

What's News

A Newsletter from the Conservatives on Main Street, Winnebago GOP

January 2024

738 North Main Street / 920-303-9270



In this edition

[Elections, and Having to Do With Gov't Goings-on](#)

Events <https://winnebagogop.org/events-calendar/>

[Hey! It's just a joke! \(there are two this edition\)](#)

[What he \(or /she\) said](#)

[A word from our sponsors –](#)

[Winnebago GOP political swag available](#)

[Quote of the Day \(THREE this edition\)](#)

[From the literature](#)

[Good news, Bad news](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Pop Quiz](#)

[Before you go](#)

This edition's special mentions:

- [Marijuana](#)
- [The border](#)
- [Hilarious](#)
- [Reparations](#)
- [How about those Canadians, eh?](#)
- [Terrorists](#)
- [Feel like a chump yet?](#)

Elections, and Having to Do With

This spring we have a full slate of non-partisan elections for local offices within the county. The actual elections will be held April 2. If there are more than two candidates vying for any one position, there will be a primary on February 20 to limit the number of official candidates to two for each position. There are very few primaries required this year. The judgeship for District One is one primary that will be on the ballot countywide.

Winnebago GOP has spent many volunteer hours looking for and encouraging conservative thinkers to run for these local offices that, in the end, affect our lives most often and most personally. We have asked all of you out there to contribute time and/or money to be part of whatever success we can muster in the elections.

Because the elections are non-partisan, there are no little “R’s” and “D’s” after the names on the ballots. This does NOT mean, however, that the candidates are interchangeable and don’t hold values all along the continuum from very conservative to very liberal. On top of this, spring campaigns are generally run on a shoestring with volunteer manpower. The result is that there is a shortfall of information available for you to make an informed choice on election day. To mitigate this, Winnebago GOP has held many discussions with the spring candidates to determine where they sit on the conservative to liberal spectrum. Based on this effort, Winnebago GOP makes the following recommendations:

Support your local conservative candidates to get them through to the April election

Winnebago County District Court, District 1

You can vote for one person only in the primary.

Recommendation: Michael Rust – <https://www.rustforjudge.com/>

Neenah Joint School District

You can vote for three people in the primary.

Recommendations:

Chari Long

[Click here to learn more about Chari](#)

Jeb Pfeifle

[Click here to learn more about Jeb](#)

Roxanne Schwandt-Knutson

[click here to learn more about Roxanne](#)

Neenah City Council, District One

You can vote for only one person in the primary

Recommendation:

Brian Roeh

[Click here to learn more about Brian](#)

**Where do I vote?
Am I registered to vote at my current address?
How do I get an absentee ballot?
What will be on my ballot?**

[Click here for answers to frequently asked election questions.](#)

**Early voting hours and locations differ between the various municipalities.
Contact your local clerk to find out what applies to you.**

**Appleton
920-832-6443**

**Fox Crossing
920-720-7103**

**Larsen
920-836-2007**

**Menasha
920-967-3608**

**Neenah
920-886-6110**

**Omro
920-685-7000**

**Oshkosh
920-236-5000**

**Winchester
920-427-8330**

**Winneconne
920-582-4381**

If you are interested in running for local political office, please contact campaign@winnebagogop.org call us at 920-303-9270 or stop in at 738 North Main Street for more information and to contribute to the conservative future of our country. Come talk it through with us.

Gov't Goings-On (partial listing only)

Neenah Joint School District

There is a primary election February 20, 2024 for NJSD Board. [See above.](#)

You can join NJSD meetings by phone, 312-626-6788; (meeting ID:870 2756 7480

Or by zoom: <https://neenah-k12-wi.zoom.us/j/87027567480#success>

City of Oshkosh

There is no primary election for the city council elections.

The Common Council directed city staff recently to look into establishing a vehicle registration fee (VRF) for residents to help cover a portion of the costs of road projects. The VRF's goal is to eliminate large special assessments that property owners receive when the city does road projects.

At a November council meeting, several residents on Clairville Road – recently annexed into the city in from the Town of Algoma – spoke out after being hit with special assessments with one parcel assessed at \$57,000 to add utilities. City officials noted that these lots are larger than most, which is why the assessments were that high.

<https://oshkoshherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/January-17-2024-Oshkosh-Herald.pdf>

See page 1.

Oshkosh Area School District

There is no primary election for the Oshkosh School District

In November, assistant superintendent of instruction Samuel Coleman gave the board an update on math and literacy scores with one assessment showing only 40% to 50% of students in grades three through eight proficient in reading and math.

Coleman also noted a trend that showed economically disadvantaged students were less proficient in literacy and math. In 2022-23, 18.6% of those students were proficient in literacy compared with 45.8% for those not economically disadvantaged. The scores were similar for math proficiency. Board member Barb <https://oshkoshherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/January-17-2024-Oshkosh-Herald.pdf> See page 3.

Editor's Note: See [From the literature](#) below.

Winnebago County

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for nonprofit organizations last week and sent one application back to committee over transparency concerns. Government organizations, nonprofits and businesses seeking ARPA funding submitted applications last year that were evaluated by the county's ARPA Commission. Applications that meet the county's criteria for the funds are advanced to the board for a final vote. The allocations follow \$3.4 million earmarked for nonprofits and county departments last month, as the board moves forward on dispersing \$33 million in federal dollars, which must be appropriated by the end of this year and spent by the end of 2026. An additional \$3 million in ARPA dollars are being dispersed equally among each of the 21 municipalities or towns primarily located within Winnebago County.

<https://oshkoshherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/January-24-2024-Oshkosh-Herald-2024-Wedding-Event-Guide.pdf> See page 1

Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate

Our county Representatives: Nate Gustafson-R, Dave Murphy-R, Lori Palmeri-D, Mike Schraa-R, Lee Snodgrass-D

Our Senators: Rachael Cabral-Guevara-R, Dan Feyen-R. Find them here: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

Committee hearings have been held on legalization of medical marijuana (see the editor's thoughts on this one [HERE](#)). One of the best uses of marijuana legislation in the country by liberals is to get a referendum about it on any and all election slates. If you want to get all students, lefties, and the recently dead to the polls, the easiest way is to put a marijuana referendum on the ballot for any given Tuesday. It is my guess that you won't see a referendum on legalization of marijuana on your ballot until the Democrats have completed their purge of conservative legislators through their redistricting efforts. [See below](#).

Committee hearings on ranked choice voting have also been conducted. Ranked choice voting is an alternative system of voting in which the one-person/one-vote principle is abandoned in favor of all voters ranking their choice among ALL candidates in the race. If there is no outright winner in the first round of review (50%+1) all ballots are reviewed. If your number 1 choice finishes last in the overall polling, then your SECOND choice gets your vote. If this general reassignment of votes does not result in a winner (50%+1) then a third round review is conducted, again eliminating any ballot whose CURRENT choice finishes last. Through long and repetitive review, this process continues until SOMEONE has a true majority review process. This has been known to take up to two weeks after election day. If you don't vote for the lefty down in the list somewhere that DOES receive a majority in one of the earlier rounds, then your vote does not count at all. If you don't rank all the choices, sooner or later your ballot may be exhausted, and discarded. This process can be adapted for both primaries and general elections. A good example of "successful" use of ranked choice voting took place in Alaska. With ranked choice voting, that most conservative of all states managed to put a flaming liberal into their only Federal representative seat.

Our 19th Senate District's Rachael Cabral-Guevara stated to the Winnebago County Board that this legislation will not make it out of committee. This begs the question, however, of why we repeatedly have committee hearings on this topic.

Check out the legislative hearings: <https://newstalk1130.iheart.com/featured/common-sense-central/content/2024-01-10-ranked-choice-voting-advocate-believes-youre-too-dumb-to-vote-correctly/>

Wisconsin law says that the legislature has the duty and obligation to create the legislative maps for state senate and representative offices. In a violation of Wisconsin Judicial Ethics rules, our newly minted Supreme Court justice, Janet Protasciewicz campaigned on a promise to declare current maps unconstitutional if she were elected. ERGO, our maps have been declared unconstitutional and there are now about seven revised maps in play for selection, in spite of the law giving the legislature the duty to create them.

The plot has twisted and turned many times, but here is where we are as of this writing: The legislature has taken Governor Evers' proposed maps and tweaked them and is sending them to Governor Evers for his signature (required by law). If he vetoes them as he has promised to do, the legislature MAY resubmit the actual maps that Governor Evers proposed. If he is not a swindler of the first order, he would sign what he has already proposed. If he does not sign, then the other programs are up for review again with the final decision being subject to a veto by our left-leaning Supreme Court.

Editor's Note: For the first time, I spelled Protasciewicz name right the first time in spite of the unhappiness expressed by Word's Autocorrect.

United States Congress

Our Representatives: Mike Gallagher-R, 8th Congressional District; Glenn Grothman-R, 6th Congressional District

Our Senators: Tammy Baldwin-D; Ron Johnson-R

(Editor's Note: I signed up for Tammy's email updates for my private email address. She ignored me. Here I thought Senators represented their entire state. Go figure.

"As your Representative, I have never witnessed a more impassioned rally than the one at Stockbridge High School on Monday night. As lake sturgeon spearing in Wisconsin has come under threat by a federal government agency's nationwide, one-size-fits-all listing, I was taken aback by the strong unity among sportsmen groups across our state in speaking out against this needless attack under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). **(quoting Glenn Grothman)**

"This week, Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and I teamed up to introduce legislation, the Sturgeon Protected and Exempt from Absurd Regulations (SPEAR) Act, to protect sturgeon spearing in our state. Specifically, this bill would exempt the state of Wisconsin from any listing of lake sturgeon under the ESA. In short, the SPEAR Act is a commonsense bill that will ensure both sturgeon spearing and Wisconsin's conservation success story will continue for generations to come."

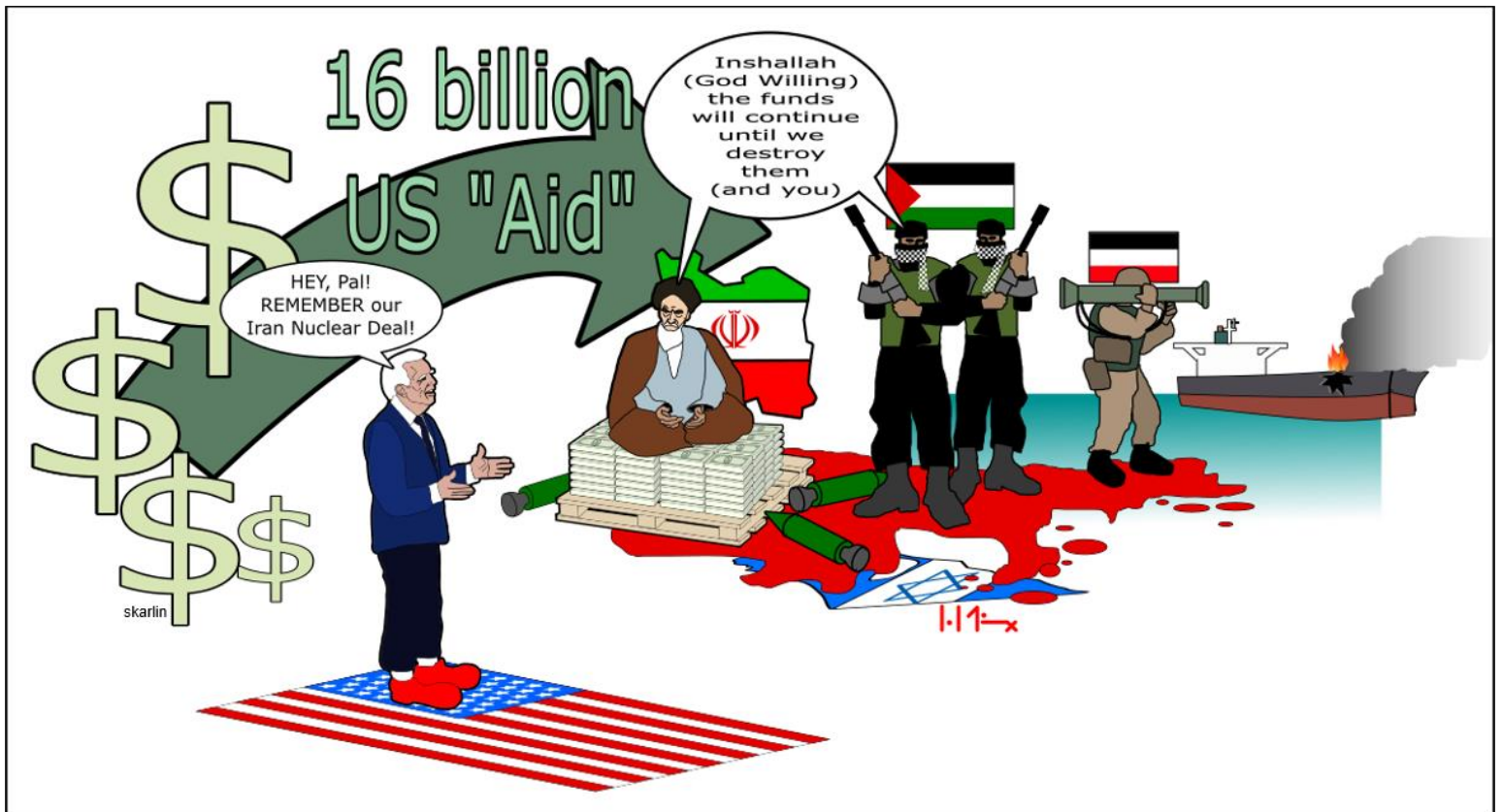
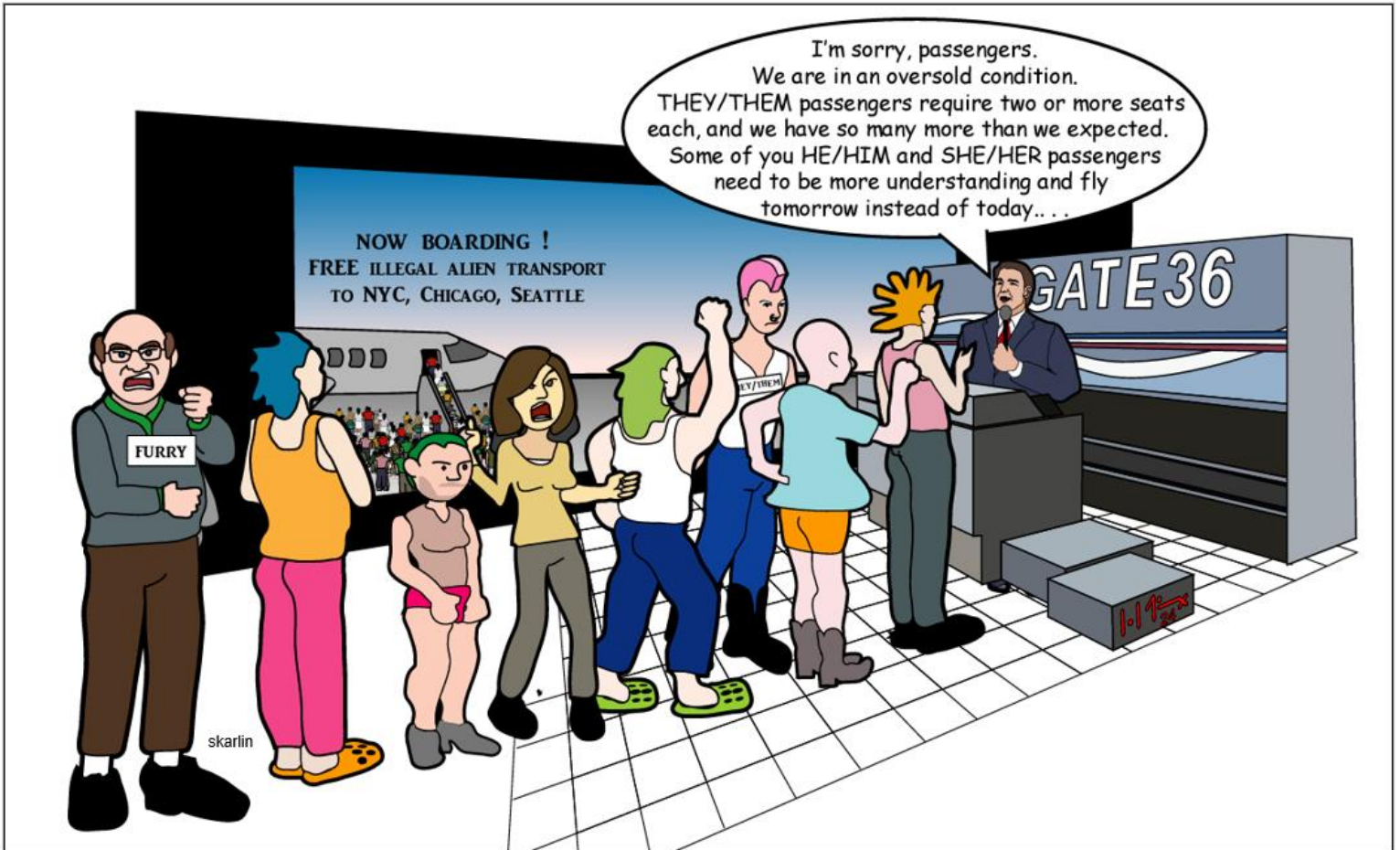
Glenn Grothman; Mike Gallagher

If Congress passes the latest proposal bundling Ukraine, Israeli and border funding, Joe Biden has now promised (1-29-24) to immediately shut down the border . . .when it becomes overwhelmed . . ."

[President Biden vows to 'shut down the border' if Congress passes bipartisan deal \(msn.com\).](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/story/president-biden-vows-to-shut-down-the-border-if-congress-passes-bipartisan-deal)

Editor's Note: I'll let you tell me what YOU think of that statement.

Hey, it's **NOT** just a joke!



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/obama-administration-acknowledges-1-7-billion-transfer-to-iran-was-all-cash/>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/biden-administration-iran-oil-hamas-israel-gaza-df192c53>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/04/28/iran-deal-biden-bailout/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/houthi-cruise-missile-fired-yemen-toward-us-warship-shot-down-fighter-jet-centcom>

What he/she said HUH? (. . . you can't make this stuff up)

Marijuana, anyone?

Wisconsin Legislature holds hearings on legalizing marijuana.

Republican lawmakers in Wisconsin on Monday released details of their plan to legalize medical marijuana, acknowledging that the state's medical marijuana would be among the nation's "most restrictive." Under the plan, patients diagnosed with certain serious medical conditions would be allowed to use medical marijuana products, although smoking cannabis would not be permitted.

"We want to make this available to people, but we want to have tight controls on it as well," state Rep. Jon Plumer said at a news conference, [according to a report](https://www.forbes.com/sites/ajherrington/2024/01/09/wisconsin-gop-releases-details-of-medical-marijuana-legalization-bill/?sh=54b17b6946a1) from the Associated Press.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ajherrington/2024/01/09/wisconsin-gop-releases-details-of-medical-marijuana-legalization-bill/?sh=54b17b6946a1>

<https://wisconsinexaminer.com/2024/01/09/wisconsin-would-operate-five-dispensaries-under-limited-medical-marijuana-legalization-program/>

From the National Institute of Health: "This article suggests five ways in which the passage and implementation of medical marijuana laws smoothed the transition to nonmedical legalization in the United States: (a) They demonstrated the efficacy of using voter initiatives to change marijuana supply laws, (b) enabled the psychological changes needed to destabilize the "war on drugs" policy stasis, (c) generated an evidence base that could be used to downplay concerns about nonmedical legalization, (d) created a visible and active marijuana industry, and (e) revealed that the federal government would allow state and local jurisdictions to generate tax revenue from marijuana."



Table 1

Vanguard states for marijuana law reform

| | Medical marijuana enacted | Voters passed recreational marijuana | Allow home cultivation? | Allow for-profit companies to sell? | State taxes (excludes sales and local excise taxes) ^a |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Colorado | 2000 | 2012 | Yes | Yes | 15% of the average market rate at wholesale and 15% retail ^b |
| Washington | 1998 | 2012 | No | Yes | 37% retail |
| Alaska | 1998 | 2014 | Yes | Yes | \$50/oz wholesale |
| Oregon | 1998 | 2014 | Yes | Yes | 17% retail |
| Washington, DC | 2010 | 2014 | Yes | No | N/A |
| California | 1996 | 2016 | Yes | Yes | 15% retail, \$2.75-\$9.25/oz wholesale |
| Maine | 1999 | 2016 | Yes | Yes | 10% retail |
| Massachusetts | 2012 | 2016 | Yes | Yes | 3.75% retail |
| Nevada | 2001 | 2016 | Yes | Yes | 15% retail |

[Open in a separate window](#)

^aSome of these tax rates are being debated as we go to press and could be different when the retail stores open.

^bColorado's marijuana tax is commonly characterized as 15%, but it is much more complex (see [Caulkins et al. 2015](#), pp. 79–80; [Oglesby 2017](#)).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8152576/>

Don't worry, nothing can go wrong with this . . . for what, 12.4 years on average?

A California woman who fell into a pot-fueled psychosis after getting high on drugs and stabbed her boyfriend 108 times before slicing her own neck as police tried to stop her will not serve any prison time, a judge has ruled.

Jurors found Bryn Spejcher, a 32-year-old from Ventura County, guilty in December of involuntary manslaughter after she stabbed her boyfriend Chad O'Melia 108 times while high on cannabis.

The court ultimately handed down a sentence of two years of probation and 100 hours of community service.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/california-woman-got-high-stabbed-boyfriend-108-times-not-go-prison-judge-rules>

Editor's Note: Last time I checked, Cannabis means marijuana. Evidently in this case, its use was used medicinal.

Don't worry. Any issue that comes up can be legislated again later, right?

A group of political and business leaders are urging Oregon's legislators to reform the state's permissive drug laws in the beginning of 2024. If lawmakers don't act, that coalition will bring a ballot measure to the very voters who decriminalized drugs three years ago.

"Oregonians still believe that the best strategy is a minimal use of criminal justice resources to encourage people into treatment and recovery," former state legislator and onetime director of the Oregon Department of Corrections Max Williams said. "But they also realize the tools that we've currently given law enforcement ... are not working."

Nearly 60% of Oregon voters passed Measure 110 in 2020, decriminalizing personal amounts of all drugs and **redirecting swaths of the state's marijuana tax revenue to fund grants for addiction services.** [emphasis mine]

The rollout was beleaguered by bureaucratic flubs and a brief implementation timeline. It also coincided with the nationwide fentanyl crisis. More than 100,000 people across the country died from a drug overdose in 2022, a 45% increase since 2019, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

Now, polls consistently show Oregonians souring against the unprecedented (and so far unrepeated) law. The Coalition to Fix and Improve Ballot Measure 110 has commissioned three [surveys] this year, the most recent of which found 74% of respondents favored recriminalizing possession of fentanyl, heroin and meth and making treatment required, not voluntary, as an alternative to jail.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/enormous-mistake-business-leaders-residents-fed-blue-state-drug-laws-issue-2024-ultimatum>

Editor' Note: Rule of thumb for parents: choose your children's friends. If your kid's friends smoke marijuana, the friend of your kid's friend is using dope, and now your kid has a new friend. And here we go.



Portland resembles an 'open air drug market' after decriminalizing hard drugs:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10923923/Portland-resembles-open-air-drug-market-legalizing-hard-drugs.html>

The Border and its Minder

Editor's Note: It is instructive to review how we got here.

Claim:

In August 2007, then-U.S. Sen. Joe Biden said "no great nation" can have uncontrolled borders and proposed increased security along the U.S.-Mexico border, including a partial border fence and more Border Patrol agents.

[Snopes] FACT CHECK

Rating: True ([About this rating?](#))

Context: An edited video of Biden making these comments was virally shared on X in early January 2024. His full, unedited remarks have been transcribed for this story.

On Jan. 8, 2024, a user on X posted a video from 2007 that showed then-U.S. Sen. Joe Biden answering a question about immigration and the U.S.-Mexico border.

[Fact Check: Biden Proposed a Border Fence in 2007, Saying No Great Nation Has Uncontrolled Borders \(msn.com\)](#)

And here it is:

[User Clip: Biden says no great nation has uncontrolled borders, calls for a border fence | C-SPAN.org](#)

Feel like a chump yet?

How about a couple executive orders?

"On his first day in office, President Biden issued an executive order, "Revision of Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Priorities," (hereinafter the "priorities memorandum") revoking an executive order President Trump signed to protect Americans from dangerous criminal aliens, "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States." President Trump's order called for the faithful execution of the immigration laws against all removable illegal immigrants and instructed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prioritize the removal of those who have committed crimes, pose a national security risk, engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation before the government, abused welfare programs, and are subject to a final order of removal. It also instructed the Attorney General to ensure sanctuary jurisdictions are not eligible to receive federal grants. President Biden issues a proclamation terminating the national emergency declaration at the Southern border declared by President Trump and halting construction of the border wall."

https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/031921_Biden-Border-Crisis-Timeline.pdf

Trump's executive order, January 30, 2017

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/30/2017-02102/enhancing-public-safety-in-the-interior-of-the-united-states> **

** The effect of Trump's executive order also took aim at sanctuary cities. It provided for steps to hold back federal funds to those cities that did not cooperate with immigration law enforcement.

Biden's executive order nullifying Trump's executive order, January 25, 2021

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/25/2021-01768/revision-of-civil-immigration-enforcement-policies-and-priorities>

Editor's Note: Since Biden's executive order an estimated 8,000,000 immigrants, either sneaking over the border with the help of cartel coyotes or presenting an illegal claim** for asylum and being released into the country have entered the United States. For reference, Wisconsin has a population of approximately

5,930,000 <https://worldpopulationreview.com/states/wisconsin-population>. ** the claims ARE illegal because the international definition says that a person can only claim asylum from persecution in the first country they enter upon leaving their persecuting homeland. In effect, speaking generally, only Mexicans Cubans, Jamaicans and Canadians would quality to seek asylum in the United States.

NOW:

In a statement late Friday, President Biden touted the negotiations between a bipartisan group of lawmakers and his administration on the supplemental funding package.

President Joe Biden on Jan. 26 vowed to use expanded authority to shut down the overwhelmed southern U.S. border should Congress pass a bipartisan deal that ties immigration security measures to Ukraine and Israel aid.

This comes after Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said Friday the deal would be “dead on arrival” in the U.S. House of representatives if reports on its terms are true. The terms are yet to be released.

[Biden Vows to ‘Shut Down’ Border If Congress Passes Deal | The Epoch Times](#)

And the wreckage that this is causing:

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston is warning the liberal city that budgets for city departments could be slashed by up to 15% in order to deal with the massive cost of the ongoing migrant crisis it is facing.

Johnston said this week that the city needs to compensate for about \$180 million in spending on sheltering illegal immigrants who have come there either by themselves or via buses from Texas.

He said he has asked agency heads to begin to draw up plans for the cuts in the 2024 budget. He also said that the 4,800 migrants in shelters means that it does not have space to house anyone else at the moment.

[Denver to slash budgets by up to 15% due to ongoing illegal immigrant crisis \(msn.com\)f](#)

Original story:

[Denver to slash budgets by up to 15% due to ongoing illegal immigrant crisis \(foxnews.com\)](#)

Denver Health, Colorado’s biggest safety net provider, is on the brink of a major crisis due to unpaid medical care costs as the state grapples with a historic influx of undocumented immigrants.

Dr. Steven Federico, chief government and community affairs officer for Denver Health, points to the thousands of migrants using the new health system — some of whom can’t cover costs or don’t have medical insurance, according to the *Denver Gazette*.

Between 2022 and 2023, Denver Health saw an additional \$10 million in uncompensated care. Dr. Donna Lynne, CEO of Denver Health, told local outlets the hospital had \$60 million in uncompensated care in 2020, but by 2022, that number increased to \$125 million, hitting about \$136 million last year.

Venezuelan migrants are living in Denver hotels, on sidewalks, and in cars, with shelters overrun, and Federico said it’s common for patients to come in with a number of medical problems after making the long trek to the U.S.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/immigration/2803512/denver-hospital-deficit-migrant-crisis/>

Hilarious. I never saw THESE things coming:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is actively recruiting workers who suffer "**severe intellectual disabilities, psychiatric problems and other mental and physical conditions [emphasis mine]**" under a diversity and inclusion hiring initiative spelled out on the agency's website.

"Targeted disabilities are those disabilities that the Federal government, as a matter of policy, has identified for special emphasis in recruitment and hiring," the FAA's website states. "They include hearing, vision, missing extremities, partial paralysis, complete paralysis, epilepsy, severe intellectual disability, psychiatric disability and dwarfism."

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/faas-diversity-push-includes-focus-hiring-people-severe-intellectual-psychiatric-disabilities>

Editor's Note: Just great. Sort of a DEI on steroids

In January, a San Francisco panel studying reparations for slavery came up with an ambitious proposal -- a lump sum of payment of \$5 million to every eligible black American in the City by the Bay.

And that was just the start. The San Francisco African American Reparations Advisory Committee also proposed the elimination of all personal debt, guaranteed income of \$97000 for black residents for 250 years, and providing homes for black residents at a price of \$1 each, libertarian writer Kristin Tate wrote in an April commentary in The Hill.

The cost to the city for this fantastical plan was estimated at \$175 billion for the \$5 million payouts alone, without taking into account the other add-ons. That amount is bigger than the entire annual budgets of 47 of the 50 U.S. states, The Hill reported.

When asked if the [\\$5 million per person](#) number was too large for a city to handle, committee Supervisor Shamann Walton said that it was just the opposite.

"You can Google a lot of the work of the reparations that has been done and look at the monetary formulas that people have put together, and most certainly, the \$5 million is a very minuscule number compared to a lot of research that has been done over the past couple of decades, quite frankly," Walton said, according to a National Review report published Saturday.

But, in a hilarious turn of events, the "entitlement committee," as it should have been called, has other things to worry about. Forget about reparations -- the city has no money to even fund the committee itself. [Emphasis mine]

According to a [San Francisco Examiner](#) report from Dec. 5, funding for [the troubled city's](#) first-ever Office of Reparations has been eliminated by Mayor London Breed as part of \$75 million in cuts to the city budget. [San Francisco Reparations Office Has Brutal Encounter with Reality - Entire Department Defunded \(westernjournal.com\)](#)

Editor's Note: A real knee-slapper!

The 28th U.N. Climate Change Conference, known as COP28, recently concluded with what many are calling a historic deal: an agreement that seeks, for the first time, a global transition away from fossil fuels.

Perhaps even more remarkable is that this agreement was signed in the United Arab Emirates, a top-10 oil producer, and overseen by Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, the COP28 president and head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

While COP28's "transition away" language is stronger than COP27's "phase down," it certainly does not mean "phase out" as so many countries wanted. That's why hydrocarbons will be a big part of the energy mix for at least decades to come.

Consider some of the projects under way among the parties at COP28: Since the beginning of 2022, China has approved new coal plants producing up to 152 gigawatts, more than all the coal plants in the European Union combined. [emphasis mine]

[Climate pledge to move away from fossil fuels is huge. There's just one problem | Opinion \(msn.com\)](#)

Original story:

[COP28 climate pledge to dump fossil fuels as energy is start | Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#)

Editor's Note: Meanwhile, the USA is turning itself inside out to save the planet. Hilarious.

When your city elects a mayor whose main job qualification is "organizer for the Chicago Teachers Union," you get what you paid for, or rather what the powerful CTU paid for. With Mayor Brandon Johnson, you get a special bonus, an unwelcome one. His proposed policies are unworkable, unaffordable, and deeply unpopular in the city that elected him less than a year ago.

Three policies stand out for particular ridicule. Mayor Johnson wants to:

- Start city-owned and -operated groceries in some underserved areas.
- Ticket the buses bringing illegal immigrants to Chicago, mostly from Texas. He calls them "rogue buses" because they are not "coordinating" with the city.
- Close down all the selective-enrollment (magnet) schools in Chicago, the only ones where students actually read above grade level.

[The Chicago mayor's hat trick of dreadful policies \(msn.com\)](#)

Editor's note: I can't stop laughing.

Hilarious if it weren't so serious: "State-run media."

MSNBC host Rachel Maddow was criticized for her announcement that the liberal network would refuse to cover Donald Trump's Iowa victory speech because she believed it would contain falsehoods.

This caused some to point out that Maddow, the MSNBC anchor and host of The Rachel Maddow Show, [was one of the most vocal proponents of the claim Trump colluded with Russia](#).

Maddow, anchoring the network's coverage from New York, said the network was continuing its policy of not showing Trump's speeches live after [his resounding victory in the Iowa caucus](#).

'It is not an easy decision, but there is a cost to us as a news organization of knowingly broadcasting untrue things. And that is a fundamental truth of our business and who we are,' she said.

[Rachel Maddow is slammed running 'state TV' show after telling viewers MSNBC won't show Trump's Iowa victory speech because 'we cannot knowingly broadcast untrue things'](#) (Daily Mail).

Editor's note: That's rich.

Before embarking on 'net zero' for a billion people, how about trying it out in a place with, say, 10,000, or 50,000, or 100,000 people – see if it can actually work and how much it will cost?" Menton wrote. In other words, he explained, take a small city and power its electricity grid entirely on wind, solar and energy storage for a full year without any kind of baseload backup from fossil fuels.

The closest Menton could find to such a project is the island of El Hierro. Nestled in the Canary Islands off the west coast of Africa, El Hierro [embarked on a quest to become powered 100%](#) by wind and pumped storage.

El Hierro never set out to demonstrate that the rest of the globe could transition entirely to a grid powered by renewable energy, but it did promote itself as the 100% renewable island. It has a [population of approximately 11,000 people](#), and it provides information about its electricity generation sources [on its website](#). The Island's data made it useful for looking at how such a project as Menton proposes would go.

There are 8,760 hours in a year, and 8,784 in a leap year. In 2020, a leap year, the island was powered 100% with wind and pumped storage for 1,293 hours out of the year. That comes out to a mere 14.7% of the island's energy needs. In 2021, it managed to hit 1,328 hours, and in 2022, it dropped down to 1,008, meaning that only 11.5% of the island's energy needs were met by "green" power. For the other hours of the year, the island's electricity supply was generated in part by diesel-powered generators.

Electricity is only about [20% of the total energy people consume globally](#). The rest is [transportation and heating](#), which includes energy-intensive heavy industry.

[Island tries to rely 100% on renewable power grid but it doesn't work more than 15% of the year | Just The News](#)

Editor's note: Hilarious.

Speaking of reparations

Democratic Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson insisted to CNN that funding for reparations in his new budget will help get to the root of the city's record violent crime epidemic.

While speaking to network anchor Poppy Harlow on "CNN This Morning" Wednesday, Johnson acknowledged the high crime rate in Chicago and declared that the "full force of government" is required to solve it, including the city throwing \$500,000 at reparations programs.

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/chicago-mayor-brandon-johnson-calls-funding-reparations-reduce-violent-crime>

Editor's snide comment: He may be right. Why would career criminals get up to go to "work" ever again once this greatest heist in the history of the world is pulled off?

How about those Canadians, eh?

The parents of young female athletes have spoken out after a 50-year-old transgender swimmer competed in women's events and shared a locker room with children during a meet in Canada this month.

Several parents spoke to the Toronto Sun following the 2023 **Trojan Cup (??)** in Barrie, Ontario, on Dec. 1-3 over concerns that Melody Wiseheart, a transgender swimmer, competed in events with teenage swimmers and shared a locker room with their children.

<https://www.foxnews.com/sports/transgender-swimmer-sparks-outrage-canada-competing-against-teens-sharing-locker-room>

Editor's note: Unremarkable, except for the fact that the teen age girls beat the 50-year-old in the swim meet. Now THAT is funny, I don't care who you are.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reportedly made good in the week leading up to Christmas on his May 2023 promise to install dispensers for feminine hygiene products in men's bathrooms.

"They're also going to build dispensers for all the tampons which won't be used since 1) men don't menstruate and 2) they are just going to bring them home to their wives for free," the putative parliamentary staffer pointed out.

The cost of showering the men's rooms in Parliament with ladies' products might not be too bad, but the Canadian Labor Code now stipulates that all "female-identified, male-identified, and all-gender toilet rooms will need to have menstrual products."

The requirement will eventually fall upon private sector potties as an unfunded mandate, the favored political instrument of Western authoritarians. Critics slammed the regulation as an effort to eliminate masculinity and femininity, noting that the regulations managed to stuff every bathroom with tampons without referring to either men or women – it refers to tampon users as “menstruating employees.”

[Trudeau Installs Taxpayer-Funded Free Tampon in Men’s Bathrooms \(cf.org\)](#)

Editor’s question: How do you find Canada on a map? Answer: Look to the LEFT of the United States. Just more hilarity from your editor-in-chief.

In other news: Terrorists?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Are the Houthis a terrorist organization:

Trump January 19, 2021 ---YES

Biden February 16, 2021 --- NO

Houthis attack US Navy and US interests in Mideast (November 2023 – December 2024)

Biden January 12, 2024 --- YES

Editor’s Note: Absolutely hilarious as well

The Trump administration says it will designate Yemen's Houthi movement a terrorist organization, in a move that has elicited consternation from international aid organizations and authorities.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says the U.S. wants to "deter further malign activity by the Iranian regime" that backs the Houthis.

The designation is set to take effect on Jan. 19 — the day before Trump leaves office and President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/11/936627548/trump-administration-moves-to-brand-houthis-in-yemen-a-terrorist-group>

The administration of President Joe Biden has formally **delisted [emphasis mine]** Yemen’s Houthi movement as a “foreign terrorist organization” and “Specially Designated Global Terrorists”, undoing the last-minute move under former President Donald Trump that the United Nations and aid groups said threatened to further devastate the war-torn country.

The move comes as the Biden administration continues to change tack on the US approach to the war in Yemen, announcing on February 4 that it would end the US support for offensive operations for the Saudi Arabia-led coalition that intervened in Yemen’s civil war in 2015, a year after the northern-based Houthis kicked President Abdu-Rabbu Mansour out of the capital Sanaa.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/16/biden-admin-ends-trump-era-houthi-terrorist-designation>

Two ballistic missiles were fired from Houthi rebel-controlled Yemen toward a US warship in the Gulf of Aden, after the US Navy responded to a distress call from a commercial tanker that had been seized by armed individuals, the US military said Sunday.

The tanker, identified as the Central Park, had been carrying a cargo of phosphoric acid when its crew called for help that “they were under attack from an unknown entity,” the US Central Command said in a statement.

The incident comes after Iran-backed Houthi forces launched numerous attacks against US interests in the region, and Israel, since the October 7 Hamas attacks, as fears continue to ripple across the region that the Israel-Hamas war could widen.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/27/politics/us-destroyer-missiles-distress-call-tanker-intl-hnk/index.html>

EMMAUS, Pennsylvania, Jan 12 (Reuters) - U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday called Yemen's Houthi forces a "terrorist" group, after American and British warplanes, ships and submarines launched dozens of air strikes across Yemen overnight.

Biden said Washington will respond to the Houthis if they continued behavior that he called "outrageous." London and Washington say their strikes in Yemen, opens new tab were in retaliation for months of attacks by the movement on Red Sea shipping that the Iran-backed fighters cast as a response to the ongoing war in Gaza. The strikes represent one of the most dramatic demonstrations to date of the widening of the Gaza conflict.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-says-yemens-houthis-are-terrorist-group-2024-01-12/>

**Well, that is ENOUGH frivolity for today. On to another feature section of this newsletter:
"Feel Like a Chump, yet?"**

As Todd Bensman pointed out in these pages, the recently released UN Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela lays out a plan to spend \$1.6 billion in 17 Latin American countries to help migrants reach the US-Mexico border — and the UN bureaucracy's ultimate goal.

To that end, the United Nations hands out envelopes full of cash or preloaded debit cards to migrants trekking through Latin America, essentially paying migrants to head to the border.

Hmm: The United States is by far the biggest UN backer, funding 22% of its regular budget in 2023. [emphasis mine]

So, the cash going directly into migrants' hands is coming in no small part from Americans' pockets.

Taxpayer cash also funds a host of charities and nonprofits (all nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs, in UN-speak) that further move the migrant waves.

[Average Americans are paying for illegal migrants to come here, not just after they land \(msn.com\)](#)

Original article:

[Average Americans are paying for illegal migrants to come here, not just after they land \(nypost.com\)](#)

Feel like a chump, yet?

The most significant aspect of this story, however -- or at least the one that makes it relevant to readers outside of Minnesota -- involves the perennial unholy alliance between government and business.

In 2021, Metro Transit received a federal grant to purchase a fleet of electric buses from the California-based manufacturer Proterra. Duluth received a similar grant in 2015.

Earlier this year, Proterra filed for bankruptcy despite a public endorsement from President Joe Biden as recently as March 2022.

Now, in addition to malfunctioning or inadequate buses, the Minnesota cities have no immediate vendor.

[Blue Cities Went All-In for Electric Transit, But the Buses Couldn't Handle the Cold \(westernjournal.com\)](#)

Editor's Note: By itself, this is just a so-so story. Flash back to the Obama years:

The bankruptcy of solar firm **Solyndra** has raised concerns that the Obama administration shouldn't have loaned the company money via a stimulus program. We break it all down.

Once hailed by the Obama administration as a key example of its commitment to green technology driving growth and creating jobs, solar company Solyndra has lost a good deal of its shine. It's bankrupt and the target of a federal criminal investigation.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/whats-happening-with-solyndra-heres-our-guide>

Feel like a chump, yet?

Beginning January 1, illegal immigrants will be able to qualify for and use Medi-Cal, California's taxpayer-funded free and low-cost healthcare plan for low-income residents. Experts warn that the state is already facing a healthcare shortage as a new \$25 healthcare minimum wage threatens to reduce staffing levels — and doctors who accept Medi-Cal's low reimbursement rate — even further.

By expanding Medi-Cal eligibility to illegal immigrants between the ages of 26 and 49 under SB 184, an omnibus spending bill, California will add an estimated [700,000](#) users to the Medi-Cal system at a cost of [\\$2.7 billion](#) per year.

<https://justthenews.com/nation/states/center-square/californias-free-medi-cal-cover-illegal-immigrants-amid-healthcare>

Editor's Note: I understand that you do not have to feel like a chump for this unless you live in California . . . or until a Democratic congress nationalizes this and OUR taxes will be used to buck up the California Dreamin'.

A new program in Maine will provide asylum seekers with free housing for up to two years as cities across the country continue grappling with an influx of migrants.

[Migrants Get Up to Two Years Free Rent for New Apartments \(msn.com\)](#)

Original article

[Migrants Get Up to Two Years Free Rent for New Apartments \(newsweek.com\)](#)

Feel like a chump, yet?

Dr Anthony Fauci admitted that the lab leak Covid origin theory was credible as he shed more light on the chaotic decision-making process behind the scenes of America's pandemic response. During his second day of marathon grilling by Congress, the former White House advisor confessed that the lab leak - the idea Covid was engineered and accidentally released from a lab in Wuhan - was 'not a conspiracy theory'. The U-turn is significant because he was the chief architect of a 2020 paper that discounted the theory. Fauci's friends and former colleagues also spearheaded a paper in the Lancet that called believers conspiracy theorists and racists.

[Fauci finally admits to Covid failures, saying lab leak is credible \(msn.com\)](#)

Feel like a chump, yet?

Dr. Anthony Fauci faced intense questioning from the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, where he admitted that the six-foot social distancing rule had little scientific basis.

[Fauci Makes Huge Admissions On Vaccine Mandates And Lab Leak Theory Legitimacy \(msn.com\)](#)

Original story:

[Fauci Makes Huge Admissions On Vaccine Mandates And Lab Leak Theory Legitimacy - State of the Union \(stateofunion.org\)](#)

Feel like a chump, yet?

And now, A Word from Our Sponsors

Check out the conservative political swag available at Winnebago GOP Headquarters.

Shirts, yard signs, buttons, stickers, and flags – good old conversation is free!



QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“It makes sense that no great nation can be in a position where they can't control their borders. It matters how you control your borders. Not just for immigration. But it matters for drugs, terror [and] a whole range of other things. So, that's the first sort of truism.

The second truism is that, that this nation is such that people in the country should have the first opportunity to be able to have jobs that pay well and have jobs that are decent, and that, after that, the second crack goes to what we may need from other parts of the world or other, or any other input.”

Joe Biden, Presidential Candidate, 2007

[User Clip: Biden says no great nation has uncontrolled borders. calls for a border fence | C-](#)

Want more quotes from Joe Biden?
“No, thank you.”



Joe Biden, (1942 –)

From The Literature

Quotes from literature and books that reflect on our current world.

“Education is the key,” he said to me over a cup of ginseng tea in the foyer of his hotel. “The people in this country take an enormous pride in seeing that their children are educated well. A worker at one of our factories will do almost anything --- he'll endure anything, work as hard as he can --- just to ensure that his children get the best possible schooling.

“Look at the villages all over Korea and see which is the biggest and most imposing building in every one. It’ll nearly always be the school building. We worship teachers here; we worship schools. We pay our teachers well. They are respected figures in our community. Are they still in the West? I have heard not, not as much as before. Look at the universities in Seoul – there are dozens of them. People crawl over each other to get to attend classes. They really want to learn. They want to be trained. There is this intense desire to better themselves to do it with their brains if they can. If anything can be specifically thought of as responsible for our country’s success then it’s that --- the intense desire to learn, to become properly educated at the best schools that can be afforded. No matter what the cost, no matter the hardship, that’s the prime duty of a parent, to get his children educated. That’s the key.”

Kim Woo Choong, founder of Daewoo Heavy Industries, Korea, 1988.

Quoted in **KOREA**, by Simon Winchester

Editor’s Note: While this description is of Korean culture, it is, at its base, an Asian thing. This is the basis of the unfair advantage Asians have in entering our universities, and why Harvard and the others feel the need for quotas on Asians. Take a lesson if you want your children or your clients to succeed.

Good news, Bad news

First the good news: The United States is not at war with Iran.

Now the bad news: Iran is at war with the United States.

Letters to the Editor

Thoughts? Opinions? Complaints? Compliments?
communications@winnebagogop.org

OPEN BOOK POP QUIZ:

Email your answers to Communications@winnebagogop.org. 80% correct qualifies you to win \$10 worth of merchandise of your choice from Winnebago GOP Headquarters. Answers may or may not be found in the current newsletter. May award a prize to more than one winner. Judgment of the editor is final.

1. Who was harmed (who filed charges) in the New York / Trump fraud case?
2. In what year did Donald Trump assault E. Jean Carroll in a dressing room at Bergdorf-Goodman’s?
3. Who has a copy of all the testimony and evidence gathered in the Jan 6 select committee hearings from the previous congress?
 4. During what years was New York a slave state?
 5. During what years was California a slave state?

Answers to December’s pop quiz:

Who are:

1a. Rivian: Rivian lost a [whopping \\$1.7 billion](#) in the second three months of the year, but some electric vehicle auto industry experts say it’s no cause for concern. Rivian has received billions in subsidies from the Biden administration.

1b. Solyndra: Solar panel company that took \$525 million in government guarantees into bankruptcy under Obama.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/adamandrzejewski/2021/04/12/remembering-solyndra--how-many-570m-green-energy-failures-are-hidden-inside-bidens-instructure-proposal/?sh=2940dca72672>

1c. In what state were / are their headquarters? California

1d. Hint: History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.

2a. **Jamaal Bowman** Representative that pulled a fire alarm to hold up a congressional vote on a budgetary resolution.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/12/07/jamaal-bowman-censure-fire-alarm/>

2b. **Pamela Hemphill**: A grandmother from Idaho charged in the January 6th “insurrection.”

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article261762467.html>

2c. Hint: Comparative purposes only

3. **Mykola Zlochevsky**. Burisma executive who admitted to an FBI informant that he paid \$5 million to Hunter and \$5 million to Joe and has audio tapes with them to prove it.

<https://nypost.com/2023/07/20/biden-bribe-file-released-burisma-chief-said-both-joe-and-hunter-involved/>

4. **John Podesta’s current position please**. Senior Advisor on Energy policy to President Biden. White House chief of staff to President Bill Clinton from 1998 to 2001 and counselor to President Barack Obama from 2014 to 2015. Most recently, he was appointed by Biden to replace Climate Czar John Kerry.

Before you go . . . a few thoughts

After I retired for the second time (2018), I volunteered for World Relief of the Fox Valley. World Relief is a national church affiliated group (which church, I never bothered to check). They have a Federal contract to assist refugees from a United Nations program for resettling immigrants from war-torn countries around the world. The Fox Valley group, of course, operates only within our Fox Valley. At the time, the United States’ quota was 30,000 refugees per year, with only a very small percentage of them coming to the Fox Valley.

In December 2018 or January 2019, I don’t remember exactly, I got my first assignment. I was to pick up a refugee family and take them to one of their initial local health screenings to get checked out and receive various vaccinations and so on.

The family consisted of a mother and father, probably in their late 30’s, and four children. The oldest child was a 15-year-old daughter and the youngest was about 2 years old at the time.

About 20 years (+ or -) before, the mother and father had escaped from Democratic Republic of Congo when most of their families were killed by some tribe or other, or government force, or rebel force opposing the government, or whatever. They landed in a United Nations refugee camp in Uganda. The mother and father married in that refugee camp. **All their children were born there and had spent their entire lives there.** The growing family **waited in line** in that camp for a new home somewhere in one of the many countries that are party to this United Nations refugee program. Finally, in 2019, their number came up and here they were, just landed in Oshkosh.

I picked them up at their assigned apartment somewhere over on North Bowen Street. The appointment was at Aurora Hospital on the west side. Not surprisingly, the father spoke a little English, a lot of French and their native language(s). The mother spoke only the native language(s).

A couple blocks into the drive, I asked the father, in English, “How long have you been in the United States?” He replied, “Umm, one month.”

I asked him, “After one month, tell me one thing you **LIKE** about the United States, and one thing you **DON'T LIKE** about the United States.”

He thought for just a short time, and said very deliberately, “**I LOVE the LAW,**”

I thought, “What a profound answer,” given his history. I told him so, saying, “That is a very strong answer.”

There was a pause then, so I reminded him of the other question I had asked him. “And what is one thing you **DON'T LIKE** about the United States?”

Again, with little hesitation, he said, “The **SNOW!**”

I can't do anything about the snow, but I must tell you that looking around, 4 years later, I feel like the United States has betrayed this guy and those like him who believe in **THE LAW**. It seems like many Americans, and many in the government, do not believe in the law anymore.



Feel free to share this with your friends and neighbors if you think it will encourage them to think, act and vote more conservatively than they might otherwise.

Letters to the editor of **What's News** are accepted but may or may not be published. Send your thoughts to communications@winnebagogop.org Include your name and email address, and whether you wish to remain anonymous if your letter is selected for publication.

This newsletter is shared for the purpose of informing conservatives anywhere and everywhere on the political spectrum of a little bit of the good, the bad, and the ugly in our country and world today.

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