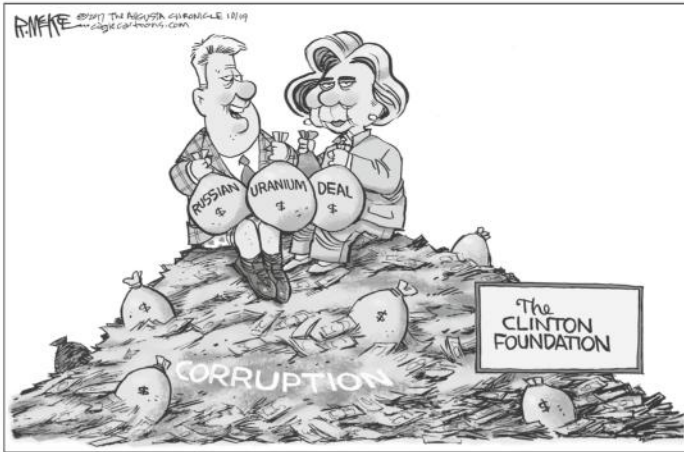
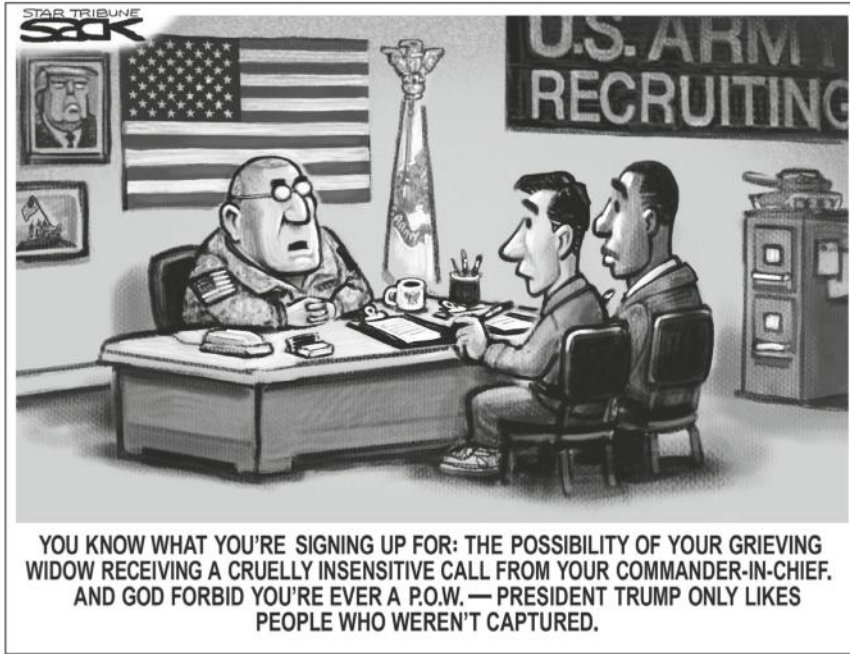
Scientists struggle to estimate exactly how much one specific unhealthy behavior—such as smoking or drinking—can affect longevity. But a team at the University of Edinburgh claims to have found a way, reports *ScienceDaily.com*. The researchers analyzed the genetic makeup of more than 600,000 people from three different continents and focused on genes that have been linked to lifestyle choices such as alcohol consumption or addiction. This method limited the chances that findings for specific behaviors would be affected by other factors. The researchers concluded

that people lose two months of their life for every kilogram they are overweight, and seven years if they smoke 20 cigarettes a day. On the upside, smokers who quit can essentially claw back those lost years, and every additional year of schooling adds 11 months to a person's life span. The study also identified two genes that affect longevity: One is linked to cholesterol levels and cuts life expectancy by about eight months; the other is connected to the body's immune system and adds about six months. Co-author Peter Joshi says although genetics affects longevity, people have “even more influence” through their lifestyle choices.

Health scare of the week A growing oral HPV epidemic

One in nine American men have oral infections of the human papillomavirus, more than three times the rate for women, reports *Reuters.com*. A new study found that 11 million men are infected with this common sexually transmitted disease, which can be contracted through oral sex, and that 7 million of them have strains that cause cancers of the throat, tongue, and parts of the head and neck. In contrast, only 3.2 million American women have oral HPV, and only about half these cases involve cancer-causing types of the virus. The study's authors speculate that men may be more susceptible to the virus or have more trouble clearing the infection than women. Childhood vaccination could help reverse the trend, but 40 percent of parents decline to vaccinate their kids for the disease. “There are now more of these HPV-related throat cancers in men than there are cervical cancers in women,” says surgeon Erich Sturgis from the University of Texas. “It is critical that we maximize HPV vaccination rates in adolescents and young adults.”





Review of reviews: Books

Book of the week

Leonardo da Vinci

by Walter Isaacson (Simon & Schuster, \$35)

We still don't know what to make of Leonardo da Vinci, said **Danny Heitman** in *CSMonitor.com*. Nearly 500 years after his death, the Italian polymath remains "paradoxically, one of the most well-documented yet elusive men of the Renaissance." A tireless observer of the natural world, he left behind some 7,200 pages of sketches and jottings about imagined inventions, but little concrete biographical information. He's also "perhaps the strangest subject to date" of Walter Isaacson, who has devoted the past decade and a half to writing biographies of Benjamin Franklin, Steve Jobs, and Albert Einstein in an attempt to deconstruct the nature of genius. Through a humming 500-page narrative illustrated with images from his subject's cryptic journal, Isaacson "helps us see Leonardo's artistic vision with fresh eyes." But he should have resisted his impulse to turn his subject's erratic, enigmatic brilliance into simplistic life lessons at the book's end: Leonardo was "inimitable."



An exhilarating but mysterious mind

Isaacson shows us how Leonardo's art and his scientific research were deeply connected, said **Daniel Levitin** in *The Wall Street Journal*. Leonardo began painting *St. Jerome in the Wilderness* in about 1480, but refined the figure's muscular structure three decades later, after corpse dissections had given him a finer appreciation of physiology. Indeed, there's much evidence that Leonardo obsessively tweaked past works. Isaacson stumbles, however, when he indulges in conjectures about the workings of Leonardo's mind and makes "bald assertions" about his

work that are unsupported by evidence. He states, for example, that *Mona Lisa* is "the greatest psychological portrait in history," and that Leonardo's genius derived from hard work, whereas Newton and Einstein had the advantage of divine gifts. This book often reads as if it were written on deadline for a mass audience, rather than slowly constructed as a Leonardo-like labor of love.

"The most up-to-date, if occasionally dismaying, aspect of the book is its framing as a self-help guide," said **Claudia Roth Pierpont** in *The New Yorker*. Isaacson suggests that Leonardos still lurk among us—he even warns that we may be medicating future incarnations out of existence—and provides tips for how we might channel the legend's creativity. But in his own time, Leonardo was more misfit than role model: A distraction-prone illegitimate child, he was arrested at 23 for engaging in "wickedness" with another young man, and might never have had the freedom to pursue his artistic and scientific passions if he'd had more respectable origins. Fortunately, Isaacson's "powerful story of an exhilarating mind and life" is rewarding to read "even if it doesn't set you on the path to enlightenment."

Novel of the week

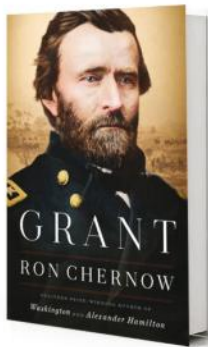
The Power

by Naomi Alderman (Little, Brown, \$26)

British novelist Naomi Alderman "has written our era's *Handmaid's Tale*," said **Ron Charles** in *The Washington Post*. She leverages a supernatural premise—teenage girls everywhere discover the innate ability to transmit a deadly electric charge—to ask how sudden female supremacy would change the world. The implications of this newfound power unfold in "endlessly inventive" ways: The political power structure is upended; religions are rewritten to put "the Mother" in the highest role; girls must be taught to resist the temptation to zap boys into submission. Along the way, Alderman crafts an essential feminist work that "terrifies and illuminates." Alderman is chasing even bigger game than gender roles, said **John Freeman** in *The Boston Globe*. *The Power*, in fact, is "a brilliant thought experiment in the nature of power itself." Who is corrupted by it, and who isn't? And how does it shape human interactions? By "turning the world inside out," the author shows the power of her own weapon, as if to say, "Lightning would be nice," but don't underestimate the pen. "It can do a lot."

Grant

by Ron Chernow (Penguin, \$40)



With this fine new biography, "the Grant rehabilitation is in full swing," said **David Shribman** in *The Boston Globe*. Not too long ago, Ulysses S. Grant was considered, at best, a fatally flawed hero—accused of drunkenness, of needless butchery during the Civil War, and

of inviting corrupt friends and family members into the White House. But in recent years historians have begun stripping away these negative depictions to find a far more admirable figure. At 1,000-plus pages, Ron Chernow's bio is even more massive than Ronald C. White's *American Ulysses*, published last year, and it "requires substantial reader commitment." But Chernow rewards persistence with a convincing vindication of a pivotal figure in American history.

Chernow, a historian whose fame skyrocketed after Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote a musical based on his 2004 biography of Alexander Hamilton, is at times "defen-

sive about his hero's weaknesses," said **Alex Shephard** in *The New Republic*. He struggles to explain away Grant's strange vulnerability to fraudsters and corrupt allies, and his "odious" 1862 expulsion of Jews from three states under Union control. But much of Chernow's defense is solid. He frames Grant's alcoholism as a disease that he strove to overcome rather than a character defect. And he persuasively explains how the Union Army's top general won the war with an unbeatable command of logistics. Perhaps the greatest contribution of Chernow's book lies in its insightful treatment of Reconstruction, with Grant marshaling federal power to defend the rights of newly freed African-Americans.

Grant's deep commitment to America's ideals is inspiring—especially in this "tumultuous and divisive era," said **Bill Clinton** in *The New York Times*. He used federal power to combat and prosecute the Ku Klux Klan, appointed African-Americans to important government posts, and fought for the 15th Amendment, giving former slaves the right to vote. In this compelling story of a country boy's ascent to national leadership, Chernow leaves no doubt that "Grant's contributions after Appomattox were as consequential to the survival of our democracy as any that came before."



Author of the week

Tom Hanks

Tom Hanks certainly has the right tools to launch a side career as a writer, said **Maureen Dowd** in *The New York Times*. Long before he got it in his head to try writing essays and short fiction, the Hollywood star began collect-



ing manual typewriters. As a kid growing up in Northern California in the days before PCs, Hanks had such poor handwriting that he needed a way around it. "Typing was the one requirement my dad had for me, going to school," he says. "He said, 'God damn it, you'll take a typewriting course!'" Hanks, now 61, grew to love the clattering machines themselves and now has a collection of about 180 of them. Typewriters are also the common denominator in his first short-story collection, *Uncommon Type*.

Hanks, who once got tutoring in writing from his friend Nora Ephron, knew that few people would be interested in 400 pages on typewriters, said **Deborah Dundas** in the *Toronto Star*. But the devices make at least cameo appearances in all 17 stories. A Hermes 2000 has a starring role in "These Are the Meditations of My Heart," about a woman who types out her thoughts after a breakup. That story, Hanks says, gets at what he loves about typewriters: permanence. "You are literally stamping ink into the fibers of paper," he says. "Outside of chiseling it in stone, it's about the second-best way to make something last forever." He even tried writing some of his fiction that way. But, he admits, he lost patience after four pages. Once you're wrestling with the actual mechanics of the story, he says, "you have to go with the laptop."

Best books... chosen by Chris Ware

Chris Ware, one of the most acclaimed graphic novelists of our time, is the author of Building Stories and Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth. His new book, Monograph, offers a densely illustrated look back at his life and career.

Family Happiness by Leo Tolstoy (Dover, \$5). Humanity's greatest author, famous for his symphonic *War and Peace*, also composed some of fiction's most practical chamber pieces. *Family Happiness*, which traces the blooming of young passion through giddy marriage to mature togetherness, is the story I most recommend to 20-somethings. It illuminates what's really happening when that first spark of infatuation begins to wane. Or, in Tolstoy's words, "Each time of life has its own kind of love."

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou (Random House, \$17). There's a reason Angelou's memoir of childhood rape is assigned in schools where books about reality aren't banned: The extraordinary will, life, and voice she forged in the wake of her trauma provide an example against which we all should dare to measure ourselves.

Black Boy by Richard Wright (Harper Perennial, \$19). Wright's blunt, concrete prose describing his impoverished Mississippi boyhood, his struggle to find honest work, and his tireless efforts at a self-education that might satisfy his anguished and angry urge to simply understand "Why do

white people hate me?" reduced me to shameful tears. Required reading for every American.

In Search of Lost Time by Marcel Proust (Modern Library, \$100). One of my undergraduate painting teachers (not a pretentious one) told me that if he could live forever, this is the book he'd most want to reread. I was surprised by its humor, frankness, and clarity, to say nothing of its exquisite 3-D rendering of the protagonist's life, as seen through the closed eyes of memory.

Moby-Dick by Herman Melville (Bantam, \$6). What we assume is a vivid, rousing tale of whaling is really the first (fictional) fan fiction, an unreliable rookie narrator's seminal Big Experience magnified into an overwrought hash of hero worship and insecure fact spattering. It's also a vivid, rousing tale of whaling.

Ulysses by James Joyce (Vintage, \$17). Joyce implants memory pictures in the reader's mind with poetry, prose, and phonemes as part of the most finely tuned portrait of human consciousness yet wrought. Reading it is either like having brain surgery while awake or completely inhabiting someone else's life.

Also of interest... in fresh starts and second acts

Logical Family

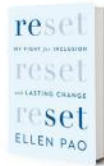
by Armistead Maupin (Harper, \$28)



Armistead Maupin's fans might not recognize the author's younger self in this "vivid and charming" memoir, said Claude Peck in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Before he became a beloved chronicler of San Francisco's gay culture with *Tales of the City*, Maupin was the son of Raleigh, N.C., segregationists and a right-winger who served in Vietnam, worked for Jesse Helms, and anxiously concealed his sexual orientation. His account of his evolution is "never less than engaging."

Reset

by Ellen Pao (Spiegel & Grau, \$28)



In this book's telling, Silicon Valley is still a boys' club, said Irin Carmon in *The Washington Post*. Ellen Pao describes experiencing a rude awakening when she started work at Kleiner Perkins, the venture capital firm she unsuccessfully sued for sexual harassment in 2012. Pao, who has since traded her tech career for activism, might have more directly grappled with the weaknesses of her suit. Still, she creates a convincing picture of a business culture where women are treated with suspicion and even hostility.

The Woman Who Smashed Codes

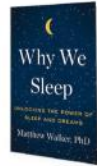
by Jason Fagone (Dey Street, \$28)



"There's really no way to write about Elizebeth Friedman without making it a thriller," said Genevieve Valentine in *NPR.org*. The future World War II code breaker began her career working for a tycoon who paid her to find hidden messages in Shakespeare's plays. She met her future husband on that project, and they both proved instrumental in defeating the Axis powers. The Friedmans were uneasy, though, with government surveillance, and in this book, that shadow "hangs over even the most celebratory moments."

Why We Sleep

by Matthew Walker (Scribner, \$27)



Make no mistake: *Why We Sleep* is "a book on a mission," said David Kamp in *The New York Times*. Berkeley neuroscientist Matthew Walker has amassed evidence from two decades of research to argue that we are in the midst of, as he puts it, a "silent sleep-loss epidemic" that could shorten our lives. "Very occasionally, Walker's zeal slips into zealotry," but he writes compassionately about the fatigued masses. He also provides suggestions for how to get more shut-eye and reap the life-enhancing benefits.

Suburbicon

Directed by
George Clooney
(R)



An idyllic white town reveals its ugly underbelly.

“George Clooney directing a long-lost Coen brothers screenplay would seem like a natural matchup,” said Sara Stewart in the *New York Post*. It isn’t in *Suburbicon*, a dark comedy undone by the “surprisingly tone-deaf” addition of a subplot that simply doesn’t fit. In the central drama, Matt Damon plays a picture-perfect 1950s family man who gradually reveals the heart of a sociopath. But Clooney chose to tack on a secondary story about a black family who after moving in next door endure virulent racist protests by their white neighbors. The director has his storytelling priorities upside down. Even so, the movie quickly



Damon’s twisted breadwinner

becomes “a nearly two-hour-long advertisement for its own progressive ideals,” said Stephanie Zacharek in *Time*. Clooney aims to condemn bigotry by contrasting the dignified black family with their murderous white neighbors, but “the irony grinds through the movie so loudly that you might end up with a migraine.” The Damon storyline at least delivers “a grab bag of Coen-y pleasures”—including Oscar Isaac as a slimy insurance claim adjuster, said Ben Croll in *IndieWire.com*. Sure, the Coens do black comedy far better, but like a dive-bar cover band, *Suburbicon* “can be bluntly effective when playing the old hits.”

Only the Brave

Directed by
Joseph Kosinski
(PG-13)



An elite squad battles a deadly wildfire.

This drama about a team of real-life firefighters “could have gone in any number of directions, many of them disappointing or shallow,” said Bill Goodykoontz in the Phoenix *Arizona Republic*. In 2013, the unit answered the call when a small fire outside Yarnell, Ariz., spread quickly and unexpectedly across thousands of acres. But instead of presenting these men as cardboard heroes, *Only the Brave* lets the characters’ flaws show, and by doing so becomes “not just a fitting tribute, but an outstanding movie.” Josh Brolin plays team leader Eric Marsh with “laconic resolve,” and Miles Teller gives a fine performance as a troubled



Teller gets an earful from Brolin.

recruit taken under wing, said Joe Morgenstern in *The Wall Street Journal*. As Marsh’s wife, Jennifer Connelly meanwhile “sweeps aside the clichés of her role with marvelous ferocity.” Unfortunately, the screenplay “keeps strumming the same chords,” as if the audience can’t be trusted to notice quiet heroism. Still, the movie “gets better and better as it goes,” said Michael Phillips in the *Chicago Tribune*. It balances spectacular, terrifying conflagrations with moments of “stark, unadorned drama.” When Brolin and Connelly square off late in a heated argument, “it feels real, reminding us that these are fine actors, giving their all.”

Jane

Directed by
Brett Morgen
(PG)



A you-are-there look at Jane Goodall

“How is it possible that Hollywood hasn’t yet made a movie about Jane Goodall?” said Mike D’Angelo in *AVClub.com*. The life of the pioneering English primatologist is tailor-made for the big screen, as this documentary proves by making brilliant use of “truly stunning” rediscovered footage of the young Goodall living among chimpanzees in Tanzania. For a while, as we watch the former secretary learn and sense how the man behind the camera is falling in love with her, the movie is “almost miraculous.” Not everything we see is pure documentary, said Ben Kenigsberg in *The*



Goodall grooming a neighbor

New York Times. The wildlife noises come from separate audio recordings, and Goodall in some of the 1960s footage was already re-enacting certain key moments. Still, such tricks lend her important work an “adventure-movie momentum.” Her findings weren’t universally greeted with the respect they deserve, said Brian Lowry in *CNN.com*. *Jane* shares the sexist headlines Goodall attracted and, by weaving in interviews with its 83-year-old star, offers “a thoughtful look at the sacrifices such a mission-driven existence requires.” However well you know Goodall, “there’s more to learn from *Jane*.”

Kaidan Project: Walls Grow Thin Rogue Artists Ensemble and East West Players, Los Angeles ★★★★★



A supernatural detour

Los Angeles has come up with a new twist on the haunted-house tour, and “I can’t rave about it enough,” said Ellen Dostal in *Broadway World*. Staged inside a warehouse, the performance mixes an audience-participation mystery with Japanese folklore to create a complex, “artistically beautiful” experience. When you arrive, you are greeted by actors playing employees of the storage facility. But as you join a search for their employer—who’s

somehow trapped—you encounter a host of strange creatures in various settings. The experience “dances on a line somewhere north of reality and south of madness.” You’ll encounter, among other things, a shape-shifting fox, strangers without faces, and a ritual involving blood and salt. All evoke Japanese *kaidan*, or stories of the supernatural, said Margaret Gray in the *Los Angeles Times*. They seem “plucked from the fever dreams of a long-ago child.”

Movies on TV

Monday, Oct. 30

Close Encounters of the Third Kind

A lineman for an Indiana power company begins having strange dreams after seeing a UFO in Steven Spielberg's sci-fi classic. Richard Dreyfuss stars. (1977) 7:30 p.m., SundanceTV

Tuesday, Oct. 31

The Old Dark House

Boris Karloff headlines in the oldest setup in horror: A group of weary travelers seeks shelter in a mansion kept by monsters. (1932) 8 p.m., TCM

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Do the Right Thing

Spike Lee's divisive and acclaimed drama about mounting racial tensions in Brooklyn feels newly relevant in 2017. Lee, Danny Aiello, and John Turturro co-star. (1989) 6 p.m., Cinemax

Thursday, Nov. 2

School Ties

Matt Damon, Brendan Fraser, and Chris O'Donnell co-star in a prep-school drama about a Jewish football star's brush with his teammates' anti-Semitism. (1992) 5:50 p.m., Encore

Friday, Nov. 3

The 40-Year-Old Virgin

Steve Carell plays a late-blooming electronics store employee who reluctantly ventures into the dating pool. (2005) 8 p.m., IFC

Saturday, Nov. 4

Get Out

Jordan Peele's acclaimed hit debut is a horror film as clever as they come—a genuine thriller that's also a stinging social satire. (2017) 8 p.m., HBO

Sunday, Nov. 5

The Whales of August

Two acting legends, Bette Davis and Lillian Gish, come together to portray elderly sisters reflecting on their lives while summing in Maine. (1987) 6:15 p.m., TCM

The Week's guide to what's worth watching

American Masters—Edgar Allan Poe: Buried Alive

Quoth the raven: "He's the master of horror." But Edgar Allan Poe was also much more. A fierce literary critic and pioneering magazine editor, Poe also invented the detective story, wrote comedies, and died, of course, under still-mysterious circumstances. In this myth-busting documentary, actor Denis O'Hare plays Poe in dramatized scenes that showcase the master's prose. Novelist Marilynne Robinson, horror director Roger Corman, and others offer perspective. Monday, Oct. 30, at 9 p.m., PBS; check local listings

Nature—H Is for Hawk: A New Chapter

When Helen Macdonald's father died in 2007, the amateur falconer channeled grief into training a goshawk, then turned that cathartic exercise into an award-winning memoir. A decade after that journey began, Macdonald attempts to establish a new bond with a young hawk she adopts from an English forest. The result is a beautiful portrait of a bird obsessive. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 8 p.m., PBS; check local listings

Young Sheldon

Like its boy-genius protagonist, *Young Sheldon* got off to an awkward start when it premiered in September and promptly went on a scheduled monthlong hiatus. As it returns to begin a full-season run, the *Big Bang Theory* prequel series looks suitably equipped to turn likable. Iain Armitage emits bow-tied adorableness as the 9-year-old high school freshman version of Jim Parsons' Sheldon Cooper, Parsons provides *Wonder Years*-style narration, and Zoe Perry delivers a star turn as Sheldon's overmatched mom. Thursday, Nov. 2, at 8:30 p.m., CBS

The Girlfriend Experience

The first season of *The Girlfriend Experience* was provocative, audacious television carried by its breakout star, Riley Keough. Season 2 of the Steven Soderbergh-produced series is adding a whole new level of risk by moving on without Keough and taking up two entirely new stories about the escort industry. In one, Anna Friel plays the head of a Super PAC who enlists an escort in a blackmail scheme. In the other,



SMILF's Shaw: Not ready to settle down

Carmen Ejogo (*Selma*) is an escort who's moved into a witness protection program to escape a dangerous client. Sunday, Nov. 5, at 9 p.m., Starz

SMILF

Funny moms are having a moment. From Pamela Adlon's *Better Things* to Christina Pazsitzky's very funny stand-up special, *Mother Inferior*, currently on Netflix, motherhood has been a well-spring for serious TV laughs. Joining the band now is Frankie Shaw, who plays a smart South Boston single mom in a new series based on her award-winning Sundance short. Connie Britton and Rosie O'Donnell co-star. Sunday, Nov. 5, at 10 p.m., Showtime

Other highlights Stan Against Evil

John C. McGinley returns to berate the dead and undead alike in Season 2 of a series about a New Hampshire sheriff battling ghosts and demons born of a 17th-century witch purge. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 10 p.m., IFC

Great Performances: Present Laughter

Kevin Kline is delightful as a narcissistic theater star feeling his age in this staging of Noel Coward's 1942 play. Friday, Nov. 3, at 9 p.m., PBS; check local listings

Shameless

William H. Macy, Emmy Rossum, and company return for Season 8 of their acclaimed series about an alcoholic patriarch and his rebellious progeny. Sunday, Nov. 5, at 9 p.m., Showtime



Gadon: A puzzle to her jailers

Show of the week Alias Grace

Don't spend too much energy comparing this tale of a handmaid to Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale*. Yes, both are adaptations of Margaret Atwood's fiction. But this six-part series based on a true story offers particular rewards of its own. Sarah Gadon plays Grace Marks, an Irish-Canadian servant who was 16 when she was accused of killing her employers in 1840s Toronto. Grace is being questioned by a doctor tasked with determining if she's mad, and she toys with him so craftily that our questions about our heroine become all-consuming. Available for streaming Friday, Nov. 3, Netflix



Craft a Win-Win Scenario When You Negotiate

Negotiating skills are crucial for achieving financial agreements, getting fractious groups to work together, counseling friends in distress, and generally getting anyone to accept your point of view—and they enable you to do it in ways that enhance rather than strain relationships. It's easy to believe that we're usually at a disadvantage—that others are born negotiators, while we are not—but nothing could be further from the truth. Everyone can learn to negotiate well.

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LEISURE

Food & Drink

Mussels with chorizo: What to serve the best chef in the world

I'll admit I was nervous the first time I cooked for my future husband, said Nadine Levy Redzepi in *Downtime* (Pam Kraus Books/Avery). René was the chef at Copenhagen's Noma, which would soon be named the best restaurant in the world. But when chefs have downtime, I found, they don't want elaborate meals; "they just want well-flavored food made with good-quality ingredients." I won René over with chicken livers in a tomato and chile sauce I'd learned while growing up in Portugal. I'd been making mussels in tomato sauce almost as long—during the summers I spent at a small house my mother owned outside Bordeaux.

Mussels are great because they can go head to head with bold ingredients like chorizo, pancetta, and garlic. Still, "the creamy broth is the star here," so serve the dish with spoons plus plenty of crusty bread to "sop up every drop." It's excellent when made with vermouth, but if you get your hands on a bottle of Pineau des Charentes, a fortified French wine, use that. It "really puts this over the top."

Recipe of the week
Mussels with chorizo
 4 lbs mussels
 2 tbsp canola oil
 1 large onion, chopped
 6 garlic cloves, chopped



'The creamy broth is the star.'

7 oz smoked Spanish chorizo, cut into ½-inch dice
 7 oz pancetta, also diced
 6 large plum tomatoes, cored and coarsely chopped
 4 sprigs fresh thyme
 2 bay leaves
 1 cup dry white vermouth
 1 cup dry white wine

1 cup crème fraîche
 Flat-leaf parsley (5 or 6 sprigs)

Rinse mussels under cold running water. If any are open, lightly tap them against the sink. If they close up, they can be cooked. Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat. Cook onion, without stirring, until edges brown, about 3 minutes. Add garlic and stir until just fragrant. Move onion and garlic to one side of pot and add chorizo and pancetta to the other. Cook, stirring chorizo and pancetta occasionally, until they are lightly browned and the fat has rendered, about 8 minutes. Add tomatoes, thyme, and bay leaves, and cook until tomatoes soften, about 2 minutes. Stir in vermouth and wine and bring to a boil. Simmer, stirring often, until liquid has reduced by about a quarter and tomatoes have broken down, about 10 minutes. Raise heat to high. Stir in crème fraîche and bring to a simmer. Add mussels, give them a good stir, and cover pot. Cook for 5 to 6 minutes, giving the pot a vigorous shake now and then. After 5 minutes, check to see if mussels have opened. If not, cover and cook another minute or so until almost all are open. Remove from heat. Coarsely chop parsley (you can include a bit of the stems) and stir in. Using tongs and a ladle, divide mussels and broth among shallow bowls. Serves 6.

Wine: The wild-card Aussies

If you think Australian wine is nothing but luxury shirazes and cheerful budget wines, "you couldn't be more wrong," said Elin McCoy in *Bloomberg.com*. The wine industry down under has always been dynamic and diverse, and U.S. importers are finally bringing in more of the country's somewhat pricey outliers—including the "killer" wines being made by a new wave of young Aussies.

2016 BK Wines White Skin 'n Bones (\$35). Brendon Keys' orange wine (made by allowing white-grape juice to sit on its skins) offers "fresh herb aromas" and "a honeyed pear taste."

2016 Jauma 'Like Raindrops' Grenache (\$36). Ex-musician James Erskine lets his grapes ferment whole, giving his grenache "a salty fruitiness" that's highly quaffable.

2016 Ochota Barrels Fugazi Vineyard Grenache (\$65). Named for the punk band Fugazi, Taras Ochata's wine hides the scent of rose petals in "a rush of tangy-tart red fruit."



A day in Jackson Hole: Three meals in an unlikely food haven

The Grand Tetons region will never be a dream destination for farmers, said Dina Mishev in *The Washington Post*. Jackson Hole, the valley to the mountains' east, enjoys a mere 50 or so frost-free days each year, and the valley's soil isn't great, either. But no obstacles yet have prevented the small resort town of Jackson Hole from cultivating "a legit food scene." The best places to eat tend to showcase wild game or meat from local ranchers. Just don't expect to find loads of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Sweet Cheeks Meats A smart choice for breakfast, this year-old butcher shop buys whole animals from local producers and uses every part of them. The breakfast sandwich of the day thus remains a mystery until owners Nora and Nick Phillips post an Instagram photo at about 7 a.m. Think beef sausage on brioche or a cheddar scallion buttermilk biscuit with pulled pork and a fried egg. *185 Scott Lane, (307) 734-6328*

Palate There's "no better view of the valley" than you get from the patio of the restaurant at the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Palate manages to maintain a seasonal menu by sourcing vegetables from a downtown hydroponic greenhouse, so lunch might include a bison gyro with local tomatoes or a watermelon salad with brie, arugula, and sweet peas. *2820 Rungius Road, (307) 201-5208*

Figs You might not expect Lebanese food in Jackson Hole. But the Darwiche family, who helped found a local summer farmer's market, wouldn't serve anything else at their restaurant inside the Hotel Jackson. Try the seven-item tasting menu, which includes "the best hummus you'll ever have." *120 N. Glenwood St., (307) 733-1200*



Breakfast at Sweet Cheeks Meats

This week's dream: Swimming Ibiza's northern coast

Most visitors come to Ibiza with the aim of getting wild at its world-famous bars and nightclubs, said **Will Hyde** in the *Financial Times*. But I made my first trip to the Balearic island with a more peaceful pursuit in mind: sea swimming, “something I’ve been doing to relax and get fit for more than a decade.” I wasn’t planning “a gentle splash in the breaking waves before resuming tanning activities back on shore.” Instead I’d be joining a tour of the Spanish isle’s relatively underdeveloped northern coast, led by SwimTrek, which specializes in long-distance group swimming trips around the world. We’d swim about 2 miles every morning and afternoon, “heading out to sea, then along the cliff-lined coast before returning into a cove farther along.”

Our first outing began with a drive through “sweet-scented woods full of chirping cicadas” to the bay at Cala de Sant Vicent. Families played volleyball on the golden sand as we strode into the 79-degree water,



Cala d'en Serra, a bay in northern Ibiza

which is kept crystal clear by the filtering properties of meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*, a sea grass that thrives around Ibiza’s north coast. “Immediately, the usual calming, meditative feeling swept over me as I fell into a rhythmic front crawl, staring down at plump black-and-white fish who eyed me as I invaded their world.” Another day, we dipped into the “inky-blue waters” of the cove at Caló de Porcs. In the middle

of the bay, I asked our Italian guide, Alessandro Mancini, if he ever panicked while swimming alone. “No,” he immediately replied. “It’s very calming. It’s my place to think. Or to not think.”

Our final day brought the longest swim, about 2½ miles, from the islet of Illa Murada to the cove at Portixol. A sailing boat dropped us at our jump-off spot, under towering cliffs. “Here the water was about 160 feet deep, but still warm.” The abyssal darkness beneath me was disconcerting: “There was nothing to see in the intense blue except eerie stalactites of bright light.” I slowly regained a sense of normality by focusing on the bright pink swim cap of my guide and the land to my right. By the end of our two-hour swim, “I couldn’t remember a time recently when I’d felt more calm.” *Weeklong Ibiza trips with SwimTrek (SwimTrek.com) start at \$1,145 per person, including accommodation, meals, and guided swims.*

Hotel of the week



Luxury casita living

Chablé Resort & Spa Chocholá, Mexico

Deep in the jungle of the Yucatán Peninsula is a resort that blends authentic Mayan culture with modern sophistication, said Michael Hiller in *The Dallas Morning News*. Chablé has 40 limestone-and-glass casitas, each with a private pool, stone tub, and terrace. At the resort’s spa, guests can dip in the central cenote, an aquifer-fed limestone pool, and enjoy treatments that use natural oils and Mayan healing rituals. The more adventurous can join a local shaman for a spiritual cleanse inside a *temescal*—“the pre-Columbian Mexican version of a sweat lodge.” *chableresort.com; villas from \$1,000*

Getting the flavor of...

The real *Little House on the Prairie*

As a child, I was obsessed with Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House on the Prairie* books, said Jenna Russell in *The Boston Globe*. My daughters—ages 7 and 8—have inherited my love for these charming tales of pioneer life, so this summer we decided to tour the author’s childhood stomping grounds. We started at the Ingalls Homestead in De Smet, S.D., a thoughtful re-creation of the family’s farm where visitors can drive a buggy, wash laundry in a tub, and “stretch out on a hay-stuffed pallet like the one Laura slept on.” Two hours east, on the banks of Plum Creek in Minnesota, we visited the site of the dugout home where Laura lived from age 7 to 12—before the family headed to South Dakota. The only evidence that a home once stood here is a vague depression in the ground. But around it lies the same landscape Laura adored: “in front the brown water swirling through a tunnel of trees; behind, a sea of prairie wildflowers.”

Driving the Mississippi

“The Mississippi River is a movable feast,” said Peter Kujawinski in *The New York Times*. I recently drove my family down the Great River Road, a patchwork of highways and county roads that stretches 3,000 miles from Minnesota to Louisiana. Never straying far from the water, “we found a little bit of everything,” from grimy shoreline factories to Native American burial mounds. Wilderness was everywhere, and my children delighted in all the hawk and snapping turtle sightings. We stopped for picnics in little river towns, where the kids climbed oaks and skipped stones on the water. “It felt like something out of Mark Twain’s childhood.” We visited historic sites along the way—a reconstructed 18th-century French fort in southern Illinois; a blues museum in Helena, Ark.—and were never disappointed. Each time we crossed the Mississippi’s wide expanse, the children sang the old song spelling out the river’s name. “Amazingly, it never got old.”

Last-minute travel deals

Antarctic adventure

Poseidon Expeditions is taking \$2,000 off its 12-day Antarctic Peninsula cruise, which sets sail from Ushuaia, Argentina. With the discount, a superior suite for two on the Nov. 24 and Dec. 4 departures starts at \$10,295 per person. *poseidonexpeditions.com*

Escape to Barbados

Stay three nights or more at the Port Ferdinand resort on Barbados and save at least 25 percent. Doubles start at \$492 a night, down from \$683, and includes a swim and snorkel experience with turtles. Book by Nov. 15. *portferdinand.com*

A Tuscan Thanksgiving

Italy’s Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort is offering a Thanksgiving package that includes daily breakfast and dinner for two, plus a three-course Turkey Day feast. The deal costs \$250 a night; a regular room without meals is \$273. *+39-0583-7691*

The 2018 BMW X3: What the critics say

Motor Trend

BMW's 3-series sedan has long been the brand's touchstone, but the German automaker's smallest SUV crossover is "fast becoming its lodestone." While sales of the 3-series are falling, sales of the X3 have been slowly climbing and should skyrocket once the nimble third-generation edition reaches dealerships in mid-November. Larger and roomier than its predecessor, it's also a "more mature" vehicle—"quieter and more composed on the road," plusher inside, and "laden with BMW's latest technology."

Kelley Blue Book

The new X3 will initially be available in two

guises: an all-wheel-drive model powered by a 248-hp turbocharged inline four, plus the first-ever performance variant of the X3. That model, the M40i, starts at \$55,295, carries a 355-hp inline six, and feels "purpose-built to the task of going quick and driving edgy." The two X3 siblings use the same transmission, an eight-speed automatic that "shifts like butter."

The Daily Telegraph (U.K.)

The bigger engine proves "fun but pretty pointless," and if you want serious performance, stick with BMW's cars. But this crossover "feels like a dynamic cut above most rivals, managing to combine both a



BMW's rising star, from \$43,445

reasonable ride quality and agility." Spend any time with it and you're likely to become addicted to "the pleasing feeling of being in charge of a well-engineered machine."

The best of...made in America



Johnson Woolen Mills Button-Down Shirt

Ever since opening in 1842, Vermont's Johnson Woolen "has been trying to put itself out of business"—by making shirts, pants, jackets, and hats that last for years and are "as much heirlooms as they are clothing."

\$160, johnsonwoolenmills.com

Source: Popular Mechanics



Fiesta Dinnerware

Depression-era America needed cheery dishware, and Fiesta's durable cups, plates, and bowls have been eagerly collected almost ever since. Its West Virginia manufacturer now introduces a new color every year—adding "Daffodil" in 2017.

\$33 per setting, fiestafactorydirect.com

Source: Time.com



Filson Medium Field Duffel

Filson, founded in 1897, is "one of those legacy brands that seem to just get things right every time." The Seattle company's heavy-duty duffel is made of abrasion-resistant, water-repellent fabric, and a nylon lining keeps dampness out.

\$195, filson.com

Source: HiConsumption.com



Stanley PowerLock Tape Measure

Stanley has been making hand tools since 1843, and the company's 25-foot tape measure still sets the standard. Sized up against 16 rivals in a recent test, it delivered "the best basic combination of durability, ease of use, and accuracy."

\$10, homedepot.com

Source: TheSweethome.com



Buffalo Trace E.H. Taylor Jr. Four Grain

This small-batch Kentucky-made bourbon was named 2017's Whiskey of the Year by Jim Murray's *Whisky Bible*, which described the spirit's finish as "a slow, lightly oiled, gently spiced chocolate fade."

\$400, buffalotrace.com

Source: Fortune.com

Tip of the week...

A stolen package—now what?

■ **Look harder.** Just because a package isn't where you expected doesn't mean it's been pilfered. Drivers often hide parcels to protect them from thieves or bad weather, so check your back porch, the bushes—even your grill. Sometimes, the tracking info will include a relevant note, such as "Left in garage."

■ **Contact the seller.** Amazon is quick to offer refunds and replacements, especially to regular customers. Other retailers might not, but their representatives can become advocates for you when you contact UPS or FedEx.

■ **Contact the delivery company.** For starters, customer service can sometimes contact the driver to get details about the delivery. Delivery companies also often insure packages, so they can help you file a claim.

■ **Check your card.** Credit card agreements cover many purchases, so if the seller won't provide a replacement or refund, ask your card provider.

Source: Lifehacker.com

And for those who have everything...

"Call them chunky, clunky, or plain old ugly,"

Balenciaga's Triple S Sneakers could be the most sought-after casual footwear of the season. On fashion runways and among the rich and famous who line them, intentionally unattractive sneakers are a fresh way to say, "Look at me." At a glance, the Triple S could be an '80s running shoe—one that's been "salvaged from a thrift store and plopped atop a sole that's two sizes too big." But the first shipment sold out almost instantly in Manhattan, and the sneaker is selling at twice its \$850 retail price on eBay. Gucci, Dior, and Prada are currently playing catch-up.

\$850, Balenciaga.com

Source: The Wall Street Journal



Best apps...

For policing children's phone use

■ **Norton Family Premier** packs in "just about any feature a parent could ask for," letting you manage content on up to 10 phones and other devices. It'll block questionable sites and set time limits, and can also track kids' whereabouts. (\$50 a year)

■ **PhoneSheriff** is a close runner-up. Its website filters can be hit or miss, but it offers "granular" time-limit controls, strong location-tracking features, and a panic button kids can use in emergencies. It logs a wealth of data—"perhaps too much"—about how your children use their phones. (\$89 a year)

■ **ESET Parental Control** is incompatible with Apple products, but it can cover an unlimited number of Android devices. It's also relatively affordable. (\$30 a year)

■ **Qustodio**, though not as robust as Norton or PhoneSheriff, can be a useful alternative, because it lets a parent monitor both iOS and Android devices. (From \$55 a year)

Source: TomsGuide.com

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[SimpliSafe.com/WEEK](https://www.simplisafe.com/WEEK)

This week: Living in southern Vermont



1 ▲ Winhall This four-bedroom home sits on 15 acres with a private pond and snowmobile trails. The 1983 house includes four stone fireplaces, a wood-hewn staircase, wide plank floors, and a recreation room with wet bar. A carriage house holds a two-car heated garage and a two-bedroom guest suite. \$1,498,800. Timothy Apps, Four Seasons/Sotheby's International Realty, (802) 236-1717



2 ► Putney Forty-one acres of native woodland surround this three-bedroom Arts and Crafts-inspired home. The handcrafted interior features Douglas fir ceilings, tile and bamboo floors, mahogany doors, and south-facing windows. Outside, ipe decking and a stone patio overlook bluestone pathways and gardens, and the open meadows beyond. \$1,200,000. Heidi Bernier, Berkley and Veller/Greenwood County Realtors, (855) 614-6292



3 ► Dorset This four-bedroom Colonial, built in 1800, was the main residence for one of the town's first farms. It has a library with custom shelves, a sunroom with French doors, and a master suite with vaulted ceiling and spa bathroom. The 11.9-acre grounds feature a guesthouse, a barn, a pond, mature gardens, marble patios, and mountain views. \$1,600,000. Lisa Sullivan, Four Seasons/Sotheby's International Realty, (802) 733-4164



4 ▶ Londonderry On the Rocks is a midcentury modern home designed by architect Philip Ives. The five-bedroom house, built in 1950 and renovated in 2008, has an open floor plan, high ceilings, exposed beams, three fireplaces, Danby marble, and walls of windows. The 34-acre property is close to ski mountains and includes a pool, a pond, and a one-bedroom guest cottage. \$1,695,000. Story Jenks, LandVest/Christie's International Real Estate, (802) 238-1332



5 ▲ Andover Timber-framed Windswept stands on a knoll abutting more than 400 acres of state forest. The five-bedroom 2006 house features knotty-pine walls, a stone fireplace, high ceilings, and a screened-in porch with a hot tub. The property includes an 1800s post-and-beam house, a two-bay garage, a large meadow, and snowshoeing and cross-country ski trails throughout. \$1,500,000. Story Jenks, Landvest/Christie's International Real Estate, (802) 238-1332

Steal of the week



6 ▲ Brattleboro Chase House was designed in 1968 by a Frank Lloyd Wright protégé. The

four-bedroom California-style ranch, renovated in 2013, is made of redwood and Goshen stone and has a great room with stone fireplace; a sunroom with sunken hot tub; central air; and a built-in Nutone record player with speakers around the house. The 1.3-acre wooded lot is near the farmer's market and downtown. \$339,000. Maria Diran, Greenwood County Realtors, (802) 380-2393

The news at a glance

The bottom line

■ Ten years ago there were about 100 companies making spirits in the United States. Today, there are nearly 1,400, according to the American Distilling Institute.

The New York Times

■ Americans now have the highest credit card debt in history. Outstanding credit card debt hit a record \$1.021 trillion in June, according to the Federal Reserve. That beats the previous record in April 2008, when consumers had a collective \$1.02 trillion in outstanding card debt.

MarketWatch.com

■ Kenneth Chenault's announcement last week that he will retire as chief executive at American Express means there will be only three black CEOs among Fortune 500 companies.

The Wall Street Journal



■ Snap's much-hyped Spectacles, the social media company's first foray into hardware, appear to be a flop. The company has sold just 150,000 of the connected glasses in the past year, and internal data suggest fewer than half of buyers continue to use the glasses after a month. The company reportedly has hundreds of thousands of unsold Spectacles sitting in warehouses.

BusinessInsider.com

■ The tech industry's race to develop artificial intelligence is fueling a bidding war for talent. AI specialists fresh out of grad school or with just a few years of experience can earn between \$300,000 and \$500,000 a year. Well-known names in the field can sign contracts for millions.

The New York Times

Autos: Tesla to build factory in China

Tesla is set to become the first foreign car company to have its own factory in China, said **Tim Higgins** in *The Wall Street Journal*. The electric-car maker has struck a deal with the Shanghai government to build a "wholly owned factory in the city's free-trade zone." The arrangement will require Tesla to pay the 25 percent tariff that China imposes on foreign vehicles, even though the cars are made there.

In exchange, the company will not be forced to divulge its trade secrets—something other foreign automakers are required to do when they set up joint ventures with Chinese car companies in the country. The move also gives Tesla "traction in China's fast-growing electric-vehicle market."



A Tesla on display in Beijing

Back in the U.S., manufacturing glitches have plagued Tesla's Fremont, Calif., factory, said **Russ Mitchell** in the *Los Angeles Times*. Production of the Model 3—the company's first mass-market, all-electric compact sedan—is moving at a glacial pace. After the car was unveiled in July, Tesla projected it would be producing 20,000 Model 3s a month by the end of the year. Instead, the company has produced just 260—"about three cars a day." That's well behind the "normal auto-industry production pace of about one car per minute." The company has blamed manufacturing "bottlenecks," without specifying what the problems are.

Retail: Lord & Taylor sells flagship to WeWork

Office-sharing startup WeWork is purchasing "an icon of old-school retail," said **Michael de la Merced** and **Michael Corkery** in *The New York Times*. The company that owns Lord & Taylor announced this week it would sell the department store's flagship on New York City's Fifth Avenue, where it has operated for a century, to WeWork for \$850 million. WeWork, which leases collaborative work spaces, will use about three-quarters of the 676,000-square-foot location for its global headquarters. Lord & Taylor will rent the other quarter, "where it will operate a pared-down department store."

Work culture: Fallout at Fidelity over harassment

Mutual fund giant Fidelity is grappling with a sexual harassment scandal, said **Heather Long** in *The Washington Post*. Two male managers were fired in recent weeks for allegedly "making sexually inappropriate comments" to junior female employees, and reports have surfaced about "a broader culture of sexism and bullying." The developments are particularly "embarrassing" for the company, which manages \$2.3 trillion and has 40,000 employees, because it has a reputation as a "woman-friendly Wall Street firm." Women occupy a number of top leadership positions, including CEO and the president of personal investing.

Regulation: Republicans make it harder to sue banks

Congress this week handed the financial industry its "most significant legislative victory since President Trump took office," said **Andrew Ackerman** and **Yuka Hayashi** in *The Wall Street Journal*. The Senate voted 51-50, with Vice President Mike Pence casting the tie-breaking vote, to overturn a rule put in place by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that barred banks from requiring consumers to settle disputes via arbitration. The House of Representatives passed a repeal of the rule in July, so the measure now moves to President Trump's desk.

Law: Baby powder payouts tossed

Johnson & Johnson scored back-to-back legal victories this month, with courts tossing out two judgments against the company totaling nearly \$500 million, said **Robert Jablon** in the *Associated Press*. A judge in Los Angeles last week vacated a \$417 million jury award granted to a woman who claimed she developed ovarian cancer after using Johnson & Johnson baby powder, ruling "there were errors and jury misconduct" in the trial. A week earlier, a Missouri appeals court threw out a \$72 million award to the family of an Alabama woman who died of ovarian cancer, "ruling that the state wasn't the proper jurisdiction."

Saudi Arabia's \$500 billion city

Saudi Arabia announced plans this week to build "a new \$500 billion metropolis that spans three countries," said **Zahraa Alkhalisi** in *CNN.com*. The megacity, dubbed NEOM, "is nothing if not ambitious." Built over 10,000 square miles and extending across the Egyptian and Jordanian borders, the city will be powered by clean energy, with passenger drones available for transportation. "Wireless high-speed internet will be free." Financed with \$500 billion from the Saudi government, its investment fund, and outside investors including Japanese telecom Softbank, the city will operate outside of the "existing governmental framework," according to its chief champion, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. NEOM will have no room "for anything traditional," he said at a launch event this week in Riyadh. A promotional video featured women jogging in leotards in public and working alongside men.

Medicare: Navigating open enrollment season

“Ah, the rituals of fall”: The leaves change color, the temperature drops, and Medicare open-enrollment season starts, said Rachel Sheedy in *Kiplinger.com*. Medicare beneficiaries have until Dec. 7 to change their health plans and prescription drug coverage for next year, and “even if you’re happy with your current plan, it can pay to shop around.” You might be able to save hundreds or even thousands of dollars by switching plans next year, especially if you need to take different prescription drugs, or if you find better coverage on treatments or specialists. You should have received a document in September outlining any updates to your current costs and coverage. “Pay particular attention to changes to drug formularies, drug tiers, and co-pays that affect drugs you take.” Then head to the Medicare Plan Finder at Medicare.gov “to start shopping.”

“Unlike employer-based insurance, Medicare offers lots of choices—some say too many,” said Stacey Burling in *Philly.com*. To avoid feeling overwhelmed, ask yourself a few key questions: “How important is it that I keep my current doctors?” Will my prescriptions be covered next year and are the co-pays going up? And how does my plan cover a serious illness? “If you get really sick, deductibles, co-pays, and fees to see out-of-network specialists can add up fast in plans with low premiums.” The



Even if you like your plan, it pays to shop around.

government has a star-based rating system that can help you compare the quality of some plans. Another issue to consider is whether you spend lots of time in other parts of the country, at a second home or visiting grandchildren. “If so, you’ll need to know how plans with narrow, local networks would handle your getting sick somewhere else.”

Medicare Advantage plans have grown steadily in popularity, said Sarah O’Brien in *CNBC.com*. These plans, which “provide coverage from an insurance company and take the place of original Medicare,” now cover some 19 million people, or nearly a third of all Medicare enrollees. Most include prescription drug coverage and extras such as dental and vision plans, but costs and coverage can vary widely. These plans also typically offer fewer choices of doctors and hospitals you can use, and they “will not cover or reimburse medical costs incurred outside of the network.” It can be “difficult for Medicare Advantage enrollees to figure out if they are in a plan with a narrow, medium, or broad network,” said Robert Powell in *USAToday.com*. If online comparison tools aren’t helpful, seek advice from local coverage brokers or from your local council on aging, which often has Medicare experts. “Whatever you do, don’t wait until the last minute to shop.”

What the experts say

Tips for quick credit boosts

“Building good credit takes time,” said Danielle Wiener-Bronner in *CNN.com*, but there are a few ways to boost your rating in a hurry. Your first step should be to correct any errors on your credit report. You can file disputes for any mistakes and ask the credit bureaus “to send out corrected versions” of your report to anyone who has requested it in the last six months. Next, pay down some credit card debt. How much you owe on your cards versus your total credit limit makes up nearly a third of your score. Try to keep the ratio below 30 percent. If you can’t afford more payments, think about asking your cardholder to increase your credit limit, which will “lower your credit utilization ratio.” And “don’t close any old cards.” Credit history also affects your score, so closing old accounts will hurt your rating.

Investing in your relationship

“Have you ever had a money date?” asked Jean Chatzky in *NBCNews.com*. Making time each month to talk openly and honestly to your partner about your financial goals is crucial for avoiding problems down the road. Set up time to talk in advance so that your partner doesn’t feel ambushed or on edge. Before the “date,” “take a few minutes to check in with

yourself” about how you’ve felt about money lately. Are you angry or anxious, overwhelmed or pleased? Then state your goals—more saving for retirement, an overseas trip this year—and discuss what’s required to make them happen. Finally, “figure out who’s going to do what.” If you slip up, don’t be too hard on each other. Discuss what went wrong and plan “how to improve on it for the future.”

An overdue Social Security increase

The Social Security increase coming next year feels “too little, too late” to many retirees, said Michelle Singletary in *The Washington Post*. Social Security checks will climb 2 percent in 2018, thanks to a cost-of-living adjustment. “The average check is currently \$1,377 a month, so the monthly increase, on average, comes to \$27.” But analysts say that the adjustment doesn’t make up for years of “no or minuscule increases.” “If you polled seniors, 10 out of 10 would say the [adjustment] is not keeping up with their costs,” said Gary Koenig, vice president of financial security at AARP. For many retirees, the extra cash “will be wiped out” by the rising cost of prescription drugs and Medicare premiums, adds Nancy Altman of Social Security Works, an advocacy group that aims to safeguard the program.

Charity of the week



Since August, more than half a million Rohingya have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh to escape violence and persecution. Some 20,000 people arrive in camps each day needing food, water, and shelter. In response, **BRAC (brac.net)** has dispatched nearly 1,000 doctors, health workers, and volunteers to attend to refugees’ immediate needs. Founded in 1972 in Bangladesh, the relief organization, which typically focuses on education, health services, and microfinancing, has provided medicine, sleeping mats, and clothing to the Rohingya refugees, and built thousands of latrines and tube wells to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the camps. BRAC is also working to keep children in the camps safe from illness and exploitation by creating child-friendly spaces and mobile health clinics.

Each charity we feature has earned a four-star overall rating from Charity Navigator, which rates not-for-profit organizations on the strength of their finances, their governance practices, and the transparency of their operations. Four stars is the group’s highest rating.

Issue of the week: Vying for Amazon's new HQ

Tucson sent a 21-foot cactus to Jeff Bezos. Birmingham, Ala., installed giant delivery boxes around town. And Stonecrest, Ga., offered to rename itself Amazon. When you're gunning to be the home of Amazon's second headquarters, you "need something to set yourself apart," said **Nathan Bomey** in *USA Today*. After the e-commerce giant announced in September that it was hunting for the perfect "Amazon HQ2" location, promising to invest \$5 billion and create 50,000 high-paying jobs, 238 cities and towns eagerly threw their hats into the ring, with the application period ending last week. Some launched "downright wacky" stunts, while others dangled more traditional sweeteners, like the \$7 billion in tax breaks offered up by Newark, N.J. If there are early front-runners for this "civic beauty pageant," Amazon isn't saying, said **Matt Day** in *Seattle Times.com*. But based on the company's lengthy wish list—a population of at least 1 million, good mass transit, a well-educated labor force—analysts "have some guesses." Moody's Analytics crunched the numbers and named Austin, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Rochester, N.Y., as "best positioned" to win.

Cities in the running should "be careful what they wish for," said **Timothy Egan** in *The New York Times*. "Well before Amazon disrupted books, music, television, furniture—everything—it disrupted Seattle." Here in the home of its first HQ, Amazon has detonated a "prosperity bomb." Sure, we got tens of thousands



Trying to catch Amazon's attention in Birmingham, Ala.

of high-paying jobs. But the median home price has doubled in the past five years, to \$700,000. The traffic is maddening, and Amazon occupies a full fifth of our best office space. The company has quite simply altered our city in ways residents "never had any say over." The victor will no doubt have to fork over billions in tax breaks, said **Katy Steinmetz** in *Time.com*. That's likely to be a raw deal for locals, because when a company attracts new people to a region, public costs—"hiring more teachers, fielding more 911 calls, widening roadways"—often rise substantially. If Amazon gets a pass on contributing, residents will be rewarded with "a higher tax bill."

I think it's "obnoxious for a healthy company to insist on getting these enticements," said **Robert Reed** in the *Chicago Tribune*, but "it's now a fact of corporate life." If one city doesn't play ball, another one will. But in this case, the benefits "outweigh the publicly backed giveaways." Chicago's bid estimates that Amazon could generate \$341 billion for the local economy over the next 17 years. Still, I'd like to appeal to Jeff Bezos' better angels, said **Virginia Postrel** in *Bloomberg.com*. Does he want to be a "responsible corporate citizen" and use this opportunity to challenge civic leaders to create better cities for residents? Or does he want Amazon to "go looking for handouts"? As it weighs its many options, Amazon "should consider what its high-profile decision says about its values, priorities, and identity."

Finance's frustrating sclerosis

Zachary Karabell
Wired.com

Wall Street isn't ready for the future, said Zachary Karabell. There are "looming challenges" on the horizon that will upend the financial industry, and Wall Street luminaries have mostly responded with shrugs and dismissals. Take the digital currency bitcoin, the price of which has increased more than 750 percent in the past year. That surge has led JP Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon to label the currency a "fraud"; global investment bank UBS recently dismissed the bitcoin "bubble" as a passing fad, adding that fans were deluded because "the world never changes that much." "Excuse me? The world changes all the time, dramatically." Hardly anyone had smartphones a decade ago. Just because bitcoin

might be in the midst of a bubble doesn't mean it is a mirage. It still has the potential to "augment and replace traditional currencies" in unexpected ways in the very near future. Then there is China, where technology firms, not banks, are "creating a sui generis financial system." Alibaba's Ant Financial "dwarfs the capabilities of PayPal," offering instant mobile payments, loans, credit checks, and peer-to-peer payments, and it has dozens of established competitors. Wall Street titans simply don't seem prepared for this technology-driven shift. They would like to pretend that change always happens slowly, instead of "unexpectedly, dramatically, sweeping away what seemed to be stable and certain with breathtaking speed."

Doubting startups' worth

Andrew Ross Sorkin
The New York Times

The "eye-popping" valuations of successful startups are something of an obsession in Silicon Valley, said Andrew Ross Sorkin. Investors and employees "spend countless hours calculating and recalculating how much their stake is worth." Uber is said to be worth \$62.5 billion, Airbnb \$31 billion. Some 135 tech firms are now dubbed "unicorns"—private companies valued at more than \$1 billion. Yet two academics have closely examined the numbers and say such rosy figures are "wishful thinking." In fact, the average unicorn is likely worth just half its headline price tag. The problem is the "special side deals" that most unicorns offer in private funding

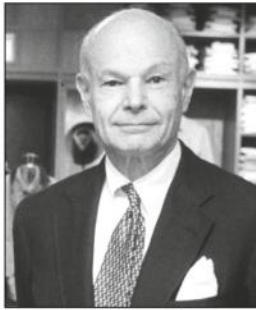
rounds, giving certain investors guaranteed valuations for their shares in the event of an initial public offering. That effectively creates different classes of shares with complex payout terms, diluting the value of the stakes of other shareholders, who "often don't know" about the details of the latest deals. This isn't just a problem for Silicon Valley moneymen. Over the past few years, big mutual-fund companies like T. Rowe Price have aggressively invested in unicorns on behalf of public investors. "You may own a stake in Uber and not even know it." Take the special deals into account and "almost half" of current unicorns "would fall below the \$1 billion threshold."

The J. Crew founder who sold a preppy dream

Arthur Cinader
1927–2017

Arthur Cinader was a proud perfectionist. The founder of the preppy clothing brand J. Crew repeatedly rejected one employee's reports because the staples on the pages weren't straight. He once ended a meeting early because an employee had used the wrong abbreviation for the season "spring": Cinader wanted his spring reports titled SPR, not SP. But this obsession with detail helped turn J. Crew into a global success. Through meticulously curated catalogs and in sleek, wood-paneled stores, Cinader sold elegant but unpretentious clothes—and an aspirational Northeastern lifestyle of Ivy League schools and summers on Nantucket—to upper-income consumers. "Wives of investment bankers," he once boasted, "talk about the latest J. Crew catalog the way they talk about shopping at Bergdorf's."

Cinader was born in New York City to a father who co-founded the Popular Club Plan: "a catalog company for moderate-income families," said *The Washington Post*. He dropped out of Yale School of Medicine to join his father's business, and "soon took the reins, expanding the company enough to acquire the First National Bank of Albuquerque in 1969." Fourteen years later, Cinader launched J. Crew as a catalog firm. The



"Crew" was inspired by the Ivy League-associated sport of rowing; he added the "J." because "he thought the letter looked nice on the page." His daughter Emily, then in her early 20s, oversaw the designs, which included T-shirts in block colors, stonewashed Oxford shirts, and cashmere sweaters, said *The Wall Street Journal*. Cinader looked after the finances and fussed over photos and wordings in catalogs, "seeking what one colleague described as a tone of 'sophisticated whimsy.'" In 1989, the company opened its first retail store, in Manhattan. Many more followed, and by the time Cinader sold J. Crew to a private equity firm in 1997, "annual sales were around \$800 million."

After Cinader retired, J. Crew stumbled and "churned through several executives," said *The New York Times*. It rebounded in the mid-2000s by incorporating more expensive fabrics and high-fashion elements, but has struggled to win over Millennial consumers. Still, Cinader never believed that his brand should aim for a mass audience. "J. Crew is a design spirit," he said in 1990. "There's a smallish part of the population that would respond to it. It's hard to put it into words. If you could put it into words, you wouldn't need designers."

The great beauty who dominated French cinema

Danielle Darrieux
1917–2017

For generations of French moviegoers, Danielle Darrieux was the undisputed queen of Gallic cinema. During her eight-decade career, the elegant actress starred in more than 100 films and embodied numerous onscreen archetypes: In the 1930s she was the fresh-faced teen ingénue, in the '40s and '50s the romantic temptress, and in later life the indomitable grande dame. Fiery and radiant in films such as 1953's *The Earrings of Madame de...*, in which she played a society lady torn between her husband and her lover, she was reserved in real life, preferring to live out of the spotlight in the French countryside. "I am very simple, perhaps too simple for all this," Darrieux said in 1972. "This whole thing, the interviews, it's too much for me."

The daughter of an army doctor and his concert-singer wife, Darrieux was born in Bordeaux and raised in Paris, said *The Times* (U.K.). Her "film break came when she was 13 and was cast in the 1931 comedy-drama *Le Bal*." She appeared in 20 more films over the next five years, making her deepest impression in 1936's *Mayerling* as the doomed mistress of Austrian Crown Prince



Rudolf. Darrieux's Hollywood debut came two years later, opposite Douglas Fairbanks Jr. in the screwball comedy *The Rage of Paris*. "Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong!" the posters proclaimed. But her sweetheart status was threatened during World War II, said *The Washington Post*, when she angered the French Resistance by working for the Nazi-controlled production company Continental Films. She and

her husband, Dominican diplomat Porfirio Rubirosa, were once shot at while driving in occupied Paris, "prompting them to move outside the city limits for the next few years."

Darrieux fought to clear her name after the war, arguing that "she'd been forced to do the films because of death threats against Rubirosa," and resumed a wildly varied career, said *The New York Times*. She was James Mason's spying accomplice in 1952's *5 Fingers* and a sexually frustrated aristocrat in a 1955 French version of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. She continued acting into her 90s and remained humble about her success. "I have always put more effort into my private life than my career," she said in 2004. "I never thought it was forever, or that I was amazing."

The physiologist who made Little League safer

As Little League Baseball's first director of research, Creighton Hale made young players' safety his chief concern. He designed the

Creighton Hale
1924–2017

plastic, padded helmet—with flaps to protect the temples and

cheekbones—that became mandatory across the league in 1961. He moved the pitcher's mound back 2 feet, after realizing Little League batters were being hit more often than their adult counterparts. He even measured the pulse rates and blood pressure of players, coaches, and parents before, during, and after games—and discovered that the adults displayed far worse signs of stress than the under-12s. "The public was concerned about the kids," Hale said. "I was worried about the parents."

Born in Hardy, Neb., Hale played baseball as a boy, "but was more interested in boxing, football, basketball, and track," said *The New York Times*. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he studied physiology at Springfield College in Massachusetts. He spent five years on the school's faculty before joining Little League in 1955 on a temporary assignment. "I took a year-and-a-half leave of absence," he said in 1985, "and I'm still on it."

Hale decided to redesign Little League helmets after he blasted baseballs at the old headgear at 100 mph using a homemade air cannon, said *The Washington Post*. "The helmets broke apart on impact." Hale became the league's president in 1973, and two years later the organization began allowing girls to play—a decision he initially opposed. He later came to regret his stance, especially after his great-granddaughter was named to an all-star team. Letting girls onto the diamond, he said, was "one of the greatest things that ever happened to Little League."

Inmates who fight fires

Women serving time in California prisons are routinely deployed to fight the state's wildfires, said Jaime Lowe. For less than \$2 an hour, they do strenuous and dangerous work with relatively little training.

SHAWNA LYNN JONES climbed from the back of a red truck with "LA County Fire" printed on its side. Ten more women piled out after her, on the border of Agoura Hills and Malibu, in Southern California. They could see flames in the vicinity of Mulholland Highway, from a fire that had been burning for about an hour. Jones and her crew wore helmets and yellow Nomex fire-retardant suits; yellow handkerchiefs covered their mouths and necks. Each carried 50 pounds of equipment in her backpack. As the "second saw," Jones was one of two women who carried a chainsaw. She was also one of California's 250 or so female-inmate firefighters.

Jones worked side by side with Jessica Ornelas, the "second buckler," who collected whatever wood Jones cut down. Together they were responsible for "setting the line," which meant clearing potential fuel from a 6-foot-wide stretch of ground between whatever was burning and the land they were trying to protect. If they did their job right, a fire might be contained. But any number of things could quickly go wrong—a slight wind shift, the fall of a burning tree—and the fire would jump the break.

It was just after 3 a.m. on Feb. 25, 2016, when Malibu 13-3, the 12-woman crew Jones belonged to, arrived at the Mulholland fire, ahead of any aerial support or local fire trucks. The inmates—including men, roughly 4,000 prisoners fight wildfires alongside civilian firefighters throughout California—immediately went to work. They operated in hookline formation, moving in order of rank, which was determined by task and ability. The first saw, or hook, leads; second saw is next. Mulholland was Jones' first fire as second saw; she'd been promoted the previous week. It took only four months for captains to notice her after she began training, and she quickly rose from the back of the hookline, where all inmates start, to the front.



Female-inmate firefighters at the scene of a blaze in Mariposa County, Calif., in July

This part of Southern California is full of ravines and dry brush. Season after season, its protected lands are prone to landslides, flash floods, and wildfires. The women scrambled over a slope that was full of loose soil and rocks, which made digging the containment line—a trench of sorts—even more challenging. "It was very steep," Tyquesha Brown, a crew member, told me. "The fire was jumping."

With every step they took forward, it felt as if they were slipping at least one step back. But by 7:30 a.m., a little more than a third of the fire was considered contained. Malibu 13-3 had done its job: The fire didn't jump the line; it didn't threaten homes, ranches, or coastal properties.

By 10 the next morning, Jones was dead. She was 22. Her three-year sentence had less than two months to go.

CALIFORNIA'S INMATE FIREFIGHTERS choose to take part in the dangerous work they do. They have to pass a fitness test before they can qualify for fire camps. But once they are accepted, the training they receive, which often lasts as little as three weeks, is significantly less than the three-year apprenticeship that full-time civilian firefighters get. "Any fire you go on statewide, whether it be small or large, the inmate hand crews make up any-

where from 50 to 80 percent of the total fire personnel," says Lt. Keith Radey, the commander in charge of a camp where women train.

When they work, California's inmates typically earn between 8 and 95 cents an hour. They make office furniture for state employees, license plates, and prison uniforms. But wages in the forestry program, while still wildly low by outside standards, are significantly better than the rest. At Malibu 13, one of three conservation camps that house women, inmate firefighters can make a maximum of \$2.56 a day in camp and \$1 an hour

when they're fighting fires.

Those higher wages recognize the real dangers that inmate firefighters face. In May, one man was crushed by a falling tree in Humboldt County; in July, another firefighter died after accidentally cutting his leg and femoral artery on a chainsaw. But, after visiting three camps over a year and a half, I could see why inmates would accept the risks. Compared with life among the general prison population, the conservation camps are bastions of civility. They are less violent. They smell of eucalyptus, the ocean, fresh blooms. They have woodworking areas, softball fields, and libraries full of donated mysteries and romance novels.

Still, when they're at work, the inmates look like chain gangs without the chains, especially in Malibu, where the average household income is \$238,000. "The pay is ridiculous," La'Sonya Edwards, 35, told me. "There are some days we are worn down to the core," she said. Edwards makes about \$500 a year in camp, plus whatever she earns while on the fire line, which might add up to a few hundred dollars in a month; the pay for a full-time civilian firefighter starts at about \$40,000.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation says that the firefighter program, known as the Conservation Camp

Program, is meant to serve as rehabilitation for the inmates. Yet Los Angeles County Fire won't hire felons, and CDCR doesn't offer any formal help to inmates who want firefighting jobs when they're released.

The Conservation Camp Program saves California taxpayers approximately \$100 million a year. Several states—including Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, and Georgia—employ prisoners to fight fires, but none of them relies as heavily on its inmate population as California does. In 2015, Gov. Jerry Brown told a local CBS affiliate, "It's very important when we can quantify that manpower, utilize it."

LOST COUNT," Marquet Jones, 27, a firefighter arrested for first-degree burglary, told me when I asked her how many fires she had been on over the past year. "I don't know how many fires there were last season, but all through last season."

She recalled her first fire last year, going into Napa Valley as residents were evacuating. The town was burned over. She wondered what she had gotten herself into. Despite her fear, she cut the containment line for 10 hours, almost until dawn. The heavy labor and the danger create a bond among the crew members. Of the 30 or so women I met, most were serving prison terms because of drug- or alcohol-related crimes, nonviolent convictions that the state classifies as low-level. Many said the real education they were getting had to do with making and maintaining relationships. "It helps you to work as a sister crew," Marquet said. "You learn how to work with them, you know—'cause, really all you have is each other."

Some inmates say they would work the fire line for free—for the experience, the training, the gratification of doing something useful. "It feels good," Marquet said, "when you see kids with signs saying, 'Thank you for saving my house, thank you for saving my dog.' It feels good that you saved somebody's home, you know? Some people, they look down on us because we're inmates."

SHAWNA LYNN JONES didn't grow up with dreams of being a firefighter. She wanted to be a police officer. The first photo her mom, Diana Baez, showed me was of a cocky young girl of around 5 or 6 dressed up for career day. Jones is wearing navy blue head to toe and aviator shades. "She always wanted to be a K-9 handler, and here she was dressed like one," Baez said. We were sitting in a dark, wood-paneled bar—the Trap, a dusty oasis on the fringes of Lancaster, a town already on the fringes of Southern California. Before Jones was incarcerated, this was her home. Her mom managed the bar.

Jones was smart, but as a teenager she couldn't sit still in class. Eventually, she dropped out of high school. She had a string of boyfriends, most of them bad, and in May 2014 she was caught sitting in a car next to one of them and a large quantity of crystal methamphetamine. He had a lengthy record and didn't want to be locked up for life. He told Jones he would bail her out if she took responsibility for the drugs. Jones was convicted of possession with



Marquet Jones, who is serving time for burglary

attempt to distribute methamphetamine, and of marijuana possession. The boyfriend paid the \$30,000 bail, and Jones was sentenced to three years' probation.

Within a year, Jones was back in trouble. She had violated parole at least three times—stealing groceries, selling marijuana, missing court dates—before a warrant was issued for her arrest. Jones decided to turn herself in. The Trap hosted a party. "We basically ordered 1 million tacos so that she would remember what real food tastes like," said Rosa Garcia, Jones' friend. By the next day she was ready. Jones hugged her mom, and skated off on her longboard toward the Lancaster courthouse. Jones was sentenced to three years. She heard about the forestry program and was transferred to Malibu.

By November 2015, Jones was calling her mom weekly to tell her about the training, the exhaustion after sandbagging a hillside, and the optional weekend hikes through the canyons of Malibu. She had found something she liked in the work. Her enthusiasm was so great it convinced her mother that Jones' luck was changing.

On the morning of the Mulholland fire, Feb. 25, an unknown number flashed on Baez's cellphone. "There's been an acci-

dent," a man told her when she answered. Baez, immediately hysterical, asked, "Where is my daughter?" He said, "I can't tell you because she's an inmate." An hour later, when the Lancaster sheriff's office called with instructions, Baez scrawled as much information as she could on her bedroom mirror using eyeliner. When she got to the UCLA hospital, she found her daughter lying unconscious.

"The first thing I did when I opened that curtain and I saw her—I grabbed her—right there, I grabbed her, and I said, 'You promised me,'" Baez told me. "She just called me two days before, and she said, 'Momma, I'm coming home in six weeks.'" Baez hardly recognized her daughter. Her face was swollen; her eyes were taped shut; her head had been shaved because the doctors were trying to drain a blood clot.

Captains and representatives from CDCR tried to explain what happened. But Baez could only cry. She never left Jones. Later, she found out from the intake administrator what had happened on the ravine in Malibu.

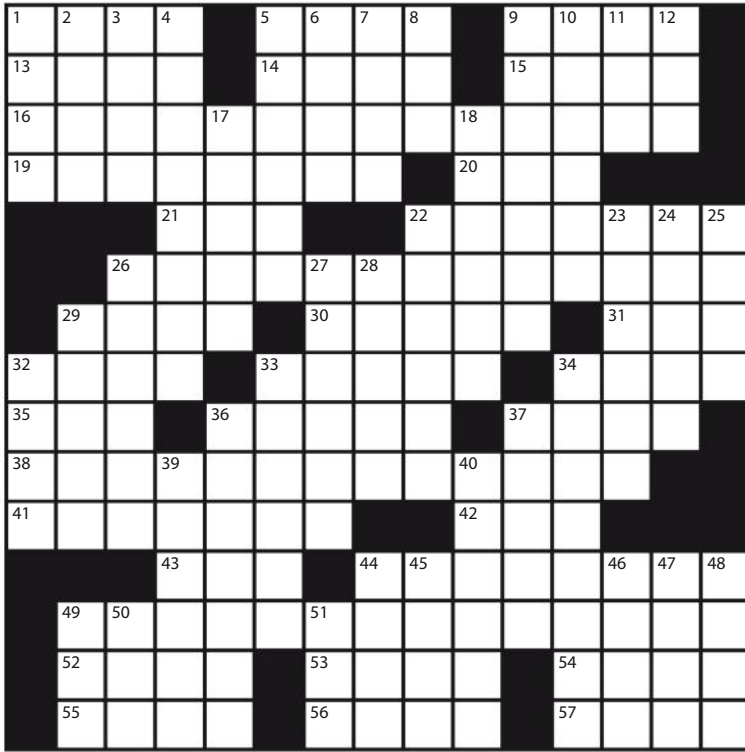
The earth above Jones began giving way. The first chainsaw shouted, "Rock." But Jones couldn't hear over the noise of her machine. The large stone fell 100 feet and struck her head. She was knocked out. A fire captain strapped her into a stretcher, and a helicopter retrieved the limp body.

AT A GRADUATION last year of inmate firefighters at the California Institution for Women, near Chino, where all female inmate firefighters are trained, the mood was celebratory, almost exultant. One speaker brought up Jones and asked, to great applause, that her life and her death not go in vain. He said, "She gave her life for this program, and L.A. County made sure she did not leave without full dress."

Jones' body was driven from the coroner's department to Eternal Valley Memorial Park and Mortuary, located between Lancaster and Los Angeles. A fire company crew was on every overpass, standing on their trucks, saluting in full uniform. Outside her funeral, rows of sheriffs and deputies stood at attention, right hands at their brows. Two fire trucks were parked at the entrance with their ladders raised, crossed in tribute to her. Shawna Lynn Jones lived as an inmate and died an honored firefighter. Baez received a customary American flag, folded into a tight triangle. Someone told her, she says, that in Shawna's four months as a firefighter, she made about \$1,000.

Excerpted from an article that originally appeared in The New York Times Magazine. Reprinted with permission.

Crossword No. 430: Billy & the Kid by Matt Gaffney



ACROSS

- 1 Stylish and sophisticated
- 5 *Finding* ____
- 9 It can burn at the beach
- 13 A levee target
- 14 Sikorsky of aviation fame
- 15 Neighbor of Turkey
- 16 "Billy Joel! How unbelievable is it that you're 68 years old and just had your third child?" "Yeah, I really waited ____ for this one!"
- 19 Most reliable
- 20 Extra periods in the NBA
- 21 Pandora category
- 22 Shot without breaks, as a music video
- 26 "Billy, do you think it'll be challenging, taking care of a newborn at your age?" "Time will tell, but ____ about that!"
- 29 Crossword legend ____ Reagle
- 30 Bagel's shape, geometrically
- 31 "Do Ya" band
- 32 Expense
- 33 Area of Las Vegas
- 34 So much
- 35 Possesses
- 36 Backstabber
- 37 Not the NFL's favorite joint these days

DOWN

- 13 A levee target
- 14 Sikorsky of aviation fame
- 15 Neighbor of Turkey
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- 33 Area of Las Vegas
- 34 So much
- 35 Possesses
- 36 Backstabber
- 37 Not the NFL's favorite joint these days

- 17 Near-beer name
- 18 Get your muscles fitter
- 22 *The Things They Carried* author Tim
- 23 When some start fifth grade
- 24 One of the Kardashians
- 25 James Bond's alma mater
- 26 "Indeed!"
- 27 Go for the opponent's king
- 28 Thom of Radiohead
- 29 2016 Disney movie set in Polynesia
- 32 Trump Cabinet member
- 33 Vehicle used in winter
- 34 One note
- 36 Warn, as a wild pig might
- 37 Store with Bluelight Specials
- 39 The Nats won it in 2017
- 40 Not enough
- 44 Rye or barley, e.g.
- 45 Gap
- 46 Role taken on by Takei
- 47 Guesses: abbr.
- 48 Right away, on *ER*
- 49 Inquire
- 50 "Surely you don't mean me?"
- 51 Sheeran and Bradley, for two

The Week Contest

This week's question: Java snobs are flocking to high-end coffee shops in California and New York to buy brews made from ultrarare beans that can cost up to \$55 a cup. Please come up with a suitably pompous name for a luxury coffee concoction to be sold at that price.

Last week's contest: A congressional candidate from Miami, Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera, has claimed that at age 7 she was abducted by tall, blond aliens and taken for a ride in their spaceship. In seven words or fewer, please come up with an extraterrestrial-themed campaign slogan that could help Rodriguez Aguilera win the support of skeptical voters.

THE WINNER: It takes a galaxy
Skip Flanagan, Roseville, Calif.

SECOND PLACE: My experience is out of this world
Reg Bellury, Milledgeville, Ga.

THIRD PLACE: I have friends in high places
Karen Bailey, West Des Moines, Iowa

For runners-up and complete contest rules, please go to theweek.com/contest.

How to enter: Submissions should be emailed to contest@theweek.com. Please include your name, address, and daytime telephone number for verification; this week, type "Dear coffee" in the subject line. Entries are due by noon, Eastern Time, Tuesday, Oct. 31.



Winners will appear on the Puzzle Page next issue and at theweek.com/puzzles on Friday, Nov. 3. In the case of identical or similar entries, the first one received gets credit.

◀ **The winner gets a one-year subscription to *The Week*.**

Sudoku

Fill in all the boxes so that each row, column, and outlined square includes all the numbers from 1 through 9.

Difficulty: medium

			4		1		8	
			5		3		9	
		5		2		7		
	4		3		8			
6		9		7				
	5		4		6			
		7		8		4		
			6		2		7	
				3		6		9

Find the solutions to all *The Week's* puzzles online: www.theweek.com/puzzle.

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THAT DINNER



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